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DENGUE
WARNING SIGNS

Many people with dengue can be cared for at home with adequate rest and hydration. But, if you experience any warning signs, go immediately to the nearest medical center.

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

A drop in body temperature accompanied by any of the following symptoms:

- Headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Diarrhea
- Profound weakness
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Unusually bleeding from gums or nose, blood in vomit, urine or stool
- Redness

If you have any of these symptoms, go to the nearest medical center IMMEDIATELY.

JINDRAH IMAGES

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CM Omar Abdullah urges HM Amit Shah for urgent restoration of Statehood

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 23

Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah, met with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi today, emphasizing the pressing need for the reinstatement of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood.

Sources said that during the half-hour-long meeting, Abdullah brought attention to the various challenges faced by the people of the region, discussing both political and socio-economic issues. Omar described the interaction as productive, with a clear focus on shedding light on the current situation and determining the path forward.

Abdullah has been vocal about the need for the restoration of statehood since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, which led to the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories. He reiterated the importance of state-



hood to ensure better governance and to address the ongoing concerns of the people.

Meanwhile CM Omar Abdullah in a social media post said, "Met with the Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah Ji earlier today in #newdelhi I emphasized the urgent

need for the reinstatement of statehood during our meeting. Additionally, I brought to light the various challenges faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir. It was a productive half-hour discussion that shed light on the current situation and the path forward".

Deputy CM calls for time bound completion of vital road projects



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 23

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today directed the officers to ensure need based and area specific development is undertaken besides zero tolerance for corruption and any malpractices.

The Deputy Chief Minister was speaking at a review meeting of R&B convened here at Civil Secretariat.

Secretary R&B, Bupinder Kumar, Director Finance, Director Planning, Chief Engineers from different engineering wings, regional officer, NHAI, CE Project Beacon, Executive Director NHIDCL and other concerned officers also attended the meeting.

While taking sector wise review of different initiatives, the Dy CM stressed on undertaking need based and area specific development so that the real motive of the schemes being implemented for increasing connectivity of Jammu and Kashmir is ensured.

He said that the feedback of the people at the ground level should also be taken into consideration thereby making the government's initiatives holistic.

The Dy CM also stressed on the need for ensuring quality of works is not compromised. He said that the executing officers should ensure that the work is done in accordance with the laid down norms and strict action would be initiated against those violating the norms and using any kind of substandard material.

While stressing for ensuring time bound implementation of various schemes, the Dy CM said that we have to ensure that these are completed within the fixed timelines and no cost escalation takes place due to delay in work execution.

While reviewing implementation of the flagship programmes of R&B sector being undertaken by NHAI, NHIDCL and BRO, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the concerned for ensuring time-bound com-

pletion of projects besides full utilization of the funds earmarked for different sectors. He said that the same is necessary for ensuring that the holistic development of Jammu and Kashmir is undertaken and a better connectivity is made available to the general public.

The prominent among the projects reviewed included Semi Ring Roads Jammu, Srinagar, Ramban, Banihal, Delhi-Katra Express way, Jammu-Akhnoor road, Chatru-Vailoo, Khilani-Chatru, Akhnoor-Poonch road, Srinagar-Uri road, Baramulla-Tangdar road, Qazigund-Banihal, Qazigund-Srinagar, Dumail-Katra-Reasi-Pouni road and other road projects.

The Dy CM also directed for ensuring proper maintenance of different vital roads like Mughal road, National Highway. He said that Officers should ensure that these vital roads are properly maintained and smooth to and fro flow of traffic is maintained for public convenience.

LG held a review meeting in Srinagar on security situation in Kashmir Division

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 23

The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha held a review meeting at Raj Bhawan today on the security situation in the Kashmir Division. Director General of Police, Shri Nalin Prabhat; Principal Secretary, Home Department, Shri Chandraker Bharti; Additional Director General of Police (Law & Order) Shri Vijay Kumar; Additional Director General of Police, CID, Shri Nitish Kumar; Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, Shri Vidhi Kumar Birdi; Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Mandeeep Bhandari; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Shri Vijay Kumar Bidhuri and other senior officials



of J&K Police attended the meeting.

The Lieutenant Governor asked the J&K Police officials to ensure stringent measures to tighten the security grid around key infrastructure projects and construction camps for safety of workers. He stressed upon establishment of mechanisms for

regular coordination meetings with project implementing agencies.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the police to conduct security audit of infrastructure projects, round-the-clock nakas at the strategic points, night patrolling and area domination. He said the police must ensure robust securi-

ty and intelligence grid and intensified, well-planned joint operation with army and other security agencies to eliminate terrorism.

"The entire terror ecosystem including perpetrators and those aiding and abetting terrorists requires to be completely dismantled," the Lieutenant Governor said.

LG chairs 83rd University Council Meeting of Kashmir University

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 23

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha chaired the 83rd Meeting of the University Council of the University of Kashmir, at Raj Bhawan.

The Lt Governor, Chancellor of the University, emphasised on introducing courses that help in promoting skill development, innovation and entrepreneurship among students. He advised that the University's programmes must focus on providing innovative solutions to address the local challenges. He further asked the University to initiate requisite steps to start Under-Graduate courses in its main campus.

The University Council, which met under the chairmanship of Lt Governor, accorded in-principle approval to various agenda items and proposals including introduction of 4-year Innovative Bachelors Programme in "Design Your Degree"



(DYD); adoption of Statutes governing Undergraduate Programmes as per NEP-2020; adoption of UGC guidelines for pursuit of two academic programmes simultaneously as per NEP-2020 and the constitution of Board of Studies for five-year Integrated Programmes.

The Council also approved the renaming of the Institute of Music & Fine Arts, University of Kashmir, in accordance with Government Order No. 1161-JK (GAD) of 2021 dated 29-10-2021, after Shri Pran Krishan Kaul.

The University Council held detailed deliberations

on several academic and administrative matters to bring further qualitative improvement in overall functioning of the University.

Earlier, Prof. Nilofer Khan, Vice-Chancellor, University of Kashmir presented various Agenda items before the Council for approval and ratification. She also highlighted the various achievements of the University in academic, research and co-curricular activities. It was informed that the University of Kashmir has figured at 45th in the NIRF ranking.

Sh Omar Abdullah,

Chief Minister; Ms. Sakeena Masood (Itoo), Minister for Higher Education; Shri Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary, Finance Department; Dr Mandeeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Dr Rashmi Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Higher Education Department; Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary, Planning, Monitoring and Development Department; Dr. A.S.K. Sinha, other Council members and senior officials attended the meeting, in person and through virtual mode.

Higher reaches in north Kashmir receive fresh snowfall, MeT predicts more

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 23

The higher reaches of Bandipora and Kupwara higher reaches experienced fresh snowfall on Wednesday while the weatherman predicted more snowfall in Sonamarg and other areas till tomorrow (Thursday).

As per the news agency, Razdan Pass in Gurez Valley and some other higher reaches of Kupwara have received fresh snowfall today, bringing down the mercury across Kashmir by a few degrees.

The maximum temperature has plummeted by some degrees across Kashmir today with Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir recording a temperature of 22.8 degree Celsius against yesterday's 25.2 degree Celsius.

Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir has recorded



a maximum temperature of 23.0 degree Celsius against yesterday's 25.2 degree Celsius while Kupwara recorded 24.2 degree Celsius against yesterday's 26.5 degree Celsius.

The weatherman has however informed that there is a possibility of very light rain and snow over higher reaches of north Kashmir and higher

reaches of Sonamarg towards late night and early morning tomorrow.

The Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that the weather would remain generally dry from October 25 to October 27.

However, he said that on October 28 and 29, the weather would remain generally cloudy with possibility of very light rain

and snow over higher reaches of north and Central Kashmir towards evening or night.

He added that the weather would remain generally dry on October 30 to November 02.

Meanwhile, in its advisory, the MeT has advised the farmers to continue harvesting, safe storage of harvested crops and other farm operations.

Vivek Gupta gets additional charge of IG Traffic, J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 23

The Jammu and Kashmir Police has assigned the additional charge of the post of IGP Traffic, J&K to Vivek Gupta, who is currently holding the charge of IG Railways J&K.

In an order, a copy lies with the news agency reads, "Shri Vivek Gupta, IG Railways, J&K in addition to his own duties shall also attend to the duties of IG Traffic, J&K till Shri M. Suleman Choudhary, IG Traffic, J&K rejoins after performing his duties as Election Observer."

2 dead, 4 injured as vehicle falls in gorge in Kishtwar

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 23

Two people died and four others got injured when a vehicle fell into a deep gorge in Chasoti area of Padder in Kishtwar district, officials said

An official told news agency, the vehicle fell into a gorge, resulting in on spot death to two persons and injuries to others.

He said that the injured have been shifted to district hospital Kishtwar for treatment.

Reconciliation between India and Pak must to end Gagangir like incidents:

Mehbooba Mufti
JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 23

Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday said that reconciliation between India and Pakistan is imperative to end hostility and Gagangir like incidents.

Speaking with reporters after visiting the family of slain doctor in Budgam, who was killed in the Gagangir terror attack, Mehbooba Mufti, as per the news agency, said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are bearing the brunt of enmity between India and Pakistan.

She said that incidents like Gagangir will not end till there is reconciliation between the two nations, which had taken place during former Pm Atal Bihari Vajpayee's tenure.

"It's not just me, but all the people want an end to the enmity between the two nations," she said.

Govt tells administrative secretaries, HoDs to ensure availability at Civil Secretariat Jammu from Nov 11

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 23

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday directed bureaucrats to ensure their presence at the Civil Secretariat in Jammu starting from November 11.

According to an order issued by the General Administration Department,

a copy of which is in possession of news agency, Administrative Secretaries and Union Territory level Heads of Departments have been told to be available at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu from November 11.

However, they will also attend the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar as per functional requirements.

Weekly Block Diwas

DC Reasi redresses public grievances; inspects schools, road construction works in Katra Town

JINNEWS SERVICE
REASI, OCTOBER 23

Deputy Commissioner Reasi Vishesh Mahajan today led the weekly Block Diwas event in Katra and inspected civic amenities and development works across the holy township.

Accompanied by a team of officers, the DC visited several schools in the town including Govt. Middle school Sherpur and Moori and Govt girls school Katra and assessed the provision of educational infrastructure and civic amenities. He interacted with students and teachers and inquired about the requirements for fostering educational facilities.

Later at the public outreach event, the DC addressed key concerns raised by the local resi-



dents, including essential services like shortage of water, electricity. He also inspected progress of work on Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Express Highway project

and discussed compensation issues related to it. He assured timely resolution of compensation grievances, promising that all due benefits would reach in

time. He also visited the under construction Court complex in Katra and told authorities to expedite the work.

The DC reaffirmed the administration's commitment to resolving local concerns and ensuring smooth execution of developmental projects. His direct engagement with the public was appreciated by the community, who welcomed the swift administrative action to resolve long-standing issues.

Officials present during the event were SDM Piyush Dhotra, ACD Pardeep Kumar, ASP Vipin Chandran and other department officers.

GMC Anantnag, Indian Academy of Pediatrics - ALSBLS group organises IAP-ALS Workshop

JINNEWS SERVICE
ANANTANG, OCTOBER 23

In a significant development to improve patient care and academics, National IAP-ALSBLS Trainers have arrived in Anantnag, J&K to provide local pediatricians and pediatric residents acute life support training in a two days structured workshop.

This is the first such kind of a training course being organised in any of the medical colleges of Kashmir region.

IAP-ALS workshop has been organised by Department of Pediatrics GMC Anantnag in collaboration with Indian academy of pediatrics- Acute life support Basic life support (IAP-ALS BLS) group.

Dr Vipul Gupta from GMC Chandigarh is the course Director and Dr Showkat Hussain Tali Associate Professor and Head Department of Pedi-



atricians GMC Anantnag is the course coordinator. The other master national trainers who are faculty for this training course are; Prof. A K Rawat Dean GMC Sagar Madhya Pradesh, Prof. Pradeep Dabata VMMC and Safdarjung hospital Delhi, Prof. Shalu Gupta Lady hardinge Medical College Delhi, Dr Suresh Kumar PGI Chandigarh and Dr Pankaj Kumar GMC Chandigarh.

The course is being conducted under the patronage of Principal GMC Anantnag, Prof. (Dr.) Rukhsana Najeeb.

Pediatricians and pediatric residents from throughout the Kashmir region have registered for the training course. Prof. Muzaffar Jan, HOD Pediatrics GMC Srinagar, Prof. Bashir Ahmad Charoo Head Department of Pediatrics and Neonatology SKIMS Srinagar, Professor Sheikh Mushtaq Ahmad Professor Pediatrics GMC Anantnag, Prof. Reyaz Ahmad Malik, HOD Pediatrics SKIMS MC, Dr Suhail Ahmed Choh, HOD Pediatrics GMC Baramulla, Dr Irshad Bhat HOD Pedi-

atricians GMC Handwara and Dr Mubashir Hassan Shah neonatologist GMC Srinagar were the special guests for the occasion.

The proceedings of the inauguration ceremony were conducted by Dr Showkat Hussain Tali, Head Department of Pediatrics GMC Anantnag.

Prof. (Dr.) Rukhsana Najeeb Principal and Dean GMC Anantnag has congratulated the department of pediatrics for organising such a wonderful and high end workshop and hoped that this workshop will add immensely to the skills of doctors and will greatly contribute towards improving patient care and academics.

She thanked Indian academy of pediatrics for providing master trainers for the workshop and hoped that IAP will be providing support and guidance to GMC Anantnag in future as well in the best interests of patient care and academics.

DC Rajouri Chairs Narco Coordination Committee meeting, inspects Drug De-addiction Centre

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, OCTOBER 23

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, today chaired a meeting of the Narco Coordination Committee (NCORD) in the Conference Hall of the DC Office convened to review and evaluate the ongoing measures to combat drug trafficking, substance use, and ensuring coordinated efforts across the district to tackle the menace of drug abuse.

At the outset, the Drug Inspector briefed the meeting about the progress made in regulating pharmaceutical operations, reporting that 65% of shops in the district have now adopted computerized billing systems to ensure transparency in drug sales.

In a key directive, the DC emphasized the need for enhanced monitoring of pharmaceutical activities. He directed the establishment of a dedicated Control Room for monitoring CCTV cameras



installed at various pharmaceutical shops to track any suspicious activities and strengthen surveillance across the district. ADC, ACR, and SDMs briefed the meeting regarding the drug control measures in their respective jurisdictions.

The Deputy Commissioner issued strict instructions for making 'red entries' in the revenue records of properties seized under anti-narcotic operations, signaling a strong stance against offenders.

Additionally, the

Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned officials to submit written Action Taken Reports (ATRs) detailing their respective actions in the ongoing drive against narcotics.

Additional SP, Bikram Kumar informed the chair about the identification of 29 hotspots of drug activity across the district, with 27 FIRs lodged till date in connection with narcotic-related cases. He also provided a briefing on the usage of the NIDAAN portal, a central database used for tracking

drug-related offences and offenders, which is proving instrumental in the district's anti-drug efforts.

The Chief Education Officer (CEO) briefed the Deputy Commissioner on the ongoing efforts to sensitize school staff about drug abuse, mentioning that complaint boxes have been installed in educational institutions to report drug-related issues. The Programme Officer ICDS also updated the chair on the training programs imparted to supervisors and other staff members, equipping them to handle and report drug-related cases effectively.

Following the review meeting, Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma visited the Drug De-addiction Centre, where he inspected the facility and interacted with the patients/drug addicts. Thereafter, he issued several key directives aimed at improving the operational standards of the centre. The DC instructed immediate measures to ensure cleanliness

throughout the centre, Officials deployed at the centre were directed to wear proper uniforms and carry ID cards at all times and also issued directions to strengthen control over entrance and exit points to enhance security.

Furthermore, he ordered the immediate shifting of medicines belonging to the medical department that were found stocked within the de-addiction centre, which posed a risk of misuse by patients. After scrutinizing the records, the DC directed that repetition of patients or drug addicts at the centre should not be done without proper medical evaluation and treatment. The meeting and visit were attended by ADC Rajouri, Rajiv Khajuria, Additional SP Bikram Kumar, Programme Officer ICDS, ACD, ACR, SDM, CEO, DSWO, DIO, ARTO, ETO, as well as representatives from the Anti-Terrorism Force (ATF), Drug De-addiction Centre, and other district officers.

Late Bashir Ahmad Lone, Rifle Man commemorated at Drugmulla

JINNEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, OCTOBER 23

Indian Army in collaboration with District Administration Kupwara today organized a ceremony to commemorate the sacrifice of Late Bashir Ahmad Lone, Rifle Man, JK Light Infantry Battalion at Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS) Drugmulla.

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan was chief guest on the occasion. Brigadier, Ashish Shandil; DDC Member Drugmulla, Amina Majeed; Principal BHSS Drugmulla, ZEO, BDO, besides, a large number of students were present at the occasion.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner and Brigadier inaugurated the statue of late Bashir Ahmad Lone in the school premises in presence of Mother of the late Jawan, Saba Begum and his brother, Mohammad Shafi Lone. A one minute silence was also observed in the honour of the late Jawan. Speaking at the occasion, the Deputy Com-



missioner paid tribute to the late Rifle Man, Bashir Ahmad Lone and glorified his sacrifice and selfless service to the nation. She asked the students to take inspiration from the late Jawan and contribute towards the society. She also expressed her gratitude to the mother of the

Soldier for the sacrifice given by her son while serving the nation.

Meanwhile, the mother of the late Jawan and his brother were honoured by the officers on the stage.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner and the Brigadier distributed stationery items among the students.

Agriculture Directorate Jammu imparts Training to Master Trainers ahead of SATHI Phase-2 rollout

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 23

The Directorate of Agriculture Production and Farmers' Welfare Jammu organized a one-day Divisional Level Training and Demonstration for Master Trainers here today at Baba Jitto Kisan Kendra Jammu. The training was imparted to staff ahead of rolling out of SATHI Phase 2. The comprehensive training session was attended by 60 Master Trainers from the Agriculture Department, seed-producing agencies and seed dealers.

The event featured expert-led hands-on training by resource persons from the National Informatics Centre (NIC) and the Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Department, Government of India, New Delhi.

Joint Director Agriculture (Extension) Jammu Satish Kumar Sharma started the session by underscoring the importance of SATHI Phase 2. He emphasized that this initiative will position the Directorate of Agriculture



Production and Farmers' Welfare, Jammu, among the leading agencies in India to fully implement the SATHI Portal.

"The successful rollout of this project, initiated by the Government of India, will facilitate the distribution of high-quality seeds to our farmers and stakeholders," said the Joint Director. "Moreover, it will enable the department to assess seed availability and pinpoint areas of scarcity or surplus, thereby enhancing the efficiency of the seed distribution chain across Jammu. This initiative is crucial for streamlining the agricultural supply system and ultimately boosting productivity."

The SATHI Portal (Seed

Traceability, Authentication, and Holistic Inventory), launched by the Government of India, aims to enhance transparency and accountability within the seed distribution system. Accessible via seedtrace.gov.in, the portal is designed to ensure online certification and distribution of high-quality seeds while creating a comprehensive seed inventory. By providing real-time access to seed data and traceability, the portal aims to improve the seed supply chain.

The Directorate of Agriculture Jammu has already successfully implemented Phase 1 of the SATHI Portal, achieving seed traceabil-

ity authentication through online certification by the Divisional Seed Certification Agency, Jammu.

The training program featured notable contributions from Dinesh Chandra, Senior Director of IT and Sudeep Kumar, Application Support Engineer from NIC Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department, Government of India, New Delhi, Prem Singh DSCO Jammu along with Harbaksh Singh, Director of NIC Jammu. Participants included representatives from various seed-producing agencies, such as Seed Inspectors and Input Assistants, as well as officials from SKUAST, Jammu, the National Seed Corporation, and seed dealers from different districts. Alok Pandotra, Deputy Director (Trainings), ensured logistical and IT support for the event, while Rajiv Katoch, Program Officer conducted the proceedings of the training session.

MLA Inderwal seeks timely execution, completion of development projects

JINNEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 23

Member Legislature Assembly (MLA) Inderwal, Pyare Lal Sharma held a meeting with district and Sectoral Officers in Kishtwar today to discuss pressing public issues with the district administration. Seeking coordinated governance and timely execution of development projects, the MLA covered a wide range of pressing issues of his home constituency.

P L Sharma emphasized that all Legislative representatives of the three Assembly Constituencies of district Kishtwar will work closely to ensure smooth governance and effective control over ongoing projects. He assured that there will be no shortage of funds for government offices, stating, "We believe in delivering results, and our focus is on ensuring that all projects are completed in stipulated time."

One of the primary issues discussed was the Gram Sabha meetings and the MLA asked the Rural



Development Department (RDD) to convene the same at the earliest, availing the favorable weather condition. He called for immediate action to ensure proper implementation of the MGNREGA scheme, focusing on providing 90 days of labor to workers and maintaining high standards for the projects.

P L Sharma also emphasized the need for timely approval of project plans to avoid unnecessary delays. He directed the officers to expedite the disbursement of pending PMAY (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana) installments and the necessary Geo-Tagging to ensure benefits reach eligible beneficiaries.

The MLA further asked to augment water supply in the Inderwal constitu-

ency. He instructed the Jal Shakti Department to form a special team to inspect the status of water reservoirs and resolve issues, if any. Sharma urged the department to ensure that every household receives adequate water supply before the onset of winter.

Besides, he sought augmentation of health and education Infrastructure. He also enquired about the ongoing Schemes of the Government departments viz Horticulture, Agriculture, Forest, Health, Labour and various other departments. The functionaries of the fisheries department informed about the new fisheries farm being established in Inderwal Constituency.

On the infrastructure front, P L Sharma highlighted the need for

Forest Clearance, NOCs for road projects under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). He requested the Forest Department to expedite the survey and approval process to facilitate timely road construction.

The meeting was attended by ADC Kishtwar Awan Kotwal, CPO Kishtwar Shahnawaz Bali, PO ICDS Dr Rishi Kumar Sharma, ACD Kishtwar Phulail Singh, SDM Chattroo, DIO Kishtwar Dr Kuldeep Kumar, ALC Kishtwar Mamta Sudershan, AD Handicrafts Pardeep Shan, DFO Marwah, DFO Kishtwar, CEO Kishtwar, CAO Kishtwar, CHO Kishtwar, DYSSO Kishtwar, LDM Kishtwar besides other officers and officials of line departments.

FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2024

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Deepawali and Chhath Puja Festival, Northern Railway, in association with other zonal railway, has planned to run the following Festival Special Trains as per schedule given below:-

LIST OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS ORIGINATING/TERMINATING IN NORTHERN RAILWAY

Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Frequency / Day	Period
02252	New Delhi	08:25	Patna Jn	20:00	Tri-weekly	Wednesday, Friday, Sunday
02251	Patna Jn	07:30	New Delhi	19:00	Tri-weekly	Thursday, Saturday, Monday
02270	Lucknow	14:15	Chhapra	21:30	6 Days a week	Except Tuesday
02269	Chhapra	23:00	Lucknow	06:30	6 Days a week	Except Tuesday
02248	New Delhi	08:25	Patna Jn	20:30	Tri-weekly	Tues, Thurs & Saturday
02247	Patna Jn	07:30	New Delhi	19:35	Tri-weekly	Wed, Fri & Sunday
04052	New Delhi	14:20	Jaynagar	15:40	Date Wise	Sat, Tue, Fri, Mon
04051	Jaynagar	18:00	New Delhi	18:50	Date Wise	Sun, Wed, Sat, Tue
04054	New Delhi	14:20	Barauni Jn	11:00	Date Wise	Sun, Wed, Sat, Tue
04053	Barauni Jn	12:30	New Delhi	09:10	Date Wise	Mon, Thu, Sun, Wed
02250	New Delhi	23:55	Patna Jn	16:40	Weekly	Thursday
02249	Patna Jn	17:50	New Delhi	11:00	Weekly	Friday
04075	New Delhi	23:45	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	11:40	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Sunday
04076	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	21:20	New Delhi	09:30	Bi-weekly	Thursday, Monday
04498	Anand Vihar Terminal	19:30	Ballia	13:30	Weekly	Sunday
04497	Ballia	18:40	Anand Vihar Terminal	14:25	Weekly	Monday
04022	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:40	Sitamari	15:45	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Friday
04021	Sitamari	18:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	18:05	Bi-weekly	Thursday, Saturday
04032	Anand Vihar Terminal	05:15	Saharsa Jn	10:30	5 days a week	Mon, Tue, Thu, Sat, Sun
04031	Saharsa Jn	13:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	16:10	5 days a week	Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sun
04624	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	23:45	Varanasi Jn	23:55	Weekly	Sunday
04623	Varanasi Jn	05:30	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	11:25	Weekly	Tuesday
04080	Delhi Jn	19:30	Varanasi Jn	09:45	Tri-Weekly	Monday, Thursday, Saturday
04079	Varanasi Jn	18:25	Delhi Jn	08:50	Tri-Weekly	Tuesday, Friday, Sunday
04530	Bhatinda Jn	20:50	Varanasi Jn	17:30	Bi-weekly	Monday, Friday
04529	Varanasi Jn	20:40	Bhatinda Jn	17:00	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Saturday
04096	Anand Vihar Terminal	09:00	Ayodhya Cantt	22:30	Tri-Weekly	Monday, Wednesday, Friday
04095	Ayodhya Cantt	09:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	22:00	Tri-Weekly	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
04518	Chandigarh	23:15	Goaakhpur	18:20	Weekly	Thursday
04517	Goaakhpur	22:05	Chandigarh	14:10	Weekly	Friday
04060	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:30	Jaynagar	15:15	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Friday
04059	Jaynagar	17:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	19:55	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Saturday
04068	Delhi Jn	19:30	Darbhanga Jn	16:30	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Friday
04067	Darbhanga Jn	18:00	Delhi Jn	16:35	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Saturday
04044	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:15	Goaakhpur	14:00	Bi-weekly	Saturday, Tuesday
04043	Goaakhpur	17:25	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:40	Bi-weekly	Sunday, Wednesday
04217	Varanasi Jn	06:25	Lucknow Jn	11:45	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun
04218	Lucknow Jn	16:30	Varanasi Jn	21:50	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun
04010	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:45	Jogbani	05:20	Weekly	Tuesday
04009	Jogbani	09:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	16:05	Weekly	Thursday
04678	Firozpur Cantt Jn	13:25	Patna Jn	17:00	Weekly	Wednesday
04677	Patna Jn	18:45	Firozpur Cantt Jn	22:40	Weekly	Thursday
04211	Varanasi Jn	14:50	Chandigarh	07:45	Weekly	Saturday
04212	Chandigarh	09:30	Varanasi Jn	01:20	Weekly	Sunday
04553	Saharanpur	04:40	Ambala Cant Jn	06:45	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun
04554	Ambala Cant Jn	20:20	Saharanpur	22:30	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun
04682	Jammu Tawi	23:20	Kolkata	13:00	Weekly	Tuesday
04681	Kolkata	23:45	Jammu Tawi	12:30	Weekly	Thursday
04078	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:55	Patna Jn	16:25	Weekly	Monday
04077	Patna Jn	17:50	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:00	Weekly	Tuesday
04646	Jammu Tawi	05:45	Barauni Jn	12:10	Weekly	Thursday
04645	Barauni Jn	15:15	Jammu Tawi	22:30	Weekly	Friday
04038	Delhi Jn	19:10	Azamgarh	11:30	Weekly	Sunday
04037	Azamgarh	13:30	Delhi Jn	06:10	Weekly	Monday
04312	Haridwar Jn	12:30	Howrah Jn	17:10	Weekly	Thursday
04311	Howrah Jn	19:00	Haridwar Jn	23:30	Weekly	Friday
04314	Haridwar Jn	12:30	Muzaffarpur Jn	07:30	Weekly	Friday
04313	Muzaffarpur Jn	09:00	Haridwar Jn	05:30	Weekly	Saturday
04058	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:15	Muzaffarpur Jn	21:15	Bi-weekly	Monday, Thursday
04057	Muzaffarpur Jn	23:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:30	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Friday
04062	Anand Vihar Terminal	09:00	Barauni Jn	06:30	Weekly	Sunday
04061	Barauni Jn	08:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:10	Weekly	Monday
02246	Hazrat Nizamuddin	23:55	Patna Jn	16:40	Bi-weekly	Monday, Wednesday
02245	Patna Jn	17:50	Hazrat Nizamuddin	10:50	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Thursday
04526	Sirhind Jn	11:25	Saharsa Jn	17:00	Weekly	Monday
04525	Saharsa Jn	19:15	Ambala Cantt Jn	22:20	Weekly	Tuesday
04006	Delhi Jn	23:05	Jaynagar	23:45	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Friday
04005	Jaynagar	01:30	Delhi Jn	01:30	Bi-weekly	Thursday, Sunday
04048	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:20	Katihar Jn	15:00	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Friday
04047	Katihar Jn	18:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	17:50	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Saturday
04070	New Delhi	00:20	Rajgir	21:00	Bi-weekly	Saturday, Tuesday
04069	Rajgir	22:50	New Delhi	23:10	Bi-weekly	Sunday, Wednesday
02262	New Delhi	00:20	Darbhanga Jn	21:15	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Sunday
02261	Darbhanga Jn	23:20	New Delhi	20:15	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Sunday
04608	Jammu Tawi	20:20	Howrah Jn.	13:20	Date Wise	Wednesday & Monday
04607	Howrah Jn.	23:45	Jammu Tawi	15:20	Date Wise	Friday & Wednesday
04680	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	18:40	Kamakhya	21:00	Date Wise	Monday & Saturday
04679	Kamakhya	06:00	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	06:20	Date Wise	Thursday & Tuesday
04662	Amritsar Jn.	20:10	Saharsa	05:00	Date Wise	Tuesday & Sunday
04661	Saharsa	10:00	Amritsar Jn.	18:20	Date Wise	Thursday & Tuesday
04520	Ambala Cant Jn	19:00	Darbhanga Jn	19:00	Date Wise	Friday
04519	Darbhanga Jn	21:30	Amritsar	06:30	Date Wise	Saturday

LIST OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS PASSING THROUGH NORTHERN RAILWAY NETWORK

03575	Asansol Jn	10:15	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:05	Weekly	Friday
03576	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:15	Asansol Jn	10:20	Weekly	Saturday
03435	Malda Town	09:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	14:10	Weekly	Monday
03436	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:45	Malda Town	23:30	Weekly	Tuesday
03255	Patna Jn	22:20	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:00	Bi-weekly	Sunday, Thursday
03256	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:20	Patna Jn	17:20	Bi-weekly	Monday, Friday
02391	Patna Jn	22:20	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:00	Weekly	Saturday
02392	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:20	Patna Jn	17:20	Weekly	Sunday
03257	Danapur	07:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	00:30	Weekly	Sunday
03258	Anand Vihar Terminal	05:00	Danapur	20:45	Weekly	Monday
05219	Muzaffarpur Jn	13:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	06:00	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun
05220	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:00	Muzaffarpur Jn	00:45	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun
05109	Chhapra	17:45	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:50	Weekly	Wednesday
05110	Anand Vihar Terminal	12:55	Chhapra	06:45	Weekly	Thursday
05023	Goaakhpur	21:15	Anand Vihar Terminal	13:15	Weekly	Sunday
05024	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:15	Goaakhpur	04:45	Weekly	Monday
05301	Mau Jn	04:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	20:30	Weekly	Thursday
05302	Anand Vihar Terminal	00:25	Mau Jn	17:45	Weekly	Friday
05005	Goaakhpur	14:40	Amritsar Jn	09:30	Weekly	Wednesday
05006	Amritsar Jn	12:45	Goaakhpur	08:50	Weekly	Thursday
05049	Chhapra	09:55	Amritsar Jn	09:30	Weekly	Friday
05050	Amritsar Jn	12:45	Chhapra	14:00	Weekly	Saturday
02525	Kamakhya	22:45	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:50	Weekly	Friday
02526	Anand Vihar Terminal	17:20	Kamakhya	03:40	Weekly	Sunday
05671	Guwahati	15:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:50	Weekly	Wednesday
05672	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:45	Guwahati	14:15	Weekly	Friday
05734	Katihar Jn	11:40	Amritsar Jn	00:10	Weekly	Thursday
05733	Amritsar Jn	04:25	Katihar Jn	15:00	Weekly	Saturday
03413	Malda Town	07:10	New Delhi	07:30	Bi-weekly	Thursday, Sunday
03414	New Delhi	10:30	Malda Town	07:55	Bi-weekly	Friday, Monday
03483	Bhagalpur	11:00	New Delhi	07:10	Bi-weekly	Saturday, Tuesday
03484	New Delhi	10:30	Bhagalpur	07:10	Bi-weekly	Sunday, Wednesday
05565	Saharsa Jn	19:30	Sirhind Jn	00:05	Weekly	Thursday
05566	Sirhind Jn	02:00	Saharsa Jn	09:45	Weekly	Saturday

03107	Sealdah	00:10	Lucknow Jn	00:10	Weekly	Saturday
03108	Lucknow Jn	01:40	Sealdah	23:50	Weekly	Sunday
09075	Mumbai Central (Via Bareilly)	11:00	Kathgodam	14:30	Weekly	Wednesday
09076	Kathgodam (Via Bareilly)	17:30	Mumbai Central	20:55	Weekly	Thursday
07363	Hughbali Jn	20:30	Yug Nagari Rishikesh	23:30	Weekly	Monday
07364	Yug Nagari Rishikesh	06:15	Hughbali Jn	06:30	Weekly	Thursday
09657	Daurai (via Barabanki Jn)	15:00	Barhni	13:25	Weekly	Saturday
09658	Barhni (via Barabanki Jn)	19:15	Daurai	19:20	Weekly	Sunday
03423	Bhagalpur	13:55	Haridwar Jn	17:55	Weekly	Monday
03424	Haridwar Jn	19:55	Bhagalpur	21:20	Weekly	Tuesday
05736	Katihar Jn	21:00	Amritsar Jn	09:45	Weekly	Wednesday
05735	Amritsar Jn	13:25	Katihar Jn	23:45	Weekly	Friday
05047	Banaras	22:00	Ghaziabad	11:45	Weekly	Tuesday
05048	Ghaziabad	12:35	Banaras	05:35	Weekly	Wednesday
02397	Gaya Jn	14:15	Anand Vihar Terminal	07:10	6 Days a week	Except Saturday
02398	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:20	Gaya Jn	00:30	6 Days a week	Except Sunday
02393	Patna Jn	20:10	New Delhi	12:10	6 Days a week	Except Thursday
02394	New Delhi	13:20	Patna Jn	07:00	6 Days a week	Except Friday
04123	Prayagraj Jn	14:30	Hazrat Nizamuddin	11:10	Bi-weekly	Sunday, Wednesday
04124	Hazrat Nizamuddin	15:50	Prayagraj Jn	09:00	Bi-weekly	Monday, Thursday
05193	Chhapra	14:00	Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan	22:10	Weekly	Saturday
05194	Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan	00:05	Chhapra	08:00	Weekly	Monday
02417	Prayagraj Jn	21:30	Delhi Jn	08:55	Weekly	Friday
02418	Delhi Jn	09:30	Prayagraj Jn	19:45	Weekly	Saturday
04145	Prayagraj Jn	21:30	Delhi Jn	08:55	Weekly	Thursday
04146	Delhi Jn	09:30	Prayagraj Jn	19:45	Weekly	Friday
02421	Subedarganj	21:35	Delhi Jn	08:55	Weekly	Sunday
02422	Delhi Jn	09:30	Subedarganj	19:40	Weekly	Monday
03309	Dhanbad Jn	10:10	Jammu Tawi	22:40	Weekly	Tuesday
03310	Jammu Tawi	23:25	Dhanbad Jn	14:00	Weekly	Wednesday
09195	Vadodara Jn (via Varanasi Jn)	19:00	Mau Jn	20:45	Weekly	Saturday
09196	Mau Jn (via Varanasi Jn)	23:15	Vadodara Jn	00:45	Weekly	Sunday
09417	Ahmedabad Jn (via Varanasi Jn)	09:10	Danapur	20:30	Weekly	Monday
09418	Danapur (via Varanasi Jn)	23:50	Ahmedabad Jn	11:10	Weekly	Tuesday
09405	Sabarmati (via Lucknow)	18:10	Patna Jn	02:00	Weekly	Tuesday
09406	Patna Jn (via Lucknow)	05:00	Sabarmati	13:30	Weekly	Thursday
09525	Hapa (via Varanasi Jn)	00:40	Naharlagun	16:00	Weekly	Wednesday
09526	Naharlagun (via Varanasi Jn)	10:00	Hapa	00:30	Weekly	Saturday
09183	Mumbai Central (via Lucknow)	22:50	Banaras	10:30		

CCF Kashmir conducts inspection of Budgam forests, reviews ongoing forestry initiatives

JJ NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, OCTOBER 23

In a significant step towards strengthening forestry management and conservation efforts, the Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir, Irfan Rasool Wani today undertook an extensive tour of Pir Panjal Forest Division, Budgam.

The visit focused on reviewing ongoing forestry initiatives and assessing the forest protection scenario in the Division. The CCF, Kashmir emphasized the need for close coordination between the Territorial Staff and the Forest Protection Force, urging all staff to remain vigilant, particularly during the autumn season to prevent any forest fire related incidents.

The CCF conducted a thorough inspection of various key sites and initiatives within the division, aimed at promoting sustainable forest practices and biodiversity conservation. He visited the Sheikh-ul-Alam Nursery, Kanidajan, a vital conifer nursery of Kashmir region, where he assessed the ongoing



efforts in raising seedlings for reforestation. He visited the prominent forest blocks, including Yousmarg, Nilnag, Kanidajan, and Padshahtar to assess the on-ground situation regarding forest conservation and protection, and the sustainable management of forest resources. The inspection also aimed at reviewing the implementation of various developmental works in these areas.

A thorough review of ongoing survey and demarcation activities within the Division was carried out, as these works are crucial for maintaining clear forest boundaries, preventing encroachments, and ensuring the long-term

protection of forest lands. The visit underscored the commitment of the Forest Department to promote sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation in Pir Panjal Forest Division Budgam. By focusing on afforestation, effective demarcation, and close coordination with Forest Protection Forces, the Division aims to safeguard the rich natural heritage of the District for future generations.

The CCF was accompanied by Syed Wasim Gul, DFO, Pir Panjal Forest Division, Budgam, Syed Abid Nazir Deputy Director, Forest Protection Force, Budgam, Range Officers, and forest front-line staff.

GDC Vijaypur organises Slogan writing competition

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SAMBHA OCTOBER 23

Government Degree College Vijaypur on Wednesday organised a slogan writing competition on the theme, "Love Life Not Drugs" under the banner of Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

Prof. (Dr.) Vandana Gupta, Principal of the college supervised the event attended by more than 20 college students with great enthusiasm, fervour and zeal. The event commenced with the welcome address by Prof. (Dr.) Anoop Kumar Bhagat, Nodal Officer, Nasha Mukht Bharat. He spread the message of Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan among the college students and the faculty. He further briefed the students about the terms and conditions of the competition. The first position was secured by Rupali Verma of B.A Sem 5th, the second position was achieved by Priyanka

Kumari of B.A. semester 5th and the 3rd position was shared among Kavita Anuragi and Renu Bala of semester 5th. The competition was organised with the full support of senior faculty members namely Prof. Anita Jamwal (HOD Political Science) and Prof. Mamta Gupta (HOD Commerce) The event was coordinated by Prof. Poonam Kundan (HOD Environmental Sciences), Dr. Manoj Heer (HOD Dogri) and Prof. Meetu Sharma (HOD Geography) and co-coordinated by Dr. Priyanka Ganjoo, Dr. Gunjeet Mahiwal, Dr. Indu Koul, Prof. Manisha Rani and Prof. Anjana Raina.

The competition was adjudged by Prof. Ritu Bhagat (HOD Education) and Dr. Naseem Chowdhary (HOD English). The certificates were distributed among the winners and participants. The refreshment was also distributed to all the participants.

Students of GHSS Shiva explore healthcare at GMC Doda



JJ NEWS SERVICE
DODA, OCTOBER 23

A group of Students from Government Higher Secondary School (HSS) Shiva embarked on an enlightening healthcare tour to Government Medical College (GMC) Doda, here today.

A group of 55 students from diverse standards accompanied by escort staff Rohit Raina (VT Healthcare), Ajit Bijyal, Rajesh Parihar, Sunil

Kumar, Rohit Kumar and Seema Manhas visited the GMC.

The aim was to educate students on healthcare services and medical practices and foster awareness about wellness, disease prevention and healthcare professionals' roles.

Students gained hands-on experience, interacting with medical professionals, observing hospital operations and understanding healthcare delivery.

Mission Yuva Capacity Building Program hosted for stakeholders at Reasi



JJ NEWS SERVICE
REASI, OCTOBER 23

As part of the Mission YUVA (Yuva Udhayami Vikas Abhiyan) initiative, a one-day capacity building program was held for stakeholder departmental functionaries here today in the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex, Reasi. The event was organized with the primary aim of equipping stakeholders with the tools and knowledge to advance the mission's goals.

During the program, AD employment Annie Vaid gave a brief description about Mission YUVA followed by other speakers. The program envisages empowering the youth by fostering essential skills and an entrepreneurial mindset. The program focused on creating a sustainable and innovative environment for young entrepreneurs, offering guidance on how to support and nurture innovative ideas. Through this initiative, the mission aspires to instill confidence and self-reliance in young minds, encouraging them to become

future-ready leaders in their fields.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of such initiatives, stating, "Empowering our youth with the right skills and mindset is crucial for the future of our region. Mission YUVA is a step towards building a robust ecosystem that supports innovation and entrepreneurship, ensuring that young people are at the forefront of sustainable development."

The day-long program included interactive sessions and workshops, where participants gained insights into entrepreneurial opportunities, sustainability practices, and innovation strategies. By aligning with the objectives of Mission YUVA, the event marked another milestone in the district's efforts to promote youth development and entrepreneurship. Meeting was attended by GM DIC Mohammad Anwar Banday, AD handicraft Annie Vaid, CDPO Pouni Lekha Bhasin, AD Handicraft Ujwal Sambhal, Superintendent ITI, officials from various banks.

JKRERA team inspects construction site in Channi Himmat following complaints

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 23

Acting on public complaints and recent media reports, a team of officers from the Jammu & Kashmir Real Estate Regulatory Authority (JKRERA) conducted an inspection of a construction site located in Channi Himmat today.

The complaints indicated that the building under construction is intended for sale and has a total area exceeding 500 square meters. In accordance with the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, it is mandatory for developers to register projects with JKRERA before commencing construction.



During the inspection, it was found that the owner had not registered the project with JKRERA, despite the statutory requirement. Consequently, a notice has been served to the owners, seeking clarification regarding the unregistered status of the project and instructing them to complete the registration process promptly.

Chief Revenue Officer (Enforcement Officer) Sunil Gupta, Undersecretary Esha Chib, Naib Tehsildar Gias-ul-Din among others conducted the inspection.

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Chief Revenue Officer (Enforcement Officer) Sunil Gupta, Undersecretary Esha Chib, Naib Tehsildar Gias-ul-Din among others conducted the inspection.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECH. DIVISION UDHAMPUR

ENIT NO. 12-JJM OF 2024-25 DATED 19-10-2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. 12-JJM OF 2024-25 Dated: 19-10-2024

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Udhampur, invites e-tender from reputed and resourceful Bidders/ Firms/Companies/ registered in DIC or any other state Government for below mentioned work at Water Supply scheme of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Udhampur, of Jammu Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. **Cover 1st** consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and **Cover 2nd** consisting of Financial Bid on overall percentage rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr. No.	Particulars of the works	Estimated cost (lacs)	Tender fee (in Rs.)	Earnest money deposit	Bid Validity	Time of completion of work (days)
1	Providing, installation, testing and commissioning of electro-mechanical machinery alongwith allied works for backup station / augmentation of stage-2 nd of WSS Batogra lift under JJM	As per ANNEXURE-I to this bid document	Rs. 500/-	2% of the estimated cost (in case of non-registered firms) Or 1% of the estimated cost (in case of firms registered with DIC / SSI / MSME)	180 days	As per ANNEXURE-I to this bid document.

Position of funds : Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

Position of AAA : Accorded

Position of T.S : Sanctioned

The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Udhampur.

CRITICAL DATES:

i	Publish Date	21-10-2024 (11:00 AM)
ii	Document Download Start Date	21-10-2024 (11:30 AM)
iii	Clarification Start date	22-10-2024
iv	Clarification End date	24-10-2024
iv	Bid submission Start date	21-10-2024
v	Bid submission End date	29-10-2024 (15:00 Hrs.)
vi	Date of Bid opening	30-10-2024 (11:00 AM onwards)

1. Bid documents can be accessed & downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in

2. The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.

3. The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Udhampur Bids must be accompanied cost of Tender Document and EMD as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table and shall be payable at Jammu.

- The cost of tender documents should be in form of Treasury challan / e-Challan towards the cost of tender document to be deposited in MH-0215-WSS (Revenue head) or through RTGS in J&K Bank branch Udhampur bearing bank account No. **002801020000091, IFSC code JAKA0UDMPUR** in favour of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Udhampur

4. Firms who will fulfill the following parameters are eligible to participate.

- Average Annual financial turnover during the last 3 years, ending 31 March of the previous financial year, should be at least 30% of this estimated cost.
- "Experience certificate of having successfully completed or substantially completed one similar work during last seven years ending last day of the month previous to the one in which tenders are invited".
- Definition of "similar work" should be clearly defined.

5. The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial cover.

6. The bid shall remain valid for a period of **180 days** from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder withdraws his bid before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the same shall be considered to be in violation of bid security declaration and shall be dealt with accordingly and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.

7. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.

8. Queries by email if any should be made at eephemudr@gmail.com.

No. JSPHEM/UDHR/2023-24/2535-48
Dated: 19-10-2024

DIP/J-6029/24
Date: 23-10-24

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Division
Udhampur

Weekly Block Diwas

DC Doda listens to public grievances at Bhagwah, assures timely redress



JJ NEWS SERVICE
DODA, OCTOBER 23

A public outreach program under the aegis of weekly Block Diwas was organized here today at Gadi Block Bhagwah.

Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh, leading a team of officers of different departments, listened to the concerns and grievances of the locals and those from the adjoining Panchayats.

The locals projected a wide range of demands seeking road connectivity, water supply, Anganwadi centre, up-grading of healthcare services and the construction of roads under the PMGSY scheme.

The Deputy Commissioner assured the public that their demands would be addressed promptly. He emphasized that the

proposed road projects under the NABARD scheme would be completed in stipulated time frame, with all obstacles resolved before work begins. He informed that roads developed under NABARD would be handed over to PMGSY for maintenance and completion. Singh also assured that healthcare facilities in the area would be strengthened, with posting of sanctioned strength of doctors in all health centres. He was directed by the BMO to ensure punctuality and the availability of medical staff.

The Deputy Commissioner also instructed officers to expedite the execution of MGNREGA works, ensuring job creation for local residents. Additionally, he directed the concerned officers to provide essential water and toilet

facilities in public areas and ensure that all social welfare schemes reach the beneficiaries at their doorsteps. Singh also stressed on promoting local products, particularly walnuts, and directed officers to provide all necessary support for the marketing of local produce.

The DC further informed the public about the establishment of Kisan Kidhmat Ghar Centres under the Agriculture Department, encouraging individuals with agricultural skills to apply for positions in the centres. He stressed the importance of completing road connectivity to tourist spots such as Lal Draman, with the aim to enhance tourism while preserving the natural beauty of the meadows.

SKUAST-K organises Awareness programme under HADP at Kulgam

JJ NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, OCTOBER 23

The Division of Plant Pathology, Faculty of Horticulture, SKUAST-K, organized one day Mass Awareness cum Farmer-Scientist Interaction programme on Integrated Disease and Pest Management in Apple under HADP-18 'Minimization of pesticide use in agriculture' at conference Hall Mini Secretariat, Kulgam. The objective of the programme was

to reduce unnecessary pesticide application and to make farmers aware about the status of different diseases and pests.

Scientists from different fields delivered Powerpoint presentations on judicious use of pesticides and discussed negative impacts of pesticides on the environment.

More than 150 farmers from district Kulgam attended the programme and interacted with scientists regarding the

challenges they were facing in their orchards.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Manzoor Ahmad Ganaie (Prof. & Head, KVK-Kulgam), Dr. Sajad Mohiduddin (Prof. Division of Entomology), Dr. Mohammad Najeeb Mughal (Prof. Division of Plant Pathology), Dr. Tariq Rasool Rather (Prof. Plant Pathology), Nisar Ahmad (District Horticulture Officer, Kulgam) and other stakeholders from different departments.

IIT Jammu crushes competition at Jammu's biggest sports spectacle

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 23

IIT Jammu proves its meticulous athletic endeavor in the biggest sports occurrence of Jammu & Kashmir. Convoquer 2024. The largest athletic competition embarked on its marvelous journey on October 18th with breathtaking performances by students showcasing true sportsmanship and dedication.

The participating institutes accompanying IIT Jammu in making Convoquer 2024 a grand success are Jammu University, IIM Jammu, SMVDU Katra, AIIMS Jammu, GMC Jammu, GAMC Jammu, ASCOMS Jammu, MIET Jammu, Central University, GCET Jammu.

The enthusiasm of the fest felt truly mesmerizing to both the participants and their supportive peers. In a thrilling display of athleticism and competitive spirit, IIT Jammu emerged as the



overall winner of Jammu's biggest sports fest, proving its dominance across multiple disciplines. While the competition was fierce, and teams from across the region performed spectacularly, IIT Jammu's athletes delivered electrifying performances that secured their place as the ultimate champions.

IIT Jammu's triumph was particularly notable in basketball (men's), where the team outplayed the competition with precision and passion, clinching a well-deserved victory. The success continued in chess and weightlifting, where the IIT teams

outclassed their rivals. In weightlifting, IIT Jammu swept all categories, with standout athlete Vishal Kumar earning special recognition for his record-breaking lifts. The team also secured a stunning win in table tennis (men's), while placing third in table tennis (women's).

The finals of the volleyball competition between IIT Jammu and Jammu University were nothing short of enticing, as the crowd's energy reached fever pitch. The match saw neck-and-neck competition with each team pushing the other to its limits, but despite IIT Jammu's

valiant effort, Jammu University ultimately claimed the victory. However, IIT Jammu's fighting spirit and the unwavering support from the crowd made this contest one of the most talked-about moments of the fest.

Jammu University also celebrated wins in football, cricket, badminton, volleyball (men's and women's), and basketball (women's), showcasing its strength across several sports. In cricket, although Jammu University took home the title, IIT Jammu put on a fantastic performance in the finals, keeping fans on the edge of their seats.

The cricket tournament garnered significant attention, with over 19,000 views on the CricHeroes app, adding to the excitement of the event.

In the end, despite remarkable performances from other institutions, it was IIT Jammu that truly stole the show, storming to victory and lifting the coveted overall championship trophy. With a relentless drive, unmatched consistency, and sheer athletic brilliance across a range of sports, IIT Jammu proved their mettle and left no doubt who the true champions were. Their all-around dominance electrified the entire fest, making this year's victory not just a win, but a statement. IIT Jammu didn't just compete—they conquered!

On October 22nd, the fest came to a ceremonial end honoring the winners for their spectacular and enticing performances in their respective arenas. Dr. Manoj Singh Gaur, Director of IIT Jammu congratulated the champions and bestowed upon them his indispensable insights. The event proved to be a humongous success with its peak athleticism and immense diligence of the organizing team, faculty, coaches and all the heroes behind the curtain. With such an electrifying energy and sporty spirit, this is just the beginning! The momentum of Convoquer '24 is unstoppable and more such events shall be organized in the near future, where the legends will rise and competition will soar to even greater heights!

KPDCL 1st JK utility to obtain ISO certification for Data Centre

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 23

In a first, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) has become the first power utility in J&K to obtain ISO Quality Control Certification for its Data Centre at Bemina, Srinagar.

In a press statement issued here today, a KPDCL spokesman stated that EAS, a member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), has certified KPDCL as compliant with the requirements of Information Security Management System.

ISO/IEC 27001 is an international standard to manage information security, which was originally published jointly by International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) in 2005.

It details requirements for establishing, imple-



menting, maintaining and continually improving an information security management system (ISMS), aim of which is to help organizations make the information assets they hold more secure.

Congratulating KPDCL and its team of remarkable engineers, led by Er. Shabir Ahmad Khan, CEO IT&C, the spokesman stated that KPDCL has now the operations of Smart Metering, Call Centre, SCADA, Bill Sahuliyat, Data Acquisition and Performance Portal in its scope.

Mission YUVA: Capacity Building Program held for Stakeholder Departments in Ramban

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, OCTOBER 23

A one-day capacity building program under Mission YUVA (Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan) was organized by the District Employment and Counselling Centre here today in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Ramban. The event, presided over by Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, was part of the preparatory phase of Project YUVA, which aims to empower young entrepreneurs with the skills and entrepreneurial mindset necessary for creating sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Prominent attendees included ADDC Roshan Lal; GM DIC Ravinder Anand; CPO Shakeeb Ahmed; DSEO Ganesh Kumar; CAO Ramgopal Sharma; CHO Anil Gorka; DDM NABARD Arushi



Sharma; AD Employment Amit Kumar and other officers from the district administration. The session was also attended by Block Development Officers, Child Development Project Officers, and experts from different departments.

The program featured interactive sessions, where key resource persons from NABARD, the Employment Department, and EDI shared their expertise on credit facilitation, promoting youth entrepreneurship, and the role stakeholders can play in ensuring the mission's success. The Assistant

Labour Commissioner also presented key topics related to youth entrepreneurship and potential benefits for stakeholders.

In his address, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of equipping stakeholders with a comprehensive understanding of the mission's goal to create sustainable livelihood opportunities for the youth. He highlighted the support offered by Mission YUVA for innovative ideas, startups, and providing handholding support to young entrepreneurs.

DC Ramban directed

the formulation of a factual database through an initial survey to identify young entrepreneurs with sustainable approaches, ensuring the maximum impact of Project YUVA on job creation. Under the project, a target has been set to establish 1.37 lakh enterprises, creating employment opportunities for 4.5 lakh unemployed youth across the region.

The session concluded with discussions on aligning all stakeholders to the mission's objectives and ways to extend these opportunities to potential beneficiaries.

Zonal Level Kala Utsav concludes in Kishtwar

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 23

To promote art and nurture young talent, a Zonal Level Kala Utsav was organized at the Multipurpose Hall of Government Higher Secondary School Kishtwar.

The event, a key initiative of the Government of India, saw a large turnout of participants from various schools of the Kishtwar zone. The event was held under the guidance of District Cultural Activities Incharge Avni Sen and Zonal Nodal Officer Amresh Parihar (Master). The Principal of the host school was the Chief Guest, while the Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) was the Guest of Honour.

The event witnessed several competitions. New Era Public School secured first and third positions in Solo Dance, while Daffodil Public School claimed second place.

Girls Higher Secondary



School Kishtwar bagged first place in Solo Song followed by Bhartiya Vidya Mandir clinching second place and Boys Higher Secondary School Kishtwar the third position.

In Arts/Drawing, Islamiya Faridia emerged as the winner, with SDM School taking second, and Daffodil School securing third place. In the Theatre/Mimicry competition, SDM School Kishtwar took the top spot.

Meanwhile in Group Song, Bhartiya Vidya Mandir won first place,

2 firecrackers godowns sealed in Akhnoor

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 23

The authorities have sealed two firecracker godowns located in Akhnoor as an inspection conducted by Sub Divisional Magistrate Shubhankar Pratyush Pathak revealed that the same were operating without safety measures.

On the directions of District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya, a committee headed by the Sub Divisional Magistrate Akhnoor examined the godowns operated by M/s Mukesh Gupta at Ambaran and M/s Sunil Sharma at Sungal Morh. The inspection revealed that both facilities operate without proper safety measures and in contravention to laid safety norms.

13 BN NDRF conducts Mock Exercise, School Safety Programs in Doda, Thathri



JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, OCTOBER 23

The 13P team of NDRF 13 BN, led by Assistant Commandant Javed Iqbal, conducted a Tabletop Exercise (TTE) on earthquake and landslide scenario at the DC Office Conference Hall, Doda.

The exercise, held from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM, was chaired by Sudershan Kumar, ADC. The exercise focused on collapsed structures during disaster eventualities and involved various stakeholders. Key points discussed included the introduction of NDRF, sequence of activities during disaster response, the importance of mock exercises, the role of stakeholders, and disaster preparedness and manage-

ment plans.

The TTE saw the participation of 89 individuals from various departments, including Revenue, Food & Supply, PWD, Army, Police, SDRF, Civil Administration, NGOs, and medical and fire services. The exercise highlighted the importance of collaboration among these departments during disaster response to ensure effective management and minimizing damage during natural calamities.

Earlier the other day, the School Safety Program was held by the 13P NDRF team at Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School Thathri. The event, led by Inspector Munshi Ram Sharma, ran from 10:50 AM to 12:40 PM, focusing on training teaching staff and 430 stu-

dents on essential disaster management techniques. Topics covered included first aid, Basic Life Support (BLS), Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), evacuation drills, fire safety, and the use of fire extinguishers. The program aimed to equip the school community with the necessary skills to respond to emergencies like earthquakes, floods, fires, and landslides.

The training event was well-received, with Principal B.D. Sharma and 32 teachers actively participated, alongside two SDRF personnel. The total number of beneficiaries from the program reached 464, reinforcing the school's disaster preparedness and safety measures.

Mission Shakti, RDD Empowers women with informative awareness session at Panjgrain Village



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 23

Mission Shakti SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of women Jammu (Social Welfare Department), dedicated to women's empowerment, conducted an awareness session here today at Panjgrain village, Nagrota. The program aimed to empower women by providing crucial information about the government schemes designed to improve their lives and well-being.

Officials of Mission Shakti SANKALP HEW delivered a detailed lecture on a wide range of government schemes designed to support women, such as the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), State Marriage Assistance Scheme (SMAS),

Listing the women centric schemes, the officials

informed the participants about Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), Widow and Old Age Pension schemes, skill oriented courses of ITI and polytechnic, Business Startup schemes like PMEGP, TEJASWINI, MUMKIN, SC ST CORPORATION, WDC, besides one stop centre, special women cell working for their safety and security.

They emphasized the vital role of women in nation-building and the importance of gender equality, highlighting the significance of the girl child in society.

The session, facilitated by Zeeshan, Panchayat Secretary from the BDO Office, Nagrota, focused on key rural development programs, particularly the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). Attendees were informed about the eligibility criteria and application process for the

housing scheme, encouraging them to utilize the available resources.

The session witnessed enthusiastic participation from local women, who expressed keen interest in the schemes and actively sought guidance on how to benefit from them. The initiative underscores Mission Shakti's commitment to reaching out to rural communities and ensuring women are well-informed about the support available to them.

This impactful awareness session is just one of the many initiatives undertaken by Mission Shakti Jammu to empower women across the region. The organization continues to work tirelessly to create a brighter future for women, ensuring they have the knowledge, resources, and opportunities to reach their full potential.

GDC Ganderbal organizes Health Awareness programme on 'Obesity & Endocrine Disorder'

JI NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 23

Health Centre of Government Degree College (GDC) Ganderbal on Wednesday organized a health awareness programme about 'Obesity & Endocrine Disorder' in collaboration with Paras Hospital, Srinagar in the college auditorium.

The programme aimed to raise awareness about issues and promote obesity and endocrine disorder wellness, besides educating the attendees on the signs and symptoms of different obesity and endocrine disorder conditions.

Further, the programme aimed to sensitize the attendees regarding the strategies for coping with the obesity and endocrine disorder, stress and promoting mental wellness.

The event included a

series of presentations, and discussions on the theme of the awareness programme by expert Dr Mehroosa of Paras Hospital, Srinagar with the students and faculty members of the college.

Principal of the college, Prof Fouzia Fatima said that the college is committed to host several such programmes in future to educate students, teaching and non-teaching staff of the college regarding obesity and endocrine disorder and other health issues.

Prof Fouzia said that organizing health awareness programmes in the college is giving an opportunity for every student and staff of the college to participate in such awareness programmes and also emphasized more such programmes to be organized in the College.

Notice

I, Nusrat Choudhary D/o Mohd Akbar R/o Village Bain Bajalta, Jammu declare that my Mother's name Shamshad Bibi and My Date of Birth 25-04-2009 have been wrongly written as Rabina Bibi and DOB 09-03-2010 respectively in my class 8th Marks Card under Roll No. 8071411, Registration No. GN-23-VIII-00393 and session 2023-24, issued by DIET, Jammu. My correct Date of Birth is 25-04-2009 and My Mother's name is Shamshad Bibi. I am applying for correction of the same in class 8th Marks Card. Objection, if any, may be conveyed to the concerned.

EDITORIAL

Cautious optimism in India-China talks

After a prolonged and tense standoff, a significant breakthrough has been achieved between India and China regarding patrolling along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh. This development, occurring just before the BRICS summit in Russia, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping, is a welcome turn of events for a relationship that has been fraught with tension since the Galwan clash of June 2020. The timing of this agreement is crucial. It not only prepares the ground for a potentially constructive dialogue between the two leaders but also sends a message to the international community that India and China are willing to engage in meaningful discussions. The successful resolution of the standoff is essential not just for bilateral relations but also for enhancing the credibility of Modi and Xi as global leaders, particularly in the context of their potential roles in mediating conflicts such as the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. However, while this breakthrough is promising, it is essential to approach it with caution. Historical patterns suggest that agreements between India and China can be fragile. New Delhi is acutely aware of Beijing's tendency to disregard previously established border protocols. The unilateral changes in the status quo by Chinese troops have been at the core of the current tensions, and recent history has shown that even the most carefully negotiated agreements can unravel. The delay in disengagement from critical friction points like Depsang and Demchok is largely attributable to Chinese intransigence, which highlights the need for a vigilant and proactive approach from India. China's rapid infrastructure development along the LAC is not just a logistical maneuver; it signals a strategic intent to keep India occupied and on the defensive. This necessitates that the Indian government and armed forces maintain a robust watch over the evolving situation at the border. Moreover, it is crucial for the Indian leadership to foster a culture of transparency and truthfulness about the state of affairs along the LAC. The Prime Minister's previous assertion that "neither is anyone inside our territory nor is any of our post captured" set a concerning precedent, one that may have inadvertently downplayed the gravity of the situation. Misinformation can erode public trust and hinder the nation's preparedness for any eventualities. As the two countries take tentative steps towards reconciliation, it is imperative that India remains vigilant. This means not only closely monitoring Chinese military activities but also ensuring that any future agreements are backed by stringent verification mechanisms. India must also be prepared to advocate assertively for its interests, ensuring that any dialogue does not compromise its territorial integrity. While the recent agreement between India and China presents a glimmer of hope for improved relations, it is only a first step. A cautious approach, grounded in vigilance and transparency, is necessary to navigate the complexities of this relationship. The international community will be watching closely, and India must demonstrate not just the willingness to engage but also the strength to stand firm when needed. The path forward may be fraught with challenges, but a steadfast commitment to national integrity and security will be essential in shaping a stable and cooperative future.

RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR
NIKUNJJI

All of us, whether we like it or not, have to compete from the time we are born until the time we die. Though most of us indulge in healthy competition all the time, nevertheless, one thing common to all kinds of competitions is the underlying desire to win a victory for the self or to defeat others. While competing, a person brings out their skill, ability, art, acumen, or talent to show that they are superior, stronger, better, more powerful, more skillful, more learned, or more competent than others. It is this habit of making comparisons with others that creates the competi-

tion background.

That is why we always see this subtle desire in people who are winners, to hear some words of praise about themselves or their performance. To fulfil this ultimate objective of massaging their egos, one does not care if the other person feels disappointed, depressed, defeated and even humiliated, ridiculed, or booted. This drive to be recognised as "better" than others sometimes overshadows the simple joy of participating or improving oneself. To understand this kind of behaviour, one needs to understand human psychology because the roots of comparison and competition have been sown into our minds since our childhood days.

From school grades to sibling rivalries, we are conditioned early to pit our success against others' failures. Hence, they become more rigid with time. We need to understand that the core objective behind the competition is not simply the desire to win, but it is intertwined with the motive of laying aside the softer and nobler sentiments of cooperation, kindness, and gentleness, even if only for a while. In competition, one puts all energies and talents into bogging down or defeating another person, leaving them behind in the race while making a forward thrust to reach the goal before anyone else. As the famous philosopher Schopenhauer said, "The world is a battle of will and intel-

lect." But in this battle, one often loses sight of empathy and connectedness, which are essential for human growth.

It may also put a limit on one's spirit of giving, helping, cooperating and sacrificing. Remember! Anything small and insignificant in the beginning has the potential to grow and become big. Hence, we must not forget that even though a spark or flame of fire may be small to start with, it can reduce a big apartment with valuables to ashes if it grows into a big fire. Thus, we should be careful and vigilant, because if the whole society catches this contagion or infection of selfishness or rivalry, it may spoil the charm of life and the atmosphere in

society. Some people link competition to motivation and developing an attitude toward high performance. But they fail to understand that this evil trait to defeat others, which may look like a harmless thing initially, may eventually develop into a spirit of revenge, feelings of hatred or enmity, bitter jealousy, confrontation, hostile attitudes and ugly outbursts. These effects are not limited to the individuals involved but spill over into communities, organisations and even nations. Look at global politics or corporate boardrooms, and you will see this principle at play on a massive scale. Hence, it all depends upon the emotional maturity of a person whether or not he or she is affected.

Because this seed of evil, as it grows, takes the form of a big tree with many branches; so, too, does selfishness or the spirit to downgrade others to gain ascendance for the self. It may proliferate into many evils or obnoxious habits. Hence, one must try to curtail selfishness and give up the ambition of winning by vengeance for the applause and praise of the self. Remember! The only competition that should matter to us is the one that takes place within ourselves. Hence, it is better to defeat one's inner demons first and become victorious from within to be an example for others to follow.

(The writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist; views are personal)

NEP 2020: A blueprint for transformative education

GURMEET SINGH

NEP 2020 was founded on the guiding principles of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability. This was primarily to prepare the young ones to face the diverse national & global challenges for the present & future. The Policy aims to lead to a multi-disciplinary, holistic under-graduation syllabus, create wider choices of combinations of Subjects, Integration of Vocational Education with regular Subjects and multi-entry and multi-exit points with regular appropriate certification at various stages. The aim is to ensure that no child loses any opportunity to learn and excel because of the circumstances of birth, economy and/or background. This should eventually lead to transformative changes which shall change the lifeline of education in our country. The emphasis is going to be on holistic education, early childhood care, flexible assessments, skill development, integration of technology, teacher training and higher education reforms. These are aimed at designing a learner-centric and inclusive education for a future-ready system.

By embracing these India is poised to provide quality education to everyone with the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in the 21st century. The motto has been to provide "Equitable and Inclusive Education" to ensure that no child should be denied quality education

because of their socio-cultural background and 100 per cent GER is reached by 2030. Looking at all the facts presented alone, one gets a feeling that this is going to be a real game changer in the education system of our country but the reality remains that it has not taken off even after three years of its approval. The major reason is that a majority do not understand the spirit of this very meaningful policy. If implemented in letter and spirit then our country shall be comparable to the best in the world in the field of education. An in-depth analysis and exploring what lies ahead; One can divide this whole NEP-2020 into four main capsules which this Policy envisages:

Teaching in the mother tongue or spoken language, Learn to leave, Teach to Transform and Educate to Empower. These highlighted Capsules shall completely sum up the entire NEP-2020, which none has so far put appropriately and completely. Elaborating each one of these shall drive home all the points:

Teaching in spoken language: The importance of this cannot be undermined. Original thinking comes only in the mother tongue (spoken languages) and this advantage has never been given to our students in any of our earlier policies. English has always been overemphasised and a wrong notion has been created that English is knowledge whereas the fact remains that it is just a language and not knowledge. Knowledge

can always be acquired by knowing a language. Our beginners have always been worried about learning English rather than developing an understanding of a concept in their way, therefore majority of the students are lost in this learning of the English language rather than focusing on the original thinking. This has been given an appropriate weightage under NEP. A student shall learn to develop an understanding of what subjects to learn and what to pick up eventually in higher classes which has not been the case so far.

A course used to be thrust upon them. This very important facet has been very appropriately addressed in this. Learn to Leave: Having decided what course to take up for secondary and higher education, a student used to be trapped forever whether one liked the subject/ course or not. (In the older education system for example if one had opted for Physics or Sanskrit: one was struck with that forever whether one liked these subjects or not)

There was no way to move out unless one gave up higher education or started afresh. The other difficulty was that due to some odd circumstances if one had to discontinue the education there was no way to restart unless you lose years/ time, but in this, one could leave anytime or rejoin anytime (Comes under Multi entry/ Multi exit system).

In the present system if one stayed away for a

few years one could not come back to education in desired subjects but under NEP-2020 one can restart anytime one's education by including the credits earned before leaving. Therefore, under the present NEP, no one shall stay away or be denied education because of circumstances. This was not the case in the older system.

Education to empower: Under this education is to give due benefits to society by developing the right kind of skill. For Example, an electronic engineer is not able to do even basic electrical repairs or a mechanical engineer is not in a position to rectify even a basic fault. Integration of vocational courses with regular ones to provide practical skills for employment, benefiting students with diverse academic interests or limited access to traditional pathways or linking them with one another are some of the hallmarks of the present system.

This is to develop the right syllabus to reduce disparities. Emphasis in this is on equitable access to quality education. Essentially NEP 2020 shall be attempting to reduce unwanted syllabus for comprehensive understanding towards skill-based education.

Teach to transform: the teaching in the older system was not of any speciality. One acquires the right skills through one's efforts to be useful to society. Under this, it shall be essential to train teachers and educational staff to deliver child-centred edu-

cation for job placement, which shall be an important feature so far lacking to a large extent.

Challenges: One of the biggest features of this has been the wide choice of subjects that one could take. Now this wide spectrum of subjects will be possible to be taken by students if there is a way to keep a record of a student's movement and subjects taken. In a country like ours which has more than 39K colleges, about 1000 Universities and 4.33 crores students (Nearly 80 per cent are in graduation and the remaining 20 per cent are from post-graduation classes), it shall be impossible to maintain a record of this kind unless there is a mechanism similar to computerised banking arrangement which maintains all types of record impeccably. For this an Academic Bank of Credit has been proposed where every institution shall be registered to enable a record of these movements of students, subjects taken and credits earned can be maintained like what is done in banking.

Biggest flaw so far: Unfortunately, to date, not even 50 per cent of Institutions have registered themselves in this (in ABC) which is the real key to the success of this policy. This is a way to keep records of students' subjects, their movements and credits earned.

Sharing of resources: Under NEP a wide umbrella of choice of subject, record of early education, movement from one

institution to another and credits cleared/ earned by a student shall be possible only if the resources are shared by various institutions.

It will be impossible for any particular college to offer all subjects and to offer teaching in a variety of courses unless there is a huge staff to do this. It will be humanly impossible to achieve all this unless sharing is done particularly when online teaching has now come in a big way in our university system.

Similarly, the resources for science laboratories, libraries research facilities as well as Entrepreneurship schemes can be very effectively shared to make the education truly inclusive as per the aims of NEP 2020. Therefore, in conclusion, this policy shall succeed if: Every institution registers with ABC (Academic Bank of Credit) Sharing of resources starts in a big way in earnest in all areas like teaching, especially in online modes, libraries, Laboratories and instrumental facilities; Open schooling system for all without any conditions and Establishment of the Higher Education Commission of India immediately to monitor the registration of ABC etc. It shall not become a roaring success unless all agencies like MOE, UGC etc take concerted efforts to bring about a radical change.

(The writer is a Former Vice-Chancellor of Pondicherry University and Gandhigram Rural Institute, Dindigul; views are personal)

Revolutionising India's food security: Route optimisation cuts costs, carbon emissions

SANJEEV CHOPRA

The Government of India provides free food grains to more than 81 crore beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) making it the largest food security programme in the world. This vast operation—from sourcing food grains from farmers to delivering them to ration cardholders—relies on a complex, decades-old supply chain. The Food Corporation of India (FCI), state procurement agencies, millers, transporters, warehouses, and Fair Price Shops (FPS) all play a critical role in this network. However, its design has historically been shaped by administrative convenience more than scientific optimisation. Supply routes were planned manually by state officials, a process prone to sub-optimality, bias and human error. In

October 2021, the Prime Minister launched the PM GatiShakti Master Plan aiming to enhance multimodal connectivity and optimise logistics across the country.

One of its key pillars, "Optimisation," envisions selecting the most efficient routes for transporting goods, thereby saving time and reducing costs. In line with this vision, the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) launched a national route optimisation exercise in March 2023, in partnership with the World Food Programme (UNWFP) and the Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT) from IIT Delhi.

This exercise, targeting the annual transportation of 6.8 crore metric tons of food grains through the PDS, marks a transformative step towards building a more efficient and cost-effective food

supply chain. The process was comprehensive: geo-locations of warehouses and FPS, along with their capacities and road distances, were collected from each state. Using this data, custom algorithms were developed for each state to determine the most optimal supply chain routes. More than 50 physical workshops were held by DFPD and FITT officials to guide states in data collection and demonstrate the benefits of route optimisation.

These optimised routes were then validated on the ground to ensure they accounted for local conditions, and a state-specific intra-state optimisation tool was developed to allow for adjustments in the supply chain - such as adding or modifying entities like warehouses or FPSs. For instance, Bihar developed an annual movement plan based on its PDS requirements,



food grain volume, and monthly transport routes. The customised algorithm factored in different possibilities of local procurement within the state and the grain required to be sourced from the FCI. This gave the state a clear view of its yearly logistics, allowing for cost-saving adjustments. By choosing the optimal option, Bihar reduced transport distances by 19 per cent,

saving over Rs 3.09 crore per month. Similarly, Mizoram optimised its routes by eliminating unnecessary transfers of food grains between warehouses, achieving a 50 per cent reduction in distance and saving an estimated Rs 1.27 crore monthly. A significant milestone in this effort was the integration of the route optimisation tool with the GatiShakti platform, which now

houses geo-locations of FPSs and warehouses across all states.

This integration enables the platform to generate the shortest possible motorable routes from FCI godowns to state godowns, and further from state godowns to FPSs.

The platform also allows real-time route re-optimisation based on updated infrastructure data (such as new roads) from other

ministries. Since March 2023, route optimisation assessments have been completed for 30 out of 31 states, with intra-state route optimisation tools developed for 15 states so far. Early results from 12 states show tremendous promise, with transportation costs reduced by an estimated Rs 112 crore annually. Once fully implemented across all states, savings could exceed 250 crore per year. This initiative is not only an economic win but also an environmental one. Global food miles—representing the distance food travels from production to consumption—account for nearly one-fifth of total food system emissions. Optimising India's food distribution routes can contribute significantly to reducing CO2 emissions, aligning with the country's climate change commitments under the Paris Agreement and its Confer-

ence of Parties (COP) targets. The reduction in fuel consumption will also help conserve foreign exchange reserves. Looking ahead, DFPD is exploring the possibility of earning carbon credits under the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), offering states an added incentive to complete the route optimisation process and earn tradable carbon credit certificates. This step would not only strengthen India's commitment to a climate-smart supply chain but also potentially generate financial benefits. In conclusion, The integration of advanced technologies and data-driven tools is setting the stage for a smarter future in public distribution, one that safeguards both our resources and the planet.

(The writer is Secretary, Food & Public Distribution, Govt of India; views are personal)

Over 150 countries to celebrate 'Ayurveda Day' on Oct 29: Ayush Ministry

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 23

More than 150 countries across the globe have geared up to celebrate Ayurveda Day on October 29, the Ministry of Ayush said on Wednesday.

The ninth Ayurveda Day will be celebrated around the theme 'Ayurveda Innovations for Global Health'.

"Ayurveda Day has now become a global movement. We are proud to learn that as many as 150 countries are expected to join Ayurveda Day celebrations in 2024," said Prataprao Jadhav, Union Minister of State for Ayush (I/C).

"The theme of this year's Ayurveda Day celebrations gives new dimensions to the con-



tribution of Ayurveda to global health. We aim to promote Ayurveda globally as a robust system of medicine for the welfare of the public," Jadhav said. He noted that the All India Institute of Ayurveda has initiated a month-long

programme across the country.

Since its inception in 2016, Ayurveda Day has gained global significance. Currently, Ayurveda is recognised in as many as 24 countries across the globe, while Ayurveda products

are exported to over 100 countries.

"Ayush focuses on integrating Ayurveda with contemporary science to address critical health issues including non-communicable diseases, mental health, antimicrobial resistance, and geriatric care," said Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush.

"Ayurveda knowledge is made conveniently accessible to the public through digital platforms under the umbrella of Ayush Grid including major initiatives such as Ayurgyan Scheme, Ayush Research Portal, and Namaste Portal," he added.

The celebrations will also witness significant participation from start-ups and industry, position-

ing Ayurveda at the heart of global health innovation.

According to Ayurveda experts, the theme this year highlights the huge research work done in Ayurveda to establish the scientific relevance of Ayurveda in the promotion of health and treatment of various disease conditions.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Ayush continues to work towards integrating Ayurveda into the mainstream of global health. Initiatives such as the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre (GTMC), Ayushman Bharat Yojana, and the Research Centre for Innovation in Ayurveda Biology are advancing Ayurveda's role in the global health system.

S.Korea reports 2nd highest childbirth in August

AGENCIES
SEOUL, OCT 23

The number of babies born in South Korea increased on-year for the second consecutive month in August, data showed on Wednesday, amid lingering demographic challenges caused by the ultra-low birth rate and rapid ageing.

According to data compiled by Statistics Korea, a total of 20,098 babies were born in August, up 5.9 per cent from a year earlier, Yonhap news agency reported.

The growth followed 20,601 births recorded in July, marking a 7.9 per cent on-year rise.

The increase apparently occurred after more couples held weddings from the second half of 2022



through the first half of 2023, having delayed their marriages during the early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The total fertility rate, which refers to the average number of expected births per woman in her lifetime, however, stood at a record low of 0.71 in the second quarter of 2024.

The figure is far below the 2.1 births per woman needed to maintain a stable population without immigration.

Over the January-August period, the number of

births totaled 158,000, down 0.4 per cent from a year earlier.

The number of deaths, meanwhile, increased 5.6 per cent on-year to reach 32,244 in August. The number of deaths has exceeded the number of newborns since the fourth quarter of 2019.

Accordingly, South Korea reported a natural population decrease of 12,146. The report also showed that the number of couples getting married soared 20 per cent on-year to 17,527 in August.

Fat-derived cellular concentrate a promising treatment for diabetes: Experts

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 23

Fat-derived cellular concentrate is a promising treatment for people with uncontrolled diabetes who are dependent on insulin, said experts on Wednesday.

Diabetes is a metabolic disorder that has become a global concern. In India, roughly 10 per cent of adults, or 10 crore people suffer from it while 13.5 crore people are in a pre-diabetic state.

A government hospital in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur in 2022 became the first in the country to perform the first fat-derived stem cell transplant.

"A cellular concentrate made from fat tissue is proving more than useful in the management of uncontrolled Type-2 diabetes," Prof (Dr) B S Rajput, Visiting Professor at GSVM Medical College, which conducted the trial, told IANS.

In this method, stem cells are extracted from



waist and abdominal fat and injected into the patient's muscles and blood cells, enabling the patient's pancreas (beta cells) to release normal amounts of insulin.

A 50-year-old man became the first recipient of an adipose-derived stem cell transplant. He had been suffering from type 2 diabetes for the past five years.

"The patient's HbA1c levels decline from 10 to 6.5 in just 6 months without changing lifestyle and dietary habits or even drugs," the doctor added. The HbA1c test is used to

evaluate a person's level of glucose control.

The trial "has come as good news for all the patients with type 2 diabetes who have to take insulin frequently," Rajput said.

"Fat-derived cellular concentrate, a promising treatment for diabetes, involves using stem cells from a patient's fat tissue," Dr Manisha Arora, Director - Internal Medicine, Diabetes Specialist at the CK Birla Hospital(R), Delhi, told IANS.

"These cells help regenerate damaged insulin-

producing cells in the pancreas, potentially improving insulin sensitivity and blood sugar regulation," he added.

Rajput noted that fat-derived cellular concentrate transplant is "suitable in the management of uncontrolled diabetes; diabetic complications like nerve and kidney damage; and also for diabetes with cardiac complications".

He stressed that this "is a minimal manipulation tissue transplant technique with a very high success rate in the management of diabetes using Australian patented technique of processing".

However, Rajput said that the beta cells transplanted were made from induced pluripotent potent stem cells, whose "production is prohibitively expensive".

"Also the inherent nature of autoimmunity in the body would ultimately destroy these cells, so diabetologists are still sceptical about its long-term efficacy".

Delhi air pollution: City doctors report 30pc rise in asthma, COPD cases

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 23

Even as air quality in the national capital fell to the 'very poor' category, city doctors on Tuesday reported a 30 per cent surge in respiratory diseases like asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

A thick layer of smog enveloped Delhi on Tuesday morning as the city's air quality deteriorated to the 'very poor' category. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), 27 monitoring stations in the national capital fell in the red zone, with an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 317 recorded around 9:00 a.m.

The health experts blamed changing weather and pollution levels for the rise in respiratory disease. Children, pregnant women, and the elderly are at the highest risk.

Dr. Vikas Maurya, Senior Director and HOD Pulmonology, Fortis Hospital told IANS that as



winter is approaching and pollution is increasing with lower AQI, there has been an increase in cases of acute bronchitis and asthma attack.

"There has been a 30-40 per cent rise in these respiratory diseases. Pollutants with PM 2.5 and PM 10 along with dust particles and vehicular emissions in increased concentration are causing irritation and inflammation to the airways when inhaled," Maurya said.

Children, the elderly, those with weak immunity, and those with pre-existing lung diseases like asthma, COPD, and cardi-

ac issues are more at risk. These people are more likely to present with symptoms like excessive cough, mucus production, sneezing, chest pain, and breathing problems.

"With the approaching winter season, stubble burning, vehicular exhaust, the pollutants in the air have crossed levels suitable for human health. These toxic gases irritate the lungs, especially of the elderly and asthmatic and COPD patients," Bobby Bhalotra, Prof and senior consultant, Department of Chest Medicine, SGRH told IANS.

The experts advised people to take precautions, such as wearing masks, and using air purifiers indoors if they are immobile in bed and are in the high-risk category. They also called for avoiding outdoor activities when air quality is poor. Dr Vikas Mittal, Pulmonologist, Department of Respiratory Medicine, C K Birla Hospital, told IANS that the asthma cases are also being driven by the seasonal transition and an increase in pollen counts. Allergic rhinitis is also seeing an uptick due to similar triggers, he said. "The current seasonal transition has resulted in fluctuating temperatures, which, alongside high pollen levels, are exacerbating asthma and other respiratory diseases. The conditions are complicating air quality, making it harder for those with pre-existing respiratory conditions to breathe easily," Mittal said. The hospital is witnessing 20-30 per cent cases of asthma and other respiratory diseases.

Health startup sehatUP launches integrated digital health clinic

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 23

A health tech startup sehatUP on Wednesday launched its integrated digital health clinic, aiming to bring a holistic approach to healthcare.

The platform combines modern medicine, Ayurveda, and Homeopathy to offer personalized health and wellness solutions, marking a significant step in making healthcare more comprehensive and accessible. This launch aligns with the Government of India's One Nation One Health System vision, which plans to integrate traditional and modern medical practices by 2030. sehatUP's initiative supports the government's goal to create a unified healthcare framework

that blends different medical systems in practice, education, and research, a company release said.

Speaking about the launch, Karan Bhargava, Founder and CEO of sehatUP, said, "sehatUP is designed to offer a more holistic and inclusive approach to healthcare. By blending modern medicine with traditional practices like Ayurveda and Homeopathy, we aim to provide users with a balanced path to well-being that addresses root causes and promotes long-term health."

sehatUP's integrated digital health clinic offers a range of unique features designed to enhance the holistic healthcare experience. The platform provides personalized healthcare plans and free doctor

consultations, initially focusing on sexual wellness and weight management. It also offers a variety of affordable, clinically approved medicines and natural supplements, the company claimed.

sehatUP collaborates with over 50 expert doctors and health coaches to deliver precise, personalized wellness journeys. Using advanced technology, it crafts tailored treatment plans that seamlessly integrate modern medicine, Ayurveda, and Homeopathy to address individual health needs.

Privacy is a key focus, with discreet delivery options that ensure a secure and comfortable experience for users as they undergo health transformations, it added.

Breast cancer in men: Stigma delaying diagnosis and treatment, say experts

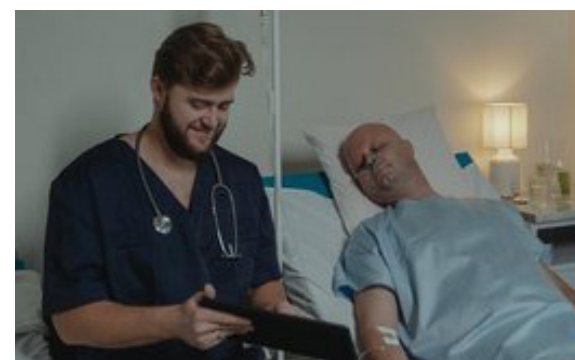
AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 22

While breast cancer is often perceived as a women's disease, men also suffer from the deadly disease. However, stigma delays their diagnosis and treatment, potentially worsening outcomes, said experts on Wednesday.

October is marked as Breast Cancer awareness month.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 0.5-1 per cent of breast cancers occur in men. While this percentage may seem small, it translates to thousands of men worldwide facing this diagnosis each year.

"Despite its rarity, breast cancer in men is often diagnosed later than in women. Many men are



unaware that they can develop breast cancer, leading to delayed detection. However, early detection significantly improves survival rates," Dr. Ramesh Sarin, Senior Consultant, Surgical Oncology, Apollo Cancer Centres, told IANS.

"One of the biggest challenges in addressing male breast cancer is the stigma surrounding it. Many men feel embarrassed or emasculated by a diagnosis tra-

ditionally associated with women. This stigma can lead to delayed diagnosis and treatment, potentially worsening outcomes," she added.

The most common type of male breast cancer is invasive ductal carcinoma (IDC), which starts in the ducts and spreads to surrounding tissue. Other types include invasive lobular carcinoma (ILC), Paget's disease of the nipple, and ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS), a non-invasive form.

According to Sarin, the symptoms of breast cancer in men are similar to those in women. As women, men should also be aware of potential signs like a lump or thickening in the breast tissue, changes in the skin covering the breast, such as dimpling, redness, or scaling, changes to the nipple, such as redness or scaling, or a nipple that begins to turn inward or discharge from the nipple.

"It's important to note that most breast lumps in men are not cancerous. However, any unusual changes should be promptly evaluated by a healthcare professional," Sarin said.

Age, family history, genetic mutations, radia-

tion exposure, liver disease, and obesity are the risk factors that can increase a man's risk of developing breast cancer.

Dr Anshuman Kumar, Director of Surgical Oncology, Dharamshila Narayana Superspeciality Hospital called out the need to live a healthy lifestyle and avoid ultra-processed foods.

"Processed and ultra-processed foods, especially when consumed warm in plastic containers, release harmful chemicals like phthalates and bisphenol A (BPA), which are known to disrupt hormonal balance and contribute to cancer risk. Irregular eating habits and exposure to food adulterants, insecticides, and heavy metals further exacerbate the situation," Kumar told IANS.

Over 40 students hospitalized for suspected food poisoning in South Africa

AGENCIES
JOHANNESBURG, OCT 23

A total of 43 learners from a primary school in KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa, were sent to hospital on Monday for suspected food poisoning, local education authorities confirmed on Tuesday.

The provincial educa-

tion department said the learners from Ngaqa Primary School in Mtubatuba fell ill after consuming snacks purchased from street vendors outside the school.

"The students were rushed to a local clinic and were released upon medical treatment. Some tests were taken to the laboratory," said Muzi

Mhlambi, spokesperson for the Department of Education in KwaZulu-Natal Province.

Mhlambi said the department is collaborating with the police and the Department of Health to investigate the accident's cause.

South Africa has recently experienced a surge in food poisoning

cases among children. On Oct. 6, six children died from suspected food poisoning in Johannesburg, and over 130 students from Gauteng, Limpopo, and KwaZulu-Natal provinces were hospitalized for similar reasons earlier this month.

South Africa's National Department of Health deployed an

80-member investigation team, including environmental and health inspectors, to look into these accidents and inspect food sold in local tuck shops. The investigation commenced on Monday, and the exact cause of the suspected food poisoning cases remains under investigation.

Over 77 per cent of India's children lack WHO-suggested diversity in diet: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 22

About 77 per cent of children in India aged 6-23 months lack diversity in diet as suggested by the World Health Organisation (WHO), with the country's central region showing the highest prevalence of minimum dietary failure, a study has found.

The states of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan,

Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh reported the highest levels of inadequate diversity in children's diets—all above 80 per cent—while Sikkim and Meghalaya were the only two to report an under-50 per cent prevalence.

The WHO suggests using the minimum dietary diversity score to evaluate the quality of a child's diet—it is considered to be diverse if it contains five or more

Maha Governor bats for creating globally benchmarked higher education ecosystem in India

AGENCIES

NAGPUR, OCT 23

Maharashtra Governor C. P. Radhakrishnan on Wednesday emphasised the need for creating a flexible, multidisciplinary, and globally benchmarked higher education ecosystem in India.

He said initiatives like the Academic Bank of Credits, National Credit Framework, and Professor of Practice were transforming the landscape by fostering student mobility, credit transfer, and industry-academia collaboration, shaping graduates as per today's global job market.

He asserted that the National Credit Framework is especially note-

worthy, as it integrates skill education with academic learning from preschool to the doctoral level.

He made the remarks during the UGC Conference on the theme 'Implementation of the National Education Policy 2020' in IIM Nagpur.

The Governor said the National Education Policy 2020 is a transformative step in this direction. It has the potential to create immense, long-lasting change in the coming years and decades.

"The policy sets forth four clear and ambitious goals: To bring about transformational reforms in education and position India as a global knowledge superpower. To ensure that our edu-



cation system provides high-quality learning to all, regardless of economic or social background. To increase the gross enrolment ratio from the current 28 per cent to 50 per cent by 2035. To nurture graduates from the Indian

higher education system who are equipped to become global citizens. If we achieve these goals, we will be well on the path to realising the vision of a developed India, or Viksit Bharat, by 2047," he noted.

"Our collective efforts

must be directed toward realising the objectives of NEP 2020, which are built on five guiding pillars: Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability, and Accountability," said the Governor.

He said India stands ahead of many nations with a special focus on education and it is well-prepared to offer high-quality education at every stage.

"We are equipped with world-class infrastructure, top-tier academic resources, and numerous avenues for groundbreaking research, distinguishing us globally," he added.

"For this ambitious policy to succeed, it requires the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders

- the Centre, States, Union Territories, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), regulatory agencies, and, most importantly, you as educators," said the Governor.

He added: "However, success will only be realised through the collective and timely efforts of all of us here. I urge you, as leaders of higher education institutions, to lead by example in the effective implementation of NEP 2020."

According to the Governor, the new 'Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programme' is a game-changer, providing students an opportunity to apply the knowledge they gained during their courses in real-world settings.

70 EVM vans to educate voters before Assembly polls: Delhi CEO

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, OCT 23

Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi, P. Krishnamurthy said on Wednesday that 70 mobile vans have been deployed - one in each Assembly constituency - for spreading awareness on EVM and VVPAT ahead of Assembly Election 2025.

The mobile vans are part of an awareness campaign launched on October 15 to educate voters and these may also try to reach voters who visit shopping malls and metro stations, a statement said.

The CEO explained that the awareness programme on EVMs and

VVPATs is organised ahead of every general election to Lok Sabha and state Legislative Assembly Election.

The program focuses on imparting knowledge about the basic features of EVMs and VVPATs, elucidating the step-by-step procedure of casting votes and educating voters on how to verify their choices through the Voter verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT).

The CEO said that 22 Demonstration Centers (EDC) have been set up in all 11 Districts in Delhi - two in each district - for awareness of the general public regarding how to cast their vote using EVM and VVPAT.

Gujarat govt announces Rs 1419 crore relief package for farmers ahead of Diwali

AGENCIES

GANDHINAGAR, OCT 23

The Gujarat government has unveiled a relief package worth Rs 1,419 crore for farmers ahead of the Diwali festival which aims to assist over 700,000 farmers across 20 districts who have suffered crop damage due to excessive rainfall in August 2024.

The relief package will benefit farmers cultivating approximately 8.5 lakh hectares of land. The government's announcement comes in response to the substantial losses reported following severe weather conditions, prompting the introduction of this special assistance program.

Agriculture Minister Raghavji Patel explained that the package comprises Rs 1,419.62 crore in total assistance, including provisions from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). The state govern-



ment has also allocated additional funds from its budget to address the severity of the losses experienced by farmers.

Seasonal rainfall has surpassed 100 per cent in Gujarat, with some areas still experiencing downpours, further damaging crops. This deluge has created a shortage of vegetables in the market, driving prices to new heights. Tomatoes sell for Rs120 per kg, onions at Rs 70, ginger at Rs 140, and potatoes at Rs 50 per kg.

The assistance will extend across 136 talukas and 6,812 villages,

impacting districts such as Panchmahal, Navsari, Surendranagar, Devbhumi Dwarka, Kheda, Anand, Vadodara, Morbi, Jamnagar, Kutch, Tapi, Dahod, Rajkot, Dang, Ahmedabad, Bharuch, Junagadh, Surat, Patan, and Chhota Udaipur.

Out of the total relief package, Rs 1,097.31 crore will be disbursed through SDRF, while Rs 322.33 crore will be provided from the state budget. The government has noted that a survey of damages caused in September and October is still pending, and additional relief measures may be considered once that assessment is complete.

Furthermore, the Agriculture Minister confirmed that the central government has been notified about the broader losses affecting agriculture and livestock, estimated at around Rs 9,000 crore.

BJP leader Yogeshwara joins Cong before Channapatna bypoll

AGENCIES

BENGALURU, OCT 23

In a major development, BJP leader C.P. Yogeshwara met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at his 'Cauvery' residence in Bengaluru on Wednesday ahead of bypolls in Karnataka and joined the Congress party.

Yogeshwara had wanted to contest the high profile Channapatna bypolls on a BJP ticket but was denied the opportunity.

On Wednesday Yogeshwara met CM Siddaramaiah and also took his blessings by touching his feet.

Yogeshwara formally joined the Congress party at the party headquarters in Bengaluru in the presence of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Dy CM Shivakumar.

Before that, he held a meeting with CM Siddaramaiah in the presence of Deputy CM Shivakumar, Minister Zameer Ahmad Khan, Minister for Kan-



nada and Culture Shivaraj Tangadagi, former Congress MP D.K. Suresh and others.

Earlier, before proceeding to CM Siddaramaiah's house Yogeshwara had gone to the residence of the Dy CM and Congress state President, D.K. Shivakumar in Bengaluru early in the morning and held a meeting with him.

After the meeting with Shivakumar, Yogeshwara travelled to the CM's residence in the same car as the Dy CM.

Yogeshwara had refused

to contest under the JD(S) symbol as an NDA candidate and had given time to the BJP till Tuesday evening to declare him as the candidate from the Channapatna segment.

Though the BJP was willing to field him, JD(S) leaders and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, who represented the seat, could not come to a consensus.

Yogeshwara had contested against Kumaraswamy on a BJP ticket in the 2023 Assembly polls and lost the election.

Yogeshwara is a mass leader and is popular among people in the region.

Significantly, Yogeshwara is one of the leaders who had played an important role in 'Operation Lotus' to bring the BJP to power in 2019.

His decision to join the Congress is a setback for the BJP and the JD(S).

Channapatna bypolls is prestigious for the Congress government especially for Dy CM Shivakumar.

The constituency is considered a Vokkaliga bastion and Muslim votes will also play a major role.

Both the CM and Dy CM had postponed their prior engagement of taking part in the nomination rally of Priyanka Gandhi from the Wayanad Assembly bypolls in Kerala.

Sources revealed that Dy CM Shivakumar and Suresh strategised to rope in Yogeshwara. The task was handed over to

the Congress MLA H.C. Balakrishna to track the movements of Yogeshwara.

Yogeshwara had played an important role in the victory of the NDA in the Bengaluru Rural Lok Sabha seat.

Former PM H.D. Deve Gowda's son-in-law C.N. Manjunath contested as NDA candidate. Following the development, Union Minister Kumaraswamy has called the party leaders and workers to a meeting in Channapatna.

Sources state that as the stage is set for an intense fight, the JD(S) is likely to announce a ticket for a common leader from the party.

Earlier, Yogeshwara submitted the resignation letter from the primary membership of the BJP on WhatsApp. In the six-line resignation letter he conveyed that he was resigning from the party membership and thanked them for their cooperation.

Wayanad bypolls: Supporters line up on roads as Priyanka Gandhi heads for nomination filing

AGENCIES

WAYANAD, OCT 23

After Priyanka Gandhi Vadra arrived in Kerala's Wayanad to file her nomination, the people were lining up on the roads to have a glimpse of her, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

People are coming from far and wide to take part in the roadshow as the nearly 1.5 km long road leading to the Wayanad Collectorate has started filling up with people on either side.

The mother and daughter

arrived from Mysore, late Tuesday night and Priyanka Gandhi appeared to have struck an instant chord with the people. She spent 20 minutes at the home of former defence personnel, especially sharing jokes with his aged mother, Thressia and her extended family.

With the interaction at her home beamed live by the numerous TV channels, the common feeling was Priyanka had stolen the hearts of many.

Early this week many were contemplating the

margin of her victory to five lakhs, on Wednesday morning people were discussing that it could be mind-boggling.

"We will not let her down as she is our future Prime Minister and the margin would be over six lakhs," screamed a youth.

On the other side of the road near the Collectorate, a group of women were shouting slogans in support of Priyanka Gandhi.

"We will ensure Priyanka wins with a staggering margin, never seen or heard in our state," said



the women.

On another part of the road was a group of men,

who said the election is pointless as Priyanka will win hands down.

"At the 2024 April polls, just because it was the state BJP president who contested, the votes secured by him doubled from around 70,000 votes the NDA ally candidate got in 2019. This time none knows who the BJP candidate is, while the Left Democratic Front is Sathan Mokeri, who in a way has been brought out from retirement. Just wait to see what Priyanka's margin is going to be," said the group of men.

"She is the iron lady of India, a tag which she has inherited from her grand-

mother and her presence is needed to strengthen the hands of Rahul Gandhi," said Ashraf, a local Congress leader.

Both Priyanka and former Congress president Sonia Gandhi are staying at a resort, where Rahul Gandhi often used to stay when he used to visit his former constituency, which he retained in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, only to vacate it a few weeks later for Rae Bareilly.

As promised by Rahul Gandhi, he sent his sister who will be filing her nom-

ination on Wednesday at the Wayanad Collectorate.

Rahul Gandhi also arrived in the city on Wednesday and the entire Gandhi family will be present when Priyanka Gandhi files her nomination for the November 13 polls, which is going to be her debut election.

The entire brass of state Congress leaders are camping in Wayanad beside a galaxy of national leaders.

Barring Sonia Gandhi, all the others will take part in the roadshow.

RJD SLAMS BJP OVER NAIDU'S COMMENT ON TWO-CHILD POLICY

AGENCIES

PATNA, OCT 23

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader and Spokesperson, Shakti Singh Yadav, criticised BJP leaders on Wednesday, after Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, N Chandrababu Naidu's comments encouraging people to have more children.

Chandrababu Naidu sparked a discussion over India's two-child policy by saying the country needed to think of a demographic dividend beyond 2047.

Chandrababu Naidu is an alliance partner in the NDA government at the Centre. His party is the second-largest after the BJP in the NDA.



In response, Shakti Singh Yadav mocked the BJP and its ideologically Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, claiming that many RSS members don't marry, so they wouldn't have children. He sarcastically added that BJP leaders are envious of the growing families of others.

"Birth rates naturally decline with increased awareness and family planning. The BJP and RSS leaders always make irrelevant and misguided com-

ments to provoke people," he said.

Shakti Singh Yadav further suggested that the population debate was more about social development and less about ideological or religious concerns.

Shakti Singh Yadav also made sharp remarks about BJP leader and Union Minister Giriraj Singh and his recent 'Hindu Swabhiman Yatra.'

"Despite Giriraj Singh's claims of championing Hindu values, his name is Shandiliya Giriraj Singh (as per his X handle), he consumes meat and fish. This behaviour contradicts the religious sentiments that Singh is supposedly promoting," Shakti Singh

Yadav said.

He also questioned the Prime Minister, suggesting that if Giriraj Singh was sent to Bihar to provoke people and spread communal discord, PM Narendra Modi should clarify the purpose behind it.

"The RJD will not stay silent if Giriraj Singh attempts to stir up communal hatred in the state," he said.

Regarding Priyanka Gandhi's candidacy from Wayanad, he expressed confidence in her victory, predicting a "clean sweep" in the constituency.

He dismissed the BJP's chances, saying that the party would face a significant loss and might even lose its deposit.

There will be two MPs from Wayanad as I will be unofficial one: Rahul Gandhi

AGENCIES

WAYANAD, OCT 23

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and former Wayanad Lok Sabha MP, Rahul Gandhi, on Wednesday said that "from now on there will be two MPs from Wayanad."

"While Priyanka Gandhi will be the official MP, I will be the unofficial MP," said Rahul Gandhi to a thunderous applause from the mammoth crowd which had come to hear Priyanka Gandhi.

The Congress leader later filed her nomination for the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency, which goes to the polls on November 13.

Rahul Gandhi after retaining the Wayanad Lok



Sabha seat in the April 26 General Elections, later decided to vacate the seat in favour of Raebareilly in Uttar Pradesh.

Rahul Gandhi had arrived in his former constituency on Wednesday morning to join his sister Priyanka Gandhi in a massive roadshow which took them to her first election rally, just before she filed three sets of nominations for the bye-election at Wayanad.

Incidentally, their mother and former Congress President Sonia Gandhi was also present when her two children addressed the election rally.

Speaking after Priyanka Gandhi had delivered her speech, Rahul Gandhi said, "I think all of you understand very well the relation I have with Wayanad. I was thinking to myself that what Wayanad did for me cannot be expressed in words."

"Wayanad is the only constituency in the country which will have two Lok Sabha members, one is official the other is unofficial. They will both work together for the people of Wayanad."

Speaking about his sister, Rahul Gandhi said, "When

we were small, I used to watch Priyanka with her friends. She always used to help them a lot. I used to tell her, 'you cannot go so far to look after your friends.'

"If she had a friend, she was willing to do anything for them and sometimes her friends did not appreciate what she did. I used to tell her about it. She used to say 'it doesn't matter if they do not appreciate', and she did what she felt was right. So if such a person can do so much for friends, you should know what she will do for her family. When my father died, it was she who looked after our mother. She was 17-years-old only at that time," added Rahul Gandhi.

PM Modi to BRICS leaders: No place for double standards on terrorism, terror financing

AGENCIES
KAZAN (RUSSIA), OCT 23

Reiterating his call for dialogue and diplomacy, and not war, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday urged firm support of all BRICS members on the issue of terrorism, emphasising that there can be no "double standards" on the serious matter.

"We support dialogue and diplomacy, not war. And just as we were able to overcome a challenge like Covid together, we are certainly able to create new opportunities to ensure a secure, strong and prosperous future for future generations," said PM Modi in his remarks at the closed plenary of the 16th BRICS Summit in the Russian city of Kazan.

"In order to counter terrorism and Terror financing, we need the single minded, firm support of all. There is no place for double standards on this serious matter. We need to take active steps to stop radicalization of youth in



our countries. We must work together on the long pending matter in the UN of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism," he added. The restricted format of the summit meeting had in attendance the Russian President Vladimir Putin, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Chinese President Xi Jinping, UAE President

Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Luis Ecker Vieira. In his remarks, PM Modi stated that the grouping's approach must remain people centric. He insisted that a message should go out that BRICS is not a "divisive" organisation but one that works in the inter-

est of humanity. "Our meeting is taking place at a time when the world is facing several pressing challenges such as wars, economic uncertainty, climate change and terrorism. The world is talking about the North South divide and the East West divide.

Preventing inflation, ensuring food security, energy security, health security, water security,

standards, criteria and procedures adopted during the Johannesburg summit, should be complied with by all members and partner countries," remarked PM Modi. The BRICS grouping, he said, has been created by the confluence of different viewpoints and ideologies which is a source of inspiration for the world as it fosters positive cooperation.

"The hopes, aspirations and expectations of the countries of the Global South must also be kept in mind. During our Voice of Global South Summits and G20 Presidency, India put the voices of these countries on the global stage. I am pleased that these efforts are being strengthened under BRICS as well," opined PM Modi.

Prime Minister Modi also spoke about collectively raising voice for reforms of global institutions, such as the UN Security Council, multilateral development banks, and the World Trade Organisation.

are matters of priority for all countries in the world. "And, in this era of technology, new challenges have emerged such as cyber deepfake, disinformation. At such a time, there are high expectations of BRICS. I believe that as a diverse and inclusive platform, BRICS can play a positive role in all areas," he maintained.

The BRICS alliance, an intergovernmental organisation comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, had added four new members - Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates - on January 1, 2024.

Addressing the gathering of leaders, Prime Minister Modi said that BRICS is an organisation which is willing to evolve with time and India is ready to welcome new members into BRICS as 'Partner Countries'.

"In this regard all decisions should be taken by consensus, and the views of BRICS founding members should be respected. The Guiding principles,

standards, criteria and procedures adopted during the Johannesburg summit, should be complied with by all members and partner countries," remarked PM Modi.

The BRICS grouping, he said, has been created by the confluence of different viewpoints and ideologies which is a source of inspiration for the world as it fosters positive cooperation.

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Prime Minister Modi also spoke about collectively raising voice for reforms of global institutions, such as the UN Security Council, multilateral development banks, and the World Trade Organisation.

Samsung Biologics Q3 net profit gains 10 pc on record sales

AGENCIES
SEOUL, OCT 23

Samsung Biologics Co on Wednesday said its third-quarter net profit increased 10 per cent from a year earlier, driven by record sales.

Net profit for the July-September period came to 264.5 billion won (\$191.3 million), compared with 240.4 billion won a year ago, the company said in a regulatory filing, Yonhap news agency reported.

Its operating income rose 6.3 per cent on-year to 338.6 billion won and sales jumped 14.8 per cent to a record high of 1.18 trillion won for the third quarter.

The earnings beat market expectations. The average estimate of net profit by analysts stood at 251.3 billion won, according to a survey by Yonhap Infomax, the financial data firm of Yonhap News Agency.

Samsung Biologics attributed its strong performance to new contract

development and manufacturing organisation deals with global biopharmaceutical firms.

So far this year, the Korean company has secured nine deals worth a combined 4.36 trillion won with global big pharma, including the latest \$1.24 billion deal with an Asia-based company.

Samsung Biologics said it is raising the guidance on the yearly growth of its revenue to 15-20 per cent for this year from 10-15 per cent on the ramp-up of the operation of its fourth manufacturing plant and favourable currency exchange rates.

In the second quarter, announced in July, the company's consolidated revenue reached 1.16 trillion won, while operating profit stood at 434.5 billion won. On a stand-alone basis, the company achieved a revenue of 810.2 billion won, while operating profit came to 329.2 billion won during the same period.

Sinwar's death could aid hostage release, war goals: Israeli PM

AGENCIES
JERUSALEM, OCT 23

The killing of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar could positively affect the release of Israeli hostages and help achieve the Israeli war's objectives, said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Sinwar's death could "positively influence the return of the hostages, the achievement of all war goals, and the post-war reality," said Netanyahu when meeting with visiting US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, according to a statement released by the Prime Minister's office.

The "friendly and productive" meeting in Jerusalem, in which the two discussed the "governance framework in Gaza for the day after the war," lasted two and a half hours, the



statement said on Tuesday.

A press release by the US Department of State showed that Blinken "reaffirmed the United States' ironclad commitment to Israel's security" during the meeting, Xinhua news agency reported.

Following the meeting, Blinken wrote on social media platform X that he and Netanyahu "talked about the importance of seizing this opportunity to

end the conflict in Gaza, return all hostages, and chart a path to lasting peace and security for Israelis and Palestinians alike."

Israel has been launching a large-scale offensive against Hamas in Gaza to retaliate against a Hamas rampage through the southern Israeli border on October 7, 2023, during which about 1,200 people were killed and around 250 others taken hostage.

DESPERATE PAKISTAN LOOKING AT INDIA FOR SUPPORT AS BRICS PLANS EXPANSION

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD, OCT 23

Pakistan is keenly following the developments at the 16th BRICS Summit, which kicked off in the Russian city of Kazan on Wednesday, hoping that India will support the neighbour country's application to join the grouping.

The BRICS alliance, an intergovernmental organisation comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, had added four new members - Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates - on January 1, 2024.

The move also triggered hopes in several countries, including Pakistan, who have shown eagerness to join the grouping.

In his opening remarks in the restricted format of



the meeting on Wednesday, which was also attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other leaders, Russian President Vladimir Putin revealed that more than 30 countries have expressed a desire to join the BRICS alliance.

Pakistan, Turkey, Azerbaijan and Malaysia are willing to join the alliance

with the consensus of the existing members.

However, top Pakistani leaders and diplomats are not sure if New Delhi would support Islamabad's bid which was moved last year.

Sources revealed that India may reconsider its initial opposition to Pakistan's formal application and could back Islam-

abad's move, especially after Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk publicly supported Pakistan's bid to join BRICS in September, this year.

Overchuk had visited Islamabad and held formal talks with Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, assuring him of Moscow's support on the matter.

"We believe that by joining BRICS, Pakistan can play an important role in furthering international cooperation and revitalising inclusive multilateralism," said Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, spokesperson of Pakistan's Foreign Office.

"We also hope that BRICS will move forward on Pakistan's request in line with its commitment to inclusive multilateral-

ism," she added.

Analysts believe that New Delhi could relent this time, considering that it has supported the BRICS expansion process on a consensus basis. They maintain that, with a new member, BRICS will emerge as a stronger voice of the Global South.

"India has been actively contributing to discussions on how to seamlessly integrate new members into existing BRICS mechanisms," an official stated.

The visit of Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to Islamabad for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government meeting last week is also being considered as a positive step in the Pakistani diplomatic circles.

More than 30 countries willing to join BRICS as process for forming multipolar world underway: Putin

AGENCIES
KAZAN (RUSSIA), OCT 23

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday said that more than 30 countries have expressed a desire to join the BRICS alliance, an intergovernmental organisation comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa which had added four new members - Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates - in January, this year.

"It would be wrong to ignore the unprecedented interest of the countries of the Global South and East in strengthening contacts with BRICS. In one form or another, more than 30 states have already expressed such a

desire. At the same time, it is necessary to maintain a balance and not allow a decrease in the effectiveness of BRICS," said Putin while making his opening statement at the 16th BRICS Summit in the Russian city of Kazan.

Besides Putin, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Chinese President Xi Jinping, UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Luis Ecker Vieira held the day's first engagement - a summit meeting in a restricted

format. Also present at the meeting were Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and several other key BRICS officials.

Before the start of the meeting, a joint photo



session of the heads of delegations of the BRICS countries took place. In his opening remarks, the Russian President highlighted that it was for the first time that the BRICS Summit is also being held in an expanded format as it was the Rus-

sian presidency's motto to strengthen multilateralism for equitable global development and security.

"We sought to strengthen the authority of BRICS, enhance its role in world affairs, in solving urgent, global and regional problems, and in every way

contributed to the deepening of multifaceted cooperation between our states in three main areas: politics and security, economics and finance, cultural and humanitarian contacts. And, naturally, we did everything to ensure the smooth and most complete integration of new member countries into the work of the association," he said.

During the narrow format meeting, the leaders held discussions on more pressing aspects of the global agenda, including cooperation between BRICS states in the international arena and settlement of acute regional conflicts.

The Russian President maintained that the lead-

ers will also discuss the implementation of two important decisions of the previous summit in Johannesburg - the deepening of financial cooperation within BRICS and the further expansion of the organisation.

"We are all witnesses to the dynamic development of BRICS, the strengthening of its authority and influence in world affairs. The member states of our association possess truly enormous political, economic, scientific, technological and human potential. At the same time, we are united by common values and worldview," he said.

Putin stated that it would be fair to say that BRICS includes like-minded

people - sovereign countries representing different continents, development models, religions, original civilizations and cultures with all member states advocating equality, good neighbourliness and mutual respect.

"This is the essence of the strategy of the BRICS course on the global stage, which meets the aspirations of the main part of the international community, the so-called global majority, and it is precisely this course that is especially in demand in the current conditions, when truly fundamental changes are taking place in the world, and the process of forming a multipolar world is underway," he concluded.

10,000, including the 3,000 already deployed.

"Russian instructors believe that North Korean soldiers are fit both physically and mentally, but they lack the understanding of modern warfare, such as drone attacks. They also expect multiple casualties among the North Koreans," Park said.

Cambodia records 4.8 million international tourists in first 9 months of 2024

AGENCIES
PHNOM PENH, OCT 23

Cambodia attracted 4.8 million foreign visitors in the first nine months of 2024, up 22 per cent from 3.92 million over the same period last year,

said a Ministry of Tourism's report released on Wednesday.

"The number has reached 99.7 per cent of that in the first nine months of 2019, the pre-COVID-19 pandemic era," the report said.

Thailand still topped the chart of international tourist arrivals to the Southeast Asian country during the January-September period this year, followed by Vietnam, China, Laos and the United States.

3,000 North Korean soldiers in Russia now; total 10,000 to be sent by December

AGENCIES
SEOUL, OCT 23

Around 3,000 North Korean soldiers were believed to have been sent to Russia so far to support its ongoing war with Ukraine, with a total of 10,000 expected to be deployed by December, South Korea's spy agency

said on Wednesday.

The National Intelligence Service (NIS) shared the information with lawmakers during a closed-door meeting of the parliamentary intelligence committee, according to officials, Yonhap news agency reported.

The NIS earlier confirmed that the North was

sending troops to Russia in line with its decision to dispatch around 10,000 soldiers to fight alongside Russia against Ukraine, and approximately 1,500 soldiers were transported in the first batch last week.

"After the first batch arrived in Russia from October 8-13, an additional 1,500 soldiers have been

sent there," Rep. Park Sunwon of the main Opposition Democratic Party told reporters, citing a report by NIS Director Cho Tae-yong. The troops are stationed at military facilities in Russia and are adjusting to their new circumstances, the lawmaker said. The total number of troops joining Russia is expected to reach

10,000, including the 3,000 already deployed.

"Russian instructors believe that North Korean soldiers are fit both physically and mentally, but they lack the understanding of modern warfare, such as drone attacks. They also expect multiple casualties among the North Koreans," Park said.

Air India, Singapore Airlines expand codeshare pact, add 51 new destinations

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 23

Air India and Singapore Airlines (SIA) on Wednesday announced to expand their codeshare agreement, adding 11 Indian cities and another 40 international destinations to their network.

From October 27, Air India and SIA will codeshare on each other's flights between Singapore and Bengaluru and Chennai, increasing their total weekly scheduled codeshare services between the countries to 56 from 14.

SIA will codeshare on Air India's domestic flights between Delhi and Amritsar, Bengaluru, Coimbatore, Lucknow, and Varanasi, between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Bengaluru, Coimbatore, Goa, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, and Thiruvananthapuram, as



well as between Kolkata and Guwahati, they said in a statement.

"We are excited to offer our guests greater connectivity to destinations across South East Asia, the Far East, and Australasia. We also look forward to welcoming Singapore Airlines customers on board our flights within India as well as westward to multiple points across Europe, Africa, and the Middle East via our hubs in India," said

Nipun Aggarwal, Chief Commercial Officer, Air India.

Air India customers will be able to access 29 destinations across SIA's network. These are Adelaide, Brisbane, Cairns, Darwin, Melbourne, Perth, and Sydney (Australia), Bandar Seri Begawan (Brunei), Phnom Penh and Siem Reap (Cambodia), Denpasar, Jakarta, Medan, and Surabaya (Indonesia), Fukuoka, Nagoya,

Osaka, Tokyo-Haneda, and Tokyo-Narita (Japan), Busan and Seoul (South Korea), Kuala Lumpur and Penang (Malaysia), Auckland (New Zealand), Cebu and Manila (the Philippines), as well as Danang, Hanoi, and Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam).

This includes existing codeshare arrangements to Kuala Lumpur. SIA customers will also be able to connect to Air India's international services from Bengaluru, Delhi, and Mumbai to 12 destinations across Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.

These are Copenhagen (Denmark), Paris (France), Frankfurt (Germany), Milan (Italy), Nairobi (Kenya), Amsterdam (the Netherlands), Jeddah and Riyadh (Saudi Arabia), Colombo (Sri Lanka), as well as Birmingham, London-Gatwick, and London-Heathrow (the United

Kingdom).

"It demonstrates our commitment to meeting the high demand for air travel between India and Singapore and beyond, and contributing to the growth of both aviation markets. Adding Air India's domestic network to our codeshare arrangements will also offer our customers enhanced connectivity and convenience in India, which is a key market for the SIA Group," said Lee Lik Hsin, Chief Commercial Officer, Singapore Airlines. Both airlines plan to progressively include other destinations in their network to the codeshare arrangements. This marks the first extensive expansion of codeshare arrangements between the airlines since 2010, offering customers enhanced travel options between Singapore and India, as well as beyond.

Indian insurance sector must cover vulnerable sections, tap 1 bn people by 2047

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 23



Insurance sector in India grew at an impressive 15 per cent compound annual growth rate (CAGR) over the past two decades, with premiums reaching Rs 10.4 lakh crore in FY23, and there is immense potential for growth that remains untapped, industry experts said on Wednesday.

Despite the consistent growth, India's insurance penetration at 4 per cent, which is significantly lower than the global average of 6.8 per cent, and protection gap of \$40 billion indicate substantial room for further expansion and development, according to the report by KPMG in India, in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

Supportive government initiatives and a conducive regulatory environment have played a crucial role in pushing the insurance

penetration upwards. Schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) have expanded coverage for the poor and vulnerable sections of the society.

The report highlighted the critical need for innovative insurance solutions to address the evolving risks, such as the ones posed by climate change, particularly in the agricultural sector, which is increasingly vulnerable to extreme weather events.

"Insurance sector in India is on the cusp of a new journey as we aim to insure a billion+ people. Digital-first innovative business models can significantly bridge the protection gap and move us closer to the vision of 'Insurance for All' by 2047," said Hemant

Jhahria, National Head of Consulting, KPMG in India.

"Our focus now should shift towards developing customer-centric solutions and leveraging digital technologies to enhance policyholder experience, ensuring insurance accessibility and availability," added Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII.

The report also explored the potential of integrating digital payment systems and leveraging government-promoted public digital infrastructure to enhance financial inclusion and expand insurance coverage among underinsured and marginalised customer segments.

It stressed that the industry needs micro-insurance and parametric insurance solutions, particularly for the unorganised sector such as individual farmers, to address the protection gap and the challenges posed by evolving risks such as climate change.

280 companies register 1.27 lakh internship offers under PM Internship Scheme

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 23

About 280 companies participated in the PM Internship Scheme (PMIS) and offered 1.27 lakh internship opportunities, according to reports.

The Centre has now closed the onboarding window for corporates' participation in the Scheme, which opened on October 3 for corporates to register their internship offerings.

However, the window for youth registration, which commenced on October 12 is expected to remain open until early November. The scheme was announced in the Union Budget 2024 by Finance Minister Nir-

mala Sitharaman with an outlay of Rs 800 crore for the pilot initiative. It will address youth unemployment by benefitting around 10 million young people over the next five years. It will also connect young people with companies that are seeking talent. Administered by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), the PMIS scheme allows the top 500 corporates by average CSR spending over the last three fiscal years to participate, providing valuable internship opportunities for youth.

Prominent companies participating in the scheme include Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, Larsen & Toubro, Reli-

ance Industries, HDFC Bank, Maruti Suzuki, Tech Mahindra, ONGC, Bajaj Finance, Eicher Motors, Max Life Insurance, Muhoor Finance, and Jubilant Foodworks.

Oil, gas, and energy; automotive; travel and hospitality; banking and financial services; and metals and mining are the sectors with the highest number of internship opportunities. Other key sectors offering internships are manufacturing, industrial, infrastructure and construction, IT and software development, FMCG, and telecom.

The internship opportunities are currently available in 737 districts across 28 States and 8 Union Territories.

Economists hail India's robust GDP growth projections by global financial institutions

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 23

Top economists on Wednesday hailed India's GDP projections from global financial institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Deloitte, saying the surge in rural consumption was primarily driving the country's GDP growth story.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) maintained its India growth rate projection at 7 per cent in the current fiscal year. According to Deloitte, India's annual GDP growth was projected to be between 7 and 7.2 per cent in FY 2024-2025, which was in line with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) prediction of the country witnessing real GDP growth at 7.2 per



cent for FY25.

Sanju Verma, an economist and national spokesperson of the BJP, told IANS that the average monthly income of rural households in India has increased by almost 58 per cent over five years as per the latest survey by the

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), and that was amply evident from what the festival season sales numbers look like in rural areas.

"The purchasing power was certainly intact and a large chunk of the festival

season sales were being driven by rural and semi-urban India, once again endorsing the fact that the rural growth story in India was firing on all cylinders," she emphasised.

It was not just the GDP growth trajectory, which under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was slated to be intact but the moot point here was that while GDP growth was moving upwards, inflation was slated to move southwards.

The RBI's forecast for FY25 in terms of CPI inflation was retail inflation would stand at just 4.5 per cent, followed by an even lower 4.3 per cent in FY26.

According to the IMF, India's headline inflation in FY25 will be just 4.4 per cent and even lower, at barely 4.1 per cent, in

FY26. "So every global financial institution that matters was saying that while inflation will moderate substantially for India, going forward, GDP growth trajectory will be northward-bound which was excellent news," Verma told IANS.

The global GDP growth, as per the IMF, in CY 2024 was likely to be barely in the region of 3.2 per cent and for China, that number was 4.8 per cent, while the inflation in large parts of the western world was still pretty sticky.

"Amid this backdrop, what India has managed to achieve in terms of the rural consumption story firing on all cylinders under PM Modi's visionary leadership was no mean achievement," said Verma.

Mergers and acquisitions deal values surge 66 pc in India against global average of 10 pc

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 23

The mergers and acquisitions (M&A) deal activity in value in India surged 66 per cent in the first nine months this year, outpacing 10 per cent growth globally and 5 per cent decrease in the Asia-Pacific region overall, according to a report on Wednesday.

The M&A activity in India has been strong in 2024, bucking the trend in the other Asia-Pacific markets, according to a global report from Boston Consulting Group (BCG)



"This highlights India's unique resilience and appeal. Sectors like technology, media, industrials and healthcare have been key drivers of large deals, capitalising on the 'Make in India' initiative, India's

strengthening ties with US and Europe coupled with ongoing regulatory tensions between China and the West," said Dhruv Shah, Managing Director and Partner, BCG.

Deal volume in India

declined by 3 per cent in the reporting period but not as sharply as it did globally (13 per cent) or in the Asia-Pacific region as a whole (13 per cent).

The deals focused on technology, media or telecommunications accounted for 40 per cent of the total deal value during the first nine months this year.

"Despite cautious global sentiment, industrial companies continue to lead Indian dealmaking in 2024.

Healthcare targets also remain an important focus, driven primarily

by domestic deals as companies strive to maintain their leadership positions," the report noted.

Over the longer term, dealmaking in India will remain robust as companies with strong balance sheets seek assets with attractive valuations.

"Companies with strong balance sheets will continue to look for opportunities to grow inorganically, and private equity and venture capital investors will seek to deploy record-high dry powder as India continues to be an investment destination of choice", said Shah.

Cash transactions decline rapidly in India as digital payments surge: RBI economist

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 23

In the last three years, digital transactions have surged in such a fashion in India that cash usage, which still accounts for 60 per cent of consumer expenditure (as of March 2024) is rapidly declining, according to a paper by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) economist.

Pradipt Bhuyan from the Reserve Bank's Department of Currency Management wrote in the paper that the share of digital payments more than doubled from 14-19 per cent in March 2021 to 40-48 per



paper, in recent years, significant growth has been observed in retail digital payments (RDP), which is the total digital payments except for payments through real-time gross settlement.

Launched in 2016, UPI accounted for the highest share of RDP in volume in the last five years. "From 2021-22 to 2023-24 (post Covid-19 period), the growth in UPI in volume was higher than that in value. Consequently, the average size of UPI transactions decreased from Rs 1,838 in 2020-21 to Rs 1,525 in 2023-24," the paper noted.

According to the RBI

Average rentals across top 6 office markets in India breach pre-pandemic levels

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, OCT 23

Average rentals across all six major markets in India have breached pre-pandemic levels for the first time in 2024, a report showed on Wednesday, clocking 2-8 per cent higher rentals compared to 2019.

Delhi-NCR and Pune saw the highest rise in average rentals at about 8 per cent each during the 2019-2024 period followed by Mumbai and Chennai

with about 5-6 per cent rise in the same period.

With continued strong momentum, the six major office markets have witnessed a cumulative Grade A office space demand of 264 million square feet since 2019, according to a Colliers report.

"Although the rental growth will vary across cities, annual increase in average quoted rentals at the end of 2024 is likely to be higher for certain cities like Delhi-NCR and Pune as compared to other mar-

kets," said Arpit Mehrotra, Managing Director, Office services, India, Colliers.

Moreover, as demand scale-up in Indian commercial real estate solidifies, notwithstanding unforeseen events, annual space take up to the tune of 60 million sq ft is likely to be the new norm in the medium-term, he added.

In the post-pandemic era, demand recovery in the office market has been swift, following a steep 'V-shaped' recovery trajectory.

India's 5G rollout stands out globally in bridging coverage gap: GSMA

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 23

Almost 750 million additional people were covered by 5G in 2023 and more than half of that was due to rollouts by operators in India alone, a new GSMA report said on Wednesday.

The consumer experience on mobile networks continued to see significant improvement in 2023, with global average download speeds increasing from 34 to 48 Mbps.

"This represents the largest proportional and absolute increase seen to date. The biggest increase

was in South Asia, where India's launch of 5G drove a 70 per cent increase in average download speeds in the region," according to the GSMA 'State of Mobile Internet Connectivity 2024' report.

Unlike many surveyed countries, smartphone ownership increased from 2022 to 2023 among rural populations in India.

Across all seven survey countries with sufficient sample size for analysis, literate mobile internet users were more likely to perform a wider variety of tasks on a weekly basis than those with low literacy levels.



"Interestingly, mobile internet users with low literacy levels in India are, on average, using mobile internet for at least eight different activities on a weekly basis, which is higher than both low-literacy and literate groups for all other countries analysed," the GSMA report mentioned.

The report stated that mobile internet connec-

tivity continues to grow globally but barriers for 3.45 billion unconnected people remain. Connecting those with access to existing mobile internet services would deliver an estimated additional \$3.5 trillion in total GDP during 2023-2030, the findings showed.

John Giusti, Chief Regulatory Officer at the GSMA, said that despite continued progress in expanding the reach of network infrastructure and in increasing mobile internet adoption, significant digital divides remain. "Although most users access mobile internet daily, their activities are

often limited to just one or two activities, even though many express a desire to do more. This highlights persistent barriers to enabling meaningful connectivity, preventing users from getting online and getting the full benefits of the mobile internet," Giusti mentioned.

The report said that 4.6 billion people (57 per cent of the global population) are now using mobile internet on their own devices and 350 million people (4 per cent of the global population) live in largely remote areas without mobile internet networks (the coverage gap).

Sultan of Johor Cup: Daykin's hat-trick ends India's winning streak; lose 0-4 to Australia

AGENCIES
JOHOR BAHRU (MALAYSIA),
OCT 23

Australia ended India's unbeaten streak at the Sultan of Johor Cup with a resounding 4-0 win here on Wednesday. While India's forward line struggled to break the Australian defence, Daykin Stanger (33', 39', 53') stood tall in the Australian attack as he scored a hat-trick of goals while Patrik Andrew (29') scored the opening goal.

Despite the loss, India continued to lead the points table with nine points while Australia is placed third after New Zealand in second place. With three wins in their kitty and one more match left in the round-robin league, India continues to hold on to a potential slot in the final.

Table toppers India faced a stiff challenge from



the get-go. Though India made a promising start, Australia resorted to high-press early in the game to control the ball possession. The Australians used speed to their advantage and set the momentum they needed to create shots on goal.

With less than two minutes for the first hooter, the Aussie forward line forayed into the striking circle and unleashed a fierce reverse hit but was

off-target.

They found another opportunity to score when they earned a PC with just nine seconds on the clock for the first hooter. But India goalie Bikramjit Singh made a brave save to end the quarter in a 0-0 stalemate.

Inspired by their coach legendary goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, Ali Khan made a grand save off a penalty stroke which India conceded in the 18th minute.

Quick on the counterattack, India earned a PC but the drag-flick was deflected by the Aussie defence.

In the following minutes, both teams traded PCs before Australia's Patrick Andrew drew the first blood in the 29th minute when he managed a brilliant reverse hit from the left flank. The 1-0 lead left India stunned. With seconds left on the clock for the half-time break, India found a great opportunity to equalise through a PC but the Aussie goalkeeper managed to pad the ball to safety.

Buoyed by the 1-0 lead, Australia ended up extending the scoreline to 2-0 in the 33rd minute when Daykin Stanger got a fine deflection off a reverse hit. This was a real setback for India who had to come up with an improvised attack to narrow the lead.

In the meantime, Aus-

tralia managed to pump a third goal into the net when Daykin picked up a well-constructed attack and hoodwinked the Indian defence to take a 3-0 lead. India desperately searched for an opening but the Australian defence was resolute and kept India's hunt for that elusive goal alive through the fourth quarter.

Special mention to the Aussie goalie Hunter Banyard who was outstanding throughout the game, making some incredible saves to keep Indian strikers at bay. In the opening minute of the fourth quarter, he made a diving save to stop Dilraj's fine shot on goal.

To add to India's woes, Daykin scored a hat-trick in the 53rd minute. With the score reading 4-0 and only seven minutes of play left, India looked for a consolation goal but couldn't convert one.

ISL 2024-25: Chennaiyin FC eye first home win of the season against FC Goa

AGENCIES
CHENNAI, OCT 23

Chennaiyin FC will be looking to secure their first home win of the season and continue their positive form with a second successive victory in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25, when they take on FC Goa at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here on Thursday.

Owen Coyle's men have already played four games, winning two and drawing one. After a hard-fought win against NorthEast United in their last match, the Marina Machans have maintained an unbeaten run in their away fixtures. Chennaiyin FC have faced FC Goa 26 times in the league, winning nine matches. When asked about his team's challenging record against the Gaurs, coach Coyle was quick to respond: "Good time to start tomorrow."

"What we can affect is what's to come. FC Goa are a very good side and they



invest heavily in their team every year. That being said, we know when we are at our best. We were disappointed to lose our home game against Moham-medan, but, with all due respect, it was self-inflicted," Coyle added during a pre-match press conference on Wednesday. "What we showed on our travels is that we did very well in three tough games - probably should have won all three. What we want to do now is capitalise on our home games, whether it is FC Goa, Mohun Bagan, or anyone else. We are at our very best tomorrow, this is a game we can win for sure." Coyle will be encouraged by the performance of his attacking players in the previous match against

NorthEast United, especially summer signings Lukas Brambilla and Wilmar Jordan Gil, who combined to score the three goals in the 3-2 victory.

Brambilla, who joined Coyle at the press conference, reflected on his early days at Chennaiyin after netting his first goal for the club.

"The most difficult thing for me was the adaptation. But, when the coach called me and explained to me about the club and the league, I was very excited. When I came here, I felt good; I saw the championship was really nice, the atmosphere was nice, and the people from the club made me feel at home. At the moment I am very happy," Brambilla said.

However, Chennaiyin will be missing key defensive options for the clash, with Laldinliana Renthlei suspended and Ankit Mukherjee expected to miss four to six weeks due to an unfortunate injury.

Pakistan stick with winning formula for Rawalpindi finale against England

AGENCIES
RAWALPINDI, OCT 23

Pakistan will field an unchanged eleven for the decisive third Test against England at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, marking the first time under captain Shan Masood that the side has remained consistent across matches. The move comes in the wake of Pakistan's resounding 152-run victory in the second Test in Multan, where their triple-spin attack outmanoeuvred England. While there had been speculation about a possible change, especially after legspinner Zahid Mahmood bowled just six ineffective overs in Multan, the team's management, headed by Masood, decided to place their faith in the same



lineup. An injury to fast bowler Mir Hamza, Pakistan's preferred seamer option, further solidified the decision to stick with the current squad.

The unchanged lineup signals Pakistan's confidence in the drastic efforts being made by the Rawalpindi curators to replicate the spin-friendly conditions of Multan. Historically, Rawalpindi has not been known to take much spin, with fast bowlers finding more success on its traditionally

hard, bouncy surface. As recently as August, Pakistan opted for an all-pace attack against Bangladesh on this same pitch.

However, the success of the spin-heavy approach in Multan has prompted a series of unusual preparations in Rawalpindi, with the groundsmen pulling out all the stops. Days before the second Test concluded, curators were already on site, aided by the presence of selection committee members Aleem Dar and Aqib Javed.

2nd Test: New Zealand's Tom Latham confident of spin challenge against India in Pune

AGENCIES
PUNE, OCT 23

New Zealand captain Tom Latham expressed confidence in his team's ability to adapt to the spin-friendly conditions expected in the second Test against India, to be held at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Pune on Thursday. After a stunning eight-wicket victory in Bengaluru, where pacers dominated on a seamer-friendly pitch, Latham made it clear that the Black Caps were prepared for a very different challenge.

Latham emphasised that while they expected spin to play a larger role in Pune, New Zealand's approach was to avoid preconceived notions about

the surface. Instead, the team's focus would be on quick adaptability and maximizing their bowling options. "Whatever we're presented with, for us, it's about trying to adapt as quick as we can," Latham told the media ahead of the second Test here.

"If it is going to be a wicket that turns a little bit more, then we've got four spinners in our lineup, that will play into their hands, but it's (also) about to try not to go into the game with too many preconceived ideas. The surface is going to be potentially different than the one we had in Bengaluru, we need to adapt to the wicket really quickly," he added.

The Pune pitch has historically offered turn, and

with India likely to lean heavily on their spinners, Latham admitted that utilising New Zealand's own spin resources would be crucial.

The team has Ish Sodhi, Mitchell Santner, and Ajaz Patel among their primary spinners, with part-timers Rachin Ravindra and Glenn Phillips available as well. This array of spinning talent provides New Zealand with options they will need to explore against India's formidable batting lineup. "I've given a little bit of thought to how we may utilize our spinners," Latham added. "We'll try to get some information from previous games here and also use the practice wickets to understand the conditions better."

The second Test in Pune

will be New Zealand's first on this ground, and Latham acknowledged the need to figure out the conditions as quickly as possible. The NZ captain stressed that the team was taking nothing for granted after their historic win in Bengaluru, where they bowled India out for a record-low 46 runs at home in a Test match. It was New Zealand's first Test win in India in 36 years, but Latham made it clear that the focus now was entirely on the upcoming contest.

"It was a special performance, but our attention quickly turned to this game," Latham said. "We're trying not to rest on what happened last week. We're taking the confidence from that

win into this game, but we're focused on the task ahead."

While spin is expected to dominate in Pune, Latham knows that New Zealand's pacers also made a significant impact in Bengaluru, rattling India's strong batting lineup. However, the captain acknowledged that different conditions in Pune may call for a different approach, and New Zealand would need to adjust their strategy accordingly.

"The confidence that win gives us is probably the most important thing," Latham said. "It shows that we can compete over here and we can do well. Now, we need to bring that confidence into the second Test and hit the ground running."

India lose 2-0 to Germany in first match of bilateral hockey series

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 23

The Indian men's hockey team went down 2-0 to reigning World Champion and Olympic silver medalists Germany in the first match of the Bilateral Hockey Series 2024 at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium here on Wednesday. Henrik Mertgens (4') and Lukas Windfeder (30') found the back of the net for Germany.

Notably, Rajinder Singh made his debut for the Indian Men's Hockey Team in this match. Germany made the first foray into India's circle early in the game and Henrik Mertgens pounced on a stray ball in the shooting circle to beat Krishan Pathak and score the first goal of the game for Germany. With India strugg-



gling to find a foothold in the game Germany looked to double their lead and pegged India back into their own half.

Halfway through the quarter, India began moving the ball around with pace to bypass the German high press and went on to earn a penalty corner but Varun Kumar failed to equalise. How-

ever, Germany wrestled back control of the ball and ended the quarter 1-0 in their favour.

The second quarter saw India put Germany on the back foot in search of an equaliser. The pressure resulted in three penalty corners for India but Sanjay, Amit and Harmanpreet failed to capitalise on the opportunities.

With three minutes left in the quarter, India were awarded a penalty stroke but German goalkeeper Joshua Onyekwue Nnaji battered away Harmanpreet's shot to maintain their lead in the game.

Germany initiated a counterattack in the last minute of the half and earned a penalty corner. Lukas Windfeder stepped up and found the gap between goalkeeper Suraj Karkera and postman Jarmanpreet Singh to double Germany's lead heading into the second half.

India attempted to switch up the intensity in the third quarter but Germany matched them and ensured there was no clear goalscoring chance created for most of the quarter. At the five-minute mark, India earned another penalty-corner but Joshua

Onyekwue Nnaji remained alert in goal to save Harmanpreet's flick.

Germany reacted quickly to rush up the pitch and earn a penalty corner of their own. Goalkeeper Krishan Pathak deflected Benedikt Schwarzhaupt's shot up and over and India initiated a counterattack of their own with Germany's defence unsettled but Harmanpreet's reverse shot only found the side netting.

Germany looked to further increase their lead as the last quarter began but Amit Rohidas was on hand to avert any danger. India, on the other hand, continued to rotate possession patiently in search of their first goal but were unable to create goal-scoring opportunities and the match ended 2-0 in Germany's favour.

ICC Test batting rankings: Rishabh Pant overtakes Kohli; Ravindra enters top 20

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 23

India wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant has overtaken his team-mate Virat Kohli in the ICC Test batting rankings, while New Zealand all-rounder Rachin Ravindra enters top 20 list in the same category. Pant made scores of 20 and 99 in the first Test against New Zealand at Bengaluru, and that has propelled him to jump three places to sixth place in the latest update to rankings for Test battlers, and go past Kohli, who is now at joint eighth position.

England batter Joe Root maintains a healthy lead at the top of the rankings, with trio Yashasvi Jaiswal - at third spot - joining Pant



and Kohli as the only players from India inside the top 10 of the list.

From a New Zealand perspective, Ravindra has moved up 36 places to 18th place, following scores of 134 and 39 not out as the visitors' got their first Test win in India since 1988. Opener Devon Conway has jumped 12 spots to 36th place. Pacer Matt Henry, who picked up eight wick-

ets, is up by two places to ninth position with a new career-high rating of 751. His fast-bowling teammate William O'Rourke is up two spots to 39th place due to his seven scalps from the same match.

Ahead of the England-Pakistan series decider at Rawalpindi, opener Ben Duckett finds himself on the verge of breaking inside the top 10 after moving up three places to equal 11th on the Test batters rankings with a knock of 114.

Pakistan all-rounder Salman Ali Agha gains eight places to move to 14th with a new career-high rating following scores of 31 and 63 from the second game, which the visitors' won to end a drought of Test wins at home.

3rd Test: Gillespie emphasises calmness and control as Pakistan prepare for series finale vs England

AGENCIES
RAWALPINDI, OCT 23

Pakistan head coach Jason Gillespie has earned a reputation for staying grounded in the face of triumphs and challenges. After Pakistan's stunning 152-run victory over England in the second Test, Gillespie deflected praise, attributing the bounce-back win to the team's resilience and decisions made by others.

The victory in the second Test at Multan tied the series 1-1 and set up a

thrilling decider in Rawalpindi, but Gillespie made it clear that the changes leading to success were out of his hands.

In the wake of a heavy innings defeat in the first Test, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) restructured its selection committee, excluding both Gillespie and captain Shan Masood from the decision-making process. Aleem Dar and Aaqib Javed were brought in as selectors, which meant Gillespie's role narrowed to match-day strate-

gy and player preparation.

"The PCB came out and made some changes after that Test match," Gillespie said ahead of the third Test. "It was decided that a new selection panel would come in and they would be making decisions. I was not involved in the decision-making, I was just there. I'm now just the coach on match-day strategy. I just keep out of things now and just focus on the players and getting them ready for cricket."

This shift in responsi-

bilities was not part of Gillespie's initial vision when he took over as head coach. At the time, he had worked closely with the board to shape a long-term plan for Pakistan cricket, but the sudden changes left him with a more limited role.

Reflecting on this transition, Gillespie humorously acknowledged his position: "It's not for me to talk about now. I'm no longer a selector, so I'm probably not the person to ask. I'm getting splinters in my arse



from sitting on the fence here," he quipped.

Despite these adjustments, Gillespie has main-

tained a positive and protective stance toward his players. His philosophy was centered on creating a calm environment, one that allows cricketers to thrive under pressure. This approach proved crucial in Pakistan's win in the second Test, where the team remained composed during key moments. After losing early wickets, debutant Kamran Ghulam stepped up with a century to help Pakistan post 366.

Similarly, when England

seemed poised to take control at 211/2, Sajid Khan's smart bowling sparked a collapse that gave Pakistan a decisive 75-run lead.

"The last few years, Pakistan's Test cricket hasn't been where we'd like it to be. Any win is great, and any series win is fantastic. Just coming into this environment, as a coach, I'm very protective of players. They're the ones going out and representing their country. I suppose there's a dad in me that comes out and I want to protect all

the boys from all outside noise and whatever."

Gillespie's nurturing style extends beyond tactics, as he sees his role as more than just a coach. "I'm very protective of the players," he shared. "There's a dad in me that comes out, and I want to protect all the boys from outside noise." This protective instinct has helped foster strong relationships within the team, with Gillespie and his support staff creating a culture of trust and communication.

11th UT Level NCORD Meeting

Avail every legal measure to assail bail orders in NDPS cases: CS



JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 23

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today while chairing the 11th UT Level NCORD Committee meeting, impressed upon the law enforcement agencies to avail the legal provisions to assail bail orders under NDPS cases so that convicts are not let free after undergoing lighter punishments.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Home, Principal Secretary, School Education Department, ADGP Crime, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu, ADGP, Jammu, IGP Kashmir, Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare, Secretary, RDD, Secretary, Law, DG prosecution, Deputy Commissioners, District SSPs, Representatives from BSF, ED, SIA and other senior civil and police officers.

Outstation officers attended the meeting through video conferencing.

Dulloo, while addressing the officers, emphasized upon the aspect of not giving leeway by showing any kind of laxity towards making convictions, submitting challans in the courts of law and carrying out quality investigations in each case.

The Chief Secretary directed the concerned to take stringent measures against the business establishments dealing with drugs to comply with provisions of installation of CCTV cameras and resorting to Computerized Billing System (CBS) exclusively. He made out that no pharmacy should be allowed to function without such facilities especially in urban areas and licences of these drug stores should not be renewed before showing full compliance with these rules. The Chief Secretary enquired from each

Deputy Commissioner and respective SSP about the details like detentions/seizures made, properties attached, licences of pharmacies suspended/cancelled, repeated offenders arrested under Public Safety Act (PSA), persons bailed out from courts and those successfully convicted in the court of law.

He also took notice of the properties belonging to drug traffickers attached by the law enforcement agencies under relevant provisions of law and the red entries made against same in the revenue records reflecting these attachments.

Dulloo further enjoined upon the concerned Deputy Commissioners and Police authorities about the measures taken towards creating the necessary awareness and establishment of additional Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATF) in their areas. He asked about the functioning of Drug De-addiction centres and status of IPD services extended in each of them.

He stressed on the departments like Police, Health, School Education, RDD and Excise to run regular campaigns to aware people especially youth about this menace. He called for generating awareness about the treatment methods and major signs so that parents can take appropriate measures to save their loved from getting consumed by the hazard of drug addiction.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon the DCs to furnish details of Agricultural lands put into use for sowing alternate crops that were earlier used to grow illicit crops like hemp or poppy. He also directed for making serious efforts to rehabilitate the victims and focus on hotspots to eradicate this menace in its entirety

from J&K.

On the occasion, a detailed presentation was made by the Crime Department providing an overall scenario of drug menace in J&K and the success with which it is being tackled by the administration.

The meeting was also apprised of the status of actions taken by the concerned over the directives passed by the Chief Secretary during previous meeting.

It was revealed that the NDPS court at Srinagar had recently been made functional. It was added that the IPD facilities have been established by the Health Department in all the seven Medical Colleges of the UT besides many other De-addiction centres of the districts. It was added that these centres are manned by trained Psychiatrists and trained manpower.

The meeting was also apprised of the enforcement measures being taken by the Police and other departments like licences cancelled/suspended by the Drug Controller for violating the norms.

The meeting was informed that substantial quantity of Heroin, B.Sugar, Charas, Opium, Fukki, poppy straw, Bhang, Ganja, Tablets/capsules, injections and syrup bottles of psychotropic substances were seized by the Department during this year.

As far as rehabilitation of addicts is concerned, it was given out that lakhs of examinations in OPD facilities of Health Department and thousands of counselling sessions had been held at the Health, Social Welfare and Police sponsored De-addiction facilities to rehabilitate the victims for larger good of the society and these victims as well.

Vibrant Industries sector to ensure economic growth, employment creation in JK: Dy CM

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 23

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, today emphasised on bringing vibrancy in the industries sector for economic growth and employment creation for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister said this while taking review of the industries sector here at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar. He underscored the importance of revitalizing the industries sector to propel economic growth and employment creation.

The Dy. CM highlighted the sector's potential to drive economic development and job creation, stressing the need for innovative strategies to boost industrial growth.



He emphasized the government's commitment towards fostering a conducive business environment, encouraging entrepreneurship and attracting investments. He said that the vibrancy in this sector will also play important role to enhance its contribution to J&K's GDP.

Besides this, stress was also laid on generating job opportunities for the local youth through promotion of MSMEs, startups and

large-scale industries in J&K.

The Deputy Chief Minister directed the officials to identify areas for improvement and implement effective policies, develop infrastructure to support industrial growth and ensure ease of doing business for the aspiring entrepreneurs.

Surinder Choudhary said that the government's vision for a vibrant industries sector is expected

to transform the J&K economic landscape, creating opportunities for sustainable growth and development.

The Deputy Chief Minister also directed for undertaking regular meetings in order to speed up implementation by removing impediments and bottlenecks, if any. This will ensure that the developmental schemes being executed under different sectors and centrally spon-

sored schemes are closed within the stipulated time avoiding the cost escalation and related things.

"The officers should ensure that the schemes are completed and the funds allocated for a particular activity or initiatives are utilized to the maximum," he said and maintained that the line departments should also work in a coordinated manner while carrying on developmental works.

Among others, Commissioner Secretary Industries and Commerce Vikramjit Singh and Directors of Industries and Commerce Jammu/Kashmir, Handicrafts and Handlooms, MD JKTPD, MD SIDCO, SICOP, Director EDI, MD JKI, MD JKCL, CEO JK-KVIB and other concerned officers also attended the meeting.

Javed Rana reviews functioning of Jal Shakti Department

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 23

Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, today said that we have a collective responsibility towards welfare of people and should work towards achieving that goal in a transparent manner while involving community at the local level.

He made these remarks during a comprehensive maiden review meeting of the Jal Shakti department convened by the Minister here at Srinagar.

Javed Rana said that the government believes in establishing a transparent and accountable governance for the people who have pinned high hopes on the present dispensation. "The government is committed towards welfare and development of every nook and corner of the UT. Collaborative efforts are being ensured at all levels to move ahead in achieving the set goals", he maintained.

The Minister said that failures arise when we shy away from our responsibilities and work without coordination. "I have confidence in the system that we will overcome the challenges. The way officers of the department are work-



ing is quite laudable and praiseworthy," he added.

Highlighting the significance of Jal Jeevan Mission, the Minister said that JJM is a prestigious mission and strenuous efforts are being made to meet the timelines set for completion of the mission. He emphasized on meticulous resource planning, judicious use of funds and mobilization of men and machinery as per the requirements.

The Minister had district wise status of tendering/allotment/starting of works under different components of various schemes. He took strong

note of the less performing areas and impressed upon the concerned officers to gear up their efforts and ensure deadlines are met, cautioning that the non performers shall not go unpunished.

He also impressed upon the officers to maintain highest level of transparency and accountability in implementation process of the schemes and emphasised on continuous monitoring for maintaining quality standards.

He said that there has been some complaints about the delay in certification, supply of substandard material which need

to be properly checked and subsequent steps taken to rectify the errors, if any. Emphasizing the significance of clean water sources in transforming communities, Rana impressed upon the officers to evolve strategies for effective tapping of natural water. He said that Government's unwavering commitment towards water conservation and sustainable development will bear fruits if we full-fill our role as responsible citizens to ensure a water secure future. He said that effective and sustainable strategies have to be developed to tackle the

shortage of potable water which will be posing serious challenges in future. He also directed the officers to focus on flood control measures and soil erosion.

Earlier, Additional Chief Secretary Jal Shakti, Shaleen Kabra, gave a detailed presentation informing about the administrative structure, schemes, physical and financial position of the department, digital interventions besides challenges and subsequent strategies to overcome those challenges.

He informed that the department has devised a comprehensive plan to achieve the objectives in a time-bound manner. The department is carrying out third-party studies about the technical feasibility and source sustainability of schemes to double-check the parameters, he added.

Besides, ACS, Jal Shakti and Chairman JKWRA, the meeting was attended by Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission, Chief Engineers (PHE/I&FC/RTIC), Jal Shakti Department, Superintendent Engineers, Executive Engineers (Civil/Mechanical- PHE/I&FC/RTIC) and other officers.

Javed Rana favours advance tribal plan formulation for its effective implementation

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 23

Minister for Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today held an introductory meeting of Tribal Affairs Department.

The Minister had an overall review of achievements of the department towards upliftment of tribal population in J&K.

The meeting besides Secretary, Tribal Affairs was attended by Secretary in Tribal Affairs Department, Director, Tribal Affairs, Secretary, G&B Board and other concerned officers of the Department.

Javed Rana, who is also Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment and Jal Shakti Departments, impressed upon the Department to make advance budget preparations and project formulations so that the releases are made on time for efficient utilization during the



financial year.

He impressed upon the officers to make concerted efforts for swift implementation of the tribal projects and schemes to benefit the people at the lower strata of society.

The Minister further sensitized the officers to draft projects that are beneficial to community at large.

Javed Rana emphasised the need for formulation of more schemes related to Agriculture, Horticulture, Dairy and Sheep development sectors which could widen the sphere

of employment generation for tribal youth. He favoured for developing tourism in tribal areas by giving push to Homestays and raising of allied infrastructure there.

The Minister also took note of the progress made in establishment of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS). He called for identifying other areas, especially having no presence of such schools, to establish these educational institutions for overall development of this population. He called for keeping a portion of

funds and schemes being implemented under UT or District Capex for the welfare of this population as per their proportion.

He called for aiding this section in foraying into arenas like industries and commerce that are traditionally not being treated as their areas of strength. Besides, the Minister preferred making provisions for creating housing colonies and flats for the tribal families. He made out that in order to accentuate the social status of this section of population the priority

Pro-tem Speaker reviews development works in Eidgah Constituency

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 23

Pro-tem Speaker of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Mubarak Gul, today convened a high level meeting with senior officers to review ongoing development projects in the Eidgah constituency.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, along with senior officers from the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED), Public Health Engineering, Roads & Buildings (R&B), Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, and Forest Department among other concerned officials.

During the meeting, the Pro-tem Speaker emphasized the need for coordinated efforts to ensure timely completion of works in the Eidgah constituency. He called for full cooperation among all departments to meet

public expectations. Discussions were held regarding the details and status of CDF allocations including the transfer of funds from various sources such as state and centrally sponsored schemes.

The Pro tem Speaker expressed concern over encroachments on land earmarked for public projects such as schools, colleges, and hospitals. He directed the officials to identify these encroachments and take appropriate action. To address the encroachment issue particularly at Achan, he suggested installation of small cement poles for demarcation.

Additionally, he stressed the importance of safeguarding the Hokersar area from illegal colony development, proposing immediate earth filling. To address the problem faced by the locals on account of the Achan Damping Site, he suggested identification of three more such sited

at North, East and West of Srinagar City, besides fumigation to prevent it from becoming a health hazard. He also directed that no construction should be permitted near the area, underscoring the need to protect the well-being of local residents.

He emphasized for construction of a new water supply scheme in the Takinwari area.

Several infrastructure improvements were prioritized including installation of street lights inside Eidgah Park, CCTV surveillance adjacent to Eidgah Park and street lights to facilitate late-hour sports activities in the park. Besides, he directed for expediting macadamization of roads in Tibet Colony, Eidgah.

The Pro-tem Speaker reiterated his commitment towards fulfilling the aspirations of the people in Eidgah constituency and urged all departments to ensure swift execution of the projects discussed.