

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:

- Severe and continuous headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Severe stomach pain
- Redness on the face
- Redness on the chest
- Redness on the skin
- Redness on the eyes
- Redness on the throat
- Redness on the tongue
- Redness on the lips
- Redness on the nose
- Redness on the ears
- Redness on the neck
- Redness on the back
- Redness on the hands
- Redness on the feet

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

DAILY | JAMMU | VOL NO: 11 | ISSUE NO: 253 | PAGES: 12 | PRICE: Rs 2/- | RNI NO: JKENG/2013/49471 | POSTAL REGD. NO. JK-497/22-24 | dailyjindrahimages.com/Epaper.php | jindrahimages123@gmail.com

New Strategy in place to tackle emerging threats, Forces to avenge every drop of blood: Lt Governor

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 26

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday said that security forces have devised a fresh strategy to deal with the emerging threats and that every drop of innocent blood spilled in Kashmir will be avenged.

"A fresh strategy is in place to deal with the emerging threats of terrorism. Security Forces will avenge every drop of innocent blood spilled in Kashmir. Recent attacks at Gaganeer (Ganderbal) where innocent labourers were killed and another one at Baramulla where soldiers were killed is highly condemnable," the LG said addressing the passing out parade of 629 BSF recruits at STC Humhama, as per news agency.



The LG said that India always wanted peace with its neighbours. "Unfortunately, we have

the LG said

He said BSF is facing all challenges on multiple fronts be it protecting LoC or International Border. "The force has earned fame for its patriotism and valour. The force needs to expand its ambit and maintain a close coordination with Central forces to tackle the challenges of terrorism," he said.

The LG said police, army and the Central forces including BSF have to put in a collective approach to root out terrorism from J&K soil. "BSF is one of the best Central forces but needs to walk an extra mile," he said.

The LG said that BSF and forces need to upgrade the technical capabilities to meet the drone challenges. "Not just weapons but narcotics are also being air-dropped

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Jaishankar hails military and diplomacy for India-China LAC patrolling agreement

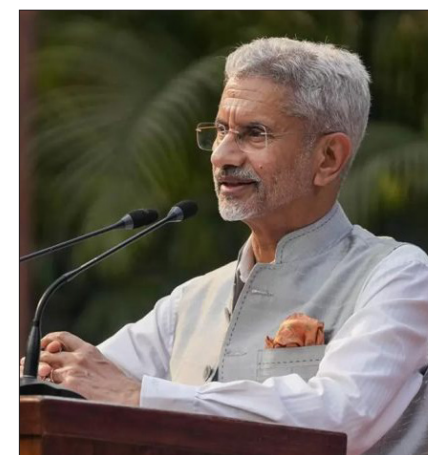
AGENCIES
PUNE, OCT 26

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday credited the breakthrough agreement with China on patrolling along the Line of Actual Control to the military which worked in "very very unimaginable" conditions and deft diplomacy.

Responding to a question during an interaction with students in Pune, Jaishankar said it is still a bit early for normalisation of relations which will naturally take time to rebuild a degree of trust and willingness to work together.

He said that when Prime Minister Narendra Modi met President Xi Jinping at Kazan in Russia for the BRICS summit, it was decided that the foreign ministers and National Security Advisors of the two countries would meet and see how to move forward.

"If today we have reached where we have...One is because of the very determined effort on our part to stand our ground and make our point. The military was there (at LAC) in very very unimaginable conditions to defend the



country, and the military did its part and diplomacy did its part," Jaishankar said. Over the decade, India improved its infrastructure. Part of the problem is that in the earlier years, the border infrastructure was really neglected, he added.

"Today we have put in five times more resources annually than there used to be a decade ago which is showing results and enabling the military to actually

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

"Despicable, yet entirely predictable": India slams Pakistan at UN for raking Kashmir issue

AGENCIES
NEW YORK [US], OCT 26



India slammed Pakistan for raising the Kashmir issue at a United Nations Security Council debate calling it a "mischievous provocation" based on their "tested tactic of spreading misinformation."

Exercising its right to reply during the UN Security Council Debate on Women building peace in a changing environment, India called out Islamabad over the "deplorable" condition of women from minority communities in Pakistan.

Addressing the UN Security Council debate, India's Permanent Representative to the UN in New York, Parvathaneni Harish, said, "It is despicable, yet entirely predictable, that one delegation has chosen to indulge in mischievous provocation based on their pride and tested tactic of spreading misinformation and disinformation. It's completely misplaced to indulge in such political propaganda at this important annual debate. We are well aware that the condition of women belonging to minority communities, notably Hindus, Sikhs, and Christians in that country remains deplorable," he added.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Mehbooba Mufti dissolves entire PDP structure; new leadership to be appointed after discussions with seniors

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 26



Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party (JKPDP) President Mehbooba Mufti has announced the dissolution of the party's entire structure with immediate effect.

According to sources, the new office bearers, along with various wings and bodies, will be formed

after discussions with senior leaders.

The announcement was made at the JKPDP headquarters in Srinagar on Friday.

Following the Union Territory's assembly elections on October 8, the former Chief Minister congratulated the National Conference-Congress alliance for receiving the "people's mandate."

She stated that since the people had given a clear mandate, there would be no opportunity for parties to "mess around," adding that if the election had resulted in a hung assembly, certain "tricks" might have been used to "defeat the mandate of the people."

"I am happy with the way people have voted. 'Gadbad karna ka koi chance nahi hai ab' (there is no chance to mess around now). It seemed like if the mandate wasn't clear, dirty tricks could have been used to defeat the people's will," she said.

In the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly election National Conference won 42 seats, the Bharatiya Janata Party winning 29, the Congress securing 6 seats,

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Anti-Infiltration grid very strong along LoC: BSF

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 26

A senior BSF officer on Saturday said the anti-infiltration grid along the Line of Control (LoC) is very strong and the security forces will thwart any infiltration attempts which tend to increase ahead of the winter season.

"The (infiltration) attempts increase before the winter, but the LoC grid is very strong with the coordination of the army and we will ensure that any infiltration bid is thwarted," Ashok Yadav, Inspector General in the Border Security Force (BSF), Kashmir Frontier, told reporters here.

Describing the recent terror incidents in Ganderbal and Gulmarg as unfortunate, Yadav said the security forces are analysing the threats and taking mea-



sures to ensure they are not repeated in the future.

"The security forces are

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Police say 3-4 militants involved as search operation enters second day



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCT 26

Three to four militants are believed to have carried out the deadly attack on an Army convoy in the Gulmarg sector of Jammu and Kashmir that left four people, including two soldiers,

dead, a senior police official said on Saturday.

The search operation, which entered the second day, was halted at the last night on Friday and was resumed on Saturday morning, the official said.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Those behind attacks enemies of peace, don't want people's govt: Minister Javid Dar

JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, OCT 26

Minister for rural development and agriculture department, Javed Ahmed Dar Saturday said that government remains resolute in tackling those responsible for disturbing peace in Kashmir.



Dar, who visited the family of the porter killed in Gulmarg attack, told reporters, as per the news agency, that government is determined to tackle those threatening region's stability and obstructing efforts to redress public grievances.

"Such incidents are unfortunate,

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Soldier killed, 8 injured in road accident in Kulgam

JI NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, OCT 26

An army man was killed and eight others were injured when their vehicle skidded off the road and rolled down in DH Pora area of south Kash-

mir's Kulgam district, officials said on Saturday.

An official told news agency that the accident occurred in Damhal Hanjipora area of Kulgam today morning, injuring nine army personnel.

He said one of the injured jawans later succumbed to his injuries.

Meanwhile police has taken cognizance of the accident.

Restoration of statehood policy matter, not political issue: Ravinder Raina

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 26

Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina on Saturday said restoration of statehood to the Union Territory is not a political issue but a policy matter, and any haste on the subject should be avoided since J-K has already suffered immensely due to Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in the past 35 years.

Raina was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a BJP event in Udhampur district to mark the anniversary of Accession Day when the last Dogra ruler, Maharaja Hari Singh, signed the Instrument of Accession, a document which formalised Jammu and Kashmir's merger with India in 1947.

Extending his warm greetings to the people, Raina said every citizen of J-K will continue to work tirelessly for the unity and integrity of the nation and to uphold the tricolour with feelings of patriotism and dedication.

Responding to a question on restoration of statehood to the UT, Raina said J-K is a sensitive border region which bore the brunt of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism for the past 35 years with its people facing extreme difficult circumstances.

"Peace, harmony and prosperity have been restored in Jammu and Kashmir



over the past 10 years under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and through the hard work of J-K's citizens, the army, police and the paramilitary forces.

"Now that a newly-elected government has been sworn in following the Assembly elections, I feel the sensitive issues should be discussed and addressed through mutual cooperation without playing politics," Raina said.

"The decisions should not be rushed, particularly on the crucial matters. Restoration of statehood is not a political issue but a policy matter and the UT government should continue its

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

FCIK Raises Alarm on J&K Bank's Financial Vulnerability from Non-Core income

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 26

The Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) has raised alarm about the volatility of J&K Bank's long-term financial health and operational stability due to its heavy reliance on non-core income sources, raising concerns about the bank's long-term sustainability in a rapidly evolving economic environment.

A meeting of Advisory Committee and senior members of the apex industrial chamber was held at FCIK headquarters to analyze the quarterly and half yearly financial statements of J&K Bank made public yesterday.

Members expressed regret that the report's predominantly positive language obscured potential challenges, and suggested that a balanced approach

acknowledging both strengths and weaknesses would have offered a more realistic perspective.

The meeting noted that the bank's heavy reliance on non-core income suggested vulnerability for the reason that reduction in this one-off income source could endanger future profitability.

"While non-core income includes sources like trading and investment gains, most of J&K Bank's revenue in this area comes from settling Non-Performing Assets (NPAs), raising concerns about long-term sustainability despite temporary boosts to its financial position," observed members.

The meeting highlighted that a significant portion of the bank's profit growth is tied to non-core activities, which simultaneously reveals weaknesses in its core operations, particularly in lending and interest

income which indeed was a concerning trend.

The members noted that an unnecessary reduction in the Provisioning Coverage Ratio (PCR) has further contributed to an artificial increase in the bank's profits which needs to be looked into. Furthermore, the reported decreased Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) at 14.88% projected concern, especially considering the bank's manipulation of this figure by excluding the profits from the past six months, which could lead to an even further decline.

The members observed that focusing on NPA recoveries alone could highlight deeper issues in credit risk management, making it crucial for the bank to improve its lending practices to avoid future NPAs rather than relying solely on recoveries for profitability.

While acknowledging the decrease in Gross and Net

NPA ratios as impressive, the members observed that the report should also have discussed the factors behind these improvements. The lack of transparency about the risk management practices that contributed to this success could raise concerns about future performance as it is crucial to analyze recoveries from loans secured with collateral separately from those based only on mere ratings to uncover any hidden challenges. FCIK also regretted that the report lacked context regarding the broader economic environment and information about industry trends or economic challenges crucial to provide a clearer picture of the bank's performance in relation to its mandate and counterparts" observed FCIK members. They noted that parking funds with agencies like NABARD at rates lower than the cost of funds does not

improve the bank's performance in advancing loans.

The Chamber has urged the management of J&K Bank to meet the needs of local enterprises by providing sufficient funding and support during critical times. Members emphasized that the bank's role extended beyond profit-making to fostering an environment that promoted industrial growth and development. They said that during the times of distress, the bank should offer guidance and flexible financial solutions instead of adopting a harsh approach and methodology toward struggling enterprises affected by external circumstances.

"J&K Bank should invest in its communities and thoughtfully address challenges to foster sustainable growth and build long-term client relationships, which will ultimately enhance the bank's true profitability,"

MHA organises NZC standing committee meeting at Chandigarh



J1 NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 26

Ministry of Home Affairs, North Zone Council, organised the 21st meeting of Standing Committee on North Zone Council at Chandigarh. The meeting organised by the MHA and hosted by the Government of Haryana was a precursor to the NZC meeting being chaired by the

Union Home Minister in November to discuss and resolve various inter-state issues.

Haryana Chief Secretary, TVSN Prasad chaired the meeting which was attended by Secretary of the Inter-State Council Secretariat (ISCS) K Moses Chalai; Chief Secretary of Himachal Pradesh, Prabodh Saxena; Chief Secretary of Rajasthan,

Sudhansh Pant; Chief Secretary of Punjab, KAP Sinha; Principal Secretary NCT of New Delhi, Navin Kumar Choudhary; Adviser UT of Ladakh, Dr Pawan Kotwal; Secretary Planning J&K, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary and senior officers from the participating States, Union Territories (UTs), and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

J&K Judicial Academy organises workshop on Family Court Matters, Special Marriage Act

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 26

Jammu and Kashmir Judicial Academy today organised one day workshop on "Family Court Matters and Special Marriage Act including Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005

With the approval and guidance of Chief Justice High Court of Jammu & Kashmir & Ladakh (Patron in Chief J&K Judicial Academy), Tashi Rabstan and assistance from Chairperson Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy and members of Governing Committee, the J&K Judicial Academy organised this workshop for the judges of district judiciary of Kashmir province at J&K Judicial Academy, Mominabad Srinagar.

The Programme was inaugurated by Justice Sindhu Sharma, Judge High Court of J&K and Ladakh annual Chairperson Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, in presence of Justice Rahul Bharti, Judge High Court of J&K and Ladakh and member Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy.

M.Y Akhoo, former District & Session Judge and Rajinder Sapru, Registrar Rules were the Resource Person during the workshop.

In her inaugural address, Justice Sindhu Sharma emphasised and deliberated upon the need for organising such workshops. She highlighted the importance of the family court matters, special marriage act & protection of women from domestic violence act 2005. She high-



lighted that the role of a judge while dealing with the family matters is not only important but also crucial. This is because Judge has to balance the law with compassion and with the rights of the parties and in balancing all these they look not only into the provision but also the human angle to it, she added.

Justice Sindhu Sharma emphasised the restitution of conjugal rights. She said the most difficult act which not in terms of the act but in terms of enforcement and dispensation of justice is "The Guardian and Wards Act" because the children are involved and every person and every individual who has to deal with the child has to look into the welfare of the child. Welfare of the child being paramount is the only consideration while considering the guardian and wards act, resolution of its disputes and the most important and difficult part is execution of the order.

Justice Rahul Bharti, in his special remarks, said that family court matters

hold a significant place they involve not just the interpretation of laws but the understanding of emotions and societal values that govern families. The dissolution of marriages, restitution of conjugal rights and issues relating to guardianship are not just legal concepts but also deeply personal conflicts that demand a nuanced approach from the judiciary.

Justice Bharti, while sharing his experience with the participants, said that while dealing with such cases as a Judge there are two ways of looking at a thing any related to family disputes be it matrimonial, succession related, be it protection of women from domestic violence, children related which as a judge often overlook that the source of law starts from nothing but from the fact this is the reason of law. He said how society came into picture family is the unit from which the law originates first it's the parental authority in a given household which makes new born into family growing

up children to know that the parental authority is the name of some discipline.

He appreciated the district judges and said that since district judges are the top of the hierarchy of district judiciary, that is why they have to deal with family laws.

Director Judicial Academy, Sonia Gupta welcomed all the dignitaries, resource persons and judicial officers and delivered the introductory remarks. She said the workshop had been carefully designed for judicial officers of Kashmir province to explore the most pertinent issues surrounding the relevant laws.

The first session was led by Recourse Person M.Y Akhoo who focussed on family court matters, covering the dissolution of marriage, restitution of conjugal rights and the Guardian and wards act. He said family disputes often involve delicate emotions and in resolving these issues it requires to maintain a balance between empathy and the strict application of the

law. The family Courts Act of 1984 allows government to establish family courts in areas with a population of over one million. He also discussed about the special marriage act which provides for a civil marriage that would enable individuals to get married outside of their respective community. The special marriage act provides with the some conditions for marriage under section of the act had wholly changed the situation in respect of prohibited degrees in marriage. He also discussed various case laws related to the registration of marriage under special marriage act.

The second session was led by Resource Person, Rajinder Sapru, who discussed the Protection of women from Domestic violence Act 2005. He said domestic violence is a pervasive issue in society and the law provides robust protections for women facing abuse he covered the legal framework under the act including the role of various stakeholders in the resolution of family disputes and domestic violence cases. He provided practical guidance on resolving cases involving domestic violence and ensuring the protection of vulnerable parties.

The participants actively engaged during the sessions with the resource persons because the objective of the workshop was not just to learn but to ensure that the understanding of these laws strengthens the justice to be delivered in the courts.

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 26

Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, today inaugurated today exhibition titled 'Revelations' - Artful insights' at City Mall, Lal Chowk here.

Speaking on the occasion, the Advisor appreciated the noble mission and motive of the organiser of the event. "Such initiatives greatly help the society towards protection, promotion and preservation of our age old cultural legacy and identify", he maintained.

The organisers, Second Lives Art Guild, is an art group which comprises of self taught artists. The event has been organised to showcase their



talent and inspire people especially young generation to evolve and polish their talent and hobbies by keeping their passion alive for inherent talent and skills for which Kashmir is famous for globally.

The group's motto is to inspire masses to explore nature, art, culture, heritage and to scale off the screen time and gadgets.

The exhibition will culminate on 27th of October, 2024.

Director, Handicrafts & Handlooms Kashmir, Mehmood Shah, Former Dean faculty of Fine Arts, Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi, Professor Zargar Zahoor was also present on the occasion.

The participant artists included Dr. Jehangir Aslam, Er. Shazia Basharat, Er. Nabi, Saqib Kachroo and other young guest artists like Falak Iqbal, Iqra Shabaan, Sameer Shafi and Umar Hassan.

DC Bandipora visits Odina Transit Accommodation; interacts with Migrant Employees

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 26

The Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, visited the Transit Accommodation at Odina, Sumbal, on Saturday to interact with migrant employees residing there. The purpose of the visit was to assess living conditions and address issues of the employees. During his visit, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the available facilities to ensure they meet the necessary standards of convenience and safety.

During the interaction, DC took feedback and suggestions for improvement from the employees.

The Deputy Commissioner assured them that



all their issues will be addressed and the administration is committed to ensure the well-being of migrant employees.

The DC was accom-

panied by SDM Sumbal Murtaza Ahmad Sheikh, Tehsildar Sumbal, Ex. En R&B, and other concerned officials.

Seminar on Punjabi Poetry & Culture Organized in Baramulla

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 26

Jammu Kashmir Punjabi Sahit Sabha Baramulla in active collaboration with Academy of Art, Culture and Languages organised a daylong seminar on Punjabi poetry and cultural programme at Adbi Markaz Kamraz Kanispora Baramulla here.

The event was organized, with S. Kirat Singh, Retired DIG as the chief guest while as Omkar Singh Bali, Chairman DGPC Baramulla,



Professor Gewchawan Singh Raina, Sulinder Singh Sodhi besides huge number of participants also graced the event.

In the inaugural session, a welcome note was presented to the higher

dignitaries and the participants besides the importance of organizing seminar was also deliberated. It was observed that Punjabi language has a unique sweetness and impact and it's therefore impor-

tant to hold seminars like these to further popularise and promote Punjabi language, literature and culture in every region of Jammu and Kashmir."

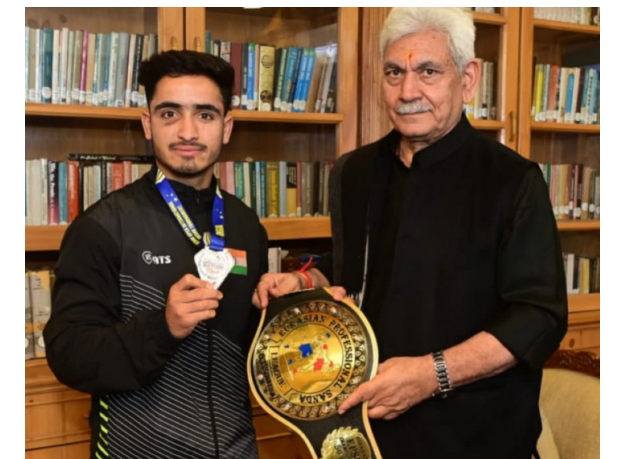
The Chief Guest while addressing the semi-

nar asserted that there is more need than ever before today to revive traditional languages for the young generation. In the future, our aim is to conduct more seminars to give more opportunity to youth to showcase their talents," he added.

During the programme, several writers from different areas present their poetry which got quite applause from the audience. On the occasion, other speakers and participants also hailed the academy's efforts of

organising the literary and cultural programmes at various places of the region to sharpen the skills of the youth who are interested in writing and to promote the Punjabi language. Meanwhile, a cultural programme was presented in which Punjabi folk dance was performed by students of Budding Bloom School Khawaja Bagh Baramulla.

Later, during felicitation ceremony, literary awards were also presented in memory of Shaheed Maan Singh.



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha met Musharaf Qayoom, International Wushu player, at Raj Bhawan. The Lt Governor congratulated the young athlete from Baramulla for clinching the Eurasian Professional Sanda League title in Georgia. He also extended his best wishes to Musharaf Qayoom for his future games.

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	19:30	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	Sitamarhi	15:45	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Friday
04021	Sitamarhi	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	Goalkhampur	18:20	Weekly	Thursday
04517	Goalkhampur	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	Goalkhampur	14:00	Bi-weekly	Saturday, Tuesday
04043	Goalkhampur	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
05001	Goalkhampur Jn.	19:30	Delhi Jn.	13:15	Weekly	Sunday
05002	Delhi Jn.	15:15	Goalkhampur Jn.	09:55	Weekly	Monday
05111	Chhapra Jn.	14:00	New Delhi	11:50	Weekly	Monday
05112	New Delhi	12:50	Chhapra Jn.	11:30	Weekly	Tuesday

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	Goalkhampur	21:15	Anand Vihar Terminal	13:15	Weekly	Sunday
05024	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:15	Goalkhampur	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	Goalkhampur	14:40	Amritsar Jn	09:30	Weekly	Wednesday
05006	Amritsar Jn	12:45	Goalkhampur	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	04:10	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	Hubballi Jn	20:30	Yog Nagari Rishikesh	23:30	Weekly	Monday
07364	Yog Nagari Rishikesh	06:15	Hubballi 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	Bi-Weekly	Tuesday, Saturday
03310	Jammu Tawi	23:25	Dhanbad Jn	14:00	Bi-Weekly	Wednesday, Sunday
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		

MSME-Development Facilitation Office offers Digital Transaction Incentive under PM Vishwakarma



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 26

MSME-Development Facilitation Office, Jammu the field office of Union Ministry of MSME implements varied schemes and activities for the benefit of MSME Sector in Jammu & Kashmir including PM Vishwakarma with the active participation of the UT Government.

PM Vishwakarma is empowering the artisans of 18 different trades who not only contribute to the economic growth of Jammu & Kashmir but also preserve and enrich the unique cultural tapestry. This scheme is designed to uplift and recognize the crucial role of skilled artisan and offers Recognition and Certification, Skill Development and Training, Credit Assistance and Marketing Support.

Exhibition cum Trade Fair on PM Vishwakarma for artisans registered

under the Marketing support is being organized by MSME-DFO, Jammu at Gandhinagar Market / Gole Market Ground from 24.10.2024 to 29.10.2024. The exhibition is being organized as per the directions of G.Velladurai IEDS Joint Director.

The PM Vishwakarma scheme offers Rs./- incentive for 100 digital transactions per month. Shifting to digital transactions improves the credit worthiness of the artisans. For claiming the incentive for digital transaction QR Code is being made for all the artisans who are already registered in the scheme and cleared all the 3 stages of application and certified in the exhibition stall No.3. The artisans are requested to visit the Exhibition for making QR Code for their unit and make use of the opportunity. Co-ordinator for digital transaction incentive is Rajesh Kumar IEDS, Assistant Director.

Dir Agriculture Kashmir visits Hi-tech Poly-houses in Narkara Budgam



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 26

Director Agriculture Kashmir Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today visited Hi-tech poly houses in vegetable cluster at Narkara Budgam.

Speaking to the Agri entrepreneurs at Narkara, Director underscored the importance of vertical expansion in vegetable cultivation. He said under Holistic Agriculture Development Program HADP, department is working on a special project for round the year cultivation of different vegetable crops.

He said the vegetables in these hi-tech Poly-houses is one such step in this direction. He said to

achieve this goal department has established Hi-tech Poly-houses in all the districts of Kashmir division.

Director Agriculture highlighted the Importance of conducive agro-climatic conditions of the valley and asked the farmers to diversify their agriculture operations.

He asked farmers that the department would provide all the technical assistance to them in comprehensively performing their agriculture activities. Chawdhury said, we have huge potential so far as the vegetable sector is concerned that needs to be explored for the overall economic development of the region.

Industrial Training Institute Kulgam Organised Convocation Ceremony



JI NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, OCTOBER 26

Along with all the ITI's of the country, Government Industrial Training Institute Kulgam today organised Convocation Ceremony, here.

On the occasion diploma certificates were distributed to the trainees who completed their training in session 2023-24 at the institute.

The toppers in all trades were given medals and appreciation certificates.

Superintendent ITI Kulgam, Er. Ishfaq Ahmad Reshi while congratulating the passout trainees

and toppers, appreciated the efforts of the Vocational Instructors for getting cent percent result in NCVT scheme during the session for the Institute.

Ab Rashid Ganie, Chairman IMC ITI Kulgam who was the chief Guest on the occasion highlighted the importance of skills in overcoming the unemployment.

He urged the pass out trainee not to wait for advertisements of Govt jobs rather utilise their Skill in private sector or entrepreneurship.

Similar function was organised in ITI Khurib- atpora of the District Kulgam.

Botapathri killings: Minister, MLAs offer condolences to families of slain army porters



JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 26

Minister for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (RD&PR), Javed Ahmad Dar, accompanied by MLAs Dr. Sajad Shafi and Javid Hassan Beigh, today visited the families of Mushtaq Ahmad Chowdhry and Manzoor Ahmad Mir, army porters, who lost their lives in the recent Botapathri attack.

The Minister, during his visit to Uri, paid his respects at the residences of the deceased, offering the condolences and assurances of support from the government of Jammu and Kashmir. Javed Dar strong-

ly condemned the attack, labelling it as a cowardly attempt. He reaffirmed the government's commitment towards maintaining peace and stability in the region, despite challenges.

This visit of government representatives demonstrated the government's solidarity with the families of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

The Minister pledged the administration's resolve to provide necessary assistance to the bereaved families during this difficult time. He prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

New Strategy in place...

through drones. We need to counter this challenge as drugs are consuming our younger generation. The finances earned out of narcotics sale is pumped in to fuel terrorism," the LG said.

He advised the BSF to advance its technology, intelligence sharing and enhance area domination.

The LG hailed BSF's role in tackling terrorism in Punjab stating that the force has its great stories of valour and patriotism in its kitty. "Your role in Kashmir is also appreciable. You are not working to fight terrorism but on civic front also that include opening schools, helping the poor and dealing with the smuggling of weapons and drugs," the LG said.

He suggested the force to train the NCC cadets in a way so that they could be inducted into BSF tomorrow. The LG also wished better future ahead for the 629 pass outs.

Jaishankar hails military...

be effectively deployed. The combination of these (factors) has led to where it is," he said.

Earlier this week, India announced it had reached an agreement with China on patrolling along the LAC in eastern Ladakh, in a major breakthrough in ending the over four-year-long military standoff.

Since 2020, the situation on the border has been very disturbed which understandably negatively impacted the overall relationship. Since September 2020, India had been negotiating with the Chinese on how to find a solution, he said.

The EAM said there were different aspects of this solution.

The pressing one is disengagement because troops are very very close to each other and the possibility of something happening existed. Then there is de-escalation because of troop buildup on both sides, he added.

"Then there is a larger issue of how you manage the border and negotiate the boundary settlement. Right now everything that's going is concerning the first part which is disengagement," he said.

He said India and China came to an understanding at some places after 2020 on how troops return to their bases but a significant segment was related to patrolling, the external affairs minister pointed out.

"There was blocking of patrolling and that is what we had been trying to negotiate for the last two years. So what happened on October 21 was that in those particular areas Depsang and Demchok we reached an understanding that patrolling would resume how it used to be before," Jaishankar added. (Agencies)

"Despicable, yet entirely..."

His remarks came after Pakistan's representative in his remarks during the UNSC debate made references to Jammu and Kashmir.

"An estimated thousand women of these minority communities, as per data of the Human Rights Commission of that particular country, are subject to abduction, forced religious conversions, and forced marriages every year. Anyway, I could go on, but I end here," he added.

India thanked Switzerland for convening the crucial debate on women building peace in a changing environment and appreciated the insightful briefings by the Deputy Secretary General, the UN Women Executive Director, and civil society representatives.

"As we approach the 25th anniversary of Council Resolution 1325, India reaffirms its unwavering com-

mitment to the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. We recognize that sustainable peace requires women's full equal, meaningful and safe participation at all levels of decision-making, including politics, governance, institution building, rule of law, the security sector and economic recovery. Needless to say, the economic and social well-being of the population in general, and women in particular, are integral to sustainable peace," Harish said.

The Indian envoy further recalled India's deployment of the first-ever all-female formed police unit to Liberia in 2007. He stated that India has increased women's participation in our peacekeeping contingents, with over 100 Indian women peacekeepers currently serving worldwide.

He also spoke about the honours received by Indian women peacekeepers serving in different parts of the world.

Highlighting the participation of Indian women in peacekeeping contingents, Harish said, "India has made significant strides in implementing the WPS agenda. As the fifth largest troop contributor, India deployed the first ever all-female formed police unit to Liberia in 2007, setting a precedent in UN peacekeeping. Their work garnered tremendous appreciation within Liberia and in the UN. We have increased women's participation in our peacekeeping contingents, with more than 100 Indian women peacekeepers currently serving worldwide, including three all-women female engagement teams."

"In 2023, Major Radhika Sen, who served in the Democratic Republic of Congo, was awarded the UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award. She follows in the footsteps of her illustrious predecessor, Major Suman Gawani, who was recognized for her service with the UN mission in South Sudan, she was honoured by the UN in 2019," Harish added.

He recalled that India passed the Women's Reservation Bill in 2023, which he stressed has empowered women in the political decision-making process.

Underscoring India's efforts to enhance the participation of women in decision-making roles, P Harish said, "Domestically, India has been striving to enhance meaningful participation of women in decision-making roles. In 2023, India passed a historic Women's Reservation Bill, reserving one-third of seats in national and state legislatures for women, empowering them in political decision-making process. We have promoted women's leadership in community mobilization and public government interface, recognizing their role as agents of social change and cohesion."

Speaking about the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) of Gujarat, he said, "The example of SEWA in Gujarat comes to mind. It's a movement of self-employed women in rural and urban India. It's also the largest trade union of the country. It has pioneered the empowerment of self-employed women, providing a voice to numerous women workers in the informal industry and promoting their leadership at all levels."

India's Permanent Representative also called for making use of new technologies to increase the participation of women while guarding against online threats and disinformation.

"In a rapidly changing world, we must harness new technologies to enhance women's participation while guarding against online threats and disinformation. We have leveraged digital technologies to minimize the gender divide, enhance financial inclusion and empower women, especially in rural India. We call upon the international community to develop robust mechanisms to address these emerging challenges," he said.

Harish expressed India's commitment to further increase women's representation in peacekeeping contingents, sharing best practices and supporting capacity-building initiatives for women peacebuilders. He reiterated India's commitment to translating the WPS agenda from theory to practice and expressed readiness to collaborate with all stakeholders to build a more peaceful, inclusive and gender-equal world. (AGENCIES)

Mehbooba Mufti ...

and the PDP winning 3.

"I congratulate the National Conference-Congress leadership; they have won spectacularly. I also want to congratulate the people of Jammu and Kashmir for voting for a stable government. The situation in Jammu and Kashmir had been dire since August 5, 2019, and people faced numerous problems. Forming a stable government was essential," she said during a press conference.

Mufti also thanked PDP leaders and workers for their tireless efforts during the campaign. "I would like to thank PDP workers and leaders for voting despite all the challenges. I appeal to them not to give up," she said.

The assembly elections for the 90 seats in Jammu and Kashmir were held in three phases on September 18, September 26, and October 1. (Agencies)

Anti-Infiltration grid...

working in coordination with each other. We analyse the threats and try to ensure that such incidents do not take place in future," he said.

Earlier, a passing out parade and attestation ceremony of four recruit batches was held at the subsidiary training centre of the BSF, marking the induction of 629 new recruits into the force.

The recruits underwent rigorous training to prepare for border security challenges and law and order duties.

J-L Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who was the chief guest on the occasion, inspected the parade and appreciated the recruits' display of self-confidence, skill and coordination.

The LG also encouraged the recruits to serve the nation with courage and enthusiasm.

The 44-week training programme equipped the recruits with proficiency in handling various weapons, firing skills, border management, physical efficiency and endurance, field craft and tactics, counter-terrorism, counter-insurgency, law and order, and human rights. (Agencies)

Decreasing water...

Corporation of India claims it has alternative energy sources to offset the reduced hydroelectric output, the situation on the ground tells a different story, with power shortages persisting.

With a new political administration now governing Jammu and Kashmir, residents are hoping for improved power supply during the harsh winter months.

Restoration of statehood...

dialogue with the Centre. Any haste on the subject should be avoided," the BJP leader added.

He also said that terrorists carried out fatal attacks in Ganderbal and Gulmarg days after the swearing-in of the (National Conference) government on October 16 because the enemies of peace wanted the bloodbath

to continue in J-K.

"The conspiracy to kill innocent people was hatched from across the border. J-K has already witnessed a lot of bloodshed as Pakistan-sponsored terrorism has created graveyards and cremation grounds here," he claimed.

Stating that the efforts of PM Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah along with the sacrifices of the security personnel have resulted in an improved situation in the Union Territory, Raina said, "In my opinion, the J-K government should coordinate with the Centre for the welfare of its people and avoid all sensitive issues, provocative actions or statements."

Meanwhile, the Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS) and several other groups also celebrated Accession Day on Saturday, highlighting the "historic" role of Maharaja Hari Singh and the supreme sacrifice made by the Dogra warriors led by Brigadier Rajinder Singh.

While BJP workers paid floral tributes to the Maharaja at their party headquarters and offices across Jammu, YRS organised its main function at Tawi bridge where the statue of the Dogra ruler was garlanded. (Agencies)

Police say 3-4 militants...

"According to the evidence we got from there, 3-4 militants were involved in the attack," Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Baramulla, Mohammad Zaid Malik told reporters in the north Kashmir district.

The police, Army and paramilitary forces are carrying out the search operation, which has been extended to Baba Reshi and forest areas in Gulmarg as well as the built-up area before it, the SSP said.

The SSP said security forces had been carrying out many input-based search operations on the militants in the Pattan-Kreeri area of the Baramulla district in the days ahead of the attack.

Two soldiers and two Army porters were killed in the attack on Thursday, while another porter and a soldier were injured. Terrorists opened fire on an Army vehicle, 6 km from the tourist hotspot Gulmarg in the Bota Pathri area, when it was headed for the Nagin post in the Affarwat range.

On Friday, security forces deployed drones and helicopters for a massive search operation in the area and along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Gulmarg sector.

Security forces were also using human and technical intelligence inputs to aid the search operation launched to trace and neutralise the terrorists behind the attack, officials said.

Senior officers of the police and Army are overseeing the operation.

The area is completely dominated by the Army and there were reports recently that a terrorist group had infiltrated during early summer and taken shelter in the higher reaches of the Affarwat range. (AGENCIES)

Those behind attacks...

but the government is serious and is in pursuit of those who are disturbing peace in the Valley," Dar said.

He said that those behind such attacks are against people's government and want to prolong sufferings of common citizens. "These are enemies of peace and are not able to digest the fact that people participated in large numbers in the democratic process," he added.

Two army soldiers and two porters were killed a terror attack in Botapathri area of Gulmarg on Thursday.

Public Grievances Redressal Camp held at Sangrambhatta

JINNEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 26

To address public concerns and streamline grievance redressal, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, ACR (Collector Land Acquisition), Idrees Lone presided over a Public Grievance Redressal Camp at Sangrambhatta, here today.

The camp saw active participation from officials and residents, with the goal of resolving various pressing issues faced by the community.

One of the critical achievements during the camp was the on-spot disbursement of land compensation amounting to 73.50 Lakh among the land owners acquired for Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), Highways besides other developmental projects in Kishtwar.

The distribution of compensation showcased the administration's dedication to ensuring that affected individuals receive timely support and that due process in land-related matters is upheld.

Locals brought forth a wide range of issues, prominent among these were concerns about deplorable central water drainage systems from town to outskirts of town passing through the area, which have posed a significant problem, especially during rainy seasons. They highlighted the need for an effective drainage solu-



tion to prevent water logging and the subsequent damage it causes to property and farmland.

Another issue raised was the presence of stray animals, which has become a growing concern for both public safety and sanitation. Residents voiced their worries about the hazards posed by stray animals and requested prompt action to manage this issue in a sustainable and humane manner.

Concerns related to agriculture were also prominent, with locals urging that crop inspections, or *Girdawari*, be conducted promptly by field staff. They stressed the need for spot harvesting checks to ensure fair assessment of yields, particularly as the harvest season approaches.

The dilapidated condi-

tion of a local spring in Sangrambhatta was another pressing matter highlighted by the community.

This spring serves as a vital water source for the area and residents urged that the administration take immediate steps to restore it to a usable state. The importance of maintaining this natural resource was underscored, given its significance for both drinking water and agricultural purposes.

Additionally, discussions covered various revenue-related issues, reflecting the need for effective governance and accountability in property and land management within the area. Compensation concerns linked to the road from Sangrambhatta to Zellana were raised, with locals noting that the road's

deteriorated condition has made it difficult for both residents and vehicles to navigate. They urged the administration to address both the repair of the road and compensation for any related property impacts.

The need for a dedicated, full-time *Patwari* was another focal point during the camp. Residents expressed that having a consistent official available would greatly improve administrative efficiency and reduce delays for land-related concerns.

ACR assured that the issues would be looked into to facilitate ease of access for the community.

Moreover, compensation issues were also brought to light regarding the road from the District Industries Centre Sangrambhatta to Berwar. The residents reiterated the importance of compensation to affected families, emphasizing that it was necessary to address these grievances in a timely manner.

ACR attentively listened to each of the grievances brought forth by the public. He issued directives on the spot for the redressal of a majority of the concerns, ensuring that issues were resolved swiftly and effectively. He further assured that the remaining grievances would be resolved in a time-bound manner, underscoring the administration's commitment to continuous improvement in public service delivery.

Police flags-off group of students of Baramulla, Sopore for Bharat Darshan Tour



JINNEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, OCT 26

As a part of Civic Action Program (CAP) of J&K Police, 68 students along with 4 police officers/officials as (Care Takers) of district Baramulla & PD Sopore were flagged off for week long Bharat Darshan Tour-2024.

An impressive flag-off ceremony was organized at DPL Baramulla in which SSP Baramulla Shri Mohammad Zaid-JKPS, SP PD Sopore Ms. Divya D-IPS, accompanied by SP Ops. Baramulla Shri Feroz Yehya-JKPS, SP Hqs Baramulla Shri Yasir

Qadri-JKPS & DySP DAR DPL Baramulla, flagged off the group of students.

Speaking on the occasion, SSP Baramulla advised the students to avail the opportunity to enrich their knowledge by visiting historical places and marvels of the country. He advised the touring students to imbibe the greatness of the country and to take full advantage of the opportunity and collect memories for life during the tour, besides wishing them a fun-filled, safe and life changing tour.

SP PD Sopore while speaking on the occasion, stressed on the stu-



dents to take their studies seriously for better & successful future. She also impressed upon that everyone should take part in sports activities as it helps to boost self-confidence, concentration, physical as well as mental health. She also stated that students should make optimum use of time and channelize their energy in the right direction.

The tour is organized by J&K Police and all boarding & lodging facilities, to & fro air tickets including all other logistic facilities are being provided to touring students. During the tour, the students shall

visit the cities of New Delhi and Hyderabad. AC Hotels and AC coaches will be provided to the touring students for accommodation and sightseeing. The group will be assisted by a guide who would be highlighting the significance of the historical spots and their importance to make the trip educational and informative as well.

Parents and touring students applauded the efforts made by J&K Police for such a mesmerizing initiative and thanked J&K Police for providing them an opportunity to visit the popular cities of the country.

Kaushal Deekshant Samaroh held at Govt ITI Doda

JINNEWS SERVICE
DODA, OCTOBER 26

The Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Doda conducted Skill Convocation Ceremony 2024 for its pass out students here today. Chief Guest, Additional Deputy Commissioner Sudershan Kumar felicitated the Trade wise toppers with mementoes & Certificates.

Superintendent, Er. Naresh Singh gave a brief account of training courses offered by ITI Doda in diverse Trades of One Year/Two Year durations, besides short-term skill training courses under PMKVY, PM Vishwakarma Surya Ghar, SANKALP etc.

He informed that 106 Candidates out of 126 candidates who appeared in the All India Trade Computer Based Test (CBT) successfully completed their training in 07 different trades.

He congratulated all the successful candidates as well as their respective instructors who contrib-



uted to their success.

Representatives from District Employment & Counselling Centre (DECC) also congratulated the pass out candidates. He informed the participants about the ample employment opportunities waiting for them and asked to get the full benefit of all the youth related schemes started by the Central & JKUT Government.

He gave a detailed review of different Self Employment Schemes being run by the Labour & Employment Department like Mumkin, Tejaswani,

Spurring etc especially Women related schemes and assured every possible help to all the interested candidates.

The Chief Guest in his address expressed his gratitude for having the opportunity to be present at the Convocation ceremony.

He congratulated the passed-out trainees who by their hard work and perseverance had achieved culmination in their academic pursuit and asked them to make the best use of their knowledge to attain professional

success.

He also appreciated the performance of the institution in imparting quality training in different trades. He commended the outgoing students for their determination and drive to succeed and highlighted the importance of ITIs in providing skill training to youth. He stressed on the need for innovative business ideas using their hard-earned National Trade Certificates including setting up small business, startups and entrepreneurship to have a better future.

He concluded his address with his best wishes to Superintendent ITI Doda and his dedicated team for their contribution and hard work towards the development of ITI Doda.

Lastly, the Convocation Ceremony culminated with distribution of NTC & PNTC Certificates to all the passed-out trainees. Er. Naresh Singh along with staff of ITI Doda facilitated the Chief Guest by presenting the memento.

Enhancing Lung Health Management: GMC Srinagar organises Prog on latest Diagnostic Techniques

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 26

One-day "Continuing Medical Education", (CME) program on advanced lung function testing was organized by the Department of Respiratory Medicine, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar.

The program featured comprehensive discussions on advanced diagnostic techniques, such as Fractional Exhaled Nitric Oxide (FeNO), lung oscillometry, body plethysmography, and bronchoprovocation testing, all of which are crucial for accurate diagnosis and management of respiratory diseases.

The CME was organized under the patronage of Prof. Iffat Hassan Shah, Principal and Dean GMC Srinagar, with Dr. Naveed Nazir Shah serving as the Organizing Secretary, and Dr. Khurshid Ahmad and Dr. Suriya Farooq as Co-organizers.

Guest speakers included distinguished experts Dr. Sundeep Salvi and Dr. Deesha Ghorpade, who shared their insights on the latest advancements in lung function testing and respiratory medicine.

Professor Dr. Iffat Hassan, Principal/Dean GMC Srinagar, while speaking on the occasion



commented the organizers for hosting a vital event, emphasizing the importance of Continuing Medical Education (CME) programs.

These programs not only enhance participants' skills and knowledge but also provide a platform for sharing expertise and experiences, she said.

CME aims to benefit medical professionals with the knowledge of the latest advancements in their field, network with peers, and improve patient outcomes, she added.

Such events foster collaboration, innovation, and excellence in health-

care, Dr Iffat emphasized. "By supporting CME programs, GMC Srinagar demonstrates its commitment to excellence in medical education and healthcare besides inspires medical professionals to prioritize ongoing learning and professional growth", she maintained.

Dr. Naveed Nazir Shah, Professor and Head of the Department of Respiratory Medicine, and Dr. M. Yousuf, Assistant Professor of Respiratory Medicine, delivered informative lectures that further enhanced participants' understanding of advanced pulmonary diagnostics.

On the occasion, hands-

on workshop on advanced lung function testing was also conducted, allowing attendees to gain practical experience with state-of-the-art diagnostic tools.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from doctors, medical students, and healthcare professionals, who engaged in discussions to improve their expertise in lung health management. The CME marked a significant contribution towards advancing respiratory care practices in the region.

Rana condoles tragic demise of Er Mir Saleem's family

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 26

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, has expressed deep sorrow over the demise of Engineer Saleem Meer, his wife and their son in

a tragic road accident in KSA. "I am deeply saddened to hear about the tragic news of unfortunate demise of Er. Saleem Meer, his wife, and their 4-year-old son in a road accident at Madina. I extend my heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family and Mir Mohammad Sahib, retired ZEO, father of Engineer Saleem Meer of Dhara Fatehpur, Mandi, Poonch", stated the Minister. The Minister prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family during this hour of grief.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT DANSAL, DISTRICT JAMMU E-Mail Id:-cdpodansal@gmail.com Phone No. 0191-2669163

NOTICE

SUBJECT:- PROVISIONAL SELECTION LIST FOR POST OF SAHAYIKAS (ANGANWADI HELPERS) OF POSHAN PROJECT DANSAL JAMMU "

Annexure - A

S. No	"Name of Sahayikas (AWHs)"	D.O.B	Parentage/Husband name	Residence	Ward No.	Contact No.	Name of AWC	Aadhar No.
1	Jeevan Jyoti	28-03-1994	Ranjeet Singh	Jandrah	3	9682328268	Jandrah	375463590577
2	Babli Devi	03-04-1988	Pritam Lal	Tarah	3	8899373431	Tarah - A	921233946205
3	Anita Devi	01-05-1988	Pritam Lal	Dhanso	6	9622373640	Dansoo	944208114748
4	Rani Devi	08-07-1993	Sudesh Kumar	Panjgrain	8	9858017947	Nai Basti	572219792562
5	Sonia Thakur	17-06-2001	Lekhraj Singh	Pounthal	2	7780897515	Pounthal - B	408958556902
6	Santosh Kumari	22-04-1994	Mantoo Ram	Sandrote	5	8082584675	Sandrote	881885082530
7	Sushma Devi	21-04-1992	Radhey Sham	Pounthal	7	8899371064	Sangar	250681647587
8	Pooja Devi	16-07-1993	Dhomet Singh	Panjgrain	2	7051210744	Panjgrain	229518711905

Annexure B

Whereas vide this office advertisement notification issued, applications for the post of SAHAYIKAS (Anganwadi Helpers) were invited from the eligible female candidates for various vacant posts in Municipal/ Panchayat wards under the jurisdiction of Poshan Project Dansal.

Whereas after receiving application forms, scrutiny was conducted by the members of the selection committee as per laid down guidelines in the New Human Resource Policy issued vide Govt. order no:-222- JK SWD of 2022 Dated 30.11.2022 and provisional selection list has been framed at annexure A and objection notice at annexure B is now issued.

Now therefore objections are invited with regard to residence/Ward No./date of birth etc from the general public/applicants of the concerned municipal/panchayat wards within 10 days from the date of issuance of this notice failing which no claim shall be entertained and the provisional selection list shall be treated as final without any further notice.

**No: CDPO/D/
Dated:
DIP/J-6252/24
Date: 26-10-24**

**Sd/-
(Member Secretary)
Child Development Project Officer
Dansal**

EDITORIAL

Misplaced priorities and public concern!

Jammu and Kashmir government's recent decision to allocate Rs 14.85 crore for the procurement of 90 new Mahindra Scorpio vehicles for newly-elected Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) is not only perplexing but also deeply concerning. This decision comes at a time when the Union Territory is grappling with significant economic challenges. The urgency behind acquiring new vehicles for MLAs raises a myriad of questions about priorities. Is it truly necessary to provide brand new vehicles when there are existing ones that could still serve their purpose? What happened to the vehicles previously allocated to legislators? Were they too worn out, or is this expenditure simply an exercise in keeping newly elected representatives comfortable? The funds in question will be drawn from the Motor Garages capital expenditure budget for the financial year 2024-25, and the process is purportedly structured to adhere to the General Financial Rules (GFR) 2017. However, these procedural details do little to alleviate concerns about the broader implications of such spending. While the government emphasises that the procurement will follow proper channels, the underlying question remains: is this the best use of public funds at a time when many pressing developmental needs are glaringly evident? Experts have voiced skepticism, with one stating that allocating such a sum for vehicles could be viewed as frivolous amid ongoing economic distress. This sentiment echoes a growing discontent among citizens who see their government prioritizing luxury over necessity. The funds could have been better utilized for critical infrastructure projects, health services, or educational initiatives—areas that directly impact the well-being of the populace. The justification for new vehicles becomes even murkier considering that the government still possesses a fleet used by legislators prior to the dissolution of the previous assembly in 2018. The logical course of action would have been to refurbish and reallocate these existing vehicles rather than embark on a new expenditure. This raises an unsettling thought: are the authorities more focused on the comforts of elected officials than on the pressing needs of the constituents they serve? While the government's formal process for vehicle procurement appears sound on the surface, it masks a troubling disconnect between the needs of the public and the decisions being made by those in power. As Jammu and Kashmir continues to navigate its financial difficulties, it is imperative that the focus shifts from ensuring the comfort of MLAs to addressing the urgent developmental challenges facing the region. Public trust is hard to earn but easy to lose, and choices like these can only serve to deepen the disillusionment felt by the populace. The government must re-evaluate its priorities, ensuring that every rupee spent contributes meaningfully to the welfare of its citizens.

BRICS Summit: A defining moment for the Global South

NILANTHA ILANGAMUWA

A few days after India's External Affairs Minister's historic visit to Islamabad for the 23rd meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government, the most significant annual event of the Global South unfolded in Kazan, Russia: the BRICS summit. Kazan, conquered by Ivan the Terrible in 1552, marks the end of the Kazan Khanate and the beginning of Russian expansion eastward.

As the local Tatar proverb warns, "If the heavens give, they also take away," it serves as a sobering reminder of the precarious balance between fortune and misfortune, urging humility and preparedness for inevitable change. This week's summit signifies a pivotal moment for the Global South, challenging Western dominance while exposing its mockery of international humanitarian laws and the chaos it fuels in West Asia, particularly in Palestine and Lebanon, threatening to plunge the entire world into unprecedented conflict and despair.

As leaders from Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa and their

new members, along with other observers, convene, this summit transcends a mere gathering of nations and boldly asserts the aspirations and capabilities of the Global South. While Brazil's President Lula da Silva could not attend due to health issues, the voices of his counterparts resonated powerfully, highlighting a profound commitment to cooperation, peace and mutual respect—values starkly contrasting the narrative perpetuated by the West.

At this critical juncture, it is essential to clarify that BRICS, a coalition dedicated to tackling the pressing issues of our time—from economic instability to environmental crises—is not merely a reaction to Western hegemony but a proactive strategy aimed at reshaping the global order based on equity and collaboration.

As Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi articulated during his address, "In a world facing unprecedented challenges, our cooperation must be grounded in mutual respect and common interests. The world looks to us for leadership that transcends borders and fosters peace." Meanwhile, Chinese President

Xi Jinping insisted, "As we navigate the complexities of a multipolar world, our shared responsibility is to promote peace, stability and development. BRICS must stand as a pillar of support for developing nations, ensuring their voices are heard on the global stage." This alliance signals a fundamental shift in how nations engage with one another, moving away from zero-sum games toward a collaborative approach that recognises the interconnectedness of global challenges.

As Kishore Mahbubani recently pointed out in an interview with this writer, we are all in the same boat; if the boat is sinking, there's little value in arguing about who has the bigger cabin. The West, by contrast, continues to entrench itself in a militaristic and hostile narrative, frequently resorting to propaganda that demonises nations like China and Russia. Their actions manifest deadly conflicts that leave the rest of the world in turmoil, profiting from the misfortunes of others.

This perverse approach often disregards the cultural and historical contexts of the Global South,

presuming to lecture them on how to behave. The West has abandoned its wisdom; as Henry Kissinger once reflected, "The ability to think and act rationally in the face of adversity is the hallmark of a great power." The BRICS nations exemplify this capacity, constructively detailed in the Kazan Declaration, prioritising collaboration over confrontation. As President Vladimir Putin asserted during the summit, "Our collective strength lies not in military might but in our ability to forge alliances based on shared interests and mutual respect. It is time for us to reject the outdated paradigms that have long governed international relations."

The declaration issued at the summit serves as a powerful manifesto for South-South cooperation, highlighting that the true strength of nations lies in their ability to unite for mutual benefit, rather than succumbing to the divisive tactics historically employed by imperial powers. As leaders from BRICS nations deliberate on economic collaboration, environmental sustainability, and cultural exchange, they reaffirm their commitment to cre-

ating a world where cooperation supersedes historical grievances and petty political squabbles.

This is not a manifestation of warmongering; rather, it represents countries historically struggling to achieve mutual respect and dignity for all citizens. This commitment starkly contrasts the Western obsession with maintaining hegemony through military interventions and economic coercion—shamelessly punishing small nations like Cuba with sanctions while turning a blind eye to the massacre of unarmed civilians in Palestine and Lebanon. Yet, they continue to preach about how to protect democracy and universal human rights. In this precarious period where the West often exploits humanitarian crises as a pretext for military interventions, BRICS champions a principled approach that prioritises dialogue and partnership.

The commitment to peace-building reflects a deep understanding that true security cannot be achieved through military might but through fostering genuine relationships grounded in respect and equality. This summit represents a pivotal call

to action, where BRICS nations acknowledge that their strength lies in recognising shared destinies rather than past grievances. Historical lessons caution against allowing mistrust to dictate international relations, as genuine peace stems from understanding and collaboration.

The BRICS summit challenges the prevailing narrative of fear and division. It highlights the urgent need to tackle global challenges like climate change and economic instability, showcasing the Global South's proactive stance in crafting a future rooted in cooperation and collective growth. Let us hope for a better world, where these Asian giants, India and China, will come together to heal historic scars of mistrust, opening more gates for Indo-Pakistani peace, ensuring no room for proxies to manipulate these countries into becoming pawns of the West. Have we been used and manipulated, bullied enough? Is this the final moment for us to unite for greater emancipation? (The writer is a journalist and author; views expressed are personal)

UN's relevance at stake as Israel defies it

ARCHANA DATTA

Israel has been following a concerted policy to destroy Gaza's healthcare system, particularly those devoted to paediatric and neonatal, sexual and reproductive health services, and thus, committing war crimes and crimes against humanity, a UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry said in a new report, which is being presented to the UN General Assembly very soon. Israel has slammed it as 'outrageous', accusing the investigators of bias. Israel has been on a spree of retaliatory attacks on Gaza for the last year, after Hamas, stormed into its territory, killing and kidnapping several Israeli citizens. So far, Israeli retaliatory strikes, reportedly, had killed more than 42,000 civilians in Gaza and displaced almost its entire population.

Ground reports indicate that Israel has adopted a calculated strategy of mowing out 'punishment' to people, by systematically targeting Gaza's health

infrastructure. Hospitals are now on the brink of collapse due to a shortage of electricity, medicine, equipment and specialised personnel (WHO). The year-long continuous bombardment had not spared operating rooms, medical equipment, health workers or ambulances with the Red Cross or Red Crescent emblem. At least 165 doctors, 260 nurses, 184 health associates, 76 pharmacists 300 management and support staff, and around 85 civil service defence workers lost their lives, and hundreds of bodies have been recovered from several mass graves around hospital grounds. Thousands of wounded people are suffering from life-changing injuries, and their lives are at risk for want of specialised care (WHO).

Israel's denial of medical supplies has endangered also the lives of at least 350,000 chronically ill patients. Patients in hospitals and people in relief centres are also showing signs of diseases associated with overcrowding such as stomach complaints,

lung infections and rashes. The incessant bombing has contaminated Gaza's air with asbestos dust, raising the threat of cancer shortly. Even those handful of partially functioning health institutions in Gaza are receiving repeated evacuation orders. WHO described such orders as 'death sentences for the sick and injured'. UNICEF has declared Gaza as the 'most dangerous place to be a child'.

Children have become a majority of the patients in hospitals for blunt, penetrating trauma, and direct gunshot wounds, and lack of basic medical facilities has made treatment of such children difficult.

Every day almost 10 children are losing one or both legs, and operations and amputations are conducted with little or no anaesthesia. The absence of a power supply has also enhanced the 'death toll of newborns as incubators stop functioning'. The children staying a long time in hospitals without adequate nutrition are developing nutritional deficiencies which would

result in long-term health consequences. Hospitals have turned into 'graveyards for thousands of children'.

The threats to children go beyond 'bombs and mortars', as over 645,000 school children in the Gaza Strip, have lost a full academic year, and more than 800,000 children, three-quarters of Gaza's entire child population, urgently need mental health and psychosocial support.

The UN Commission's report described the wide-scale disruptions in sexual and reproductive health care services, as 'reproductive violence, and infringement of women and girls' reproductive rights and rights to life, health, human dignity and non-discrimination'. It has had irreversible long-term effects on the mental health and fertility prospects of about 540,000 women and girls of reproductive age.

Women are giving birth in hospitals when hospitals are drastically short of epidurals, anaesthesia and antibiotics. Many have been forced to give birth in

unsafe conditions at home or in relief camps, with little or no medical support, risking the danger of life-long injuries and even death. As women's access to food is severely restricted, pregnant and lactating women are at higher health and malnutrition risks (WHO).

The entry of food and water have been blocked to the besieged territory for months together. More than seven hundred water wells have been destroyed, and half of Gaza's cropland (67.6 per cent), over 71 per cent of orchards and other trees, 67 per cent of field crops, and 58.5 per cent of vegetables have been damaged (FAO). Israel has justified its attacks on major medical facilities under the plea that over 85 per cent of them were used by Hamas for terror operations. But, so far, it has not provided evidence to substantiate the claim, the Commission's report mentioned.

Meanwhile, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution, ordering Israel to withdraw from occupied Palestinian ter-

ritory within one year. Earlier, the ICJ also ruled that Israel's continued occupation was 'unlawful' and ordered to end it 'as rapidly as possible'. Israel, in defiance, intensified onslaughts on the civilian population in Gaza and its natural resources, and declared the UN chief as a persona non grata, barring his entry to Israel.

Israel's actions blatantly breach the Geneva and Hague Conventions, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, by intentionally starving a population, and continuing armed assaults on health apparatus and personnel. As the UN celebrates the adoption of its Charter on October 24, which is binding on the UN Member States, and, categorically, prohibits the use of force in international relations. After eight decades of its adoption, Israel's flagrant violation of its principles has threatened the very existence of the UN.

(The author is former Director General, Doordarshan & All India Radio; views are personal)

Has celebrity endorsement eclipsed the art of advertising

CHAITANYA K PRASAD

In the early days of advertising, brands leaned heavily on compelling stories and memorable taglines to forge deep emotional connections with consumers. Think of the Hutch ad with the loyal dog faithfully following a boy, Cadbury Dairy Milk's joyous dancer celebrating in a stadium, or Surf Excel's "Daag Ache Hain" campaign.

These weren't just commercials; they became cultural touchstones that left lasting impressions on how we remember those brands. Brands like Hutch and Airtel built their reputations on narrative-driven ads without relying on celebrities, focusing on themes like reliability, friendship and joy. The success of these campaigns lay in making the story the hero and seamlessly integrating the product into narratives

that resonated deeply with audiences. However, there's been a noticeable shift toward extensive celebrity endorsements, with famous faces promoting everything from luxury cars to everyday appliances. This raises the question: Has the art of storytelling been overshadowed by the allure of celebrity charisma? Yet, some celebrity-driven ads have managed to maintain that emotional connection through powerful narratives. Amitabh Bachchan's association with "Kaun Banega Crorepati (KBC)" is a prime example.

The show's branding isn't just about a game show; it's about dreams, aspirations, and life-changing moments for ordinary people. Similarly, Shah Rukh Khan's long-standing partnership with Hyundai has produced ads that go beyond showcasing cars. The recent Hyundai Samarth initiative highlights

inclusivity and empowerment for people with disabilities. In these ads, Shah Rukh Khan doesn't just endorse a product; he becomes part of a narrative that promotes positive social values, resonating deeply with audiences.

These campaigns succeeded not merely because they featured a celebrity but because they tapped into universal emotions and values that consumers could relate to. The story remained the hero, and the celebrity enhanced the narrative without overshadowing it. It was advertising at its purest—focused on connection and meaning.

From Bollywood actors endorsing financial products like mutual funds to cricketers promoting real estate or soft drinks, celebrity endorsements have become pervasive. MS Dhoni's involvement in mutual fund advertisements is a prime example



of this. His trustworthiness, especially in tier 2 and tier 3 cities, has made financial products seem more approachable and credible to audiences that might otherwise be skeptical. Similarly, big-name stars in paan masala ads, while controversial, have undeniably increased the

visibility and sales of these products.

But why has there been such a shift toward celebrity-centric advertising? Several factors contribute to this trend. In an age of fragmented attention spans, grabbing consumer attention has become more challenging,

and celebrities provide an instant hook.

Their recognisable faces and star power can make a product stand out in a crowded media space. Celebrities also embody trust and credibility; consumers often associate a celebrity's success with the quality of the product they

endorse, especially where trust in unfamiliar brands may be lacking. The rise of social media has transformed celebrities into influencers with massive followings, and brands tap into these personal connections to reach audiences. As brands expand globally, they use celebrities with international appeal to reach wider, more diverse markets.

While celebrities can help create buzz, technology—particularly Artificial Intelligence (AI)—also plays a significant role in shaping modern advertising strategies. AI algorithms analyse consumer behaviour, preferences, and trends, helping brands create highly personalised and targeted campaigns.

However, this data-driven approach can sometimes lead to formulaic ads that prioritise metrics over creativity, risking the loss of the human touch that makes storytelling so pow-

erful. The rise of social media influencers has introduced a new dynamic to endorsements. Unlike traditional celebrities, influencers often have niche audiences and engage with them on a more personal level. Their brand value lies in relatability and authenticity, which can feel more genuine compared to the polished image of mainstream celebrities. Brands now balance using high-profile celebrities for mass appeal with influencers for targeted, authentic engagement, understanding that while star power is influential, content and genuine connections with consumers still matter deeply.

(The writer is former additional DG, DFF and festival director, IFFI. Inputs provided by Zoya Ahmad and Vaishnavi Srinivasan; Views are personal)

Chronic kidney disease cases in women tripled in last 3 decades globally: Indian-led study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 26

The number of chronic kidney disease (CKD) cases in women has nearly tripled in the past three decades globally, according to a new study led by researchers from the Gujarat Adani Institute of Medical Sciences (GAIMS).

Type 2 diabetes and hypertension were the leading causes of CKD-related deaths in women, said research which was presented at the 'ASN Kidney Week 2024' in San Diego in the US from October 23-27.

"This calls for immediate policy interventions, targeted prevention programmes, and invest-



ment in health care infrastructure to curb the rise of CKD, particularly in high-risk regions," senior author Hardik Dineshbhai Desai, independent clinical and public health researcher at GAIMS.

GAIMS is first public-

private-partnership (PPP) endeavour between the Gujarat government and Adani Education and Research Foundation.

The analysis, titled 'Global, National, and Regional Trends in the Burden of Chronic Kidney Disease among Women

from 1990- 2021: A Comprehensive Global Analysis,' drew from the 'Global Burden of Disease' study 2021, a comprehensive effort to quantify health loss across the world over time.

The study includes information from 204 countries and territories.

From 1990 to 2021, the average annual percentage change in CKD prevalence in women increased by 2.10 per cent, mortality by 3.39 per cent, and disability-adjusted life years by 2.48 per cent.

There have also been significant disparities in CKD-related mortality and morbidity across the world, with marked increases observed par-

ticularly in Latin America, North America, and among older adults.

The study showed an alarming increased mortality rate attributable to metabolic risk factor over the last decade after a slight decrease between 2000 and 2010.

"Public awareness campaigns about the importance of early diagnosis, healthy lifestyles, and the management of underlying conditions like diabetes and hypertension are critical," said Desai.

"Without swift action, the continued rise of CKD could overwhelm health care systems and lead to increased mortality and morbidity worldwide," he added.

Scientists link colon cancer risk to specific gene in ulcerative colitis

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 26

A team of researchers has linked a specific gene in the ulcerative colitis (UC) disease to an increased risk of colon cancer.

Ulcerative colitis is an inflammatory bowel disease that afflicts an estimated five million people worldwide and that is linked to an increased risk of colon cancer.

The research, published in the journal *Science Advances*, points to a new way to stop the disease from progressing.

Ulcerative colitis affects the large intestine, specifically areas called "crypts," tube-like glands within the epithelial tissue that lines the intestine. When

the colon is injured, epithelial crypt cells enter a "repair mode." However, in patients with UC and UC-related colon cancers, these cells become stuck in repair mode, which scientists refer to as a "regenerative cell state."

In the study, Kimberly Hartl from the Berlin Institute for Medical Systems Biology of the Max Delbrück Center (MDC-BIMSB) and Charité-Universitätsmedizin, found this defective repair mechanism is linked to a non-functional p53 gene, which plays a key role in regulating the cell cycle and in repairing DNA.

"In patients with ulcerative colitis who are at high risk for developing cancer, we could potentially target

aberrant cells and get rid of them early, before any cancer occurs," said Professor Michael Sigal, a senior author of the paper.

"If there is no p53, cells remain in a proliferative state," Sigal added. The study suggests a potential new drug target to stop disease progression to cancer.

Existing tests to find precancerous lesions in patients with UC such as colonoscopies can identify visible lesions that sometimes are not easy to remove.

This study could be a first step in developing molecular tools for a less invasive diagnostic test that would allow physicians to identify the aberrant cells much earlier, even before visible alterations occur.

Lumpy skin disease cases grow in South Korea

AGENCIES
SEOUL, OCT 26

South Korea has reported an additional case of lumpy skin disease (LSD) in cattle, raising the total number of confirmed cases this year to 14, the agriculture ministry here said on Saturday.

The latest case was detected at a cattle farm in Munkyeong, some 140 kilometers southeast of Seoul, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

The ministry has issued a 24-hour standstill order for personnel and vehicles associated with the farm and related facilities in six neighbouring regions. On Friday, South Korea also confirmed three more separate cases, reports Yonhap news agency.

The government will



deploy all available disinfection vehicles to prevent the spread of the disease, it added.

LSD is a highly contagious disease that causes skin lesions, fever and loss of appetite, often resulting in reduced milk production and, in severe cases, death. It affects cattle and buffalo, and is transmitted by mosquitoes and other blood-feeding insects.

South Korea also confirmed separate cases from Inje, 118 kilometers east of Seoul, and Dangjin, 80 kilometers south of the capital city.

To prevent further infections, the government has cordoned off the affected farm and implemented quarantine measures, according to the officials.

The agriculture minis-

try called on provincial governments to stay vigilant against additional cases breaking out across the nation and complete vaccination of cattle by the end of this month.

The country reported its first case of LSD in cattle this year in August. The case was confirmed at a livestock farm in Anseong, located some 65 kilometres south of Seoul, breeding 80 cows, the Agriculture Ministry said.

It was the first LSD case in South Korea since November last year. Meanwhile, South Korea's agricultural ministry recently said it plans to commercialise a genetic diagnostic kit for LSD in 2025.

The genetic kit will help selectively cull infected cattle rather than destroying the entire herd.

RSS insists on values, harmony, education and health: Dattatreya Hosabale

AGENCIES
MATHURA (UP), OCT 26

Sarkaryavah of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Dattatreya Hosabale on Saturday said that there should not be attraction towards drugs and the Sangh's insistence is on values, harmony, education and health.

Addressing a press conference after the conclusion of two-day meeting of the Akhil Bharatiya Karyakari Mandal of RSS held here, the Sarkaryavah said that much of what is being shown on the OTT platform is not social.

"There should be freedom of expression but there is also a need to make a regulator on it. The government will definitely pay

attention to this, the society should also pay attention to this by increasing the values," he said.

Regarding the recent Bangladesh incident, he said that the Hindu society does not need to migrate from there.

"They should stay there, it is their land, we have Shakti Peeths in Bangladesh," he said.

Hosabale said that Hindus live all over the world and wherever there is a crisis, Hindus look towards India. On the Waqf Board, he said that whatever decision the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) will take, the government will work keeping in mind the public sentiments.

On the issue of Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi, he

said that the matter is in the court and it will decide. He said that like Ayodhya, there is no need to do anything on this, the society will decide. We are with society.

He said that the Sangh works to build the character of the workers.

The Sarkaryavah said that the RSS works to build the personality and this process is going on continuously. He said that there will be training classes for the workers coming to the Sakha and every group, it was discussed and reviewed in the meeting.

He said that along with this, the current context and the expansion of work of various dimensions related to the Sangh were also discussed. He said

that in the meeting of the Karyakari Mandal review of the meeting held in March this year was also done.

Hosabale said the RSS has entered the centenary year this year by completing its 99 years. It was discussed how to organise programmes on the next Vijaya Dashami. He said that the volunteers will go among the society with the topics of Panch Parivartan (self-based lifestyle, social harmony, family enlightenment, environment and civic duty).

He said that Shakha is the first unit of Sangh. He said that from the point of view of expansion of work, a total of 72,354 branches are running with an increase of 45,411 branches at 3026 places.

Oasis Fertility launches new brand campaign: "In the Good Hands of Science"

AGENCIES
HYDERABAD, OCT 26

Oasis Fertility, a leading provider of reproductive medicine with 31 centers across India, has unveiled its latest brand campaign, titled "In the Good Hands of Science."

The campaign will be promoted through traditional and digital media platforms, including television, print, YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram.

According to a hospital statement, the creative concept features babies narrating their parents' journey at Oasis Fertility, highlighting the assurance of success even before their birth.

Over the past 15 years, Oasis Fertility has introduced CAPA In Vitro Maturation (IVM) to India—an innovative, drug-free IVF option particularly benefi-

cial for patients with PCOS or PCOD. The clinic also offers advanced treatments such as Preimplantation Genetic Testing for Aneuploidies (PGT-A), Endometrial Receptivity Analysis (ERA), Magnetic-Activated Cell Sorting (MACS), and Microsurgical Testicular Sperm Extraction (Micro TESE). These services aim to increase the likelihood of delivering healthy, biological children, especially for couples with chromosomal abnormalities.

As part of its ongoing initiatives, Oasis Fertility has also announced a Scholarship Program that will award up to Rs 50,000 to 10 talented children born through IVF. These scholarships will support their aspirations in fields like academics, sports, arts, music, filmmaking, or social ser-

vice. The winners will be recognized at a prestigious event in Hyderabad this November.

Pushkaraj Shenai, Chief Executive Officer of Oasis Fertility, remarked, "Our new brand communication seeks to raise awareness about the unique advantages of IVF and other treatments offered at Oasis, while also helping to normalize open discussions about infertility."

The campaign is a simple yet meaningful effort to convey the benefits of being 'in the good hands of science' even before birth. Additionally, we are excited to introduce the Scholarship Program for young achievers born through IVF, which serves as our way of giving back to society and fostering the next generation", he added.

Health sector in Meghalaya is a great challenge: CM Conrad

AGENCIES
SHILLONG, OCT 26

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma on Saturday noted that the health sector in the state is a great challenge, but said that there has been a significant improvement in the sector.

Speaking at a programme celebrating the approval of National Medical Commission (NMC) to P A Sangma International Medical College and Hospital (PIMC) in Baridua village, Sangma outlined the measures to improve the health sector in terms of infrastructure, services, equipment, human resources and their training and skilling, streamlining the supply and distribution of medicines with the help of technology etc.

PIMC named after former Lok Sabha Speaker



is the first private medical college in Meghalaya.

In fact, Meghalaya doesn't have a state-run medical college, except North East Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences medical college, which is a central government institute.

"The government believes that saving even one life matters and giving the basic health services is essential therefore the budgetary allocation to the

Health sector in the state is large making it the highest budgetary allocation in the country," the Chief Minister said.

Congratulating USTM on the achievement also expressed gratitude to Union Health & Family Welfare Minister, J P Nadda and the officials in the Ministry of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, for their support and help said that the approval for 150 seat medical college has been achieved after a

lot of struggle and perseverance.

"I was a part of the process in 2008 when the USTM Bill was passed and the present USTM is a testimony of team work, values and leadership," he said.

"P A Sangma, believed in the investing in youth and that the greatest investment a government can make is in its youth because the results of such investments are unlimited," he said.

He added that lives of great leaders like Late P A Sangma, Late Dr Donkumar Roy etc are inspirational because they have stood out against all odds and difficulties of life.

Recalling the younger days of Late P A Sangma that he heard from his mother Soradini Sangma, the Chief Minister said, "Lives of people like P A

Sangma and Dr Donkumar Roy can inspire younger generations and it is important that the youth today not only remember their legacy but learn from their humble beginnings and their humility and the values and the principles these leaders stood for."

Congratulating USTM on the achievement and on the growth of the university, the Chief Minister said that there should be no compromise on quality and hard work and to set a bench mark for itself.

Earlier, Chancellor, USTM, Mahbul Hoque announced that a dental college will be established in the memory of former Chief Minister, Late Dr Donkumar Roy.

Students of the university presented colourful cultural performances to mark the celebratory occasion.

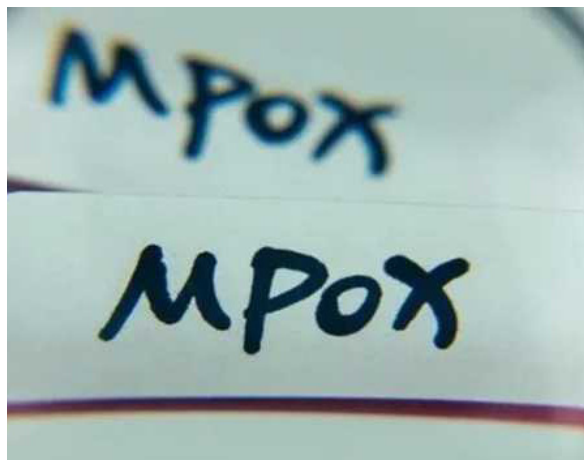
Africa CDC warns of mpox surveillance challenges as cases surpass 45k

AGENCIES
ADDIS ABABA, OCT. 26

The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has warned about existing challenges in mpox surveillance as the number of cases since this year have surpassed 45,000.

During an online media briefing Thursday evening, Africa CDC Director-General Jean Kaseya said that since the beginning of this year, a total of 18 African countries had reported 45,327 mpox cases, of which 9,114 were confirmed, while the number of deaths had surpassed the 1,000 mark.

Kaseya revealed that during the past week



alone, the African continent reported 2,729 new cases, of which 1,001 were confirmed, and 36 new deaths were recorded, with the Democratic Republic of the

Congo (DRC) and Burundi accounting for 96 percent of all new confirmed cases. Data from the Africa CDC show that the Central Africa region registered 85.5 percent of all report-

ed cases and 99.5 percent of deaths. Additionally, the number of cases reported so far this year has reflected a 400 percent increase compared to the entire 2023. Acknowledging a high acceptance of mpox vaccination in the DRC and Rwanda, Kaseya said all high-risk countries have completed plans and are preparing to vaccinate their population.

Meanwhile, the Africa CDC chief said five African countries, namely Cameroon, Gabon, Guinea, Rwanda and South Africa, have not reported any confirmed cases in the past four weeks, adding that no new deaths have been reported outside Central Africa since last week.

Mpox, also known as monkeypox, was first detected in laboratory monkeys in 1958. It is a rare viral disease typically spread through body fluids, respiratory droplets, and other contaminated materials. The infection usually causes fever, rash, and swollen lymph nodes. In mid-August, the Africa CDC declared the ongoing mpox outbreak in Africa a public health emergency of continental security. Soon after, the World Health Organization also declared mpox a public health emergency of international concern, activating its highest level of global alert for mpox for the second time in two years.

Apollo Cancer Centre organises Pink Defender Walkathon for breast cancer awareness

AGENCIES
HYDERABAD, OCT 27

Apollo Cancer Centres (ACC) in Hyderabad held the #PinkDefenderWalkathon on Saturday at Kasu Brahmananda Reddy National (KBR) Park, gathering over 100 male staff, including oncologists, nurses, and medical professionals, to raise breast cancer awareness.

The event highlighted the critical role men can play in breast cancer awareness, advocating for early detection and supporting

open conversations around breast health. Part of ACC's #TalkPink campaign, the walkathon urged men to ensure that women in their lives undergo regular screenings. Chief Guest C V Anand, Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad, flagged off the event, commending ACC's efforts to engage the community. "Breast cancer affects families, and men can play a key role by encouraging awareness and early detection. Initiatives like #TalkPink and #PinkDefenderWalkathon help foster open discus-

sions about breast health," he said. Dr Vijay Anand Reddy, Director of Apollo Cancer Centre, emphasized the importance of proactive health practices to reduce breast cancer mortality, while Dr. TPS Bhandari, Senior Consultant - Surgical Oncology, highlighted the campaign's goal of breaking the stigma around breast cancer. The #TalkPink campaign aims to inspire meaningful conversations within families and communities to work toward a future free of breast cancer-related deaths.

PM Modi, Spanish counterpart to launch C-295 aircraft facility in Vadodara on Monday

AGENCIES

GANDHINAGAR, OCT 26

Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with Spanish PM Pedro Sanchez will jointly inaugurate the TATA Aircraft Complex for manufacturing the C-295 aircraft, during his visit to Gujarat's Vadodara on Monday.

It will be the first private sector final assembly line for military aircraft in the country. It will involve the full development of a complete ecosystem from the manufacture to assembly, test and qualification, to delivery and maintenance of the complete lifecycle of the aircraft.

Under the C-295 programme, a total of 56 air-



craft will become part of the fleet, out of which 16 will be delivered directly by Airbus from Spain and the remaining 40 will be made in India. The manufacturing of aircraft

will be done at the TATA Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) Campus.

Apart from Tata, leading defence public sectors such as Bharat Electronics Ltd and Bharat Dynam-

ics Ltd, as well as private Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), will also contribute to this programme.

PM Modi will also inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of various development projects worth over Rs 4,900 crore in Amreli.

The key focus of these projects would be rail, road, water development and tourism sectors.

PM Modi is also slated to inaugurate Bharat Mata Sarovar in Amreli's Dudhala, developed on the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. The dam, which could hold 4.5 crore litres of water till now, will see its capacity enhanced to 24.5 crore litres of water

after the deepening and widening of the huge reservoir.

The PM will also inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of various road projects worth more than Rs 2,800 crore, which include four-laning of various sections of NH 151, NH 151A and NH 51 and the Junagadh bypass. The foundation stone for a four-laning project of the remaining section from the Dhrol bypass in Jamnagar district to Amran in Morbi district will also be laid.

PM Modi will dedicate to the nation, the Bhuj-Naliya rail gauge conversion project, completed at a cost of around Rs 1,100 crore.

India's development incomplete without tribal community's involvement: Prez Murmu

AGENCIES

Raipur, Oct 26

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday emphasised the essential role of the tribal community in India's progress, highlighting that the nation's development would be incomplete without their active involvement in it.

Speaking at the third and fourth joint convocation of IIT Bhilai in Chhattisgarh on Saturday, the President praised the contributions of IIT graduates through their innovative thinking and far-reaching vision, which she said had significantly propelled both India and the world forward.

Commending IIT Bhilai for its innovative facilities and use of natural resources, she said, "This is the

first convocation at this newly-developed campus with state-of-the-art teaching and research amenities. Its design integrates natural resources in a forward-thinking way."

She stressed the importance of learning from the tribal community's knowledge-rich, nature-centred lifestyle, noting, "Our tribal brothers and sisters are a reservoir of knowledge. Their natural way of life holds invaluable insights for sustainable development, and understanding and it can make significant contributions to India's growth."

President Murmu lauded IIT Bhilai's dedication to agri-tech, health-tech, and fintech initiatives for tribal development.

She highlighted an inno-

vative mobile health app developed by IIT Bhilai in collaboration with AIIMS-Raipur, which offers health advice to villagers directly in their homes.

Reflecting on the six-decade legacy of IITs, the President noted, "IITians have established a unique identity worldwide, leading major companies and shaping the global technology landscape. With fresh ideas and the latest technologies, IIT Bhilai and its students are poised to enhance India's global standing."

In addition to the mobile health initiative, the President praised IIT Bhilai's partnership with Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Raipur, aimed at creating technological solutions to support farmers in optimising their resources.

Tejashwi Yadav slams CM Nitish over 'ineffective' implementation of liquor ban in Bihar

AGENCIES

PATNA, OCT 26

Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in Bihar Assembly Tejashwi Yadav has intensified his criticism of the Nitish Kumar government over the "ineffective" implementation of the liquor ban in the state.

On Saturday, he accused the government of mishandling the ban, pointing out that during Nitish Kumar's first tenure, liquor shops were "opened in every panchayat before the eventual ban was imposed in 2016".

"Now (when) liquor vendors are officially closed, illegal home delivery (of liquor) has proliferated across the state," LoP Yadav said. Expressing concerns over recent deaths in Siwan, Saran and Gopalganj districts allegedly due to consumption of spurious liquor, he con-



demned the state government for "failing to address the issue or offer condolences to victims' families".

"The liquor smuggling continues unchecked, with small offenders being targeted while major smugglers operate with impunity," the LoP said.

He alleged that "this protection of larger players in the liquor trade enables the distribution of illicit liquor, resulting in tragic fatalities" across

the state.

"Despite these recurring incidents, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar remained silent and did not offer a message of condolence to the family members of the deceased," LoP Yadav said.

Commenting on the upcoming Assembly elections in Jharkhand, he expressed confidence that the INDIA bloc will form the government there.

He also predicted victory for the 'Mahagath-

bandhan' in the upcoming by-elections for four Assembly seats in Bihar.

Meanwhile, Bihar Congress MLA Ajit Sharma criticised the liquor ban, calling it a "complete failure".

He said that the ban has led to "unintended consequences like illegal home deliveries of alcohol".

Sharma accused government officials of colluding with smugglers to sell toxic liquor, which has led to numerous fatalities.

"Chief Minister Nitish Kumar should reconsider the ban. Why does the Chief Minister remain silent on these deaths and why do officials, allegedly working with smugglers, allow the illegal liquor trade to thrive? The liquor ban in Bihar has completely failed," he said, adding that the ban should be lifted to "prevent further harm".

Bengaluru collapse: Will demolish unauthorised and poor-quality buildings, says Dy CM Shivakumar

AGENCIES

BENGALURU, OCT 26

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Saturday said the drive to demolish unauthorised and substandard quality buildings was continuing in the state capital.

The drive has been taken up following the tragic incident of building collapse reported on Tuesday in Bengaluru resulting in the death of nine persons. The investigation has revealed that substandard work was the reason for the collapse and the construction was taken up illegally.

The probe also revealed that the authorities had washed away their hands after serving notice to the owner.

Addressing a joint press conference with CM Sid-



daramaiah at Vidhana Soudha after a meeting on rain damage, Shivakumar said: "We have decided to stop unauthorised construction of buildings."

"The previous government had curtailed the powers of officials to take action against unauthorised construction. Our government has decided to give powers to stop unauthorised construction to civic agencies - the BBMP, the BDA, and the BMRDA too. The registration of unauthorised properties will also be stopped.

At the same time, we are also focusing on clearing encroachments," he stated.

On criticism by the Opposition leaders about flood relief works, he said: "Two children drowned in a lake in Bengaluru and people died due to substandard construction. There have been no rain-related deaths in the city. We have placed the flood-affected people in hotels and have made arrangements for food. Our officials have worked 24x7."

Asked if there was a permanent solution for flooding, he said: "We have decided to build stormwater drains and develop roads along those stormwater drains. The roads alongside stormwater drains protect buildings in the area and also provide easy access to cleaning and desilting of stormwater drains. In the first phase, we would build such roads for 300 kilometres initially."

Asked what directions were given to DCs of the state during the meeting, he said, "We have instructed them to give compensation wherever there is damage to crops due to rains."

On the BJP's allegations that Congress was doing "politics of appeasement" by acquiring farmers' land through Wakf, he said he would not want to comment on that.

PM Modi to virtually inaugurate three medical colleges in MP on Oct 29

AGENCIES

BHOPAL, OCT 26

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually inaugurate three new medical colleges, three nursing colleges and primary health care centres in Madhya Pradesh on October 29, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav announced on Saturday.

During an interaction with the media at the BJP headquarters in Bhopal, Yadav informed that PM Modi will inaugurate three medical colleges in Shivani, Neemach, and Mandasaur districts.

He said the development is part of the state government's commitment to strengthen the healthcare system of Madhya Pradesh.

"Besides medical colleges, three newly established nursing col-



leges and primary care units will also be virtually inaugurated by PM Modi on October 29," Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said.

Yadav further stated that he will attend the programme (inauguration) in Mandasaur, while Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel will be present in Shivani. Some other ministers will be attending the programme in Neemach.

Notably, it would be the second project PM Modi will be inaugurating in Madhya Pradesh within a span of 10 days.

Earlier, on October 20, he had virtually inaugurated newly established Airport in Rewa district of Vindhya region.

Joining the launch of the airport in Rewa, CM Mohan Yadav announced that for the next month, passengers between Rewa and Bhopal will fly at Rs 999 fare only under the PM Narendra Modi's dedicated flight scheme.

Yadav further said, "While Rewa will get a series of domestic passenger flights in the coming weeks and months, the new airport will also have cargo flights in the future. As per the plan for the Rewa Airport, big planes will also take off and land here in the coming times."

India's ties with West Asian countries transformed under PM Modi, says EAM Jaishankar

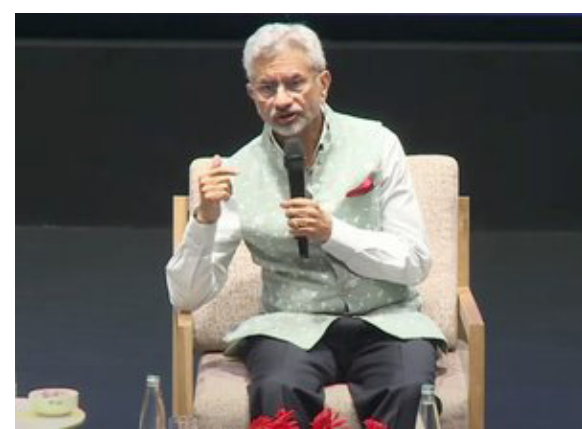
AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, OCT 26

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday emphasised the remarkable transformation in India's relations with West Asian countries since Prime Minister Narendra Modi took office in 2014.

Addressing the gathering at Flame University, Pune, EAM Jaishankar highlighted the proactive diplomatic efforts that have strengthened ties with nations that were historically less engaged with India. One notable example is the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where PM Modi's visit in 2015 marked only the second time an Indian Prime Minister had travelled there, following late PM Indira Gandhi.

EAM Jaishankar pointed out that before this, there



was minimal effort to engage the UAE, despite its proximity.

He explained that while India shares a complex history with its neighbours, recent developments have prompted countries to reassess their relationships with New Delhi, particularly in light of China's growing influence.

"Countries are looking

to optimise their relationships," Jaishankar noted, acknowledging that many neighbours have turned to China for advantages.

He emphasised India's emerging status as a competitive economic power, poised to become the third-largest economy in the coming years.

Focussing on the Maldives, EAM Jaishankar

stated that India plays a crucial role in meeting the island nation's essential needs, offering special trade concessions that are unique to the Maldives.

He highlighted successful Indian projects, including the Jal Jeevan Mission, which provides piped water and sanitation facilities to numerous Maldivian islands.

EAM Jaishankar recently inaugurated water and sewerage projects on 26 islands, illustrating India's commitment to strengthening its presence and influence in the region.

He further asserted that the most pressing issue with China is disengagement and the second one is de-escalation.

"If I can roll that back a bit, since 2020, the situation at the border has been very disturbed,

which has understandably had a very negative impact on the overall relationship with China. Since September 2020, we have been negotiating with the Chinese on how to find a solution. There are different aspects to the solution, but the most pressing issue is disengagement, as the troops are very close to each other, and the possibility of an incident is significant. So that is the first set of issues.

"Then there is de-escalation. Then there is a larger issue of how you manage the border and how you negotiate the boundaries. Right now, whatever is happening in China is happening due to the first part which is disengagement. We were trying to negotiate patrolling issues at the India-China border," he added.

Ongoing hostilities are to nobody's benefit, asserts India after Israeli airstrikes on Iran

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, OCT 26

India on Saturday said that it remains "deeply concerned" by the evolving escalation in West Asia and its ramifications for peace and stability in the region and beyond.

"We reiterate our call to all concerned to exercise restraint and return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy. The ongoing hostilities are to nobody's benefit, even as innocent hostages and civilian

populations continue to suffer," read a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

"Our Missions in the region are in contact with the Indian community," it added.

New Delhi's reaction came after the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) announced earlier in the day that they had successfully completed "precise and targeted strikes" against multiple military targets in Iran that posed an immediate threat to

Israel.

These strikes, conducted in three waves in collaboration with the Israeli Air Force (IAF), took place early Saturday in response to a ballistic missile attack on October 1, revealed IDF spokesman, Brigadier General Daniel Hagar.

"Our message is clear: anyone who threatens the State of Israel and strives to drag the region into a wider escalation will pay a heavy price. We proved today that we have the ability to act decisively,



and that we are ready, in attack and defense, to protect the State of Israel and the citizens of Israel," said Hagar.

He added: "The IDF has fulfilled its mission. Should the Iranian regime make the mistake of initiating a new escalation, we will

respond."

Several countries, including from the Middle East, have called for the earliest possible normalization of the military and political situation in the region while urging all parties involved to prevent the situation from developing into a catastrophic scenario.

Qatar, Jordan, UAE and Saudi Arabia condemned the Israeli airstrikes, expressing deep concern over the continued escalation and its repercussions

on security and stability in the region.

The countries urged all concerned parties to exercise restraint, resolve disputes through dialogue and peaceful means, and avoid anything that could destabilise security and stability in West Asia.

The countries also called on the international community and influential and active parties to carry out their roles and responsibilities towards reducing escalation and ending the conflicts in the region.

"The Kingdom affirms its unwavering position in its rejection of the continued escalation in the region and the expansion of the conflict that threatens the security and stability of the countries and people of the region.

The Kingdom urges all parties to exercise the utmost restraint and reduce escalation, and warns of the consequences of continuing military conflicts in the region," said the foreign ministry of Saudi Arabia.

3.7 million children under five in Sudan at risk of acute malnutrition: UN agencies

AGENCIES
KHARTOUM, OCT 26

Two United Nations agencies have said that 3.7 million children under five in Sudan are at risk of acute malnutrition, warning of a worsening humanitarian crisis across the country.

"There are 3.7 million children under five projected to suffer from severe acute malnutrition this year alone and (they) are in urgent need of life-saving treatment," the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) said in a joint statement late Friday.

According to the statement, "These children are already weakened by hunger. If not reached

soon, these children are 11 times more likely to die from preventable diseases than their healthier peers in Sudan."

"The humanitarian crisis in Sudan continues to spiral, with millions of people in desperate need of assistance," UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Operations Raouf Mazou and UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Ted Chaiban were quoted in the statement as saying.

The two UN officials stressed that a key issue in delivering critical aid has been ensuring safe, unimpeded access to communities in need across Sudan, Xinhua news agency reported.

They said UN agen-

cies responsible for the delivery of aid and the provision of technical assistance need to be permitted by government authorities to have a sustained presence in all affected communities.

According to the statement, Sudan is now "home to one of the world's largest and most pressing displacement crises," in which over 11 million people were displaced, both internally and across borders, while millions more, particularly children, were pushed into extreme vulnerability.

"An estimated 13 million people are facing acute levels of food insecurity. Fourteen regions across the country are teetering

on the brink of famine," the statement said.

Access to basic services such as safe water, healthcare, and shelter is severely limited, it added, stressing that the international response must intensify immediately to match the overwhelming scale of need.

The two agencies reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the people of Sudan and all those impacted by the conflict, calling for sustained international backing, including attention to a political way to address the conflict.

They stressed that the protection of civilians must be paramount, saying, "We urgently call on all parties to the con-

flict to respect international humanitarian law and prioritize the protection of civilians, who continue to face unimaginable suffering."

According to the UN, half of Sudan's population, or about 25 million people, need humanitarian assistance and protection.

Sudan has been ravaged by a deadly conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces since mid-April 2023.

According to a situation report issued by the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project on October 14, the conflict has resulted in more than 24,850 deaths.

EU's foreign policy chief reiterates call for ceasefire in Lebanon

AGENCIES
BRUSSELS, OCT 26

The European Union (EU) recognises the urgent need for seven steps to address the ongoing conflict in Lebanon, said Josep Borrell, the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

His statement follows the Conference in Support of the Lebanese People and Sovereignty, held in France on Thursday, where pledges totaling \$1 billion were made for humanitarian assistance and support for Lebanese security forces, Xinhua news agency reported.

He said that the situation in Lebanon is extremely grave and needs urgent and massive efforts to put an end to the military confrontation



between Hezbollah and Israel, which is causing immense suffering to the civilian population and destroying the Lebanese social fabric. "The first step is a ceasefire: without a suspension of hostilities, nothing will be possible," Borrell emphasised.

Other necessary steps include the organisation of a presidential election, restoring Lebanon's sovereignty over its territory, and enhancing the mandate of the United Nations

Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Furthermore, the provision of unconditional emergency humanitarian aid to the Lebanese people, along with robust economic support following the election of a new president, is crucial. "We are currently racing against time between the potential start of a political process in Lebanon and a widespread conflagration with incalculable consequences," Borrell said.

50 killed in Sudan paramilitary attack: Non-governmental groups

AGENCIES
KHARTOUM, OCT 26

More than 50 people were killed and over 200 injured in an attack by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on a village in central Sudan, according to non-governmental groups.

"On Friday morning, the RSF militia heavily shelled and bombed Alseriha village of Al Kamlin locality," said the resistance committee, a volunteer group in Wad Madani, the capital city of the Gezira state, Xinhua news agency reported.

"More than 53 citizens of Alseriha village were



killed and over 200 others injured and some of them are in a critical condition," it added.

Since dawn Friday, an RSF force stormed Alseriha village of Al Kamlin locality, north of Gezira State, set up its weapons and cannons on top of high buildings, and start-

ed shooting at unarmed citizens, said the Gezira Conference, a non-governmental group, in a statement.

Sudan's Foreign Ministry condemned the RSF's "retaliatory campaigns" against the villages and cities of Gezira state in a statement on Friday.

ed shooting at unarmed citizens, said the Gezira Conference, a non-governmental group, in a statement.

Sudan's Foreign Ministry condemned the RSF's "retaliatory campaigns" against the villages and cities of Gezira state in a statement on Friday.

US election: Harris rolls out stars, celebs in final phase of campaign

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON, OCT 26

It was Beyonce on Friday, Bruce Springsteen on Thursday and Eminem on Wednesday. US Vice President Kamala Harris' campaign is trotting out celebrities in these final days of the race for the White House in the hope of reaching out to the undecided voters, turnout voters and keep the momentum going.

Former President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle Obama, considered royalty in the Democratic party, have also been deployed by the Harris campaign. Obama joined both Eminem and Springsteen for their appearances while Michelle Obama will show up with Harris later



on Saturday in Michigan. Singer John Legend will take the stage for Harris on Sunday in Pennsylvania and the band Mumford & Sons later next week.

"I'm not here as a celebrity," Beyonce, the pop

icon, said at a Harris rally in Houston, Texas. "I'm not here as a politician. I'm here as a mother, a mother who cares deeply about the world my children and all of our children live in."

The Houston rally in the Republican stronghold of Texas was focused on abortion rights, a leading issue for the Harris campaign.

"Imagine our daughters growing up seeing what's possible with no ceilings, no limitations," she added. "Imagine our grandmothers, imagine what they feel right now."

Beyonce has supported Democrats but is not known to deliver remarks at rallies. She had signalled support for Harris by allowing her campaign to use her song "Freedom" to open her rallies.

The Harris campaign's Thursday star parade in Atlanta in battleground state Georgia included Springsteen, of course, but also comedian Tyler Perry, filmmaker Spike Lee and

actor Samuel L. Jackson. After performing "The Promised Land", Springsteen told the audience he is backing Harris because he wants a president who "reverses" the Constitution.

"There is only one candidate in this election who holds those principles dear, Kamala Harris. She's running to be the 47th president of the United States. Donald Trump is running to be an American tyrant," he added.

The Trump campaign was not impressed with the star turnout. "Relying on celebrities is nothing new for the party of Hollywood elites -- and as voters realise the depths of Kamala's incompetence and radicalism, she needs an added draw," it said in a statement.

actor Samuel L. Jackson.

After performing "The Promised Land", Springsteen told the audience he is backing Harris because he wants a president who "reverses" the Constitution. "There is only one candidate in this election who holds those principles dear, Kamala Harris. She's running to be the 47th president of the United States. Donald Trump is running to be an American tyrant," he added.

The Trump campaign was not impressed with the star turnout. "Relying on celebrities is nothing new for the party of Hollywood elites -- and as voters realise the depths of Kamala's incompetence and radicalism, she needs an added draw," it said in a statement.

Russia reacts to Israeli airstrikes on Iran, terms it as 'explosive escalation'

AGENCIES
MOSCOW, OCT 26

Russia on Saturday called for the earliest possible normalization of the military and political situation in the Middle East, urging all parties involved to prevent the situation from developing into a catastrophic scenario.

"We remain deeply concerned about the ongoing explosive escalation between Israel and Iran, which creates real threats to stability and security in the region. We are ready to work with all parties to reduce the level of confrontation... We must stop provoking Iran to respond and get out of the spiral of uncontrolled escalation," said Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova in a media

briefing.

The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) announced earlier in the day that they had successfully completed "precise and targeted strikes" against multiple military targets in Iran that posed an immediate threat to Israel.

These strikes, conducted in three waves in collaboration with the Israeli Air Force (IAF), took place early Saturday in response to a ballistic missile attack on October 1, revealed IDF spokesman, Brigadier General Daniel Hagar.

Zakharova spotlighted that the IAF carried out airstrikes on a number of military facilities in the Iranian provinces of Tehran, Ilam and Khuzestan, in coordination with the United States.

"According to the Irani-



an side, a significant portion of the aerial bombs could have been intercepted by the country's air defence systems, which were on high alert. Apart from information about two Iranian servicemen, there were no reports of other casualties or injuries, primarily among the civilian population, includ-

ing Russians living in Iran," she mentioned. "It is obvious that its root causes lie in the unresolved Palestinian-Israeli conflict based on the well-known decisions of the UN Security Council and General Assembly, which provokes ever-increasing tension," the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesper-

son added.

Moscow also emphasised that it remains deeply concerned about the escalation of violence in Lebanon.

"There have been numerous reports of civilian casualties as a result of massive indiscriminate attacks on densely populated residential areas of Beirut and other Lebanese cities by the Israeli armed forces. Among the killed and wounded civilians are a large number of journalists and media workers," said Zakharova.

She mentioned, that according to information available, on the night of October 25, the Israeli Air Force carried out airstrikes on a residential area of the city of Hasbaya in southern Lebanon, killing two employees of the

Al-Mayadeen TV channel and a cameraman from the Al-Manar TV channel. Other media representatives were also wounded during the attack.

"It is absolutely clear that the Al-Mayadeen TV channel and its employees are the target of targeted attacks.

This is another clear example of the desire of the Israeli military to eradicate any sources of alternative points of view on the events taking place in the region at any cost, without disdaining any means or methods," remarked Zakharova.

The Russian MFA detailed that, since the beginning of the military operation in the Gaza Strip, about 140 media workers have died in the line of duty.

UN steps up efforts to deliver aid in Lebanon amid fighting

AGENCIES
UNITED NATIONS, OCT 26

The United Nations and its partners in Lebanon are stepping up their efforts to reach people in need amid continued fighting, a UN spokesperson said.

A humanitarian convoy, comprised of UN agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and supported by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), delivered critical aid to Nabatieh Governorate on Friday, including ready-to-eat meals, hygiene kits, and solar lamps.

So far this month, the United Nations has sent assistance by eight humanitarian convoys to people in hard-to-reach



parts of Lebanon, according to OCHA.

Also in south Lebanon, the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) has provided essential supplies to support emergency repairs of water facilities damaged by bombardment, which has affected more than 360,000 people, Xinhua news agency reported.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organisation (WHO) supported Lebanese health authorities in vaccinating displaced children against polio, measles, mumps and rubella.

Polls show tie as Harris appears to slip; 2 US dailies refuse to endorse candidates

AGENCIES
NEW YORK, OCT 26

Underscoring the uncertainty hanging over the presidential election ten days away, two major newspapers, The Washington Post and The Los Angeles Times, have decided in a break from tradition not to endorse either Vice President Kamala Harris or former President Donald Trump.

Two separate polls by The New York Times and CNN released on Friday have them locked in a tie.

The Times poll showed them both at 48 per cent, with Harris' lead of 3 per cent in a poll earlier this month vanishing, although it was - like the latest - within the margin of error.

Analysing the poll, the Times ominously wrote, "The result, coming less than two weeks before Election Day, and as millions of Americans have already voted, is not encouraging for Ms Harris".

The CNN poll had them tied at 47 per cent. The RealClearPolling, the authoritative poll aggregator showed that Harris' lead shrank to 0.2 per cent on Friday from the 2 per cent on October 1.

Tellingly, the Times opinion section which is tilted towards Harris, ran an essay on Friday by a highly regarded election statistics analyst declaring that his "gut" feeling is that Trump is going to win.

Nate Silver, who runs the FiveThirtyEight web-

site that was with the Times and is now in the ABC News stable, wrote, "My gut says Donald Trump. And my guess is that it is true for many anxious Democrats."

He added the caveat, "In an election where the seven battleground states are all polling within a percentage point or two, 50-50 is the only responsible forecast."

If the polls are correct - a big IF given their failure in 2016 when they predicted a Hillary Clinton victory - it would appear that neither Harris nor Trump have managed a breakthrough with their intensive campaigns.

Polls showing a setback for a candidate can also have the effect of the base redoubling its efforts and



making a late hour impact. Harris calling Trump a "fascist" and a threat to democracy, and hammering away on his age, his character, his lies, and his instability has not made an impact.

Nor had her stand on nationally legalising abortion or her moderating her policies moving towards the centre, shown any effect.

The star power -- Taylor Swift, Beyonce, and Leonardo DiCaprio among others -- she has deployed hasn't yet turned things around.

Trump calling her a "Communist" and also a threat to democracy, nailing her to President Joe Biden's failures, and harping on illegal migration and inflation, failed to move the needle signifi-

cantly. Besides the two newspapers, Teamsters, the powerful transportation workers' union with 1.4 million members, refused to endorse either candidate even though the majority of workers supported Trump in an internal poll.

The Washington Post's editorials have been critical of Trump and it had endorsed his opponents, Hillary Clinton in 2016 and Joe Biden in 2020.

The Post's publisher, Will Lewis wrote, "We are returning to our roots of not endorsing presidential candidates."

The paper probably had not dished out endorsements till 1952 when it backed Dwight Eisenhower and began regularly

endorsing only since 1976 when it backed Jimmy Carter.

Lewis asserted that the action was neither a "tacit endorsement" nor a "condemnation" of either candidate and said, "We also see it as a statement in support of our readers' ability to make up their own minds".

The newspaper's union blamed the Post's billionaire owner, Jeff Bezos who founded Amazon, for the decision.

"According to our reporters and Guild members, an endorsement for Harris was already drafted, and the decision to not publish was made by The Post's owner, Jeff Bezos", it said in a post on X.

The Los Angeles Times is owned by another bil-

lionaire, Patrick Soon-Shiong, a pharmaceutical inventor and the founder of a network of medical and Artificial Intelligence startups.

Defending his decision against an endorsement, he said that he had asked the Editorial Board to write an editorial giving "side-by-side" analysis on the candidates' position, but it had not followed up.

The newspaper's union also criticised the decision and added that Soon-Shiong was unfairly putting the blame on the editorial staff.

Both the newspapers are privately held by businessmen who had swooped in with their hundreds of millions to save foundering newspapers.

India's diverse talent to use AI for societal growth: Meta's chief AI scientist

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 26

India's diverse talent will help artificial intelligence (AI) become a powerful tool for societal growth, Meta's Chief AI Scientist, Dr Yann LeCun, has stressed.

A pioneer in the field of AI, Dr LeCun said India has a key role to play in the AI era "because of the size of the population, its diversity of cultures and value systems".

Speaking at a panel discussion at IIT Delhi, he envisioned smart glasses helping rural farmers interact with AI in their local dialects, with real-time subtitles.



The chief scientist also spoke about future models using Meta LLaMA 3, which could support India's official languages and translate non-written languages – all made possible through open-source technology.

"The future of AI depends on collaboration and innovation. With India's official languages and new architectures, open-source contributions, and India's diverse talent, AI can become a powerful

tool for societal growth, empowering individuals and solving real-world challenges," he told the gathering at the discussion presented by IIT Delhi in collaboration with Meta and the Principal Scientific Advisor to the government.

IIT Delhi Director Professor Rangan Banerjee spoke about the institute's initiatives in human-AI interface research and the Centre for Healthcare – a collaboration between AIIMS and IIT Delhi aimed at advancing healthcare through AI.

Challenging the current approaches to AI development, Dr. Yann urged for innovative architectures

beyond large language models (LLMs). He argued that current AI paradigms are insufficient to achieve true human-like intelligence.

"We are not going to reach that stage by using the current paradigm and just making it bigger. We need essentially new architectures like objective-driven architecture," he noted.

Addressing concerns about AI safety, he dismissed fears of intelligent systems dominating humans.

"The future of AI is a future in which everyone will be walking around with an assistant digitally like smart glasses," he said.

Silver may touch Rs 1.25 lakh a kg in next 12-15 months, outperform gold: Report

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, OCT 26

Silver could either match or outperform gold in the medium to long term, and is likely to reach Rs 1,25,000 per kg on COMEX and \$40 on COMEX in the next 12 to 15 months, a report showed on Saturday.

Recently, silver has shown impressive performance, gaining more than 40 per cent (year-to-date) and breaching Rs 100,000 on the domestic front, fuelled by safe-haven buying and robust industrial demand, according to the report by Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd (MOFSL).

MOFSL has also set targets for gold of Rs 81,000 in the medium term and



Oswal Financial Services. Two key factors underpinning this year's rally in precious metals are expectations of rate cuts from the Federal Reserve and rising geopolitical tensions, particularly in the Middle East.

Regardless of shifting narratives or market volatility, one constant remains – gold has historically served as a reliable store of value during uncertain times.

According to the report, if one had invested in gold during Diwali 2019, they would be enjoying 103 per cent returns on their domestic gold investments by this Diwali. Since 2011, there have only been two instances (2015 and 2016) where the 30 days leading up to Diwali recorded negative returns.

Premium FMCG brands see growth surge in India, constitute 50 pc of e-commerce sales

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, OCT 26

As private consumption surges especially in the rural parts of the country, premium brands in FMCG are consistently growing – approximately twice as fast as their non-premium counterparts – and 50 per cent of e-commerce sales stem from the premium and luxury segment, according to a new report.

Similar trends are observed in the tech and durables sector, driven by increasing income levels, urbanisation, smartphone penetration and a more aspirational consumer base, as per findings by NielsenIQ (NIQ), a leading consumer intelligence company.



Notably, smaller manufacturers or emerging brands in this space are registering faster growth in premium and luxury products compared to larger industry players.

Roosevelt Dsouza, Commercial Head-India, NielsenIQ, said they are observing an increasing convergence of aspirational consumer prefer-

ences with higher disposable incomes, as well as the presence and access to premium products.

"This shift is driven by digital platforms, contributing to nearly half of the sales. Market mix, channel diversity, and new entrants will further drive the adoption of premiumisation in the future," Dsouza mentioned.

CENTRE JOINS HCLSOFTWARE TO BOOST STARTUP MANUFACTURING ECOSYSTEM

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 26

In a bid to transform the startup manufacturing ecosystem, the government has formed a strategic partnership with HCLSoftware, a global leader in software solutions.

Under the 'Manufacturing Incubation Initiative,' startups will have access to the 'HCL SYNC programme for global market exposure, allowing them to showcase their products and services worldwide, thus taking Indian innovation to an international audience.

The collaboration marks a substantial step forward in advancing the Indian manufacturing sector, sup-



porting the nation's goal of establishing itself as a national production hub, said the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

"Through this collaboration, innovation will

flourish and Indian businesses will gain a stronger foothold on the global stage," said DPIIT Joint Secretary Sanjiv Singh.

He reaffirmed DPIIT's commitment to fostering and promoting the

nation's manufacturing ecosystem by motivating and supporting product startups, innovators and entrepreneurs.

This collaboration will significantly contribute to the realisation of India's 'Make in India' initiative and position India as a global manufacturing hub.

"This initiative's objectives include developing Indian intellectual property by encouraging startups to create unique products and solutions tailored to India, improving product quality by providing startups with the tools and expertise to produce world-class products that meet global standards, and building a robust manufacturing ecosystem

by establishing a network of interconnected startups and supporting the full manufacturing value chain," said DPIIT.

According to Kalyan Kumar, Chief Product Officer at HCLSoftware, the move is a pivotal moment in India's manufacturing journey.

Kumar said the company would exhaust all efforts to foster innovation and economic growth, contributing significantly to India's vision of becoming a global manufacturing powerhouse.

Under the 'Startup India' initiative, DPIIT has signed over 80 memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with industry stakeholders to date.

Broadband users in India reach 949.21 mn in August, 14.66 mn opt for number portability

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 26

The total number of broadband subscribers in India increased from 946.19 million in July to 949.21 million at the end of August, a monthly growth rate of 0.32 per cent, according to the government data on Saturday.

Total wireless subscribers decreased from 1,169.61 million at the end of July to 1,163.83 million at the end of August, thereby registering a monthly decline rate of 0.49 per cent, according to a Ministry of Communications statement.

Wireless subscription in urban areas decreased from 635.46 million to 633.21 million and wireless



subscription in rural areas also decreased from 534.15 million to 530.63 million during the same period.

Monthly decline rate of urban and rural wireless

subscription was 0.35 per cent and 0.66 per cent, respectively.

The private access service providers held 92 per cent market share of

the wireless subscribers whereas BSNL and MTNL, the two PSU access service providers, had a market share of only 8 per cent.

In the month of August, 14.66 million subscribers submitted their requests for mobile number portability (MNP).

With this, the cumulative MNP requests increased from 1,011.13 million at the end of July to 1,025.78 million at the end of August, since the implementation of MNP, the data showed.

The number of machine-to-machine (M2M) cellular mobile connections increased from 53.67 million at the end of July to 54.07 million at the end of August. Bharti Airtel has the high-

est number of M2M cellular mobile connections at 28.41 million with a market share of 52.54 per cent, according to the data.

The number of total telephone subscribers in India decreased from 1,205.17 million to 1,200.07 million, showing a monthly decline rate of 0.42 per cent.

Meanwhile, wireline subscribers increased from 35.56 million to 36.23 million with a monthly rate of growth 1.90 per cent.

The share of urban and rural subscribers in total wireline subscribers were 92.09 per cent and 7.91 per cent, respectively. BSNL, MTNL and APSFL held 24.57 per cent of the wireline market share.

ICICI Bank clocks 14.5 pc net profit growth at Rs 11,746 crore in Q2 FY25

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, OCT 26

ICICI Bank on Saturday reported a 14.5 per cent growth in net profit to Rs 11,746 crore (year-on-year) in Q2 FY25, from Rs 10,261 crore in the year-ago quarter.

The private sector lender's net interest income (NII) increased by 9.5 per cent to Rs 20,048 crore, in Q2 2025 from Rs 18,308 crore in the same quarter last year.

Average deposits grew by 15.6 per cent year-on-year to Rs 14,28,095 crore (as on September 30). Net NPA ratio was 0.42 per cent at September 30, compared to 0.43 per cent at June 30, the bank said in its financial results. The net additions to gross



NPAs, excluding write-offs and sales, were Rs 1,754 crore in Q2 2025 compared to Rs 2,624 crore in Q1 2025.

The ICICI Bank has written off gross NPAs amounting to Rs 3,336 crore in Q2 2025. The provisioning coverage ratio on nonperforming loans was 78.5 per cent on September 30.

According to the ICICI Bank, the domestic loan portfolio grew by 15.7 per cent (year-on-year) Rs 12,43,090 crore. Total period-end depos-

its increased by 15.7 per cent (year-on-year) and 5.0 per cent sequentially to Rs 14,97,761 crore (on September 30, 2024). Period-end term deposits increased by 15.9 per cent year-on-year and 5.5 per cent sequentially to Rs 8,89,038 crore.

The annualised premium equivalent of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance (ICICI Life) was Rs 4,467 crore in H1 FY25 as compared to Rs 3,523 crore in H1 FY24, according to the ICICI Bank.

Must take action on hoax bomb threats to airlines, IT Ministry tells social media platforms

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, OCT 26

Amid the unabated hoax bomb threats to airlines via global Internet platforms, the Centre on Saturday directed social media intermediaries like Elon Musk-headed X and Meta to ensure due diligence and promptly remove misinformation that affects public order and security of the state.

Indian airlines have received more than 100 hoax bomb threats in a few days, forcing delays and emergency landings. "Considering the serious nature of the situation, the Ministry of

Electronics and Information Technology reminds with emphasis that all the intermediaries including social media intermediaries must make reasonable efforts to disallow such malicious acts including hoax bomb threats from being disseminated on their platforms," read the advisory.

The advisory further stated that the intermediaries including social media intermediaries must observe their due diligence obligations that include the prompt removal or disabling access to such unlawful information specified under the IT Rules, 2021, including hoax bomb threats, well

within the strict timelines as prescribed under the IT Rules, 2021.

Apart from removing or disabling access to such misinformation under the IT Rules, 2021 as part of the reasonable efforts to be undertaken, "there is an additional liability on concerned intermediaries under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNS) to mandatory report certain offences perceived to be committed by any user of their platform that includes, among others, any act with the intent to threaten or likely to threaten the unity, integrity, sovereignty, security, or economic security of India".

Rajasthan CM Bhajan Lal Sharma inaugurates renovated Terminal-1 of Jaipur airport

AGENCIES
JAIPUR, OCT 26

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma on Saturday inaugurated the renovated and upgraded Terminal-1 of the Jaipur International Airport, saying the facility reopened after almost 11 years is set to benefit tourists as well as investors.

Speaking on the occasion, the Rajasthan Chief Minister said: "The inauguration of the airport's international Terminal-1 is a symbol of the development and progress of the state. The facility will provide better services to the

passengers with modern facilities and will play an important role in attracting international investment in Rajasthan."

Jaipur MP Manju Sharma; Jeet Adani, Director of Adani Airports; Arun Bansal, CEO, Adani Airport Holdings Limited, along with officials and dignitaries of Jaipur International Airport were present.

Noting that the Jaipur International Airport is playing a significant role in Rajasthan's development journey, CM Sharma said that passenger handling capacity would also increase in the coming

times, creating employment opportunities for the youths of the state.

The Chief Minister said that Terminal-1 with a heritage look will give a glimpse of the beautiful culture and tradition of the state to the international tourists coming to Jaipur. "When guests from all over the world will come to Jaipur for the Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit to be held from December 9-11, they will get to witness this beautiful terminal," he said. CM Sharma further said that during the international meets related to Rising Rajasthan

Summit, he requested the officials in various countries to arrange direct flights of their airlines to and from Jaipur.

The Terminal-1 of Jaipur airport, with a blend of modern and traditional appearance, is a confluence of development and heritage.

A total of 10 immigration counters have been set up in the departure area and 14 in the arrival area.

There will also be 10 check-in counters.

Apart from this, passengers will get facilities like duty-free outlets, a medical room, 24-hour

ambulance service and a lounge.

CM Sharma said that the state government is continuously working to strengthen the aviation sector in Rajasthan.

"It is our endeavor to ensure easy access to every part of the state by air, just like road and rail. For this, helipads will be constructed in all the border districts of the state as well as all the district headquarters and other important places to facilitate air travel," he said, adding that the state government is getting a full support of the Centre in this regard.

ISL 2024-25: Hyderabad FC ride on Paulista's brace to beat Mohammedan SC 4-0

AGENCIES
KOLKATA, OCTOBER 26:

A brace of goals by Allan Paulista and one each from Stefan Sapic and Parag Shrivas helped Hyderabad FC hammer Mohammedan SC 4-0 to register their first win of the 2024-25 season of the Indian Super League (ISL) at the Kishore Bharati Krirangan here on Saturday. On a night in which the hosts took the field in search of their maiden home win, Paulista scored a brilliant brace with Sapic and Shrivas also joining the goal-scoring bonanza.

Thangboi Singto's men initiated the groundwork for a brilliant win when Allan Paulista capitalized on Padam Chettri's mistake to hand the visitors an early lead in the fourth minute. The Brazilian was lurking in the penalty area when Padam failed to clear his lines following a pass from Florent Ogier.

Paulista saw the opportunity and tucked it past the goalkeeper. Hyderabad FC piled more pressure on Mohammedan SC's backline and they were duly rewarded in the 12th



minute when Stefan Sapic rose the highest to head home the second goal from a Cy Goddard corner.

Hyderabad FC's onslaught kept going as the hosts were unable to match their intensity and left acres of space in midfield. Three minutes after the second goal, Paulista added another to his tally after Parag Shrivas found the Brazilian unmarked in the final third.

The 25-year-old hammered the ball home,

beating Padam all ends up. Hyderabad FC scripted history as they raced to a 3-0 lead in just 14 minutes and 38 seconds which is the second-fastest in ISL history. Hyderabad FC could have extended their lead when Andrei Alba found himself in space right at the edge of the penalty area. But the Brazilian scuffed his shot wide.

In the first half, Mohammedan SC were slower to react to second balls, they left plenty of space while

defending and lacked that spark in attack. Despite having the lion's share of possession they went into the break trailing 3-0 at home. The second half saw Mohammedan SC tactician Andrey Chernyshov turn to his bench as he brought on Cesar Manzoki, Mohammed Irshad, and Makan Chothe to solidify all three departments. Despite the changes, the visitors added another goal to their scoresheet in the 51st minute when Parag

Shrivas combined with Alba to produce a long-range missile. The young defender swerved the ball straight into the top right corner, leaving Padam and Mohammedan SC backline completely bamboozled. It was a special moment for the youngster as he scored his maiden ISL goal.

Right after conceding their fourth goal, the hosts had a great chance to pull one back when Manzoki found himself in space in the box but his subsequent effort struck the post. Later Bikash Singh saw his chance go begging following Alexis Gomez's excellent cross.

In the last 20 minutes of the game, Mohammedan SC threw bodies forward in search of goals but unfortunately, it was just not their night as Hyderabad FC registered their second clean sheet and first win of the season.

After this win, Hyderabad FC will host Mohun Bagan Super Giant on October 30. Meanwhile, Mohammedan SC will be in action again in the Kolkata Derby against East Bengal on November 9 in an away fixture.

2nd Test: Really special feeling, proud to be in this position, says Tom Latham after NZ win series

AGENCIES
PUNE, OCT 26

Six days after New Zealand gave immense joy to a country of over five million residents by winning the title in the 2024 Women's T20 World Cup, it was the turn of the Tom Latham-led Test team to bring more happiness with a 113-run win over India giving them their first-ever series win in the country.

After New Zealand bagged a historic triumph in Pune and grabbed an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series, Latham was understandably jubilant.

"Really special feeling. Proud to be in this position. Whole team effort and a clear example of everyone pitching in. When you come over here you want to put your best foot forward. Putting runs on the board at the start was really important," Latham said after the match ended.

The chief architect of New Zealand's win was left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner, who took



7-53 in the first innings and rattled the Indian chase by picking 6-104 in a relentless and uninterrupted spell of 29 overs to finish with match figures of 13-157, the third-best match figures for a bowler from his country in Tests.

"Have to mention Mitch Santner. He was fantastic. Has been around the group a long time, and to finally get a break and bowl the way he has - credit to him. It was about trying to stick to our basics and play the long game," he said. "Both surfaces have been different, we've needed to adapt and we've done that very well. The method we played with last night - to put ourselves on the front foot - was terrific. The way

Glenn Phillips played this morning was really important," added Latham.

Opener Yashvi Jaiswal was blazing in his 65-ball 77 to raise hopes for a miraculous Indian win, but New Zealand held their calm to conjure up the unthinkable and give the hosts their first series loss at home since December 2012.

"We knew India were going to come out hot. Didn't realise they were going to come that hot, but we managed to get the breakthroughs in the middle session. Those last two wickets took an age but when Tim took that catch we were really happy," concluded Latham.

Sultan of Johor Cup: India colts bag bronze with thrilling shoot-out win over New Zealand

AGENCIES
JOHOR BAHRU (MALAYSIA), OCT 26

India Colts ended their campaign at the prestigious Sultan of Johor Cup junior men's hockey tournament with a bronze medal after they beat New Zealand 2-2 (3-2) in a thrilling shoot-out here on Saturday. India's goalkeeper Bikramjit Singh held his nerves to make three excellent saves while strikers Gurjot Singh, Manmeet Singh and Sourabh Anand Kushwaha scored in the tense shoot-out.

Earlier in regulation time, Dilraj Singh (11') and Manmeet Singh (20') had given India a roaring start but New Zealand thawed India's plans in the final quarter with goals by Owen Brown (51') and Jonty Elmes (57'). India got off the blocks with a tactical and compact attack. Swift, short passes and skilful dribbling helped them find success as early as in the 11th minute when Dilraj Singh scored from an assist made by Mukesh Toppo. Earlier in the quarter, Anmol Ekka and Chandan Yadav along with Arsh-



deep Singh contributed to the team's attack but their attempts didn't pay off Dilraj was on target to put India ahead 1-0.

India controlled the game in the second quarter too. Their defence was on point and stalled the New Zealand forwards from creating scoring opportunities. However, a defensive error in the 19th minute saw India concede a penalty corner. But the defence line did well to block back-to-back PCs.

In the following minute, a brilliant display of stickwork and combination between Manmeet, Anmol, and Mukesh saw them score a stupendous field goal. The 2-0 lead in the 20th minute put India

in good stead. Riding on a good start, India created a flurry of chances before the second hooter but they could not extend the lead.

While the third quarter was goalless, New Zealand bounced back in the fourth, scoring two crucial goals that put India's hopes of winning the bronze in limbo. In the 51st minute, Bradley Rothwell assisted Owen Brown from the right flank with a strong cross pass that was perfectly tapped into the net by Brown. Pressing forward, hunting for an equaliser, New Zealand found success in the 57th minute when Jonty Elmes, who scored a hat-trick against India in their previous game, struck a field goal.

PKL Season 11: Fight back helps Dabang Delhi beat Telugu Titans, Pawan Sehrawat

AGENCIES
HYDERABAD, OCT 26

Led by Naveen Kumar, Dabang Delhi K.C. returned to winning ways when they defeated the Telugu Titans 41-37 at the GMCB Indoor Stadium, in Gachibowli, here on Saturday. Naveen scored 15 points while Ashu Malik added another 15 to the Dabang Delhi cause. For the Telugu Titans, Pawan Sehrawat waged a strong battle with 18 points while Ashish Narwal, with 9 points, also stood out. But in the end, their efforts fell short and Dabang Delhi scored a narrow win.

Dabang Delhi K.C. were out of the blocks very quickly with Naveen Kumar and Ashu Malik picking up some early points. For the Telugu Titans, who were being cheered on by a big home crowd, it was Ashish Narwal and Pawan Sehrawat with the early points. But it was the Dabang Delhi K.C. who led the contest after the initial



exchanges.

With the game reaching the 10-minute mark, Pawan Sehrawat landed a couple of Super Raids which helped the Telugu Titans storm into the lead. The Telugu Titans at this point had a slender 1-point lead, and the whole stadium cheering them on. As the half wore on, the

Telugu Titans cranked up the style a couple of notches, and the high-flyer Pawan Sehrawat was leading the charge.

Telugu Titans caused an All Out against the Dabang Delhi K.C. just before the break, to give the Telugu Titans a 20-15 lead at the half-time break. Pawan, who was looking very dan-

gerous, had completed his Super 10 in the first half as well.

The second half saw Dabang Delhi K.C. mount a comeback right from the start and within the first few minutes they brought the scores back on level terms. Early in the second half, Ashu Malik also reached the 10-point mark

for Dabang Delhi K.C., while the Naveen Express was also shifting gears. The Telugu Titans' lead was wiped out within the first phase of the second half, as the Dabang Delhi K.C. side wrestled the momentum away from them.

Naveen also completed his Super 10 before the half-hour mark and Dabang Delhi went into the final 10 minutes of the game with a 6-point lead. From then on in, the Dabang Delhi decided to consolidate their lead and defended well to keep the Telugu Titans at bay. In the final minutes, Dabang Delhi K.C. inflicted an All Out on the Telugu Titans, which all but killed off any hopes of a comeback for the home team. Eventually, the Dabang Delhi side walked off winners in what was a very well-contested game.

On Sunday, Jaipur Pink Panthers will take on Tamil Thalaivas while UP Yoddhas meet Gujarat Giants in the second match of the night.

SAFF Women's C'ship: India determined to right past wrongs against Nepal

AGENCIES
KATHMANDU, OCT 26

The Indian senior women's team will have a tough task in hand when they take on Nepal in the semifinals of the SAFF Women's Championship at the Dasharath Stadium here on Sunday. Nepal are considered a consistent side in SAFF, who reached the final in the last edition of the championship at India's expense. To add to five-time runners-up Nepal's advantage, they are the hosts and would naturally be backed by an ardent crowd.

Indian captain Ashalata Devi, a veteran of many a battle, is aware of the situation. "The crowd in Nepal is huge, and they are passionate about football," said Ashalata. "Some of our younger players haven't experienced a crowd like this before, and it can feel different."

Ashalata, however, was quick to shrug off any

suggestion that the team could feel intimidated by the support the host side are expected to receive from the stands.

"Well, we must remember that the crowd is for us too. They can support us as well. We should enjoy the match and not feel discouraged by the opponents' fans. We need to think of them as our fans too," said Ashalata, who will play her 102nd international on Sunday. "We need to play like a family, and that will help us win the game tomorrow. This is the time to prove ourselves. In football, it's about the team's performance rather than individual efforts," said the seasoned centre-back, widely considered a role model by many in Indian women's football.

India, the five-time champions, crashed out of the SAFF Women's Championship 2022 after a 0-1 loss against Nepal in the semifinals at the same



venue. It was the first time that India failed to take the trophy back home since the inception of the tournament in 2010. Ashalata is not the one who takes defeat in her stride easily. "We lost to Nepal in the 2022 semifinal, and we haven't forgotten that. We need to come back strong this time.

"Nepal have some really good players. I have played two seasons in the Indian Women's League (IWL) with their main striker, Sabitra Bhandari. Some

players are technically well-skilled. We know how they played against us.

"Our strength is in the attacking third, where Manisha, Grace (Dangmei), and Soumya (Guguloth) can generate the required speed that can overcome many a challenge. I want to tell my teammates that whatever happened before, we need to move on and focus only on tomorrow's match. In every movement, we have to perform better. As a senior player, I believe that

whoever comes on as a substitute should give her best. Whatever time we get on the field, we need to help the team and aim to bring the trophy back," Ashalata said.

In the group stage, India defeated Pakistan 5-2 before losing to Bangladesh 1-3. Nepal drew 0-0 against Bhutan, won 11-0 against Maldives, and beat Sri Lanka 6-0.

Head coach Santosh Kashyap said, "I'm feeling positive and satisfied after the training sessions. The girls have shown their intelligence by quickly grasping the strategy and the way I want to approach the match.

"We need to overcome the challenge of playing in a packed stadium against Nepal. It's a tough situation, but we have to face it and come out on top. I'm very confident, and I want to transfer the same confidence to the players. We know we lost against Nepal in the last semi-final. The

past is behind us, and we are not dwelling on it. We are focussed on the present and pleased with the progress we have made since the beginning of the camp," Kashyap said.

The India head coach is a firm believer in playing attacking football and would like to pursue the same philosophy. "I want us to continue with the same attacking mindset. It will be an enjoyable game; everyone loves that style, and I do too. I want my players to enjoy it as well. Our team is in excellent shape, super fit, and has great chemistry.

"Against Bangladesh, we created many opportunities, but Anju's injury forced me to hold back, and we had to play with 10 players for a period. That's when we conceded some avoidable goals, and they controlled the midfield. We have addressed that, but I remain confident we will come back strong from the last defeat."

All-India Ranking Tennis: Aaradhya, Ansh win MSLTA-CCI crowns

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, OCT 26

Top seed Aaradhya Meena of Rajasthan and Maharashtra's Ansh Ramani won their maiden girls' and boys' U-14 crowns respectively in the MSLTA-CCI All-India Ranking Tennis Tournament played at the CCI Tennis Courts here on Saturday.

The 13-year-old Aaradhya, who trains under coach Sonu Khan at the Shree Ram Lawn Tennis Academy in Haryana, encountered initial resistance from Karnataka's 12-year-old third seed Padmapriya Ramesh Kumar. But, she came into her own in the second and won it without conceding a point and charged to a straight-set 6-4, 6-0 victory without much ado.

On the adjacent court, seventh seed Ansh, 13, was locked in an absorbing long contest for supremacy with Karnataka's ninth-

seed Madhav Dadhich, also 13, in the sweltering heat. The Mumbai-based Ansh managed to stay focused and won a thrilling three-setter at 6-3, 2-6, and 6-2.

Ansh, who trains with Alon Moses at the Touch Tennis Academy in Mumbai, and Madhav, who practices at the Transform Tennis Academy in Bengaluru, were positive in their approach. They slugged it out from the baseline and engaged in long rallies.

After they shared the first two sets, Ansh played with more confidence and better consistency while Madhav committed too many unforced errors and could stop his rival from wrapping up the contest with two crucial breaks in the sixth and eighth games. Aaradhya mentioned that for her it was third time lucky.

DC Kishtwar leads awareness program, reviews developmental activities in Model Panchayat Lachdayaram A

JNEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 26

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan on Saturday visited Model Panchayat Lachdayaram A to preside over an awareness program and review progress on key developmental projects in the panchayat.

The visits by district officers and those down the line to the 13 designated Model Panchayats of the district have been made a regular feature to achieve saturation of 78 key indicators in these model Panchayats.

During the awareness camp, the DC emphasized the implementation of government schemes, such as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G), Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), health initiatives, and social programs aimed at the welfare and progress of local communities.

The DC assessed the



status of these schemes in the Panchayat and highlighted the importance of developing green spaces by launching massive plantation drives on degraded land to enrich the environment.

Later, the DC inspected ongoing development works, instructing timely completion with quality assurance. He interacted with the Village Monitoring Committee, local residents, and ex-PRI

members, focusing on saturating all indicators, addressing community concerns, and offering immediate solutions. He also urged the Village Monitoring Committee to actively collaborate with

departments to address gaps in Panchayat development.

Special attention was given to cleanliness initiatives, polythene-free campaigns, door-to-door waste collection, and the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan.

In response to local health needs, the concerned departments were directed to organize a medical camp to provide free checkups and medications to the local residents.

The DC took serious note of the failure of some district officers who failed to visit their designated panchayats so far, emphasizing that negligence in duties will lead to strict actions.

Among the participants were Mohd Ashraf Wani AD, E&S ;Block Development Officer (BDO) Kishtwar Sanjeev Kotwal (also the Block Nodal Officer for Model Panchayat Lachdayaram A); Panchayat Secretary, Panchayat Nodal officials, and other members from the Rural Development Department.

Commissioner SMC Reviews Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Capex, and Other Key Initiatives

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 26

Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Owais Ahmed, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting focusing on all centrally sponsored schemes (CSS), Capex projects, and other major initiatives within the Corporation. This detailed evaluation aimed to assess project performance, address challenges, and ensure efficient implementation of initiatives benefiting the citizens of Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by Joint Commissioners, Joint Commissioner Works, Superintending Engineer Drainage Circle SMC, Executive Engineers from Left/Right River Works Division, Electric, Mechanical, PHE, City Roads, S&DII, CDC & MCD, Divisional Forest Officer SMC, Chief Revenue Officer, Estates Officer,



Technical Officer to the Commissioner, Chief Sanitation Officer, PPO/AAO SMC, S.O. Planning SMC, CFO SSCL, and Executive Engineers from SSCL.

Throughout the review, the Commissioner engaged with officials from each division to gather insights and feedback on ongoing schemes and projects. The aim is

to streamline processes, optimize resource utilization, and strengthen collaboration across the Corporation.

The Commissioner underscored the need for transparency and accountability in all operations, emphasizing that this review marks a strategic step towards meeting SMC's objectives.

Div Com, ADGP Jammu review preparations for Run for Unity, UT foundation Day celebration



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 26

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar and Additional Director General of Police Anand Jain on Saturday reviewed the arrangements for the upcoming "Run for Unity," and celebration of the UT foundation day, here at meeting. The meeting was attended by Commissioner JMC, Deputy Commissioners of districts from across Jammu Division, Director Education,

Joint Commissioner YSS and concerned officials. The discussions focused on key arrangements for the successful conduct of the event including the security and logistics arrangements. The Divisional Commissioner directed the Deputy Commissioners to implement a comprehensive traffic diversion plan and ensure deployment of adequate security personnel along the routes and venues of Run For Unity in all the districts. He also directed for the

provision of ambulance and fire tender services to be readily available during the event.

Additionally, the Divisional Commissioner asked the DCs and SSPs to liaise with the heads of major infrastructure projects to ensure safety measures for workers involved in these initiatives. The Div Com also asked the Deputy Commissioners to ensure proper arrangements for smooth celebrations UT foundation day and forthcoming Diwali festival.

DC B'la Congratulates Musharaf Qayoom for Gold Medal at Eurasian Sanda League

JNEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 26

The streets of Baramulla erupted in celebration as Musharaf Qayoom, a rising star in martial arts, returned home after his impressive victory at the Eurasian Professional Sanda League in Georgia.

With determination and skill, Musharaf clinched the title in a thrilling three-round match, defeating a former champion from Armenia and solidifying his status on the international stage.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, expressed immense pride in Musharaf's accomplishments, stating that Musharaf's remarkable journey is a shining example of the incredible talent emerging from our community. "His victory not only brings pride to Baramulla but also serves as an



inspiration for our youth to chase their dreams and reach new heights", he said.

Musharaf's path to glory began with an outstanding performance at the Batumi International Wushu Championship, held from October 17 to

23, where he showcased his skills and secured a gold medal, along with a cash prize of Rs 40,000. His dedication and hard work have ignited a wave of pride throughout Baramulla, making him a role model for aspiring athletes across Jammu &

Kashmir. As the community gathers to honor his achievements, Musharaf Qayoom stands as a testament to the power of perseverance and passion. The district wishes him continued success in his promising martial arts career.

16 Employees promoted in Labour Department

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 26

As recommended by the Departmental Promotion Committee headed by Labour Commissioner, S Charandeep Singh, 16 Non-Gazetted employees have been promoted to various posts in the Labour Department.

The officials have been promoted to the post of Labour Officers, Labour Inspectors, Head Assistants, Senior Assistant and Caretaker as per eligibility against available vacancies.

Congratulating the officials, Charandeep Singh expressed hope that the promotion will serve as a motivation for them to work with renewed dedication and commitment in the Labour Department.

Public service our prime focus: MP Jugal Kishore Sharma

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 26

Member Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma on Saturday led District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meeting here in the presence of District Development Council Chairman Bharat Bhushan, district officers and local MLAs to review development projects and welfare initiatives across district Jammu today.

The meeting was attended by Members of Legislative Assembly Akhnoor, Mohan Lal ; MLA Bahu Vikram Randhawa; MLA Bishnah Rajeev Kumar; MLA Jammu East Yudhvir Sethi; MLA Jammu North Sham Lal Sharma; MLA Jammu West Arvind Gupta; MLA Marh Surinder Kumar; MLA R.S. Pura-Jammu South Dr. Narinder Singh Raina and MLA Suchetgarh Gharu Ram.

District Development Commissioner Sachin Kumar Vaishya provided an in-depth PowerPoint presentation that detailed the district's achievements across centrally sponsored schemes, along with an update on local developmental efforts.

Jugal Kishore Sharma reviewed the status of centrally sponsored schemes and ongoing development projects, examining the status of initiatives and assessing the impact of schemes aimed at enhancing public welfare.

Infrastructure development took centre stage as the committee deliberated on several key projects, including the strategically important Jammu-Akhnoor highway project. The need to expedite work on the flyover near Canal Head Jammu was stressed, with calls for expert consultation to accelerate the process.

The meeting particu-



larly focussed on the Jal Jeevan Mission, with the MP expressing special concern regarding its execution and delivery. "Timely implementation of JJM is crucial for ensuring water security in our region," Sharma emphasised during the discussions.

DDC Chairman Bharat

Bhushan raised additional public concerns related to the Ring Road project and highlighted the importance of supporting farmers through awareness for fertiliser use. He also advocated for the improvement of procurement centre operations to genuinely assist farmers.

In addition to infra-

structure, the committee reviewed various welfare schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, MGN-REGA, Swachh Bharat Mission and the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM). The discussion extended to social security schemes, PMGSY, the Border Area Development

Programme (BADP), the National Food Security Scheme and the Mid-day Meal program.

Healthcare infrastructure remained a focal point, with MLAs and MPs stressing the importance of accessible and efficient healthcare facilities. Concerns were raised over the completion of border bunkers, which are vital for the safety of border area citizens.

Concluding the session, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma praised the productive discussions, reiterating his commitment to collaboration and emphasizing the need for efficient project delivery and the timely implementation of government schemes. He urged all officers to ensure that each initiative aligns with the Honourable Prime Minister's vision, reinforcing that "every citizen should experience the benefits of these development efforts."

Police arrests drug peddler in Sopore; Contraband substance recovered



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCT 25

Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police in Sopore have arrested a drug peddler and recovered contraband substance from his possession. A Police party of Police Post Bus Stand headed by IC Police Post Bus Stand under the supervision of SDPO Sopore at a checkpoint established at Seelo, apprehended a sus-

pected person identified as Umar Farooq Sheikh son of Farooq Ahmad Sheikh resident of Seelo Sopore. During search, 3.5 Kgs of Charas Powder was recovered from his possession. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 232 of 2024 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Sopore and investigation has been initiated. We urge the common masses that if you witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere near you, feel free to contact nearest police establishment or dial 112. General public are requested to cooperate with Police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law.