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**DENGUE WARNING SIGNS**  
 Many people with dengue can be cared for at home with adequate rest and hydration. But, if you experience any warning signs, go immediately to the nearest medical center.  
 Watch out for dengue warning signs!  
 A drop in body temperature accompanied by any of the following symptoms:  
 - Increase and continue fever above 102°C  
 - Persistent vomiting  
 - A sharp rise in temperature  
 - Dizziness  
 - Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool  
 - Redness on face or chest  
 If you have any of these symptoms, go to the nearest medical center IMMEDIATELY

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## Terrorists fire at ambulance in Army convoy in Jammu; 1 ultra eliminated

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 28

A terrorist was killed in a gunfight after an army vehicle was attacked in Akhnoor area of Jammu district fallen in Sunderbani sector of along the Line of Control. The army also lost its expert dog-“Phantom” in the gunfight.

Security forces recovered the body of the slain terrorist along with a weapon while intensifying efforts to neutralize suspected terrorists believed to be holed up in the area.

Officials told the news agency, that a massive



cordon and search operation is still underway. The Army has pressed a helicopter, drones and other technology gadgets to support ground forces as they conduct the operation, which began early in the morning.

The encounter broke out after a group of terrorists, believed to be three in number, attacked the army vehicles at Sunderbani early in the morning. The army acted swiftly by cordoning the area after which the contact with

the hiding terrorists was established leading to an encounter. In the fierce encounter, one unidentified terrorist was killed as the operation was underway, as per defence sources.

Security forces have sealed all potential exit points, while additional reinforcements have been mobilized to ensure no escape routes are left open for the terrorists, believed to be a group of recently infiltrated one.

National Security Guards (NSG) commandos also reached the Assan Mandir of the Battle

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 6

## Had productive discussions with Spanish President: PM Modi

J I NEWS SERVICE  
VADODARA/NEW DELHI, OCT 28 (UNI)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday that he held productive discussions with the President of Spain Pedro Sanchez during which they took stock of the progress in bilateral ties across diverse sectors include trade and investment, IT and innovation, defence and security.

In a post on X, PM Modi said after the bilateral talks held in Vadodara at the Lukshmi Niwas Palace: “In Vadodara, CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 6



## 3-day leave to PM package employees for Diwali

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCT 28

The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Monday announced three day “Special Casual Leave” in favour of PM Package/Migrant/Jammu based employees working in Kashmir Valley, for celebrating “Diwali” festival at Jammu.

“Sanction is hereby accorded to the grant of three days Special Casual Leave on 30th & 31st October and 2nd November, 2024, in favour of PM Package/Migrant/Jammu based employees, posted in different departments in the Kashmir Valley, CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 6

## Doda filmmakers shine

### ‘Only If the Baby Cries...’ wins international award at Ji.hlava Film Festival

J I NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, OCT 28

In a proud moment for Jammu & Kashmir, three filmmakers from Doda have made their mark on the international stage. ‘Only If the Baby Cries...’, a documentary set in the remote village of Dhadkai, has won the prestigious Best Short Film Award at the 28th Ji.hlava International Documentary Film Festival.

Directed by Shadab Farooq and featuring cinematography by Sahib Syed Goni, both hailing from Doda, the film highlights the unique challenges faced by the



village’s deaf and mute population. Anzer Ayooob, also from Doda, served as the Location Manager and

Researcher. The documentary, the news agency has learnt, brings to light the little-known village of Dhadkai, located in the Chenab Valley of Doda district, where many residents are born with hearing and speech disabilities.

‘Only If the Baby Cries...’ explores the local belief system surrounding childbirth, focusing on the fear, anxiety, and hope of a young couple, Misra Khatoun and Mohammad Iqbal, as they await the arrival of their child. It documents a traditional ritual where villagers make noise around the newborn to determine if the child

can hear; the community believes that if the baby cries with its eyes closed, it may be deaf.

Expressing his joy at the film’s international success, director Shadab Farooq said, “This story is very personal to me. I aimed to portray the reality of Dhadkai with honesty and empathy. Winning at Ji.hlava is not just a personal achievement, but a victory for all of J&K. We have many untold stories, and this is just the beginning.”

Cinematographer Sahib Syed Goni said, “Capturing Dhadkai was a deeply moving experience. The landscape is stunning, but

the real beauty lies in the resilience of the people. I wanted my visuals to reflect both the serenity of the mountains and the inner strength of the community. It’s an honour to see our work recognised on a global platform.”

Anzer Ayooob highlighted the importance of authentically portraying the village’s culture, saying, “Dhadkai’s story is one that the world needs to hear, and I’m proud that we could bring it to an international audience. This award is a testament to the power of local storytelling and the richness of our culture.”

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## Conspiracies being hatched to destabilise J&K again: Ravinder Raina

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCT 28

Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Monday said conspiracies are being hatched to destabilise the region again.

“This business of guns and grenades should stop right now as it will not benefit anybody,” he told reporters after visiting the residence of Dr Shahnawaz Dar in Budgam district.

Click Here To Join Daily Excelsior on WhatsApp And Get Latest News Dar was among seven



people killed in a terror attack at the Gagangir tunnel construction site in Ganderbal district on October 20.

“Through a lot of hard work, peace and CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 6

## LG Sinha chairs security review meet in Sgr, asks officers to take pre-emptive action for terrorist threats

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCT 28

The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha Monday chaired a review meeting in Srinagar today, on the security situation and development aspects of all the districts of Kashmir Division.

In an official statement to news agency, Chief Secretary, Shri Atal Dulloo; DGP, Shri Nalin Prabhat; Principal Secretary, Home, Chandraker Bharti; ADGP (Law & Order) Vijay Kumar; ADGP, CID, Shri Nitish Kumar; Principal Secretary to Lieuten-



ant Governor, Mandeep Bhandari; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Vijay Bidhuri; IG, Kashmir, Vidhi Kumar Birdi; DIGs, DCs and SSPs of all the districts of Kashmir Division attended the meeting.

The Lieutenant Governor reviewed the functioning of the security grid and directed all concerned officials to take pre-emptive action in respect of terrorist threats.

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## Got assurances from highest level in Delhi on change in J&K’s Governance model: CM Omar tells Ministers, Officers at Secretariat

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCT 28

Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory’s (UT’s) Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday said that his meetings in Delhi were very successful and that he got “assurances from the highest level on the change in the Governance Model of the J&K.”

In his address to Cabinet colleagues and Administrative Secretaries at the Civil Secretariat here, Omar after taking the pledge for Corruption free



J&K, said that the pledge must mean something. “Our world must count for something. The citizens of J&K through media and wider social media will see

us taking this place. Our pledge should count,” Omar said as per news agency.

The Chief Minister said that he has just arrived

from New Delhi after having “very successful meetings there.” “I got assurances from the highest level in Delhi on

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## Weak WD to affect J&K, light rains, snow likely in higher reaches: MeT

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCT 28

A feeble and fast-moving Western Disturbance (WD) is affecting Jammu and Kashmir from Monday evening while the weatherman here has predicted the possibility of light rains and snow in the higher reaches of northern and central districts of Kashmir for the next 24 hours.

As per the details available with the news agency, a feeble and fast-moving WD would affect J&K from this evening, adding that under its influence, the light rains and snow would likely occur over the higher reaches of north and Central districts of the Valley.

While the occasional sunshine was witnessed throughout the day in Srinagar and elsewhere, the shallow fog was witnessed in the morning hours today as well.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad told KNO that the weather would likely remain cloudy tomorrow, but the light rain and snow over the higher reaches of north and central districts of Kashmir may occur as well.

He added that the weather conditions would remain cloudy from October 30 to November 07.

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## Modi 3.0 ‘Science Push’ aimed at realising ‘Viksit Bharat’: Dr Jitendra

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 27

In a forward-looking discussion during an exclusive interview to a national media house, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh laid out the government’s bold and strategic vision for India’s science and technology sectors and said that Modi 3.0 “science push” is aimed at realising “Viksit Bharat”.

From launching a Rs 1,000 crore venture capital fund to support Space StartUps to introducing the Bio E3 policy aimed at creating a bioeconomy, the Modi government’s



major initiatives in the first 100 days of its third term signify its commitment to advancing India’s role on the global innovation stage, the Minister said..

The Minister highlighted that these initiatives not only bolster India’s scien-

tific prowess but also contribute to a sustainable, self-reliant economy that can withstand global shifts in industry and resources.

Dr. Jitendra Singh opened by emphasising the speed at which India has embraced major reforms in science and technology. “In the first 100 days of Prime Minister Modi’s third term, we have laid the groundwork for transformative changes in science, technology, and innovation,” he said. He pointed out that the Prime Minister’s vision prioritises long-term, out-of-the-box initiatives to

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## MP Er Rashid returns to Tihar Jail as interim bail expires, regular bail hearing postponed to Nov 19

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCT 28

Member of Parliament (MP) for Baramulla and Awami Ittehaad Party (AIP), Er Rashid returned to Tihar Jail in New Delhi on Monday after his interim bail expired. The court has deferred the hearing for his regular bail to November 19, 2024.

According to the news agency, Rashid was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in 2019 under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in connection with a 2017 terror funding case. He left Srinagar Airport



earlier today, accompanied by his party’s chief spokesperson, Inam-un-Nabi.

The AIP chief’s regular bail plea was set for a hearing today at the Patiala House Court in Delhi, but the court postponed it to the new date. He had been granted interim bail on

September 7, with an initial surrender date of October 3. This was extended twice, first to October 13 and then to October 28, allowing him additional time outside custody.

Before voluntarily reporting to Tihar Jail, Rashid addressed the media, saying he is not surrendering but is returning with a clear conscience. “I haven’t done anything wrong, and I am ready to face any challenge,” he said, adding, “Justice will prevail, even if delayed.”

Responding to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah’s recent visit to Delhi, the MP criticised the lack of

transparency regarding Abdullah’s discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. “Omar Abdullah must inform the people of Jammu and Kashmir about what issues he discussed with the PM and HM,” he said.

Rashid expressed scepticism about the National Conference’s commitment to meaningful outcomes, recalling the party’s 1999 resolution for the restoration of autonomy to the 1953 status, which he claimed was ignored.

On recent terror incidents, he challenged

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# Vigilance Awareness Week: District admin, Departments, Educational Institutions pledge to promote Culture of Integrity

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCTOBER 28

The Government organisations, educational institutions and individual departments across Jammu province on Monday hosted integrity pledge ceremonies to mark the commencement of Vigilance Awareness Week.

Vigilance Awareness Week is being observed from 28th of October to 3rd of November 2024 with the theme "Culture of Integrity for Nation's Prosperity" underscoring the importance of vigilance against corruption for driving national progress.

AT POONCH: Vigilance Awareness Week 2024 was launched in District Poonch with a pledge-taking ceremony with key stakeholders affirming commitment to transparency, integrity, and accountability.

An 'Integrity Pledge' was administered to the officers by Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal and attended by all officers of the district administration Poonch.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted that integrity serves as a foundation for sustainable prosperity and urged everyone to act as role models, setting high ethical standards in all their personal official responsibilities and directed all departments to organize special programs throughout the week.

AT DODA: In observance of Vigilance Week, a pledge ceremony was organized at the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Office Complex.

Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh, SSP Mohammad Aslam, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sudershan Kumar, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Pran Singh, along with district officers and officials of the DC office, participated.

The pledge ceremony, led by the Deputy Commissioner, emphasized the importance of honesty, accountability, and proactive measures against



corruption within government operations. He called for holding Gram sabhas in every Panchayat to educate the public about menace of corruption. He stressed on prompt resolution of public grievances.

AT SAMBA: In observance of Vigilance Awareness Week, the District Administration Samba, led by Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma and SSP Vinay Kumar took the Integrity Pledge reaffirming their unwavering commitment to uphold transparency, integrity and accountability in the governance.

Deputy Commissioner Sharma, while addressing the gathering, highlighted the critical role of vigilance in fostering a transparent administrative ecosystem and encouraged all present to embody the values of honesty and accountability in their professional conduct.

AT Udhampur: The District Administration Udhampur hosted a pledge-taking ceremony at the District Headquarter

under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai to mark the commencement of vigilance awareness week.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Amod Ashok Nagpure; Additional District Development Commissioner, Rajinder Singh; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Prem Singh; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr Umesh Shan; Chief Planning Officer, Mohd Iqbal; Assistant Commissioner Development, Dr Ranjeet Singh Kotwal and other officers of line departments were present. The DC administered the pledge to the officers and officials to uphold principles of integrity, transparency, accountability and fairness in their work.

AT RAMBAN: Intensifying activities under Vigilance Awareness Week, the District Administration Ramban, led by Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, organized a pledge taking cum awareness events across the district, emphasizing

the importance of integrity and transparency in public service.

Key departments, including Health, Education, PWD, PMGSY and the Municipal Council Banihal under the guidance of District Vigilance Officer, ADC Ramban, Varunjeet Singh Charak, actively participated by administering the vigilance pledge to their staff and students in their respective instructions. The events witnessed enthusiastic participation, reflecting a unified commitment to upholding honesty in Ramban's public services.

During the events, participants were sensitized to the significance of Vigilance Awareness Week as a part of the Central Vigilance Commission's "Participative Vigilance" initiatives in the fight against corruption. This awareness-building outreach aims to bring together all stakeholders, underscoring the need for collective efforts in fostering an ethical environment.

AT RAJOURI: As part



of Vigilance Awareness Week, a solemn pledge ceremony was organised today at the District Collectorate Office in Rajouri. Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma administered the oath to all officers and staff, emphasizing the importance of upholding honesty, integrity and transparency in public service.

During the event, the DC called upon all government officials and staff to renew their commitment to ethical work practices and a zero-tolerance approach toward corruption. Highlighting the critical role of integrity in government administration, he urged everyone to be vigilant in their responsibilities, ensuring that each action is aligned with the principles of fairness and accountability.

The ceremony was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Rajouri, Rajiv Khajuria, along with heads of various departments and district officers. In unison, they pledged to perform their duties with honesty, maintain transparency in decision-making processes, and remain accountable to the public.

Similar events were conducted across all government offices, educational institutions, and other public establishments across the district. This initiative aims to instill a sense of duty among the officials and create widespread awareness regarding the need for vigilance in day-to-day activities.

GDC KASTIGARH: Government Degree College (GDC) Kastigarh organized a significant pledge



ceremony centered on the theme "Culture of Integrity for Nation's Prosperity." The event was held under the guidance of Prof. Koshal Kumar Mangotra, the Principal of the college, who emphasized the importance of integrity in shaping a prosperous nation.

GDC Vijaypur: Department of Commerce and NSS Unit (KHIDMAT) of Government Degree College Vijaypur inaugurated Vigilance Awareness Week 2024 by participating in the online integrity pledge administered by Chief Minister J&K Omar Abdullah on the theme "Culture of Integrity for Nation's Prosperity." Principal of the College along with all the faculty members, NSS volunteers and other college students participated in the pledge taking ceremony. A poster making competition was also organized on the occasion to spread awareness among the students.

Special Crime Wing-CB, Jammu: To curb the menace of corruption, a pledge ceremony was observed on the occasion of "Vigilance Awareness

Week" in Special Crime Wing of Crime Branch Jammu, on the direction of SSP, Special Crime Wing Jammu Sandeep Mehta.

The main pledge ceremony was held at Zonal Crime Headquarters, Special Crime Wing Jammu wherein SSP, SCW CB Jammu administered the oath to officers/officials to work together to eradicate corruption and oppose all forms of corruption.

Further, the Officers and Officials of Special Crime Wing Jammu took oath to work with zeal in maintaining highest standards of integrity, transparency and good governance and not to offer or accept bribes and maintain a culture of honesty.

Directorate Sheep Husbandry Jammu: On the occasion of Vigilance Awareness Week 2024, a pledge taking ceremony was organized by the Sheep Husbandry Department, Jammu. All the officers/officials participated in the pledge taking ceremony, reaffirming to uphold the highest standard of honesty, integrity, transparency in public service delivery.

## Mubarak Gul braces admin for maiden Assembly session

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 28

Pro-tem Speaker, Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Mubarak Gul, today braced up the administration for first ever session of the current UT Legislature called on 4th of next month by the Lieutenant Governor (LG) here.

The session is going to see election for Speaker of the Assembly besides the inaugural address by the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, to the elected members on first day of commencement of the session.

The meeting besides Secretary, Legislative Assembly was attended by Director Estates, Jammu/Kashmir, Director, Hospitality & Protocol, SSP, Secretariat Security, General Manager, JKTC and representatives from Information, IT and other concerned departments.

During the meeting, the Pro-tem Speaker impressed upon the officers of Information



Department to ensure arrangements for the media persons for coverage of the house proceedings besides hassle-free interaction with the Speaker and other elected representatives on the sidelines of the session.

The department was also directed to make arrangements for the coverage and communication of LG's address in a smooth fashion by installing the public address system and sufficient number of microphones in the hall.

Mubarak Gul emphasised upon the Estates Department to further enhance the pace of work for readying the Assembly complex at Jammu for the winter session and more. He also enjoined upon them to make provisions

for media people in the lawns of assembly complex for media briefings. In addition, he asked for making proper accommodation for requisite employees for smooth functioning of the Assembly Secretariat round the year at Srinagar and Jammu.

Moreover, the Pro-tem Speaker took this occasion to instruct the Hospitality & Protocol Department to make necessary arrangements in the Secretariat lawns by installing waterproof canopies for media briefings and interactions of members with them in a conducive environment. He also asked for making appropriate preparations for the dining and refreshment of dignitaries in the Assembly canteen established in the ground floor.

## Chief Justice visits J&K LSA; inspects infrastructure, operational facilities

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCTOBER 28

Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Justice Tashi Rabstan, who is Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority, accompanied by Registrar General, Shahzad Azeem and M. K. Sharma, Principal Secretary today visited the office of J&K Legal Services Authority at Janipur and conducted an extensive inspection of the infrastructure and operational facilities available there.

During his visit, the Chief Justice took a round of different sections of the Legal Services Authority office and interacted with the staff members. He lauded the dedication with which the staff was performing its duties and acknowledged the significant role of J&K LSA in delivering justice to marginalized communities across the Union Territory. He appreciated the constant efforts of the J&K LSA in fulfilling its mission of ensuring "Access to Jus-



ice for All."

While acknowledging the commendable work being carried out by the Authority, the Chief Justice acknowledged that the present infrastructure for housing the office of Member Secretary, J&K LSA was in-sufficient and poses challenges for optimum output. He emphasized that the building from which the current office of J&K LSA is operating is of Jammu Development Authority (JDA), which is inadequate and lacks basic infrastructure, limiting the scope for effi-

cient functioning. The Chief Justice directed the Member Secretary, J&K LSA to identify a suitable state land near the proposed site for new High Court Complex Jammu. This will help raise and upgrade the infrastructure of the Legal Services Authority to facilitate a more conducive working environment for the staff besides enhancing the overall effectiveness of Authority.

Justice Tashi Rabstan reiterated the vision of expanding the reach of legal services to the most

vulnerable sections of the society. He stressed that the J&K LSA must intensify its efforts to ensure that no individual is left without access to justice, even in the remotest and far-flung areas. He highlighted that the J&K Legal Services Authority should aim to reach out to every nook and corner of the Union Territory to cater to the expectations of the last man waiting in the queue for legal assistance.

The visit reflects the vision of Justice Tashi Rabstan in strengthening legal services and improving the accessibility of justice for all. The J&K LSA reaffirmed its dedication to furthering its outreach programs and expanding its initiatives in accordance with the vision and guidance of the Chief Justice. The inspection concluded with a renewed focus on infrastructural improvements and the need for effective measures to address challenges in the delivery of legal aid services.

## DM orders enquiry into Nagrota accident

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCTOBER 28

District Magistrate Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, who also chairs the District Road Safety Committee, has ordered an enquiry into the recent motorcycle accident at Panjgrain, Nagrota, resulting in the loss of three lives. A committee headed by Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Rajesh Kumar has been entrusted to ascertain the cause of the accident within seven days and to find out whether any shortcomings, such as inadequate signage, improper gradient, or lack of mandatory safety measures led to the accident. The committee comprises officers from departments, including the Public Works Department (R&B), Transport Department and other enforcement agencies.

The District Magistrate has also expressed his deep condolences to families of the victims. In light of this tragic incident, the DM has urged all drivers and pillion riders to adhere strictly to traffic and road safety rules.



# 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 30.10.24 to 06.11.24
02251	Patna Jn	07:30	New Delhi	19:00	Tri-weekly	Thursday, Saturday, Monday 31.10.24 to 07.11.24
02270	Lucknow	14:15	Chhapra	21:30	6 Days a week	Except Tuesday Upto 08.11.24
02269	Chhapra	23:00	Lucknow	06:30	6 Days a week	Except Tuesday Upto 08.11.24
02248	New Delhi	08:25	Patna Jn	20:30	Tri-weekly	Tues, Thurs & Saturday 29.10.24 to 05.11.24
02247	Patna Jn	07:30	New Delhi	19:35	Tri-weekly	Wed, Fri & Sunday 30.10.24 to 06.11.24
04052	New Delhi	14:20	Jaynagar	15:40	Date Wise	Sat, Tue, Fri, Mon 29.10.24, 01 & 04.11.24
04051	Jaynagar	18:00	New Delhi	18:50	Date Wise	Sun, Wed, Sat, Tue 30.10.24, 02 & 05.11.24
04054	New Delhi	14:20	Barauni Jn	11:00	Date Wise	Sun, Wed, Sat, Tue 30.10.24, 02 & 05.11.24
04053	Barauni Jn	12:30	New Delhi	09:10	Date Wise	Mon, Thu, Sun, Wed 31.10.24, 03 & 06.11.24
02250	New Delhi	23:55	Patna Jn	16:40	Weekly	Thursday on 31.10.24
02249	Patna Jn	17:50	New Delhi	11:00	Weekly	Friday on 01.11.24
04075	New Delhi	23:45	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	11:40	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Sunday Upto 17.11.24
04076	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	21:20	New Delhi	09:30	Bi-weekly	Thursday, Monday Upto 18.11.24
04498	Anand Vihar Terminal	19:30	Ballia	13:30	Weekly	Sunday Upto 24.11.24
04497	Ballia	18:40	Anand Vihar Terminal	14:25	Weekly	Monday Upto 25.11.24
04022	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:40	Sitamahi	15:45	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Friday Upto 29.11.24
04021	Sitamahi	18:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	18:05	Bi-weekly	Thursday, Saturday Upto 30.11.24
04032	Anand Vihar Terminal	05:15	Saharsa Jn	10:30	5 days a week	Mon, Tue, Thu, Sat, Sun Upto 30.11.24
04031	Saharsa Jn	13:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	16:10	5 days a week	Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sun Upto 01.12.24
04624	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	23:45	Varanasi Jn	23:55	Weekly	Sunday Upto 17.11.24
04623	Varanasi Jn	05:30	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	11:25	Weekly	Tuesday Upto 19.11.24
04080	Delhi Jn	19:30	Varanasi Jn	09:45	Tri-Weekly	Monday, Thursday, Saturday Upto 16.11.24
04079	Varanasi Jn	18:25	Delhi Jn	08:50	Tri-Weekly	Tuesday, Friday, Sunday Upto 17.11.24
04530	Bhatinda Jn	20:50	Varanasi Jn	17:30	Bi-weekly	Monday, Friday Upto 15.11.24
04529	Varanasi Jn	20:40	Bhatinda Jn	17:00	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Saturday Upto 16.11.24
04096	Anand Vihar Terminal	09:00	Ayodhya Cantt	22:00	Tri-Weekly	Monday, Wednesday, Friday Upto 18.11.24
04095	Ayodhya Cantt	09:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	22:30	Tri-Weekly	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday Upto 19.11.24
04518	Chandigarh	23:15	Goalkhampur	18:20	Weekly	Thursday Upto 14.11.24
04517	Goalkhampur	22:05	Chandigarh	14:10	Weekly	Friday Upto 15.11.24
04060	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:30	Jaynagar	15:15	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Friday Upto 15.11.24
04059	Jaynagar	17:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	19:55	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Saturday Upto 16.11.24
04068	Delhi Jn	19:30	Darbhanga Jn	16:30	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Friday Upto 15.11.24
04067	Darbhanga Jn	18:00	Delhi Jn	16:35	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Saturday Upto 16.11.24
04044	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:15	Goalkhampur	14:00	Bi-weekly	Saturday, Tuesday Upto 26.11.24
04043	Goalkhampur	17:25	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:40	Bi-weekly	Sunday, Wednesday Upto 27.11.24
04217	Varanasi Jn	06:25	Lucknow Jn	11:45	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun Upto 22.11.24
04218	Lucknow Jn	16:30	Varanasi Jn	21:50	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun Upto 22.11.24
04010	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:45	Jogbani	05:20	Weekly	Tuesday 29.10.24 to 12.11.24
04009	Jogbani	09:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	16:05	Weekly	Thursday 31.10.24 to 14.11.24
04678	Firozpur Cantt Jn	13:25	Patna Jn	17:00	Weekly	Wednesday Upto 13.11.24
04677	Patna Jn	18:45	Firozpur Cantt Jn	22:40	Weekly	Thursday Upto 14.11.24
04211	Varanasi Jn	14:50	Chandigarh	07:45	Weekly	Saturday Upto 16.11.24
04212	Chandigarh	09:30	Varanasi Jn	01:20	Weekly	Sunday Upto 17.11.24
04553	Saharanpur	04:40	Ambala Cant Jn	06:45	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun Upto 30.11.24
04554	Ambala Cant Jn	20:20	Saharanpur	22:30	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun Upto 30.11.24
04682	Jammu Tawi	23:20	Kolkata	13:00	Weekly	Tuesday Upto 14.11.24
04681	Kolkata	23:45	Jammu Tawi	12:30	Weekly	Thursday Upto 14.11.24
04078	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:55	Patna Jn	16:25	Weekly	Monday Upto 18.11.24
04077	Patna Jn	17:50	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:00	Weekly	Tuesday Upto 19.11.24
04646	Jammu Tawi	05:45	Barauni Jn	12:10	Weekly	Thursday Upto 14.11.24
04645	Barauni Jn	15:15	Jammu Tawi	22:30	Weekly	Friday Upto 15.11.24
04038	Delhi Jn	19:10	Azamgarh	11:30	Weekly	Sunday Upto 17.11.24
04037	Azamgarh	13:30	Delhi Jn	06:10	Weekly	Monday Upto 18.11.24
04312	Haridwar Jn	12:30	Howrah Jn	17:10	Weekly	Thursday Upto 14.11.24
04311	Howrah Jn	19:00	Haridwar Jn	23:30	Weekly	Friday Upto 15.11.24
04314	Haridwar Jn	12:30	Muzaffarpur Jn	07:30	Weekly	Friday Upto 15.11.24
04313	Muzaffarpur Jn	09:00	Haridwar Jn	05:30	Weekly	Saturday Upto 16.11.24
04058	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:15	Muzaffarpur Jn	21:15	Bi-weekly	Monday, Thursday Upto 14.11.24
04057	Muzaffarpur Jn	23:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:30	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Friday Upto 15.11.24
04062	Anand Vihar Terminal	09:00	Barauni Jn	06:30	Weekly	Sunday Upto 17.11.24
04061	Barauni Jn	08:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:10	Weekly	Monday Upto 18.11.24
02246	Hazrat Nizamuddin	23:55	Patna Jn	16:40	Bi-weekly	Monday, Wednesday Upto 27.11.24
02245	Patna Jn	17:50	Hazrat Nizamuddin	10:50	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Thursday Upto 28.11.24
04526	Sirhind Jn	11:25	Saharsa Jn	17:00	Weekly	Monday Upto 18.11.24
04525	Saharsa Jn	19:15	Ambala Cantt Jn	22:20	Weekly	Tuesday Upto 19.11.24
04006	Delhi Jn	23:05	Jaynagar	23:45	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Friday Upto 26.11.24
04005	Jaynagar	01:30	Delhi Jn	01:30	Bi-weekly	Thursday, Sunday Upto 28.11.24
04048	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:20	Katihar Jn	15:00	Bi-weekly	Tuesday, Friday Upto 26.11.24
04047	Katihar Jn	18:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	17:50	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Saturday Upto 27.11.24
04070	New Delhi	00:20	Rajgir	21:00	Bi-weekly	Saturday, Tuesday Upto 30.11.24
04069	Rajgir	22:50	New Delhi	23:10	Bi-weekly	Sunday, Wednesday Upto 30.11.24
02262	New Delhi	00:20	Darbhanga Jn	21:15	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Sunday Upto 27.11.24
02261	Darbhanga Jn	23:20	New Delhi	20:15	Bi-weekly	Wednesday, Sunday Upto 27.11.24
04608	Jammu Tawi	20:20	Howrah Jn	13:20	Date Wise	Wednesday & Monday 30.10.24 & 04.11.24
04607	Howrah Jn	23:45	Jammu Tawi	15:20	Date Wise	Friday & Wednesday 01.11.24 & 06.11.24
04680	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	18:40	Kamakhya	21:00	Date Wise	Monday & Saturday Upto 02.11.24
04679	Kamakhya	06:00	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	06:20	Date Wise	Thursday & Tuesday 31.10.24 & 05.11.24
04662	Amritsar Jn.	20:10	Saharsa	05:00	Date Wise	Tuesday & Sunday 29.10.24 & 03.11.24
04661	Saharsa	10:00	Amritsar Jn.	18:20	Date Wise	Thursday & Tuesday 31.10.24 & 05.11.24
05001	Goalkhampur Jn.	19:30	Delhi Jn.	13:15	Weekly	Sunday Upto 10.11.24
05002	Delhi Jn.	15:15	Goalkhampur Jn.	09:55	Weekly	Monday Upto 11.11.24
05111	Chhapra Jn.	14:00	New Delhi	11:50	Weekly	Monday Upto 11.11.24
05112	New Delhi	12:50	Chhapra Jn.	11:30	Weekly	Tuesday 29.10.24 to 12.11.24

## LIST OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS PASSING THROUGH NORTHERN RAILWAY NETWORK

03575	Asansol Jn	10:15	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:05	Weekly	Friday Upto 29.11.24
03576	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:15	Asansol Jn	10:20	Weekly	Saturday Upto 30.11.24
03435	Malda Town	09:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	14:10	Weekly	Monday Upto 25.11.24
03436	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:45	Malda Town	23:30	Weekly	Tuesday Upto 26.11.24
03255	Patna Jn	22:20	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:00	Bi-weekly	Sunday, Thursday Upto 14.11.24
03256	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:20	Patna Jn	17:20	Bi-weekly	Monday, Friday Upto 15.11.24
02391	Patna Jn	22:20	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:00	Weekly	Saturday Upto 15.11.24
02392	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:20	Patna Jn	17:20	Weekly	Sunday Upto 10.11.24
03257	Danapur	07:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	00:30	Weekly	Sunday Upto 10.11.24
03258	Anand Vihar Terminal	05:00	Danapur	20:45	Weekly	Monday Upto 11.11.24
05219	Muzaffarpur Jn	13:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	06:00	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun Upto 31.12.24
05220	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:00	Muzaffarpur Jn	00:45	Daily	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun Upto 01.01.25
05109	Chhapra	17:45	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:50	Weekly	Wednesday Upto 27.11.24
05110	Anand Vihar Terminal	12:55	Chhapra	06:45	Weekly	Thursday Upto 28.11.24
05023	Goalkhampur	21:15	Anand Vihar Terminal	13:15	Weekly	Sunday Upto 24.11.24
05024	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:15	Goalkhampur	04:45	Weekly	Monday Upto 25.11.24
05301	Mau Jn	04:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	20:30	Weekly	Thursday Upto 28.11.24
05302	Anand Vihar Terminal	00:25	Mau Jn	17:45	Weekly	Friday Upto 29.11.24
05005	Goalkhampur	14:40	Amritsar Jn	09:30	Weekly	Wednesday Upto 27.11.24
05006	Amritsar Jn	12:45	Goalkhampur	08:50	Weekly	Thursday Upto 28.11.24
05049	Chhapra	09:55	Amritsar Jn	09:30	Weekly	Friday Upto 29.11.24
05050	Amritsar Jn	12:45	Chhapra	14:00	Weekly	Saturday Upto 30.11.24
02525	Kamakhya	22:45	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:50	Weekly	Friday Upto 29.11.24
02526	Anand Vihar Terminal	17:20	Kamakhya	03:40	Weekly	Sunday Upto 01.12.24
05671	Guwahati	15:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:50	Weekly	Wednesday Upto 27.11.24
05672	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:45	Guwahati	14:15	Weekly	Friday Upto 29.11.24
05734	Katihar Jn	11:40	Amritsar Jn	00:10	Weekly	Thursday Upto 28.11.24
05733	Amritsar Jn	04:25	Katihar Jn	15:00	Weekly	Saturday Upto 30.11.24
03413	Malda Town	07:10	New Delhi	07:30	Bi-weekly	Thursday, Sunday Upto 28.11.24
03414	New Delhi	10:30	Malda Town	07:55	Bi-weekly	Friday, Monday Upto 29.11.24
03483	Bhagalpur	11:00	New Delhi	07:10	Bi-weekly	Saturday, Tuesday Upto 30.11.24
03484	New Delhi	10:30	Bhagalpur	04:10	Bi-weekly	Sunday, Wednesday Upto 27.11.24
05565	Saharsa Jn	19:30	Sirhind Jn	00:05	Weekly	Thursday 14.11.24 to 26.12.24
05566	Sirhind Jn	02:00	Saharsa Jn	09:45	Weekly	Saturday 16.11.24 to 28.12.24

03107	Sealdah	00:10	Lucknow Jn	00:10	Weekly	Saturday Upto 30.11.24
03108	Lucknow Jn	01:40	Sealdah	23:50	Weekly	Sunday Upto 01.12.24
09075	Mumbai Central (Via Bareilly)	11:00	Kathgodam	14:30	Weekly	Wednesday Upto 25.12.24
09076	Kathgodam (Via Bareilly)	17:30	Mumbai Central	20:55	Weekly	Thursday Upto 26.12.24
07363	Hubballi Jn	20:30	Yog Nagari Rishikesh	23:30	Weekly	Monday Upto 04.11.24
07364	Yog Nagari Rishikesh	06:15	Hubballi Jn	06:30	Weekly	Thursday Upto 07.12.24
09657	Daurai (via Barabanki Jn)	15:00	Barhni	13:25	Weekly	Saturday Upto 16.11.24
09658	Barhni (via Barabanki Jn)	19:15	Daurai	19:20	Weekly	Sunday Upto 17.11.24
03423	Bhagalpur	13:55	Haridwar Jn	17:55	Weekly	Monday Upto 25.11.24
03424	Haridwar Jn	19:55	Bhagalpur	21:20	Weekly	Tuesday Upto 26.11.24
05736	Katihar Jn	21:00	Amritsar Jn	09:45	Weekly	Wednesday Upto 27.11.24
05735	Amritsar Jn	13:25	Katihar Jn	23:45	Weekly	Friday Upto 29.11.24
05047	Banaras	22:00	Ghaziabad	11:45	Weekly	Tuesday Upto 26.11.24
05048	Ghaziabad	12:35	Banaras	05:35	Weekly	Wednesday Upto 27.11.24
02397	Gaya Jn	14:15	Anand Vihar Terminal	07:10	6 Days a week	Except Saturday Upto 15.11.24
02398	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:20	Gaya Jn			



## Vigilance Awareness Week begins in Kupwara, integrity pledge administered

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, OCTOBER 28

In observance of Vigilance Awareness Week, 2024, a pledge ceremony was conducted on Monday through video conference from Meeting Hall of 3rd floor, Civil secretariat Srinagar, where Hon'ble Chief Minister (J&K), Omer Abdullah administered the integrity pledge to public servants and other stakeholders.

District level officers and HODs of district administration Kupwara participated in the pledge ceremony through videoconferencing from the meeting Hall of DC Office Complex Kupwara and took the integrity pledge.

Integrity pledge was also administered at Additional Deputy Commissioner's Office at Handwara, SDM Office Sogam Lolab, SDM Office Karnah and other district and sectoral offices.

Meanwhile a vigilance



awareness workshop in observance of Vigilance Awareness Week, 2024 was organized by ACB (Govt. of J&K) in collaboration with district administration Kupwara.

This year, Vigilance Awareness Week is being observed from October 28 to November 3 on the theme "Culture of Integrity for Nation's Prosperity". The workshop was organized to raise awareness among government employees, general public and whistle blowers about the perils of corruption and the importance of integrity and ethics in public service.

Principal Government Degree College (Boys) Kupwara, Professor Abdul Rashid presided over the workshop which was attended by Dy.Sp ACB Kupwara, Fayaz Ahmed, General Public, RTI Activists, Social Activists, traders, transporters, vendors and officers of District Administration Kupwara.

Day long Vigilance awareness workshop was conducted to educate individuals about the importance of ethical behavior and to encourage reporting of any wrongdoing. It plays a vital role in maintaining clean and ethical governance.

## Vigilance Awareness Week kicks off at DIPR Jammu with Pledge Ceremony

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCTOBER 28

The Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) in Jammu marked the commencement of Vigilance Awareness Week with a significant pledge-taking ceremony today. Joint Director Information Jammu, Atul Gupta led the event, administering the integrity pledge to all present officers and officials.

The ceremony saw full attendance of staff, underscoring a collective commitment to ethical practices and transparency in governance.

Joint Director, in his address, highlighted the critical role of integrity in public service. He remarked, "Vigilance Awareness Week serves as a reminder of our responsibility to maintain the highest standards of honesty and transparency. By taking this pledge, we reaffirm our dedication to



combating corruption and fostering trust within our communities."

Atul Gupta also encouraged officials to embody these values in their daily duties, emphasizing that individual actions contribute towards the larger goal of creating a corruption-free environment. The week-long observance aims to promote awareness about the importance of vigilance and integrity, engaging all stakeholders

in the fight against corruption. Deputy Director (PR) Jammu, Ankush Hans; Deputy Director (HQ), Virender Gupta; Field Publicity Officer, Mukesh Kumar, Youth Information Officer, Monika Sambyal; Information Officer, Ashu Kumari, Accounts Officer, Hitesh Choudhary, Administrative Officer, Renu Sharma, besides other officers and officials of the department were present.

## DC Kishtwar approves rates for 6 Land Acquisition Cases



JJ NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 28

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar (District Collector), Rajesh Kumar Shavan chaired a meeting of Collectors here today to approve and finalise compensation rates for the land acquired for different projects.

A total of six land acquisition cases related to various schemes under Kishtwar, Chatroo and Dachan Collectorates were cleared.

The schemes includ-

ed the Link Road from Shinnagar Sranawan to Shanna via HSS Feller, Link Road Parna to Bonda along with four cases related to the Pakal Dul Hydroelectric Project (HEP).

Additional Deputy Commissioner Pawan Kotwal; Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Idrees Lone; Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Paddar Amit Kumar; SDM Chatroo Naseem Ur Rehman and other relevant officials were present at the meeting.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

### Terrorists fire at ambulance...

area of Akhnoor to assist the army and Jammu police, which were leading the operation.

Russian made Boyevaya Mashina Pektoty commonly known as BMP-II, the infantry combat vehicle also known as 'Sarath', has been deployed in Akhnoor to support the cordon and search operation.

Intelligence sources said this fresh infiltration from LoC this morning because the border is just 2 km from the encounter site.

According to the Army, the body of one terrorist, along with a weapon, has been recovered.

"Operations are currently underway," officials stated, indicating the likelihood of other terrorists still engaged in the standoff.

Officials said that around 7 am in the morning terrorists opened fire at an army ambulance in the Assan area of Keri-Battal in Akhnoor.

Initial reports suggest that three to four terrorists fired multiple rounds at an Army vehicle and fled towards the forest area. However, no injuries were reported in the incident.

However, security forces chased the terrorists and swiftly sealed off the area and launched a manhunt, according to army officials, adding "Contact was established with the hiding terrorists and one terrorist was shot."

"Body of one terrorist along with a weapon has been recovered. Operations are under progress," the Indian Army's White Knight Corps tweeted.

The army also paid rich tributes to its expert dog, Phantom. "We salute the supreme sacrifice of our true hero—a valiant #IndianArmy Dog, #Phantom.As our troops were closing in on the trapped terrorists, #Phantom drew enemy fire, sustaining fatal injuries. His courage, loyalty, and dedication will never be forgotten," the defence spokesman said.

Additional Director General of Police Jammu, Anand Jain, and Shiv Kumar, DIG, Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range also visited the encounter site with army officers and reviewed ongoing operations.

Sources said that security forces are preparing for a final assault as the army kept firing rocket launchers towards a suspected spot, where terrorists might be hiding.

They said that there was no firing from Pakistani terrorists since long after hitting them by Rocket Launchers (RL). Searchers started by the army to recover their bodies, if killed in army action.

Earlier reports had circulated suggesting three militants had been neutralized in the encounter. However, these were refuted by both police and Army.

"We deny reports that three terrorists have been neutralized. No injuries were reported from the attempted ambush on the Army vehicle. Investigations are still ongoing," clarified a police spokesperson.

The spokesperson also urged calm among the public and advised against spreading unverified information. "The situation remains under control. Security forces are closely monitoring the area, following recent alerts for the border districts," he added.

In the past one week, at least 12 people, including two soldiers were killed in separate incidents of terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir.

On October 23, unidentified assailants fired on a group of labourers that included both locals and non-locals in J&K's Ganderbal. Two labourers died on the spot, and four others and the doctor succumbed to their injuries subsequently.

On October 25, two soldiers of the 18 Rashtriya Rifles and two porters were killed in a terrorist attack on a military truck carrying supplies near the Nagin area of Botapathri in Kashmir's Gulmarg.

An high alert was already sounded for Jammu's border districts, including Jammu, Kathua, Samba, Poonch, and Rajouri after recent terror attacks in Ganderbal and Baramulla. KNO

### Got assurances from highest...

the change in J&K's governance model," Omar said. Omar was in Delhi last week where he met Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari, Amit Shah and also the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Sources said that he presented the copies of resolution seeking restoration of Statehood passed in the first cabinet meeting in Srinagar, to Home Minister Shah and PM Modi. The resolution as per KNO demands restoration of "Full Statehood to J&K."

On August 5, 2019, the BJP led government in Centre sliced erstwhile State of J&K into two UTs—J&K and Ladakh.

The Centre also rolled back Article 370.

Omar said that the world of government must stand for something significant. "Our conduct will be closely watched by the people. If we claim one thing and do another, our word won't count for anything then," he said.

He said that the present phase was temporary, referring to the fact that J&K was a UT. "Some people may try to exploit temporary loopholes and pitch one against another. Let me tell you that rest assured, this phase is temporary. Those who may use this phase as a shield for themselves won't enjoy the same for long," he said.

Omar reiterated his commitment for zero tolerance against corruption. "It will start from me. If I do anything wrong and expect my cabinet colleagues to do only right, that's not possible. Same would apply to my cabinet colleagues, if they do anything wrong and expect their subordinates to right, perhaps that's not possible," he said.

Earlier, Omar, cabinet ministers and the administrative secretaries took a pledge for making J&K corruption free. KNO

### LG Sinha chairs...

"We must safeguard peace and pace of development. At the same time strongest possible actions need to be taken against terrorists and those who are providing support, safe haven or any assistance to terrorists. Our aim is to ensure socio-economic development and promote a sense of security among the people," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also stressed that stringent action must be taken against those spreading anti-national propaganda, threatening the public safety and law & order. The Lieutenant Governor called for zero-tolerance approach and greater vigilance and coordination between the security agencies to crush terror ecosystem.

The Lieutenant Governor said Narco-Terrorism issue should be dealt with immediately and dismantling of the entire narco-terror network should receive the highest priority.

Stressing the need for accelerated development, the Lieutenant Governor directed the Deputy Commissioners to monitor the functioning of schemes for welfare of farmers, rural and urban development, self-employment and saturation of key initiatives under central sector schemes. He also directed the officials to focus on enhanced road and telecom connectivity in far-flung areas.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the J&K Police and administrative apparatus for peaceful conduct of elections and Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. KNO

### Had productive discussions...

held productive discussions with the President of the Government of Spain, Mr. Pedro Sánchez. We took stock of the progress in India-Spain relations across diverse sectors. We wish to add even more momentum in our bilateral ties, especially in trade, commerce, culture, innovation, technology and more."

The MEA spokesperson said in a post on X: "A renewed momentum in India-Spain partnership. "PM @narendramodi met President @sanchezcastejon in Vadodara today.

"The leaders held fruitful discussions on the entire spectrum of India-Spain ties including in areas of trade & investment, IT & innovation, defence, security, renewable energy, pharma, culture & tourism."

Earlier, PM Modi and Spanish President Sanchez inaugurated the C-295 military transport aircraft facility in Vadodara, Gujarat, being built by Tata Advanced Systems team and Airbus Spain.

The Spanish President thanked PM Modi for the hearty welcome and the enthusiastic welcome during the roadshow in Vadodara.

"Thank you very much, dear @narendramodi, for your warm welcome and the hospitality of the people of Vadodara.

"It is an honour to make this first official visit to strengthen the excellent relations between our countries. And to do so on such an important date as Diwali."

He said that Spain and India are moving forward by promoting industrial and technological collaboration.

"The @Airbus and @ataadvanced plant will be a symbol of industrial excellence, an engine of growth and a testament to the close and growing friendship between our countries," he tweeted.

### Conspiracies being...

development has returned to Jammu and Kashmir but conspiracies are being hatched to destabilise the area," Raina said.

The BJP leader said while the government and security forces will do their jobs in dealing with the situation, the people of Jammu and Kashmir also have to play their role in maintaining peace and stability. (Agencies)

### MP Er Rashid returns...

the central leadership, asking, "Why are such attacks happening? Are they connected to the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir?"

He said these incidents are often used to cast Kashmiris in a negative light and divert attention from critical issues like statehood and Article 370.

He called for a peaceful resolution, saying, "Only dialogue can bring lasting peace to Kashmir. Without it, peace remains a distant dream." KNO

### Modi 3.0 'Science...

ensure India's leadership in critical domains like space exploration, biotechnology, and meteorology.

One of the major highlights of Dr. Jitendra Singh's interaction was the announcement of a Rs 1,000 crore venture capital fund exclusively for the space sector. This fund, approved by the cabinet, is part of a broader plan to leverage India's growing base of nearly 300 space startups. In the span of just a few years, India has seen a remarkable shift in its space ecosystem, following the government's decision to open the sector to private players.

According to Dr. Jitendra Singh, this decision has helped unlock India's potential, allowing it to grow from a single-digit startup presence to an ecosystem with hundreds of space tech companies today.

"India's space economy will play a critical role in our country's growth," Dr. Jitendra Singh noted, referencing the global recognition India has garnered from achievements like the Chandrayaan-3 mission. He further highlighted the Gaganyaan mission, India's first human crewed space mission has been scheduled, which will include a female robot test flight as a final dress rehearsal before sending human astronauts into space. "Our advancements are not just about joining the ranks of other spacefaring nations, but also about leading with innovation, precision, and reliability," he added.

With the Bio E3 policy, Dr. Jitendra Singh underscored a vision for a "bio-driven" future, asserting that the next industrial revolution will stem from bioeconomy initiatives rather than traditional manufacturing. The policy, which covers Biotechnology for Environment, Economy, and Employment, is designed to create self-sufficiency in resources while reducing dependency on imports. A key objective, he explained, is the shift from petroleum-based resources to biofuel alternatives, enabling waste-to-fuel transformations and other sustainable practices.

"Our natural resources, including rich bioresources along the Himalayas and a 7,500-Kilometre coastline, position us uniquely to drive this revolution," Dr. Jitendra Singh said. "We're tapping into the biotechnology potential of the regions, ensuring economic growth that is both inclusive and environmentally sustainable."

Dr. Jitendra Singh also announced significant updates on Mission Mausam, an initiative launched within the first 100 days of Modi's third term, aimed at enhancing the accuracy of meteorological forecasts. The mission, which integrates space and IT technologies, allows India to provide real-time, actionable weather forecasts, not only for India but also for neighbouring countries, including Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

Reflecting on India's legacy in meteorology, he acknowledged that the sector has struggled to receive adequate investment until recently. "Now, we're not just forecasting the weather. We're helping citizens understand the implications of weather events and prepare accordingly," he said. New AI-driven applications will allow for hyper-local, hour-by-hour forecasts for farmers and other stakeholders who depend on reliable predictions. "Our aim is to deliver global-standard forecasts and move towards predictive models that empower our agricultural sector," Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasised.

A cornerstone of India's approach under Prime Minister Modi, Dr. Jitendra Singh noted, is an all-encompassing strategy where scientific disciplines converge to produce more

impactful outcomes. He highlighted that such collaboration is essential to achieving India's broader developmental goals, with the science and tech sectors working cohesively to drive transformative results.

Dr. Jitendra Singh pointed to the India-Germany science partnership as an example of this whole-of-science vision. Germany, hosting over 50,000 Indian students and researchers, has become a preferred destination for Indian scholars pursuing innovative projects. "Germany and India's collaboration, particularly in areas like biotechnology and renewable energy, underscores the importance of international partnerships in realising our scientific ambitions," he said.

Dr. Jitendra Singh closed by emphasising that the government's science and technology initiatives are rooted in a commitment to self-reliance and global leadership. By strategically investing in space and biotechnology, India is not only fostering economic growth but also aligning with the sustainable goals needed to tackle future challenges. These policies, he asserted, reflect the country's ambition to lead in domains that impact both economic resilience and the well-being of the public.

India's journey toward a self-reliant, scientifically advanced future is being mapped with each new policy, fund, and partnership, Dr. Jitendra Singh affirmed. "Our goal is to make science work for India - to solve our challenges, to drive our economy, and to ensure that our citizens benefit directly from every innovation and breakthrough we make."

### 3-day leave to PM...

for celebrating "Diwali" festival at Jammu," reads a government order issued here.

### 'Only If the Baby...

The entire crew, including sound designer Caster Rinoy Gomez, worked meticulously to create a film that captures the breathtaking visuals of Dhadkai while delving into the emotional and cultural fabric of the village.

Produced by Rajiv Mehrotra and executive produced by Aparna Sanyal of Public Service Broadcasting Trust (PSBT), 'Only If the Baby Cries...' has become a beacon of hope for independent filmmakers from smaller regions like Jammu & Kashmir. The Ji.hlava International Documentary Film Festival, renowned for showcasing groundbreaking documentaries, featured 22 films competing in its Short Joy section this year, with 'Only If the Baby Cries...' emerging as the audience favourite—a remarkable achievement for an Indian documentary. The film's win includes distribution and promotion on the Dafilms platform, valued at 3,000 EUR.

MLA Doda Mehraj Malik congratulated the team. "This is a proud moment for Doda, for Jammu & Kashmir, and for India. Anzer Ayoob, Shadab Farooq, and Sahib Goni have showcased the talent and potential of the Chenab Valley to the world. Their dedication to telling our region's stories is truly inspiring."

The film is available for streaming on the Dafilms platform until November 3rd, allowing viewers globally to experience the powerful story of Dhadkai. It highlights the village's challenges while celebrating the strength and resilience of its people.

This international success is a significant achievement for Jammu & Kashmir, particularly for the Chenab Valley, serving as a reminder of the rich, untapped stories that lie in this region, waiting to be told. As 'Only If the Baby Cries...' continues to gain recognition, it paves the way for more filmmakers from the region to share their unique narratives on the global stage.

For Shadab Farooq, Sahib Syed Goni, and Anzer Ayoob, this documentary is not only a professional milestone but a deeply personal journey. As they celebrate their win, they look forward to continuing their mission of telling impactful stories that reflect the soul of the Chenab Valley. KNO

### Weak WD to affect...

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

"There is a possibility of mist and shallow fog over plains of Kashmir during morning hours from 1st November onwards," it reads.



## Rana visits Mendher; assures to satiate, fulfill public aspirations

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
MENDHER, OCTOBER 28

Minister for Jal Shakti, Tribal Affairs, Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javid Ahmad Rana, today conducted an exhaustive tour of various parts of his home constituency, Mendher. During the visit, the Minister had a detailed assessment of development needs and aspirations of locals besides taking stock of their grievances. He asked the accompanying officers about the status of ongoing development projects in the area while instructing them for ensuring expeditious completion of these works of vital public importance.

Rana said that the recently formed government is committed towards satiating developmental aspirations of people while taking care that no one is deprived of his basic requirements and all are served equally.



Various delegations and individuals met the Minister during his tour. The areas visited by the Minister included Uchad, Kaneti, Jaggal, Chattral and Kalaban and adjoining parts of the constituency.

Addressing mammoth gatherings at these places, the Minister appreciated the public for their unwavering support saying that

he will work with utmost zeal and vigour to bring enhanced development and prosperity in the region. He emphasized that welfare of the people is top priority of the government adding that all their grievances and concerns would be addressed promptly.

The Minister said that the Omar led govern-

ment will surely bring in transformative growth and development in the coming years and we will work hard collectively towards serving the people. He extolled that the present government will leave no stone unturned in working for progress and prosperity of the people.

The locals of Mendher expressed optimism that the present dispensation would live up to their developmental needs and aspirations.

Meanwhile, the Minister also visited the local school and interacted with the students, staff members and enquired about the facilities being provided to the students in the institute.

The Minister exhorted upon the faculty and school management to ensure that all the latest learning and teaching techniques are optimally implemented in the school for enhanced results.

## Vigilance Awareness Week commences in Shopian

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 28

In alignment with the nationwide Vigilance Awareness Week being observed from October 28 to November 3, 2024, a comprehensive Conference was held today at the Mini Secretariat, Shopian, under the theme 'Culture of Integrity for Nation's Prosperity.'

The event, presided over by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone and organised by District Administration Shopian in collaboration with the Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) brought together a diverse array of participants including employees, civil society members traders etc reflecting a strong commitment to promoting transparency and accountability within society.

The programme was structured in two shifts to encourage extensive participation across various sectors. During the inaugural session, a solemn pledge-taking ceremony



was conducted as part of the event, with participants committing to upholding integrity and combat corruption in their respective spheres. The pledge was administered by ADDC.

On the occasion, Book Release function was also held wherein a Book titled 'Anti-Corruption Laws & Regulations,' compiled by Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, ADC Shopian, also District Vigilance Officer (DVO) was released to enhance awareness and provide guidance on

legal frameworks aimed at curbing corruption.

Addressing the gathering, speakers emphasized the detrimental impact of corruption on societal progress and underscored the importance of collective action in rooting out this menace.

ADDC stressed the role of education in inculcating essential moral values for nurturing a prosperous and progressive society, devoid of corrupt practices.

The role of stakeholders in furthering a cul-

ture of integrity was also emphasized on the occasion by ADC Shopian and other speakers from ACB.

The programme concluded with a call to all participants and community members to uphold ethical standards and contribute to building a corruption-free society.

District and Sectoral Officers, sub divisional officers, Tehsil officers also organised pledge taking ceremonies at their respective offices across the district.

## Power Shutdown

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 25

According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDC, in order to carry out Branch Cutting, the shutdown of below mentioned 33KV lines shall be observed which will subsequently affect electricity to given areas.

The shutdown of 33 KV Magam Kongambara line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Kunzar, Dobiwan, Ahmadpora and Kongambara shall remain off while the power supply to the Kunzar, Dobiwan, Ahmadpora and Kongambara areas will be affected from 09:30 AM to 03:30 PM on 02 November, 2024.

The shutdown of 33 KV Arampora Handwara Old line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Zachadara, Changmulla, Audoora and Puhropeth shall remain off while the power supply to the Zachadara, Changmulla, Audoora and Puhropeth areas will be affected from 09:30 AM to 03:30 PM on 02 November, 2024.

Similarly, in order to carry out reconductoring, the shutdown of 33 KV Alusteng Zakura line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Station at Umerhair shall remain off while the power supply to the Ahmed Nagar, Buchpora and Umerhair partially areas will be affected from 09:30 AM to 04:30 PM on 2 & 05 of November, 2024.

Meanwhile, in order to carry out winter preparedness related works, the shutdown of below mentioned 33KV lines shall be observed which will subsequently affect electricity to given areas.

The shutdown of 220KV Amargarh-Zainakote Circuit I&II, 220KV Main Bus and 132/33 KV GSS Zainakote shall be observed due to which power supply to GSS Bemina, Pattan and Wanganpora including 33KV HMT Narbal, Shariefabad shall remain off from GSS Zainakote from 09:00 AM to 05:00 PM on 31 October, 2024. The shutdown of 220KV Wagoora-Pampore Circuit I&II, 450MVA 220/132KV Grid Station Pampore and 220KV Pampore -Mirbazar Circuit I&II (KPTCL) shall be observed due to which power supply to GSS 132 KV Pampore, GSS Chashmashahi, GSS Khonmoh shall remain off through GSS 220 KV Pampore from 10:00 AM to 04:30 PM on 02 November, 2024.

## KPDCL urges consumers to use power judiciously to avoid DT damage

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 28

Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), today urged its domestic consumers to use power judiciously which shall safeguard DTs (Domestic Transformers) from getting damaged, resulting in power outages and hardships to the people in winter.

In a statement issued here today, a KPDCL spokesperson stated that with the onset of winter, heating load has increased with consumers in flat-rate areas using crude heating gadgets like boilers and heaters that critically overload and damage the DTs. "In metered areas, night vigils have been intensified to check bypassing of meters and hooking by consumers on bare conductor, with the intention to use power unauthorisedly," he stated.

Anticipating DT damage in peak winter and in order to provide succour to the



consumers, KPDCL has maintained a buffer stock of 1554 DTs this winter. "In the eventuality of snowfall, stocking of 2030 steel poles, 600 km of conductor and 128 barrels of Transformer Oil has also been done for immediate repair and restoration works," he added.

KPDCL has also worked out a deep reserve buffer of DTs, STPs, ACSR and T. Oil that shall be invoked if any such need arises in peak winter due to heavy snowfall.

Last winter, a buffer stock of 1412 DTs had been

maintained by KPDCL to facilitate the consumers across all 10 districts of Kashmir valley.

Reiterating KPDCL's commitment to replace the damaged DT within the stipulated timelines, the spokesman, however, clarified that repeat damage of DT by excessive overloading by consumers shall attract longer replacement timelines, keeping in view the 24x7 working schedule of technical staff to repair the DTs at Central Workshop at Pampore, all Divisional Workshops of KPDCL and empanelled SSI units.

## Mubarak Gul braces admin for maiden Assembly session

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 28

Pro-tem Speaker, Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Mubarak Gul, today braced up the administration for first ever session of the current UT Legislature called on 4th of next month by the Lieutenant Governor (LG) here.

The session is going to see election for Speaker of the Assembly besides the inaugural address by the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, to the elected members on first day of commencement of the session.

The meeting besides Secretary, Legislative Assembly was attended by Director Estates, Jammu/Kashmir, Director, Hospitality & Protocol, SSP, Secretariat Security, General Manager, JKTD and representatives from Information, IT and other concerned departments.

During the meeting, the Pro-tem Speaker impressed upon the officers of Information Department to ensure



arrangements for the media persons for coverage of the house proceedings besides hassle-free interaction with the Speaker and other elected representatives on the sidelines of the session.

The department was also directed to make arrangements for the coverage and communication of LG's address in a smooth fashion by installing the public address system and sufficient number of microphones in the hall.

Mubarak Gul emphasised upon the Estates Department to further enhance the pace of work for readying the Assembly complex at Jammu for the winter session and more. He also enjoined upon them to make provisions for media people in the

lawns of assembly complex for media briefings. In addition, he asked for making proper accommodation for requisite employees for smooth functioning of the Assembly Secretariat round the year at Srinagar and Jammu.

Moreover, the Pro-tem Speaker took this occasion to instruct the Hospitality & Protocol Department to make necessary arrangements in the Secretariat lawns by installing waterproof canopies for media briefings and interactions of members with them in a conducive environment. He also asked for making appropriate preparations for the dining and refreshment of dignitaries in the Assembly canteen established in the ground floor.

## MLA Thanamandi reviews status of health infrastructure, road connectivity in home constituency

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI, OCTOBER 28

To discuss and identify infrastructure gaps in key public services, Member Legislative Assembly Thanamandi Muzaffar Khan, in presence of Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, chaired a meeting here today to review the status of road projects and healthcare facilities in his home constituency.

The meeting focused on improving the condition of PWD and BRO roads and the critical health needs of the local population.

MLA Muzaffar Khan and DC Abhishek Sharma thoroughly reviewed the progress of the road projects,



including the vital Rajouri-Thanamandi-Surankote road. Officials from the Public Works Department (PWD) and the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) presented updates on ongoing works, citing recent advancements and challenges in road con-

nectivity, particularly in areas affected by monsoon damage. The MLA underscored the importance of timely project completion to ensure accessible routes for commuters and local residents alike.

Health officials briefed the meeting on the current

healthcare infrastructure and steps being taken to enhance medical services. The MLA and DC directed health authorities to focus on increasing access to essential health services, with specific attention to rural and remote areas.

MLA Thanamandi Muzaffar Khan expressed his commitment to ensuring that all residents of Thanamandi and surrounding areas benefit from improved connectivity and healthcare facilities. DC Abhishek Sharma assured that the administration is working in close coordination with all stakeholders to resolve bottlenecks and accelerate project timelines.

### OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FOREST SOIL & WATER CONSERAVTION FOREST DEPARTMENT DODA

**e-TENDERING**

**Short Term Tender Notice:07 of 2024-25 dated 25-10-2024.**

The Soil & Water Conservation Division Doda, invites e-tenders from approved and eligible contractors registered with UT of J&K Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (Amount in rupees)	Earnest Money @ 2% (Amount in rupees)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document (Amount in rupees)	Time of Completion (Days)	Receiving /Opening Authority
1	Establishment of SC unit at Lower Bindraban (co. 66b/kishtwar) by way of different operations (Detail as per BOQ)	7,71,600.00	15,432.00	A, B, C & D	800.00	30	Tender Opening Authority

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities,(B.O.Q), Set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:- [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)

**Position of Funds:** Budgeted

**Position of AA:** Accorded.

**Position of TS:** Accorded.

<b>Publishing Date :-</b>	<b>25-10-2024</b>
<b>Download StartDate :-</b>	<b>25-10-2024</b>
<b>BidsSubmission StartDate :-</b>	<b>25-10-2024 4:00 PM</b>
<b>BidsSubmissionEnd Date :-</b>	<b>05-11-2024 06:00 PM</b>
<b>DateofOpeningoffinancialBid (online) :-</b>	<b>06-11-202412:00 Noon intheofficeof the Joint Director,Soil &amp; Water Conservation Forest Deptt. Jammu</b>

#### TERMS&CONDITIONS

- The price bids uploaded on the website in time will be opened on **06-11-2024 at 12:00 Noon** in the **Office of Joint Director, Department of Soil & Water Conservation Forest, Raika Narwal, Jammu**. In case of date of opening of the bid being public holiday, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

**Assistant Conservator of Forest  
Soil & Water Conservation Deptt.  
Doda**

**No.:-ACF/K/2024-25/125-29Dated :- 25-10-2024.**

**DIP/J-6289/24  
Date: 28-10-24**



## EDITORIAL

## Urgent need for road safety reforms in Jammu

The recent spate of fatal road accidents under the jurisdiction of the Nagrota police station, claiming the lives of five young individuals—including a girl—has thrown a harsh spotlight on the glaring inadequacies in road safety measures in Jammu and Kashmir. The devastating incidents, occurring just days apart, raise serious questions about the efficacy of existing protocols designed to protect commuters on the perilous roads of the region. On Sunday, a somber atmosphere enveloped three families in Janipur after three young men, aged 20 to 22, lost their lives on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway near Panjgrain. This was not an isolated occurrence; just days earlier, two NEET aspirants were tragically killed when their motorcycle collided with a truck on Tawi Bridge in Sidhra. These incidents are not mere statistics; they represent lives cut short and dreams extinguished, leaving families shattered and communities grieving. An inquiry has been launched to probe the circumstances surrounding these fatalities and to investigate potential lapses in the provision of proper signage and safety measures. This is a welcome step, yet it underscores a troubling pattern. Earlier this year, the suspension of six officials from the J&K Transport Department following a catastrophic accident in Akhnoor—where an overloaded bus plunged into a gorge, claiming 22 lives—highlighted systemic failures in the transport sector. The bus in question, designed for 55 passengers yet carrying 85, epitomizes a chronic neglect of regulatory norms and raises questions about enforcement and accountability. The state of Jammu's road infrastructure exacerbates this already dire situation. Many roads are poorly maintained and feature treacherous bends, effectively transforming them into "deathtraps" for unwary travelers. The dual issues of overloading and speeding remain rampant, leading to accidents that claim hundreds of lives each year. The urgency of reform has been previously recognized; a similar tragedy in Doda last November, which resulted in the deaths of 39 passengers, prompted the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir to establish an expert committee to propose preventive measures. Yet, despite these initiatives, fatal accidents persist. Statistics tell a grim story. According to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, from 2018 to 2022, J&K recorded 4,287 road fatalities. In 2023 alone, 883 people died and over 8,400 were injured in nearly 6,300 accidents, with Jammu district accounting for 171 of those fatalities. These figures are not just numbers; they represent a public health crisis demanding urgent attention. To truly address this issue, we need more than routine investigations after accidents. What is required is a comprehensive strategy that includes improving road infrastructure, enhancing driver education and training, and strictly enforcing traffic regulations. The goal must be to instill a culture of safety among drivers and pedestrians alike. Ensuring accountability is crucial for preventing future tragedies. Those responsible for maintaining safe roads and enforcing traffic laws must be held to a higher standard. The loss of life due to negligence and systemic failures is unacceptable. Our roads should not be a source of fear but rather a means of safe transit for all. In the wake of these tragic accidents, we must urge the authorities to take immediate and decisive action. Transforming our roads from perilous passages into safe routes for all requires dedication, commitment, and robust policy changes. The families affected by these tragedies deserve justice, and the people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve safe passage. It is time to prioritize road safety and ensure that no more lives are lost to preventable accidents.

## Rising import reliance amid regulatory challenge

UTTAM GUPTA

According to the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MPNG), during the first six months of the current financial year (FY) September 2024, India's consumption of natural gas (NG) increased by almost 12 per cent to 36.850 billion metric standard cubic meters (bmscm) over the corresponding period last FY. However, the import of NG (it is imported in a liquefied form commonly known as LNG) increased by 23 per cent to 18.975 bmscm during this period. Taken as a proportion of consumption, imports were 51.5 percent during April-September 2024 up from 46.8 percent during April-September 2023.

The country's production of NG registered a marginal increase of around 2 per cent during April-September 2024. The State-owned major Oil and Natural Gas Corporation or ONGC (it contributes about 84 per cent of total domestic output) produced 9.407 bmscm of NG during this period, which was 4 per cent less than during the same period of last FY. However, Oil India Limited (it has 8 per cent share) produced 4 per cent more NG at 1.577 bmscm during this period. The share of production in consumption was 48.5 per cent. Delivering the 75th Independence Day address on 15th August

2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi vowed to achieve self-reliance in energy production by boosting the gas-based economy. He had then wished the share of NG in the total energy mix to go up from subsisting around 6 per cent to 15 per cent. Pertinently, even to comply with the 6 per cent share, India had to import more than 50 per cent of its NG requirement.

The position hasn't changed even today. Increasing the share of NG in the total energy mix to 15 per cent would require its consumption to increase from its current annual of 73.689 bmscm to 184.222 bmscm (73.689x2.5). The current consumption includes domestic production of 35.739 bmscm. If domestic production stagnates at the current level (in sync with the trend of the last few years) then, to achieve the 15 per cent target, the import of LNG will have to be 148.483 bmscm (184.222-35.739) which means India's import dependence will have to increase to over 80 per cent. The above calculation assumes no increase in total energy consumption. But, it is increasing at a rapid pace. The country's power demand alone is projected to grow at a compound annual rate of 7 per cent during the next five years (as per an estimate by the Central Electricity Authority or CEA).

In that scenario, compliance with the 15 per cent

target for NG would mean still higher reliance on imports. What is coming in the way of increasing production? Natural resource endowment is not a problem. India has 26 sedimentary basins (SBs) covering an area of 3.4 million sq km that could be searched for hydrocarbon resources. However, only six of the SBs are under commercial exploitation; these too are sub-optimally utilised. Hydrocarbon exploration is a highly capital-intensive and technology-intensive business involving a long gestation period. It is risky, especially when drilling in deep/ultra-deep and high-pressure/high-temperature (D/UD/HP/HT) fields in offshore areas such as the Krishna-Godavari (KG) basin.

However, these areas offer maximum promise in terms of reserves. Multinational companies (MNCs) such as ExxonMobil, Chevron, Total etc. which have the technology and resources can be enticed to take long-term bets in the Indian hydrocarbon sector provided the government offers them an opportunity to earn an attractive return on their investment in a 'sustained' basis.

This, in turn, requires that their efforts in the discovery and development of NG fields don't face regulatory hurdles and that they can sell the gas 'freely' at a 'remunerative' price. Modi - The government has made a lot of efforts to remove regu-

latory hurdles. Until recently, of 1.73 million sq km SB area lying offshore, 0.69 million sq km was a 'No go' area, courtesy of security reasons.

The Centre has released almost all of this for exploration and production (E&P) activity. Now, it is granting lease rights over the entire economic life of the allotted fields (this could extend up to 30 years, even beyond depending on the available reserves) instead of the extant system of short tenure with extensions.

It has also made amendments to the Forest (Conservation) Act to enable prompt access to forest areas for exploration of hydrocarbon resources. Under the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP), also known as the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) launched in 2017, E&P firms are allowed to pick up a block of their choice unlike the earlier New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP) (launched in 1999) wherein they had to accept what the government offered. Besides, under OALP, an operator gets a composite license to search for hydrocarbon in whatever form viz NG, 'shale gas', CBM (coal bed methane) etc. For long, E&P efforts were hamstrung by cumbersome procedures, multiple approvals and bureaucratic red tape. Approvals were needed at every stage.

As many as 37 procedures were required to be followed by a firm-awarded

block under NELP. Team Modi has substantially liberalised and de-bureaucratized approvals by providing for self-certification of documents and pre-approved clearance of blocks. While the above helps, without freedom of marketing and the ability to secure a good price, E&P firms won't get enthused. Of the domestic gas, on around two-thirds of supplies (mostly from so-called 'legacy fields' given on nomination to ONGC and OIL and from fields given under NELP), the Centre has full control over 'to whom' the supplies will be made and at 'what price'. From April 1, 2023, based on the recommendations of the Kirit Parikh committee, this price expressed on a per million British thermal units (Btu) basis is arrived at by taking 10 per cent of the monthly average of the Indian crude basket in the preceding month and notified every month. The price thus calculated is subject to a ceiling of US\$ 6.50 per mBtu which makes the formula redundant.

Now, the bureaucrats have come up with a 20 per cent premium on supplies by ONGC and OIL only from the so-called 'new wells' or 'well interventions'.

If their intent is to give a good price why put a cap in the first place? Moreover, which fields get the benefit of 'new wells' or 'interventions', will also be solely at their discretion. Even the

pricing of the remaining one-third of domestic NG supplied from the so-called deep/ultra-deep and high-pressure/high-temperature fields (KG-D6 operated by Reliance Industries and neighbouring KG-DWN-98/2 operated by ONGC in Krishna-Godavari basin off the Andhra Pradesh coast fall in this category) isn't free from 'control' 'discretion' and 'arbitrariness'. Technically though, the firms can go for competitive bidding to determine the price for such supplies (referred to as a 'premium' price), this too is subject to a ceiling linked to the prices of alternate fuels including fuel oil, naphtha, and LNG.

There is an urgent need for a 'predictable' and 'attractive' policy environment to give a fillip to the exploration and production of NG. The Kirit Parikh committee was conscious of this when it recommended de-regulating difficult gas fields' prices by January 1, 2026, and the price on supplies from legacy fields by January 1, 2027. The government should implement these recommendations. Meanwhile, it should prepare the ground for giving subsidies directly to major users such as fertilizers, power, CNG, PNG etc instead of creating distortions in the supply chain by controlling the price of basic inputs such as NG.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

## Unlocking the Divine Energie

ASHWININI GURUJI

The universe operates under the influence of various shaktis (divine energies). As one advances in yogic practice (sadhana), these energies can be experienced directly. Each of the 365 days is associated with a specific shakti, which is why maintaining discipline and consistent daily practice in yoga is crucial. Missing even a single day can disrupt the connection with that day's shakti, potentially setting back the entire year's sadhana. In the cosmos, every element is interconnected, so when one aspect is neglected, it affects everything—our body, the Earth, and even other planets and stars. Each shakti is associated with a day, but accessing these energies does not require rituals. In yogic and tantric traditions, sadhana alone is the key to connecting with shakti. Understanding the form

(swaroop) of each shakti is essential. While every form has a specific name, names are revealed only after the body is prepared through particular sadhanas. At a basic level, when you meditate (dhyana) with your guru, you may see different forms manifesting in them, such as the sun or the moon. Have you ever wondered what these forms signify?

Many practitioners have reported seeing the sun during meditation. What makes the sun so significant? If you observe the sun at sunrise or sunset while focusing on the Manipura chakra (navel centre) and chanting the mantra "Ram," you will notice a glow emerging in your body. Within a month, you may begin to look noticeably different. However, a word of caution—any yogic practice should be undertaken under the guidance of a guru who can adapt it to your capacity. Similarly,



the moon is a fascinating energy source. It merely reflects the sun's light, yet it can influence tides and even the Earth's surface during a full moon. Have you ever considered what makes the moon special? On full moon nights, animals may behave aggressively, and incidents of accidents and conflicts tend to rise. These are just basic observations that hint at something deeper about these celestial forms. Understanding

their true nature requires direct experience, which is attainable through the proper practice of Sanatan Kriya. The moon may appear calm and peaceful, but it is actually more volatile than the sun. When you observe the moon under a guru's guidance, you can perceive the mantras embedded within its form. Some shaktis are not directly visible and can only be accessed through other shaktis. These experiences form the founda-

tion of yoga. Without direct experience, yoga remains incomplete. Nature, with all its wonders—from flowers of various colors to the sky above—contains the hidden forms of shaktis. If you observe these elements without blinking, under the guidance of a guru, you may find that your physical and mental imbalances begin to dissipate. However, discipline (niyam) is essential. The practice must be continuous, and disruptions will occur if one lacks the capacity for the shakti or does not have a guru to guide them.

Everything around us contains the essence of shakti, and these energies are easily accessible. When one becomes steady and focused on a particular shakti, it starts to follow them, empowering their life. The nine days leading up to Diwali hold special significance because of the congregation of specific shaktis during this

period. Our ancestors advised observing celibacy (brahmacharya) during these days to strengthen the body and prepare it to receive these energies. During this time, keep your mind centred within yourself, as the sadhana performed during these nine days is equivalent to months of practice. As Diwali approaches, especially on Amavasya (the new moon night), when we light diyas, it is an opportune time for shakti sadhana. Even a layperson who is not an experienced practitioner can perceive the swaroop of shakti by sitting with closed eyes in meditation. With a pure heart, one can experience these divine energies without any elaborate rituals. Let this Diwali be a time to connect with the powerful shaktis, embracing their presence to enrich your spiritual journey.

(The writer is a spiritual guru; views are personal)

## Ayurveda Day 2024: Celebrating innovations for global health and wellness

RAJESH KOTECHEA

Over the last decade, the Ayush sector has undergone a significant transformation, largely due to the initiatives led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This revolution in traditional Indian medicine has created new opportunities for various stakeholders, including industry professionals, traders, and healthcare practitioners. Since its establishment in 2014, the Ministry of Ayush has successfully integrated Ayush into mainstream healthcare, driving innovation, research, and gaining global recognition. The ministry's strategic focus encompasses public health, technology, education, globalisation, and quality control, ensuring that Ayush products and services are safe and of high quality.

This comprehensive approach aligns with the

goals of universal health coverage and sustainability, contributing to the sector's growth, increased public awareness, and a rising demand for Ayush healthcare systems worldwide.

Ayurveda Day is celebrated on the occasion of Dhanteras to honor Lord Dhanvantari, the deity revered as the physician of the gods and the God of Ayurveda. This year, Ayurveda Day will be observed on October 29, 2024, with a renewed focus on the theme "Ayurveda Innovations for Global Health." Since the Ministry of Ayush initiated Ayurveda Day in 2016, the event has expanded into a global celebration. The emphasis this year is on showcasing Ayurveda's potential to improve global health through innovative practices and natural treatment methods.

Ayurveda's core strength lies in its holistic

approach to health, which emphasizes prevention, health promotion, and natural healing. With the growing global demand for integrative healthcare solutions, Ayurveda is gaining recognition as a viable and sustainable alternative. Recent advancements, supported by scientific research, have increased the global reach and acceptance of Ayurvedic practices. One of the most notable contributions of Ayurveda to modern healthcare is the innovative use of herbal medicine. It is reported that over 95% of Ayurvedic interventions are based on herbal treatments, utilizing the healing properties of nature. As scientific research continues to validate the effectiveness of Ayurvedic herbs and therapies, the demand for these natural solutions is rapidly increasing worldwide.

The rise of non-commu-



nicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, cardiovascular disorders, and cancer has highlighted the need for natural, preventive healthcare solutions. Ayurveda, with its focus on holistic well-being, offers a unique approach to managing these conditions. Additionally, the growing problem of antimicrobial resistance requires alternative treatment methods,

and Ayurvedic remedies, rooted in herbal medicine, present sustainable options. As climate change exacerbates health risks, Ayurveda's emphasis on lifestyle management, mental health, and care for the elderly provides resilient solutions for vulnerable populations. Moreover, as societies face challenges like nutritional disorders and mental

health crises, Ayurveda's approach to balancing the body and mind becomes increasingly relevant.

Ayurveda is not a static system; it evolves continually through ongoing research and innovation. Recent advancements in fields such as genome sequencing and nanotechnology have revealed parallels with traditional Ayurvedic concepts like

Prakriti (body constitution) and Bhasma (herbal-mineral formulations). These modern innovations help bridge the gap between traditional practices and contemporary healthcare, making Ayurvedic treatments more accessible and scientifically validated.

Ayurveda as a proactive health strategy that can boost immunity, mental clarity, and overall well-being. The alignment of Ayurvedic innovations with the SDGs and Universal Health Coverage (UHC) underscores its potential to provide accessible, affordable, and inclusive healthcare. The 2024 Ayurveda Day will mark several important milestones that reflect the growth and integration of Ayurveda into mainstream healthcare. The Ministry of Ayush is accelerating this progress through the construction of Phase II of the All India Institute

of Ayurveda in New Delhi and the establishment of six new Centers of Excellence to promote innovation and research in traditional medicine. Plans to develop the Central Research Institute of Yoga and Naturopathy (CRIYN) in Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Andhra Pradesh aim to enhance the promotion of holistic health practices.

The celebrations for Ayurveda Day 2024 will include a variety of engaging activities, such as creative exhibitions, Ayurveda quizzes, medical camps, and Prakriti Pariksha (body constitution analysis). Initiatives like "Ayurveda in My Kitchen" and "Ayurveda in My Vatika" will emphasise the practical application of Ayurvedic principles in daily life.

(The writer is Secretary Ministry of Ayush; views are personal)



## HIGH-INTENSITY EXERCISE MORE BENEFICIAL FOR WEIGHT LOSS IN WOMEN

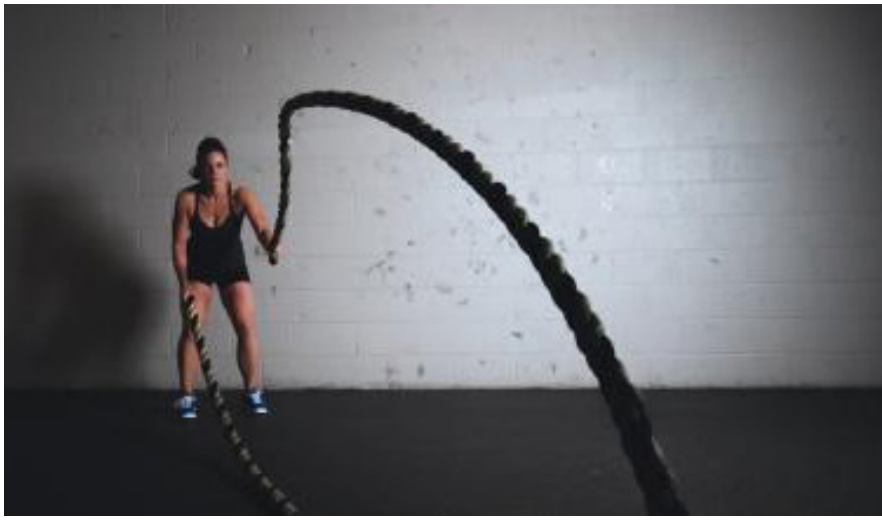
AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 28

Exercising to lose weight? High-intensity physical workouts may be more beneficial, especially for women, according to a study.

The study, published in the *Journal of the Endocrine Society*, showed that more than moderate exercise, and engaging in vigorous physical activity like jumping rope, swimming, and cycling can suppress hunger levels in healthy adults.

The small study noted that females may be more susceptible to this response.

Researchers from the University of Virginia in the US showed that the effect is due to ghrelin -- a hormone that stimulates appetite. They noted that hunger levels are signifi-



cantly reduced after high-intensity exercise, as compared to moderate-intensity exercise or control (no exercise).

Lead author Kara Anderson, from the varsity, noted that people felt 'less hungry' after high-intensity exercise

compared to moderate-intensity exercise.

To investigate the effect of exercise intensity and sex on ghrelin levels and appetite in untrained humans the study included eight males and six females. The participants fasted overnight and then

completed exercises of varying intensity levels. This was determined by measurements of blood lactate, followed by self-reported measurements of appetite.

The results showed females had higher levels of total ghrelin compared

with males. However, only females demonstrated "significantly reduced acylated ghrelin (AG)" following the intense exercise, the findings showed. AG and deacylated ghrelin (DAG) are the two forms of the hormone ghrelin.

Besides hunger, ghrelin is also known to affect energy balance, appetite, glucose homeostasis, immune function, sleep, and memory.

Anderson explained that exercise can be compared to a drug, whose 'dose' should be customised based on an individual's personal goals".

While the study suggests that high-intensity exercise can help in appetite suppression and aid in weight loss, more research with longer follow-up duration is needed to confirm these preliminary observations.

## Childhood attention issues may signal psychosis risk later

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 28

Children suffering attention problems may be at risk of developing psychotic-like experiences in adulthood, finds a study on Monday.

Psychosis is a mental condition that causes a person to lose touch with reality.

According to researchers from the University of California - Los Angeles, who analysed data from about 10,000 children for over six years, besides genetic makeup, attentional variability influenced the risk of broader psychotic-like symptoms as children grow into adolescence.

Children with a higher genetic risk for a broad set of neuropsychiatric and cognitive disorders had a greater risk of severe

psychotic-like experiences and greater attention issues.

In addition, attention span variability partially acted as an intermediate between the relationships between genetic risk for neuropsychiatric disorders and the expression of psychotic-like symptoms.

Attention span issues explained 4-16 per cent of these associations, revealed the findings, published in *Nature Mental Health*.

"If attention completely explained the relationship between genetic predisposition and psychotic-like experiences, that percentage would be 100 per cent," said Sarah Chang, a neuroscience graduate student at UCLA.

The researchers noted that the majority of youth who experience psychotic-like symptoms will not

go on to develop schizophrenia. These events raise the chance of a future psychotic disorder and mental illness.

The study findings, based on cognitive, brain, and genetic data from more than 10,000 participants, may help lead to future molecular targets that could be targets for early intervention for psychosis.

The study also involved the use of polygenic scores for neuropsychiatric conditions.

These scores summarise the combined effect of a large number of genetic variants to estimate a person's risk for developing the disorder. However, a limitation of using the polygenic scores is that they mostly rely on genetic data from people with European ancestry.

## Abnormal BMI in childhood can affect future lung function: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 28

An abnormal body mass index (BMI) in children -- whether high or low -- can be associated with impaired lung function, according to research on Monday.

About 10 per cent people suffer from poor lung function in childhood. They also cannot achieve maximal lung capacity in adulthood, increasing the risk of serious health problems such as cardiovascular disease, lung disease and diabetes.

However, the study led by researchers from Karolinska Institutet in Sweden showed that if their BMI is normalised before they reach adulthood, the impairment can be offset.



The team followed 3,200 children from birth to the age of 24. BMI -- the most common body measurement -- which takes account of weight, but not muscle and fat composition was measured about 4 times.

The results published in *The European Respiratory Journal* showed that abnormal weight and

height were the major risk factors associated with impaired lung function.

Children with a persistently high BMI or an accelerated increasing BMI had impaired lung function as adults.

It was primarily the result of restricted airflow in the lungs, a condition known as obstruction.

However, in children

"with an initially high BMI but a normalised BMI before puberty, lung function was not impaired in adulthood", said principal investigator Erik Melen, professor of paediatrics at Karolinska Institutet.

"This highlights how important it is to optimise children's growth both early in life and during their early school years and adolescence."

A stable low BMI could also be linked to reduced lung function caused by inadequate lung growth. In these cases, BMI was not normalised throughout the study.

The researchers also stressed the need to focus on introducing nutritional measures, rather than focusing only on being overweight.

## Can standing for long periods raise risk of stroke?

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 28

People whose occupations require them to stand for long hours, like retail workers, hairdressers, or factory employees, are more susceptible to suffering strokes, according to experts on Monday, ahead of World Stroke Day.

World Stroke Day is celebrated annually on October 29 to raise awareness about the condition to prevent and treat it fast.

The number of people worldwide having a new stroke rose to 11.9 million in 2021 -- up by 70 per cent since 1990. Stroke-related deaths rose to 7.3 million -- up by 44 per cent since 1990.

While stroke is now the third leading cause of death worldwide (after ischaemic heart disease



such as varicose veins and feeling dizzy or lightheaded.

The study called for regular movements.

It noted that standing for extended periods can cause blood to pool in the legs, which slows circulation and raises the possibility of blood clots.

"An ischemic stroke could result from these clots dislodging and moving to the brain if there is a hole in the heart, where they would stop blood flow," Dr. Vikram Huded, HOD and Director and Clinical Lead - Interventional Neurology at Narayana Group told IANS.

The experts recommended people with existing heart disease, hypertension, or a family history of stroke be particularly careful and take frequent breaks to move around.

## Arunachal Guv adopts 2 TB patients from LDV

AGENCIES  
ITANAGAR, OCT 28

As part of ongoing commitment to eradicate tuberculosis (TB) in the state, Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt General (Retd) KT Parnaik has adopted two TB patients from Lower Dibang Valley district, under the Nikshay Mitra initiative.

The Nikshay Mitra initiative under the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan encourages community/donors to support TB patients by providing them with additional nutritional, diagnostic, and vocational assistance.

The Governor, in his role as a Nikshay Mitra, presented food baskets to the adopted patients during his visit to the District Hospital at Roing in Lower Dibang Valley district on Sunday.

Earlier this month, the Governor adopted two TB patients each from Kamle and Upper Subansiri districts. He had earlier adopted two patients each from Kra Daadi, Siang, and West Siang districts, officials said.

Interacting with the Lower Dibang Valley district MLAs Mutchu Mithi and Puinnyo Apum and health officials, the Gov-

ernor highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal to eliminate TB from India by 2025, ahead of the global TB-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) target of 2030. He urged the public to unite in supporting this commitment. The Governor encouraged the health officials to promote healthy lifestyles, raise health awareness, and leverage technology for better analysis and planning.

He also praised the dedication of doctors, nurses, and paramedics in driving social reforms within the health centers, embody-

ing the ethos of "care and share."

District Tuberculosis Officer Dr Saga Migri briefed the Governor on TB and other health issues in the district. Lower Dibang Valley Deputy Commissioner Soumya Saurabh and SP Tumme Amo were also present during the visit.

The Governor, accompanied by his wife Anagha Parnaik, also took part in the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' plantation programmes at Anini and District Hospital at Roing on Saturday and Sunday.

The Governor, who has been advocating for

conservation of flora and fauna, exhorted the community to honour and celebrate motherhood by planting a tree in their mothers' names.

He highlighted that the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative not only pays tribute to mothers but also contributes to environmental goals, including increasing green cover, fighting climate change, and protecting biodiversity.

The Governor said that the program helps foster a stronger sense of responsibility and connection to nature within individuals and communities.

## PAKISTAN REPORTS 41ST POLIO CASE IN 2024

AGENCIES  
ISLAMABAD, OCT 28

Pakistan reported another polio case, increasing the overall tally to 41 in 2024, an official from the health ministry said on Saturday.

An official from the Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health (NIH) confirmed the detection of type 1 wild poliovirus in a child from Loralai district of the country's

southwest Balochistan province.

So far, 21 cases have been reported from Balochistan, 12 from southern Sindh province, six from northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and one each from eastern Punjab and federal capital Islamabad, according to the official.

"Balochistan is facing an intense transmission of wild poliovirus type 1 this year.

While this is the first case from Loralai of

the year, four consecutive sewage samples have tested positive from the district since June, indicating that the virus is circulating there," the NIH official said.

Meanwhile, Pakistan is set to launch a nationwide vaccination campaign from Oct. 28 to vaccinate more than 45 million children in various districts, according to the prime minister's focal person for polio eradication.

## Science Ministry grants herbal patents to 26 indigenous knowledge holders

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 28

The Ministry of Science and Technology has facilitated 26 indigenous knowledge holders from Jammu and Kashmir and Gujarat with herbal patents, it said on Monday.

"This will facilitate the scaling up of technologies for commercial and social ventures," the ministry said.

The custodians of herbal traditional knowledge were granted herbal patents at felicitation programmes held earlier at the University of Kashmir and subsequently at the National Innovation

Foundation, Gandhinagar on October 22.

"Knowledge holders interact within their ecological system and possess a deep understanding of local flora accumulated through experiences, experiments, and wisdom. These practices are tools for solving challenges in human health and agriculture including livestock at their locale," the ministry said.

"With rising concern on environmental hygiene and antimicrobial resistance, these sustainable practices are gaining importance. Such herbal medicines have to be recognised, scientifically

valorised for integration in the health care system," it added.

To protect the indigenous knowledge system of the country, the Department of Science and Technology in 2000 set up the National Innovation Foundation-India (NIF).

The NIF had incubated a large pool of outstanding traditional knowledge practices and protected this wisdom through Intellectual Property [IP] Rights. Several of these technologies were IP protected to create opportunities for social benefit, the ministry said.

Further, it stressed

the need to protect these health traditions with scientific evidence to help "augment the link between informal and formal systems for larger social goals".

The scientifically proven herbal practices can pave the way for technology and industry partnerships, helping build indigenous cost-effective solutions for public health concerns.

The ministry said that such initiatives are vital for India's herbal heritage. It also emphasised the critical requirement for sustainable practices that can foster economic growth and community resilience.

## Long-Covid like condition common after respiratory infections: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 28

Long-Covid -- continued illness post Covid-19 -- is common after other respiratory infections, according to a study.

A team of researchers from the University of Oxford in the UK analysed data from 190,000 participants.

They classified them into: people hospitalised with Covid and those hospitalised with other lower respiratory tract infections (LRTIs). These were then compared with a reference group with no LRTI hospitalisations.

Participants completed

surveys reporting on 45 different physical and psychological symptoms observed across the ear, nose, and throat; respiratory; neurological; gastrointestinal; and musculoskeletal systems.

The findings, published in *JAMA Network Open*, showed that people hospitalised with Covid had higher risks of 23 out of 45 symptoms. Similarly, those hospitalised for non-Covid LRTIs had 18 out of 45.

Dr. Junqing Xie from NDORMS at the varsity said the "post-acute effects of Covid-19 are not unique".

These "can also

occur with other severe respiratory infections," explained Junqing.

While those with Long Covid are more likely to suffer from continued fatigue, breathlessness, and even brain fog. Some previous studies have shown that Covid patients are also likely to have a persistent loss of taste.

However, neurological and cognitive symptoms were also observed in the latest study.

They found that problems with thinking and communicating were higher than in the reference group. But it was also higher than those

hospitalised for other LRTIs.

Junqing called for expanding understanding of long-term health consequences that can arise from other severe respiratory infections. This is when healthcare systems worldwide continue to grapple with the after-effects of the Covid pandemic.

He also stressed the need for recognising differences/similarities between post-acute infections caused by a different virus.

This can help plan better preventive measures and tailored care for these patients.



# PM MODI TO LAUNCH MULTIPLE HEALTH PROJECTS WORTH RS 12,850 CR TODAY

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 28

In a major boost to the healthcare sector in India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to launch, inaugurate, and lay the foundation stone of multiple health-related projects worth around Rs 12,850 crore on October 29, the PM Office said on Monday.

The projects, to be initiated across the states on the occasion of Dhanvantari Jayanti and 9th Ayurveda Day, will be launched at around 12.30 p.m. Tuesday at All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), Delhi.

The Prime Minister will inaugurate Phase II of India's First All India Institute of Ayurveda. It includes a Panchakarma hospital, an Ayurvedic pharmacy for drug manufacturing, a sports medicine unit, a central library, an IT and startups incubation centre, and a 500-seat auditorium among others.

Three three medical colleges at Mandsaur, Neemuch, and Seoni in Madhya Pradesh will also be inaugurated.

PM Modi will inaugurate facility and service extensions at various AIIA in Bilaspur in Him-

achal Pradesh, Kalyani in West Bengal, Patna in Bihar, Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh, Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, Guwahati in Assam and in Delhi, which will also include a Jan Aushadhi Kendra.

A Super Speciality Block in Government Medical College at Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh and a Critical Care Block in Bargarh, Odisha will also be inaugurated.

The Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone of five Nursing Colleges in Shivpuri, Ratlam, Khandwa, Rajgarh, and Mandsaur in Madhya Pradesh; 21 Critical Care Blocks at Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Manipur, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan under Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), and several facilities and service extensions at AIIA in Delhi and in Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh.

He will also inaugurate an ESIC Hospital at Indore in Madhya Pradesh and lay the foundation stone for ESIC hospitals at Faridabad in Haryana, Bommasandra and Narasapur in Karnataka, Indore in Madhya Pradesh, Meerut in Uttar Pradesh, and Atchutapuram in Andhra Pradesh.

These projects will



bring healthcare benefits to around 55 lakh ESI beneficiaries, the PMO said.

As part of the flagship scheme Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), the Prime Minister will launch an expansion of health coverage to all senior citizens aged 70 years and above. The initiative, approved by the Union Cabinet in September, will help provide health coverage to all senior citizens regardless of their income.

In a bid to enhance service delivery across sectors, and to make healthcare more accessible, the PM will also launch drone services at 11 Tertiary Healthcare Institutions -- nine AIIA in Rishikesh (Uttarakhand), Bibinagar (Telangana), Guwahati

(Assam), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), Jodhpur (Rajasthan), Patna (Bihar), Bilaspur (Himachal Pradesh), Rae Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh), Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Mangalagiri (Andhra Pradesh); and RIMS Imphal in Manipur.

To enable speedy medical care, helicopter emergency medical services will also be launched from AIIA Rishikesh.

The PM will also launch a fully digitised vaccination process that benefits pregnant women and infants -- the U-WIN portal.

The portal will ensure timely administration of life-saving vaccines to pregnant women and children (from birth to 16 years) against 12 vaccine-preventable diseases, the PMO said.

A separate portal will

be launched for allied and healthcare professionals and institutes.

It will act as a centralised database of existing healthcare professionals and institutes.

Further, Prime Minister Modi will also launch several initiatives to strengthen the research and development and testing infrastructure to improve the healthcare ecosystem in the country. A Central Drugs Testing Laboratory in Gothapatna in Bhuvaneshwar, Odisha will also be launched.

The PM will lay the foundation stone of two Central Research Institutes in Yoga and Naturopathy at Khordha in Odisha, and Raipur in Chhattisgarh.

He will also lay the foundation stone of four Centres of Excellence at NIPER Ahmedabad in Gujarat for medical devices, NIPER Hyderabad in Telangana for bulk drugs, NIPER Guwahati in Assam for phytopharmaceuticals, and NIPER Mohali in Punjab for anti-bacterial anti-viral drug discovery and development.

Four Ayush Centres of Excellence will be launched, for diabetes and metabolic disorders at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru; sustainable Ayush for advanced

technological solutions, start-up support, and net zero sustainable solutions for Rasaushadhis at IIT Delhi; fundamental and translational research in Ayurveda at Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow; and Ayurveda and Systems Medicine at JNU, New Delhi.

In a major boost to the Make in India initiative in the healthcare sector, five projects are expected to be inaugurated under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for medical devices and bulk drugs.

These units -- at Vapi in Gujarat, Hyderabad in Telangana, Bengaluru in Karnataka, Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh, and Nalagarh in Himachal Pradesh -- will manufacture high-end medical devices, such as body implants and critical care equipment, along with important bulk drugs.

A nationwide campaign, "Desh Ka Prakriti Parikshan Abhiyan," that aims to raise health awareness among the citizens will also be launched by the PM.

To develop climate-resilient healthcare services, the PM will also launch a state-specific Action Plan on Climate Change and Human Health for each state and UT.

## PM Modi, Spanish Prez greet specially-abled girl as she gifts them portraits during Vadodara roadshow

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 28

In a heartwarming moment during Vadodara roadshow, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Spanish President Pedro Sanchez took a special pause to greet Dia Gosai, a specially-abled student from MS University who presented them a sketched portrait of both leaders.

Upon spotting Dia in the crowd, PM Modi stopped the motorcade and stepped out to personally thank her for the special gift. Both leaders shook hands with Dia, praising her extraordinary artistic talent. The Spanish President also expressed admiration for the sketch, acknowledging her skills while shaking hands.

The heart-warming moment unfolded when PM Modi and his Spanish counterpart Pedro Sanchez were travelling in an open jeep and waving hands at people standing on both sides of the route, during the Vadodara roadshow.

The touching moment saw the crowd applauding the two leaders for showing their compassionate and humane side.

PM Modi alongside Spanish President Pedro Sanchez inaugurated the TATA Aircraft Complex in Vadodara, marking a

major milestone for the "Make in India" initiative in the aviation sector.

The two leaders unveiled the Final Assembly Line (FAL) Plant for the C295 military aircraft, developed by Tata Advanced Systems in collaboration with Airbus Spain.

It was before the inauguration that PM Modi and President Sanchez participated in a 2.5 km roadshow from the airport to the Tata facility, engaging with the public and witnessing cultural performances along the way.

At the event, PM Modi highlighted India's rapid development, noting, "This is my friend Pedro Sanchez's first visit to India. Today, we are moving in a new direction to the India-Spain partnership with the production factory of the C295 aircraft. This facility will enhance India-Spain relations and the 'Make in India, Make for the World' mission."

As part of the C295 program, a total of 56 aircraft will be manufactured, with 16 to be delivered by Airbus from Spain and the remaining 40 to be built within the TATA Aircraft Complex, located on the Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) campus in Vadodara.

## Udhayanidhi Stalin must adhere to dress code as per government order, says AIADMK

AGENCIES  
CHENNAI, OCT 28

The AIADMK has demanded that Tamil Nadu's Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin adhere to the dress code mandated by a Tamil Nadu government order.

AIADMK legal cell secretary and former Tamil Nadu MLA, S. Imbadurai, stated on Monday that the government dress code, which applies to government employees, should be followed by the Deputy Chief Minister as well.

According to the Tamil Nadu Government Order (G.O.), male employees are required to wear shirts with formal pants or dhoti, in keeping with Tamil culture, or other traditional Indian attire.

Female employees must wear sarees or salwar suits. Imbadurai also criticised Udhayanidhi Stalin for wearing a T-shirt displaying the DMK flag and



the rising sun symbol of the party, which he wore at official events.

The Deputy Chief Minister's choice of informal attire has drawn strong criticism from the Opposition parties in Tamil Nadu.

A petition has also been filed in Madras High Court, challenging Udhayanidhi Stalin's casual attire at official functions as unconstitutional.

In the petition, advo-

ther contended that, as a public servant, Udhayanidhi should not wear party symbols in government meetings or while performing official duties, as it could amount to indirect solicitation for votes, which is legally inappropriate.

He also argued that wearing casual attire, such as a T-shirt, jeans, and informal footwear, at official events violates the formal dress code prescribed by the government.

Udhayanidhi Stalin, seen as the heir apparent in the DMK, has been prepared to succeed his father M. K. Stalin as Chief Minister. Since becoming a minister, he has been promoted to Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. He was also in charge of the DMK's campaign for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, actively travelling across the state as a lead campaigner for the party.

The petitioner further contended that, as a public servant, Udhayanidhi should not wear party symbols in government meetings or while performing official duties, as it could amount to indirect solicitation for votes, which is legally inappropriate.

The petitioner fur-

## PM Modi, Spanish Prez pledge to enhance partnership in bilateral talks, held at Laxmi Vilas Palace

AGENCIES  
VADODARA (GUJARAT), OCT 28

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Spanish President Pedro Sanchez for bilateral talks at the Durbar Hall complex of Laxmi Vilas Palace in Vadodara on Monday. The focus of their discussion centered around strengthening bilateral ties across various sectors.

The two leaders also talked about the shared commitment by both nations on burning issues of global peace, prosperity, and cooperation.

The meeting took place following the inauguration of the TATA-Airbus C295 aircraft production facility, with both leaders underscoring their commitment to a dynamic and multifaceted India-Spain partnership.

The two leaders, following delegation-level talks, also had lunch at the palace and interacted with the India-Spain busi-



ness delegation.

Welcoming President Sanchez, PM Modi said, "I welcome you and your delegation. This is your first visit to India. Last year in New Delhi, we all felt your absence. It's a pleasure to welcome you to India during Diwali in my home state of Gujarat."

He noted Gujarat's reputation as a "land of festivals and enthusiasm" and likened the Diwali festivities to the renewed energy and enthusiasm in India-Spain relations sparked by San-

peace, prosperity, and cooperation."

PM Modi further emphasised on the importance of people-to-people ties, noting that young Indian talent is contributing to Spain's green and digital transition goals.

"In light of this growing relationship, India opened a new Consulate in Barcelona this year, and we welcome Spain's decision to open a new Consulate in Bengaluru," he added.

Spanish President Sanchez congratulated PM Modi on his third term in office and expressed optimism about the impact of his visit, stating, "It is an honour to be in India with the Spanish delegation. I am confident this visit will enhance our bilateral relations and reflect the influence both India and Spain hold globally." Sanchez also mentioned an "ambitious joint declaration" being endorsed during the visit, covering a wide range of collaborations.

## 'Delhi Nyay Yatra' to address city's long-pending issues, raise voice against injustices: Congress

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 28

Congress leaders on Monday said that the 'Delhi Nyay Yatra' modelled on the lines of Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra, will help acknowledge and address the long-pending issues of the capital and also seek to end the 'injustices' done to residents.

They said that the 'Nyay Yatra' will address the issues faced by the people, whose welfare, they claimed, has been overlooked by both the central government and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

Congress national spokesperson Pawan Khera said that the Delhi Nyay Yatra will protest against the "injustices" inflicted on Delhi resi-

dents by the BJP and AAP governments at Centre and state level respectively.

"The people of Delhi are watching this Yatra with hope as it stands against the years of injustice. This Yatra will oppose the injustice," he told IANS.

Congress National Secretary and spokesperson Alok Sharma, speaking to IANS, emphasised that the Yatra reflects the party's commitment to meeting the needs of Delhi's citizens.

"Delhi tops the charts in pollution, crime, unemployment, and inflation.

The Nyay Yatra will bring these issues into focus, allowing us to communicate with the people of Delhi and hear their voices," he said.

## Your vote is for peace, democracy and equality: Priyanka Gandhi in Wayanad

AGENCIES  
WAYANAD, OCT 28

Congress-led UDF candidate Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday began her byelection campaign in the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency by launching a scathing attack on the Centre, alleging that the values of the Constitution are constantly being subverted. She urged the people to vote for peace, democracy and equality in India.

On Monday, she has public meetings at three of the seven Assembly constituencies that fall in the Wayanad Lok Sabha and on Tuesday she will address four meetings before leaving for Delhi.

Her first stop was at Peenamangudi and then at Panamaram and the topic at both meetings was the same as she reminded the

people about the need for voting for the Congress.

"You know the times we are living in when the BJP is in Centre, where fear, anger and mistrust are spread among the people. You have seen the attacks against minorities and seen what has happened in Manipur. The values of the Constitution are thwarted and policies after policies are made to make the friends of the PM happy...Today we are fighting a very big battle and Rahul Gandhi is leading that battle. All of us are fighting for the values of this country to be built. We are fighting for the values of our constitution. Today we are fighting for democracy equality, and truth and each one of you is an important soldier for this. So please understand that along with me you also have a responsibility



towards the country. As if there is a time to stand up for truth and democracy the time is now," said Priyanka Gandhi.

"Each one of you with one vote of yours can stand up for it. On my way, journalists asked me what my expectations were as to how many lakhs votes I would get. But I expect to look into your hearts and recognize what has happened as your vote is for peace, democracy equality for India. If you choose

to elect me as your MP, I will work as hard as possible to do my best. I will stand side by side with you and raise your issues. You give me your trust and I will not let you down," said the Congress general secretary.

She said the love the people in Wayanad are giving her makes her hugely indebted to all. She then recalled an episode with Mother Teresa and related it with the way she walked into the house of

an ex-serviceman's home last Tuesday and met his aged mother Thresia when she came to file her nomination.

"When I was sitting next to Thresia who gave me the rosary, it reminded me of when I was 19 years old, my father had just died and Mother Teresa came to meet my mother. On that day I had a fever and was in my room. She wanted to meet me and put her hand on my head and just like Thresia gave a rosary in my hand, she also did the same. She might have realized that since my father had died I was sad and going through troubled times. Mother Teresa said to me, "you come and work with me. So I went to work with the sisters of Mother Teresa in Delhi, I started to teach the children a bit of English and Hindi. This is the first

time am speaking about this in public but there is a context...So my job was to teach the children and on Tuesday we washed the bathrooms, cleaned the vessels, taught the children to paint, and took them outside. By working with them I understood the pain and trouble they faced and also what it meant to serve. Then I learned how a community can help," said Priyanka Gandhi.

"When I came here after the terrible landslide, I immediately recognized how the way the community came together to help the suffering. I saw each one of you did whatever you could do to help irrespective of religion and profession. Many times in situations like these, we see human greed, people taking away things, but did not see that in Wayanad.



# Trump attacks China, says US has greatest military

AGENCIES  
NEW YORK, OCT 28

In a confrontation with China, "we will kick their ass", Republican Presidential Candidate Donald Trump has said at a campaign rally, asserting, "We have the greatest military in the world".

Speaking out against what he asserted was the weakening of respect for the US under President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, he said on Sunday, "A report that they issued that if we end up in a war with China, we cannot win. We're not strong enough".

"We have the greatest military in the world," he declared.

"You don't put out reports like that - and it's not true. We would kick their ass," he said.

Even "assuming that's true, how stupid are you to put out a report like that," he said. He did not say which report he was referring to, but it was likely a report from the Commission on the National Defence Strategy to the Senate Armed Services earlier this year.

It said, "The Commission finds that the US military lacks both the capabilities and the capacity required to be confident it can deter and prevail in

combat" and that "in many ways, China is outpacing the United States and has largely negated the US military advantage in the Western Pacific".

Trump's strong statement tinged by a colloquial vulgarity was in keeping with his theme of asserting that he would reclaim America's greatness which he said had been devalued by Biden and Harris.

"If we win, our enemies won't be laughing anymore," Trump said

The Madison Square Garden was packed to its capacity of about 19,000 about 90 minutes before his campaign rally was to begin, and thousands were left stranded outside after waiting for hours to get in and watched him on giant screens.

Inside, whipped to bouts of frenzy, the crowd punctuated his speech with screams of, "USA, USA", and "Four more years".

Although most of his nearly 90-minute speech focused on immigration and inflation, he presented himself as the keeper of world order.

His 2016 Democratic Party rival Hillary Clinton, he said, had warned that he would start World War III, but he was the first president in 82 years not to have launched a foreign



military intervention.

He said that if he were the president, Russia would not have invaded Ukraine or Hamas attacked Israel.

He said he got along with Russia's President Vladimir Putin and other adversaries.

"Ukraine was the apple of his (Putin's) eye, but I said, Vladimir, don't go in," Trump said.

On foreign trade, he reiterated his threat to enact what he called the Trump Reciprocal Tax Act that would impose tariffs of the same amount that countries levied on imports from the US.

He said he would make the US companies bring home their manufacturing, creating jobs in the US.

Trump promised a "golden age" of prosperity for the US.

Attacking Harris as dishonest, he repeated his claim that she had not worked at McDonald's fast-food restaurant as she had said.

He said that his campaign event of working at a Pennsylvania restaurant was longer than any she might have.

He asserted that Google CEO Sundar Pichai - "a very smart guy" - had called him about it.

Mangling his first name by pronouncing the U as in sun, Trump said, "I got a call from Sundar ... and he said, we've had more hits for McDonald's (story). I think he said (more than) anything we've ever had".

(Harris and many sources maintain that she had worked part-time at McDonald's while she was a student at Howard University in Washington.)

Trump praised his vice

presidential candidate J.D. Vance's wife, Usha, as a highly intelligent person who had topped Yale Law School and said their children would be very smart.

Trump trotted out his well-worn accusations that Harris was a radical Leftist who was trying to hide her past radical statements on immigration and being soft on crime but would bring them back if elected.

The media was again his target, calling it "fakers" and "enemy of the people".

The rally was as much entertainment as serious policy discourse.

His speech was punctuated by music and videos of crimes by migrants.

For Trump, who was convicted in the city on 32 charges of fraud for trying to hide as business expenses his hush money payments to a porn star who claimed to have had a sexual tryst, and faces sentencing next month, it seemed like a moment of triumph as thousands cheered him on what was once his home turf.

"This is the city where I was born and raised, and this is the town that taught me that Americans can do anything," he said.

The former president has moved his official residence from the city to

Florida but keeps a penthouse at Trump Towers.

His wife, Melania, who introduced him, recalled a rally Trump had held in South Bronx in May.

The last time a Republican president campaigned there, it was Ronald Reagan, who turned New York "red", she said.

Speaking in a city where he won only a paltry 23 per cent of the votes in 2020, Trump who has been accused of divisive rhetoric tried to project a sense of inclusivity.

He said he was building the "biggest, broadest coalition in the history of the country".

"We bleed the same blood. we share the same hope. we are one people, one family, and one glorious nation under God," he said.

Although he did not say anything racist, some of his associates who spoke before him did.

Tucker Carlson, a former Fox News talk show host, ridiculed Harris, whose mother is Indian, as "a Samoan, Malaysian, low-IQ"

Tesla founder and CEO Elon Musk, who, Trump said, will head a government efficiency panel, claimed that he would cut \$2 trillion from the current federal budget of \$6.5 trillion.

# Japan PM Ishiba vows to continue leading govt following election debacle

AGENCIES  
TOKYO, OCT 28

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba on Monday said he will continue as prime minister to lead the government and tackle growing economic and security challenges after his ruling bloc suffered a crushing blow in the general election the day before.

Ishiba, head of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), described the election outcome, in which the ruling coalition, for the first time in 15 years, lost its majority in the 465-member House of Representatives, as "harsh," while stressing "we cannot afford a political stalemate."

At a press conference held at LDP headquarters on Monday, Ishiba dismissed the idea of changing the ruling coalition's composition for now but expressed a desire to incorporate policy ideas from the Opposition camp, Xinhua news agency reported.

While the LDP's goal of retaining its majority along with its coalition partner Komeito was not achieved, Ishiba vowed to fundamentally reform the



party to restore voter confidence affected by a slush fund scandal.

The main reason behind the election defeat is that "we failed to address people's suspicion, distrust and anger over the under-reporting of political funds and the issue of money in politics," Ishiba said.

Following Sunday's election, the LDP and Komeito got 215 of the 465 seats in the powerful chamber of parliament, a sharp drop from 288, marking the first time since 2009 that they have lost majority control.

The LDP alone only secured 191 seats, much less than the 247 seats it held prior to the election, while the main Opposition, the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, surged to 148 seats from 98.

The LDP's election strategy chief Shinjiro Koizumi resigned on Monday to take responsibility in light of the party's dismal election results, local media reported.

# Lawsuits filed to nullify Japan's general election over vote disparities

AGENCIES  
TOKYO, OCT 28

Lawyers filed lawsuits at several high courts in Japan on Monday seeking to nullify the results and conduct a rerun of the previous day's general election, local media reported.

The lawyers are set to complete filing the lawsuits with 14 high courts and their branches across the country later Monday, challenging all the 289 single-seat electoral district results, arguing that disparities in the weight of votes violated the principle of equality under the Constitution, reports Xinhua quoting Kyodo News.



Boundary changes and redistribution of single-seat constituencies for the latest lower house election resulted in the maximum vote weight disparity falling slightly from the previous election in 2021 to 2.06-fold, the report said.

A revised law enacted in 2022 added 10 single-seat

electoral districts to five prefectures and cut one each from 10 prefectures while redrawing boundaries in another 10 prefectures, affecting a total of 140 constituencies, it added.

The revision aimed at narrowing the vote disparity below the 2.0-fold level between densely and

sparingly populated districts within the country. Large disparities in the weight of votes cast have led to numerous lawsuits claiming they violate the Constitution.

The Supreme Court said the maximum disparity of 2.08-fold in the 2021 lower house election was constitutional as parliament had made efforts to redress differences in the weight of votes.

The top court ruled that the lower house elections of 2009, 2012 and 2014, where the vote disparity was above 2.0-fold, were constitutionally problematic, saying they were in a "state of unconstitutionality." It has never nullified election results.

# Egyptian, Iranian FMs discuss developments of Israel's attacks on Iran

AGENCIES  
CAIRO/TEHRAN, OCT 28

Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty and his Iranian counterpart Seyyed Abbas Araghchi have discussed the latest developments regarding the Israeli attacks on Iran, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

During a phone conversation on Saturday night, Abdelatty renewed Egypt's condemnation of all unilateral and provocative measures and policies that threaten regional security and stability, the statement said on Sunday.

The top Egyptian diplomat stressed the need to de-escalate, step up efforts to achieve calm, and pre-



vent a regional war that would lead to dire consequences, Xinhua news agency reported.

Abdelatty also reviewed efforts made by Egypt, in coordination with Qatar and the US, to reach an agreement for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, the full

achieve ceasefires in Gaza and Lebanon to prevent the spread of the war to other parts of the region, according to a statement released by the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Regarding the latest Israeli attack on Iranian sites, Araghchi said his country would not hesitate to give a "decisive and proportionate response to any aggression" against its territorial integrity and security at the right time.

The Israel Defense Forces said early Saturday that it launched "precise and targeted" airstrikes on military targets in Iran in response to the attacks from Iran in recent months.

# UK parliamentarians call for release of Imran Khan

AGENCIES  
ISLAMABAD, OCT 28

Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan, who has been behind bars for over a year for multiple cases of corruption and sedition, is getting open support from parliamentarians from countries like the United Kingdom.

British parliamentarians have called on the Pakistan government for the release of Khan, terming his arrest and imprisonment as part of a political agenda to suppress the government's opposition movements.

Over 20 cross-party UK parliamentarians have signed an appeal through a letter by Liverpool Riverside MP Kim Johnson, urging the Foreign Secretary David Lammy to

engage with the Shehbaz Sharif-led government of Pakistan for the immediate release of former premier and leader of political party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Imran Khan.

The appeal letter through MP Kim Johnson came through a request of Imran Khan's advisor on international affairs, Zulfi Bukhari, and was signed by members of both the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

UK Parliamentarians have expressed serious concerns over the detention and treatment of former Pak PM Imran Khan, terming Khan's incarceration as a politically motivated move to ensure that he was kept behind bars and disqualified from being in the elec-



toral race.

"We are writing with grave concern about the continued detention of former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan. As you will know, Mr Khan was imprisoned in 2023 in a move which the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention found had no legal basis and appears to have been intended to disqualify him from running for political office.

Thus, from the outset, that prosecution was not grounded in law and was

reportedly instrumental for a political purpose," read the letter.

The letter warned and expressed fear that Imran Khan's imprisonment may serve as a precedent to suppress political opponents and the legal grounds may be misused and manipulated for political motives by the ruling party against its opposition.

The letter highlighted that Imran Khan was denied his basic right to prepare for defence in at least three trials, adding that the consistent flow of cases being piled up against Imran Khan seems to follow a pattern.

"Cases being piled up against Imran Khan are now consistent with a pattern of misuse of the justice system in Pakistan

to intimidate, harass and target political opposition leaders - while infringing upon the enshrined independence of the Judiciary," the letter read.

They urged him to initiate a dialogue with Pakistan's government to secure Imran's immediate release from pre-trial detention.

The letter also raised serious concerns over the possibilities that Imran Khan's cases may be decided through a military court, the parliamentarians warned that such a move would only represent illegal intensification.

"Following a recent review of Mr Khan's case, Amnesty International has found that there has been a pattern of weaponisation of the legal system to keep Imran Khan under

detention and away from political activity," read the letter.

"The recently passed 26th Constitutional Amendment would constitute an assault on the principle of a separation of powers codified in the country's Constitution," the letter added.

The letter also mentioned the recent ongoing clampdown against members, leaders and political figures of Imran Khan's political party PTI from holding public rallies, despite acquiring prior permission from the relevant government authorities.

"It appears that Pakistani authorities unfairly invoked a new Public Order Act to detain PTI supporters", the letter read.

# Philippines: Death toll from tropical storm Trami climbs to 116

AGENCIES  
MANILA, OCT 28

The death toll from catastrophic flooding and landslides triggered by tropical storm Trami that slammed into the Philippines last week has risen to 116, with at least 39 people remaining unaccounted for, the Philippines' National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said on Monday.

Local authorities said Trami dumped two months of rain, impacting over 6.7 million people across 17 of the country's regions, reports Xinhua news agency.

The search continues for 39 missing people who were either buried in

landslides or washed away by the floods.

Trami, the 11th typhoon to hit the Philippines this year, barreled across the Philippines, leaving a trail of destruction with disastrous flooding and landslides on Luzon Island, particularly in the Bicol and Calabarzon regions, and areas in the central and southern Philippines.

Floodwaters crumbled highways and bridges, paralysing transport, and flooded homes with mud.

Three days after Trami exited the Philippines on Friday, disaster victims are still desperately waiting for food and clean water. Many areas still lack potable water or electricity.

# Iran says it does not seek war with Israel but vows "appropriate response"

AGENCIES  
TEHRAN, OCT 28

Iran has vowed to respond to Israel's strikes on the country, which Tehran says killed five people, but said it does not want a wider war.

"We do not seek war, but we will defend the rights of the people and the nation, and we will give an appropriate response to the Zionist entity's aggression," Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Sunday, according to media reports.

The Iranian President warned tensions would escalate if Israel "continues its aggression and crimes" and accused the US of "provoking the regime into committing these crimes".

Iran's official news agency IRNA also quoted

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi as saying Iran was not seeking war, but adding that it would respond to any aggression by Israel at an "appropriate time".

Israel has said its strikes on Iran early Saturday hit

military targets and were in response to Iranian attacks on Israel earlier this month, CNN reported.

Israel's Chief of the General Staff, Herzi Halevi, warned on Sunday that any threat against his country would be dealt with mili-

tarily.

He added that Israel had "used only a portion" of its military capabilities during Saturday's strikes on Iran.

"We will now see how things develop. We are prepared for all scenarios in every arena," he said.

Iran had a relatively muted public posture immediately after the strikes, which was intentional, according to a source familiar with the government's thinking, aimed at allowing Iran to downplay the strikes and

avoid further escalation.

Iran's government seemed to seize that opportunity initially, claiming the strikes caused only limited damage at military sites, even as it acknowledged that one civilian and four Iranian soldiers were killed.



## Majority of Indian homebuyers expect property prices to rise by 6-15 pc in 12 months

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 28

A majority of homebuyers in India expects property prices to rise by 6-15 per cent over the next 12 months, citing capital appreciation and rental yields as key motivators, according to a report on Monday. Those with annual household incomes between Rs 20 lakh-Rs 30 lakh are showing strongest preference for purchasing homes, signalling rising aspirations within the middle-income segment.

These buyers are mainly considering investments in the Rs 75 lakh to Rs 1 crore range, according to the report by real estate platform Magicbricks.

The report stated that nearly 35 per cent view return on investment (ROI) through property appreciation as their primary reason for buying, while



22 per cent are motivated by rising rental yields.

Notably, most homebuyers did not see inflation as a deterrent in their purchasing decisions.

"Buyers are willing to invest 4-5 times their annual income in resi-

dential properties. House-

holds earning Rs 20 lakh-Rs 30 lakh annually are focusing on homes priced between Rs 75 lakh and Rs 1 crore while those in the Rs 30 lakh-Rs 50 lakh income bracket are leaning towards properties

in the Rs 1-Rs 1.5 crore range," the report noted.

For households with an annual income exceeding Rs 1 crore, the preferred budget is typically between Rs 3.5-Rs 5 crore.

According to economists, amid the govern-

ment's push to develop world-class infrastructure, the real estate industry is also surging due to better connectivity options, festive incentives, and changing lifestyle choices.

More Indians are now opting for "lifestyle residences" and real estate remains the most preferred asset class for investment, especially premium properties. Several developers are now offering incentives around the year, especially during the festive season, which has also resulted in a surge in property buying.

According to another report by FICCI and Anarock Property Consultants, about 51 per cent of Indians now prefer 3 BHK units, showing increased demand for larger homes, as 67 per cent of buyers seek property for end use, while 33 per cent for investment purposes.

## Indian real estate developers secure Rs 12,801 crore via QIP route in Jan-Sep period

AGENCIES  
MUMBAI, OCT 28

Real estate developers in India raised Rs 12,801 crore via qualified institutional placements (QIPs) in the first nine months this year, which is over 17 per cent of the total QIP issuance across sectors at Rs 75,923 crore, a report showed on Monday. After renewable energy, real estate came in second highest among sectors to raise funds through QIP so far this year.

"This strong QIP activity highlights the sector's crucial role in India's broader capital markets - and the institutional investors' growing confidence in Indian real estate," said Anuj Puri, Chairman, Anarock Group.

According to the report, enhanced transparency, a robust post-pandemic residential real estate recovery, and strong investor confidence are factors driving a surge in activity, thereby



positioning the sector for continued growth.

The QIP route allows publicly-traded companies to raise capital by offering equities or securities convertible into equity to pre-approved institutional buyers. This fundraising approach lets companies skip the more conventional initial public offering (IPO) route and quickly raise substantial funds.

Robust housing sales growth after the pandemic has prompted leading developers to unleash relevant inventory across markets. As per report, over 13.62 lakh units have been launched across the top seven cities between 2021 till this year (January-September).

Concurrently, housing sales in these cities have soared to nearly 14.36 lakh units in this period. Effervescent sales led to an over 10 per cent decline in unsold housing inventory in this period, despite the high rate of supply addition.

To fund their aggressive expansion, these developers are turning to IPOs and the QIP route. Their success in these capitalisation efforts underscore the sector's continued ability to attract both retail and institutional investors. We expect investor participation to grow manifold in the coming years," said Puri.

Simultaneously, the strong post-pandemic homebuyers demand has also prompted developers to raise funds via IPOs to fund new project launches across geographies. Since 2021, six developers have collectively raised Rs 5,275 crore through mainstream IPOs.

## Over 8 in 10 Indians seek premium cars, preference for hybrid models jumps to 40 pc

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 28

More than eight in 10 Indian consumers now prefer buying premium models amid an increasing preference for hybrid vehicles over electric vehicles (EVs), a survey showed on Monday.

According to the survey by Grant Thornton Bharat, 40 per cent of respondents now prefer hybrid vehicles, compared to only 17 per cent favouring EVs. About 34 per cent still lean toward petrol vehicles, reflecting the transitional nature of the market.

According to Saket Mehra, Partner and Auto and EV Industry Leader, Grant Thornton Bharat, the festive season, which

typically accounts for 30-40 per cent of annual sales, is critical for the Indian automotive industry.

"However, high inventory levels, weather disruptions, and regional elections have tempered growth this year. Despite these challenges, early October sales - showing a 30-35 per cent increase in registrations compared to September - offer encouraging signs," Mehra noted.

With consumers also expecting substantial discounts this festive season, the industry has a unique opportunity to drive demand.

In the long term, economic growth and rising disposable incomes will further strengthen the outlook for India's pas-

senger vehicle market, said Mehra.

With hybrid vehicles gaining traction, they are expected to act as a bridge, building consumer familiarity with alternative technologies and ultimately accelerating future EV adoption.

This trend underscores the need for automakers to focus on both hybrid and electric solutions to meet evolving consumer expectations and prepare for a sustainable automotive future, the report mentioned.

Despite a muted first half of FY25, with overall domestic sales rising by just 0.5 per cent, the sustained demand for SUVs and UVs reflects the growing consumer preference for versatile vehicles.

"Automakers have an opportunity to meet rising consumer demand through substantial festive discounts, with nearly 90 per cent of respondents expecting such offers," said Mehra.

Additionally, digital platforms are playing a critical role in the car-buying journey, with 74 per cent of consumers using social media and car websites for research - up from 56 per cent two years ago - although final purchases remain largely offline.

In the long term, economic growth and rising disposable incomes will bolster the market's expansion, positioning India for a strong automotive future, the report mentioned.

## Global chip revenue projected to grow 14 pc to reach \$717 billion in 2025

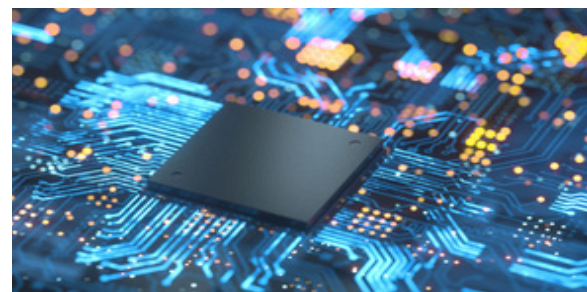
AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 28

Global semiconductor revenue is projected to grow 14 per cent to reach \$717 billion in 2025, from \$630 billion this year, a report said on Monday.

In the near term, the memory market and graphics processing units (GPUs) will bolster semiconductor revenue globally, according to a Gartner report.

The worldwide memory revenue market is forecast to record 20.5 per cent growth in 2025 to reach \$196.3 billion.

Sustained undersupply in 2024 will fuel NAND prices up 60 per cent in 2024, but they are poised to decline by 3 per cent in 2025.



With lower supply and a softer pricing landscape in 2025, NAND flash revenue is forecast to total \$75.5 billion in 2025, up 12 per cent from 2024, the report noted. Following a decline in 2023, semiconductor revenue is rebounding and expected to record double-digit growth in 2024 and 2025.

"The growth is driven by a continued surge in AI-related semiconduc-

tor demand and recovery in electronic production, while demand from the automotive and industrial sectors continues to be weak," said Rajeev Rajput, senior principal analyst at Gartner.

Meanwhile, DRAM supply and demand will rebound due to improved undersupply, unprecedented high-bandwidth memory (HBM) production and rising demand,

and the increase in double data rate 5 (DDR5) prices.

Overall, DRAM revenue is expected to total \$115.6 billion in 2025, up from \$90.1 billion in 2024, according to the report.

GPUs have dominated the training and development of AI models. Their revenue is projected to total \$51 billion, an increase of 27 per cent in 2025.

"However, the market is now shifting to a return on investment (ROI) phase where inference revenues need to grow to multiples of training investments," said George Brocklehurst, VP analyst at Gartner. HBM revenue is expected to increase by more than 284 per cent in 2024 and 70 per cent in 2025, reaching \$12.3 billion and \$21 billion, respectively.

## realme's biggest launch of the year: Unveiling design story of GT7 Pro with 1st Snapdragon 8 Elite chipset

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 28

Smartphones have become an integral part of our daily lives, and with each passing year, manufacturers strive to outdo themselves and their competitors. In this landscape of constant innovation, realme's GT Series has carved out its own niche. With each iteration, the series has redefined performance, design, and user experience, challenging the status quo and setting new industry benchmarks.

The GT Series embodies realme's vision of blending powerful performance with premium design, creating devices that stand out in a sea of similarity. From its inception, it has been

realme's playground for innovation, where cutting-edge features come to life and new standards are set. This approach combines powerful internals with thoughtful, often bold, external design choices, offering a balance of high performance and distinctive features that often challenge conventional expectations.

This unique combination has allowed realme to establish a strong identity in the competitive smartphone market, appealing to users who seek both style and substance in their devices. Now, as tech enthusiasts eagerly await the unveiling of the GT7 Pro, anticipation builds for what could be realme's

most ambitious offering yet. This upcoming device promises to challenge established players and redefine expectations in the flagship smartphone arena, continuing the GT Series' legacy of innovation and excellence.

The realme GT7 Pro is set to showcase the brand's commitment to innovative design and cutting-edge technology, embodying the spirit of exploration in every detail. One of its most intriguing aspects is its inspiration from space exploration, particularly the surface of Mars. This cosmic influence translates into a unique aesthetic that sets the phone apart in a crowded market, featuring novel color choices,



textures, and finishes that evoke the rugged beauty of the Red Planet.

The device's back panel, dubbed the "Mars Design," features a distinctive texture reminiscent of Martian terrain, achieved through advanced multi-layer Anti-Glare technology. This isn't just about looks; the textured surface

provides a unique tactile experience that brings the concept of space exploration to life.

Adding to the cosmic theme, the GT7 Pro includes subtle "Space Viewport Deco" elements inspired by spacecraft and a "Planetary Ring Texture" that incorporates hundreds of metallic wire-

drawing textures, catching light in intriguing ways.

Crafted from aviation-grade aluminum, the phone's frame ensures durability and comfort while complementing the overall design. The color palette draws directly from the rich, warm tones associated with Mars, with the device available in a "Galaxy Grey" option that reinforces the space-inspired theme.

Complementing this otherworldly back panel, the GT7 Pro boasts a Quad-curved display that enhances the overall futuristic feel of the device. Where flagship smartphones often struggle with bulk, realme's design choice reflects its careful

balancing act - creating a premium, slimmer appearance despite the device's flagship internals, while solving the traditional challenges of curved displays like accidental touches.

The gentle curves of the screen create a seamless visual experience, with content seemingly flowing off the edges, offering potential functional benefits in terms of gesture controls and edge notifications, all while maintaining comfortable ergonomics in daily use.

By combining these Mars-inspired elements with cutting-edge display technology, realme has crafted a device that's both visually striking and functional. The GT7

Pro offers users a subtle connection to the spirit of exploration, all while delivering the advanced features expected of a modern flagship smartphone. It's a testament to realme's vision of pushing boundaries in smartphone design, appealing to those who appreciate a blend of imagination and functionality in their everyday technology.

As the launch of the GT7 Pro approaches, it's clear that realme is once again ready to challenge the status quo, offering a device that not only performs at the highest level but also embodies the dream of space exploration in the palm of your hand.

## Fintech firm Slice completes merger with North East Small Finance Bank

AGENCIES  
BENGALURU, OCT 28

Fintech company Slice and North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB) on Monday announced a successful completion of their merger, following the shareholder and regulatory approvals.

The deal is the first-of-its-kind, with a new-age finance company stepping in to rescue a licenced bank. This merger unifies the operations, assets and brand identities of both entities into a single, integrated banking institution. With a strengthened financial position, the merged entity is well-



equipped to expand its operations, meet evolving customer needs, and enhance risk management, setting new benchmarks in customer experience, the company said in a statement.

"While India has wit-

nessed tremendous innovation across various industries, this is a landmark event in the banking sector, particularly for a financial institution rooted in the North-east," said Kumar Kalra, MD and CEO, NESFB. The integra-

tion reinforces NESFB's dedication to its core markets, ensuring not only the continuation of services but also a strategic expansion across the region. "We are grateful to the regulatory authorities, especially the RBI and The government of Assam, for trusting us with this transformative journey. While our words express intent, our actions will reflect our commitment to creating a truly customer-centric banking institution that is set to change the way Indians bank," said Rajan Bajaj, Founder and CEO, Slice and Executive Director of the merged entity. The merged entity will

introduce a range of banking products and services including savings account, fixed deposits, and credit products among others.

Notably, customers will continue to enjoy uninterrupted access to the services of NESFB and slice through this transition.

In the coming months, the focus will be on streamlining operations to ensure seamless integration and leveraging the combined strengths of both organisations, said the company.

NESFB offers a comprehensive suite of financial services, encompassing bank accounts, deposits, debit cards, loans and mutual funds.

## South Korea vows swift response to 'unwarranted' volatility amid global uncertainties

AGENCIES  
SEOUL, OCT 28

South Korean Finance Minister Choi Sang-mok vowed on Monday to enhance market monitoring and to swiftly respond to excessive volatility under contingency plans amid weaker growth data and global uncertainties, his office said.

Choi made the remarks during an economy-related ministers' meeting in Seoul after the gross domestic product (GDP) expanded 0.1 percent on-quarter in the July-September period, lower



than market expectations. "The government will pay extra attention to signs of economic uncertainties shown in the third-quarter GDP data and closely check detailed market circumstances at home and

abroad," Choi said.

The minister pointed to the upcoming presidential election in the United States, the economic situations of major nations and the Middle East crisis as major risks, reports Yonhap news agency.

"The government will swiftly respond to any excessive volatility in the financial and foreign exchange markets that are far from economic fundamentals under our contingency plans and close cooperation with other agencies concerned," Choi was quoted as saying.



## U23 World Wrestling C'ship: Chirag Chikkara wins gold as India end campaign with nine medals

AGENCIES  
TIRANA, OCT 28

The 18-year-old, Chirag Chikkara clinched a gold medal in the men's freestyle 57kg category on the final day at the U23 World Wrestling Championships in Tirana, Albania marking India's only gold at the event.

His triumph over Kyrgyzstan's Abdymalik Karachov, which ended in a close 4-3 win, made him only the second Indian men's wrestler and third Indian overall to capture gold at this prestigious championship. With this victory, India concluded their campaign with an impressive haul of nine



medals.

After defeating Japan's Gatuko Ozawa 6-1 in the first round, he dominated his quarterfinal matchup with a 12-2 win over Russia's Iunus Iavbatirov. In the semifinals, Chirag put on a stellar performance

against Kazakhstan's Allan Oralbek to secure his place in the final, where he edged out Karachov.

Chirag follows in the footsteps of Aman Sehrawat, who won India's first U23 wrestling gold last year in the 57kg cat-

egory, and Reetika Hooda, who claimed a gold in the women's 76kg category.

In men's freestyle, Sujeeet Kalkal clinched bronze in the 70kg category with a dominant 13-4 win over Mustafu Akhmedov of Tajikistan. Vicky Chahar also stunned Ukraine's former U20 World Championships silver medalist Ivan Prymachenko in the 97kg category, with a decisive 7-2 victory to secure another bronze.

Abhishek Dhaka's bronze in the 61kg category kicked off India's medal count on Saturday, setting a strong tone for the men's freestyle wrestling squad, which ultimately earned

four medals and a fourth-place finish in their segment behind Iran, Japan, and Azerbaijan.

India's women's freestyle team finished fifth, with Anjali winning a silver in the 59kg category, supported by three bronze medals from her teammates. In the Greco-Roman category, Vishwajit Ramchandra More was India's lone medalist, taking bronze in the 55kg category. Despite their best efforts, the Greco-Roman squad finished 12th overall.

India wrapped up the championship with a total of nine medals: one gold, one silver, and seven bronze.

## HIL 2024: Delhi franchise ropes in versatile Argentine Lucas Toscani

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 28

The Delhi-based franchise of the Hockey India League (HIL) has acquired the services of Argentina's attacking midfielder Lucas Toscani for the upcoming season of the hockey league, which is being revived after a long gap.

Toscani is a like-for-like replacement for ace German forward Christopher Ruhr, who opted out after being advised intensive rehabilitation by doctors following an ACL injury on his left knee, which he sustained back in January during the 2024 Paris Olympics qualifiers. The 25-year-old Toscani's acquisition is aimed at strengthening the Delhi SG Pipers' forward line and adding firepower to the team's goal-scoring abilities, in the absence of Ruhr. Toscani got his first call-up to the Argentine squad in 2019, when he made his debut during the inaugural season of FIH Pro League. Since then, he has made 60 appearances



for Argentina and scored 14 goals for the Los Leones. Toscani also represented his country at the Hockey Men's World Cup held in Odisha in 2023 as well as was part of Argentina's 2024 Paris Olympics squad. In 2022, Toscani won his first medal with the national team when Argentina won gold at the Pan American Cup in Santiago. A year later in 2023, he bagged his second medal with the national team, winning gold at the Pan American Games in Santiago.

## Question remains whether Rohit Sharma will be retained by Mumbai Indians: Harbhajan Singh

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 28

Former India spinner Harbhajan Singh has raised doubts over Rohit Sharma's retention by Mumbai Indians ahead of the India Premier League (IPL) 2025 mega auction later this year. However, the spinner, who has won three IPL titles under Rohit's captaincy for Mumbai, feels that the opening batter will be retained after winning the T20 World Cup 2024.

Other than Rohit, the veteran cricketer believes captain Hardik Pandya, pacer Jasprit Bumrah, batter Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma will be retained by the franchise to keep their core group intact before the mega auction.

"Mumbai Indians is a team that hasn't played well in the last two to three years. They've been a champion team, a very good team, and as far as I know, they will definitely



think of building a team for the future. But that doesn't mean they won't add experienced players this year. Last year, they made Hardik Pandya captain, and I think he will definitely be retained. Jasprit Bumrah will be retained, Suryakumar

Yadav will be retained, and the question remains whether Rohit Sharma will be retained," Harbhajan told Star Sports about the potential IPL retentions for Mumbai Indians.

The 44-year-old picked Nehal Wadhwa as Mumbai's final pick under the

uncapped category to complete their six retentions before the deadline of October 31.

"He has just won the World Cup as a captain, so I think he should be retained, and he will be. That will make four players, and if there's a fifth player, then Tilak Varma will be retained. Tilak Varma is one of those players who will be very useful for Mumbai Indians in the future to win matches. When it comes to bowling, I don't think there's anyone else they would want to retain, so Nehal Wadhwa could be a good option for them. He is an uncapped player, so he should be picked," he added.

In the IPL 2024, five-time champions Mumbai Indians finished at the bottom of the table under Pandya's captaincy. They won just four games out of 14 league stage fixtures and stayed at the bottom half of the table throughout the season.

## LSG to retain Mayank Yadav, Ravi Bishnoi and Nicholas Pooran: Sources

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 28

The Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) are gearing up for the 2025 Indian Premier League season by retaining their core squad, who were pivotal to their recent successes. Nicholas Pooran, Mayank Yadav, and Ravi Bishnoi are the three players set to be retained by the franchise.

The source privy to the development also confirmed to IANS that Pooran will be the front-runner to lead the side in the IPL 2025.

"The franchise is ready to show their trust in Pooran. He captained last year too and carries a vast experience of leading his national side too. So we will be continuing with his skills. Apart from him, we are going with spearhead pacer Mayank Yadav and Ravi Bishnoi," a source close to the franchise told IANS.

Pooran, an explosive



batsman and versatile wicketkeeper, emerged as the star for LSG. Signed for Rs 16 crore in 2023, he quickly became one of the highest-paid players in the league, showcasing his power-hitting ability and leadership skills during Rahul's absence last season.

Pooran, 29, has enjoyed a steep rise since his IPL debut, where his price tag jumped from Rs 30 lakh with Mumbai Indians in 2017 to over Rs 16 crore with LSG, after a competitive bidding process

against his former franchise, Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Meanwhile, Mayank Yadav, a fast-bowling sensation, has caught the selectors' attention with his 150 km/h deliveries and explosive performances in his debut season. Despite an injury that limited him to only four matches in IPL 2024, his rapid ascent led to a national call-up and inclusion at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence. Mayank's journey began when LSG picked him for a modest

Rs 20 lakh, yet his impact has already set him apart in India's pace lineup.

LSG's core bowling lineup is further strengthened with Ravi Bishnoi, the talented leg-spinner, who was retained in the 2022 mega auction as an uncapped player. Over the seasons, Bishnoi has evolved into a match-winner for LSG, known for his reliable economy and wicket-taking ability, helping LSG reach the playoffs in 2022 and 2023. Despite a slightly quieter 2024 season, Bishnoi remains an integral part of LSG's bowling attack.

Apart from these three players, the other two likely retentions are Mohson Khan--the tall young left-arm pacer and middle-order explosive batter Ayush Badoni.

As previously reported by IANS, LSG captain KL Rahul is likely to enter the mega auction instead of being retained by the franchise.

## PREMIER LEAGUE: ARSENAL AND LIVERPOOL SHARE SPOILS IN FIERY 2-2 DRAW

AGENCIES  
LONDON, OCT 28

Arsenal and Liverpool battled it out for a frustrating 2-2 draw at the Emirates Stadium on Sunday. The result sees Manchester City attain the top spot in the Premier League table.

In what can only be described as a fiery encounter, Bukayo Saka, making his first appearance after suffering an injury during the October international break, did not take long to open the account on the night as he scored the opening goal nine minutes into the game.

Saka was fed an over



the top ball by Ben White which he cut back onto his left foot, completely bypassing Robertson in the process, and hit the back of the net.

The game was being played at a very high

tempo and it did not take long for Liverpool to come back into the game.

Trent Alexander Arnold's darting ball from the corner flag found Luis Diaz who nudged the ball onto a waiting Virgil Van

Dijk who made no mistake in equalizing the game in the 18th minute.

Arsenal responded with a set piece of their own in the 43rd minute when Declan Rice's pinpoint cross found Mikel Merino who headed the Gunners into the lead.

It was the Spaniard's first goal for the club since making the switch to North London in August and helped Arsenal take the 2-1 lead into half-time.

Disaster struck for Mikel Arteta in the second-half as Arsenal's injury list grew even further. Gabriel Magalhaes suffered a knee injury and despite an

effort to stay in the game had to be subbed off which will be a cause for concern given his importance to the side.

With the exit of Magalhaes, Liverpool grew into the match and started dominating possession. After repeated attempts, Arne Slot's side finally broke through in the 84th minute thanks to Salah's simple finish after the Egyptian was squared the ball by Darwin Nunez in a great position read outside the six-yard box.

Despite a seven minute added period in regulation time, no winner availed and both teams had to settle for a point.

## DKL unveils official logo & trophy with grand ceremony

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, OCT 28

The Delhi Kabaddi League (DKL) has unveiled its official logo and trophy at a grand ceremony held here in the presence of President of the Delhi State Kabaddi Association Ramesh Bidhuri.

The unveiling ceremony on Sunday also featured former Indian Kabaddi player and brand ambassador of the Delhi Kabaddi League, Manjeet Chhillar, whose passion for the sport has inspired players and fans alike. This event marks an exciting milestone as DKL brings the spirit of Kabaddi to the

forefront of the national capital. The League is slated to get underway in March 2025.

Bidhuri said, "Unveiling of the Delhi Kabaddi League logo and trophy represent a significant step in our journey to bring Kabaddi to new heights. We are proud to present this league to the people of Delhi and look forward to seeing the enthusiasm it generates."

During the unveiling ceremony, the Delhi State Kabaddi Association also revealed the franchises for the Delhi Kabaddi League (DKL). Ghazipur Maharajas, Karol Bagh Tusker, Tughlakabad Kings, Royal

Chandani Chowk, Shahdara Sardars, Rohini Titans, Chhatrapur Spartans and Najafgarh Warriors are the 8 teams which will feature in the inaugural season.

Chhillar said, "As someone who has dedicated my life to Kabaddi, being part of the Delhi Kabaddi League's journey is an honor. I am thrilled to see the sport gain such momentum in Delhi, and I am committed to supporting its growth."

League commissioner Niranjan Singh said, "The Delhi Kabaddi League represents an incredible opportunity to elevate Kabaddi in the national capital.

## Felix Lebrun claims historic home victory at WTT Montpellier Champions

AGENCIES  
MONTPELLIER (FRANCE), OCT 28

French sensation Felix Lebrun thrilled home crowds as he secured the men's singles title at the World Table Tennis (WTT) Montpellier Champions on Sunday, defeating Japan's Tomokazu Harimoto with an impressive 4-1 victory.

This triumph marks Lebrun's first title in a WTT Champions tournament, a career milestone celebrated fervently by the French audience.

Since capturing the men's singles bronze at the Paris Olympics, Lebrun's popularity in France has soared. As a native of Montpellier, he returned to play in front of hometown fans who packed the arena from the round of 16 onward, an unusual display of enthusiasm for table tennis in France.

In the semifinal earlier on Sunday, Lebrun dominated China's Lin Shidong, the tournament's top seed and world No. 2, in straight games: 14-12, 11-9, 11-9, 11-3. Later in the final,

he overcame Harimoto with a decisive 11-7, 11-9, 11-6, 8-11, 11-4 scoreline.

"I played at my best today. When I'm in this form, I can beat the world's best players," the 18-year-old stated after the match, beaming with confidence.

"Knowing I'll be the defending champion here for the next year is surreal. Competing in front of people who mean the most to me gave me energy and pushed me to perform at my peak," he added.

## Formula 1: Sainz leads Ferrari to victory in Mexico as Norris calls Verstappen 'dangerous'

AGENCIES  
MEXICO CITY, SEP 28

Ferrari's Carlos Sainz cruised to a commanding victory, marking a third win in five races and intensifying the constructor's battle as Ferrari leapfrogged Red Bull into second place at the Mexico City Grand Prix.

It also brought the championship battle to a fever pitch as McLaren's Lando Norris called Red Bull's Max Verstappen "dangerous" after a series of on-track clashes led to two time penalties for Verstappen.

The reigning champion, who still managed a sixth-



place finish despite his infractions, faced criticism over aggressive manoeuvres that underscored a turbulent season's most contentious moments.

The Norris-Verstappen showdown unfolded on lap 10 after a safety car restart

following a crash involving Alex Albon and Yuki Tsunoda, which had forced both drivers to retire.

As Norris, running side-by-side with Verstappen at Turn Four, took an outside line, Verstappen pushed him off-track—a move

deemed too aggressive by race stewards who later penalised Verstappen. A second incident at Turn Eight, where Verstappen once again failed to give room, earned him another penalty. Norris was visibly frustrated over the radio, saying, "I was ahead the whole way through the corner. This guy is dangerous. I have to avoid a crash."

In contrast to the tension surrounding Verstappen, Ferrari's Sainz delivered a flawless performance, winning from pole position and marking Ferrari's third victory in the last five races. His teammate

Charles Leclerc added to Ferrari's triumph by finishing third, securing an extra point for the fastest lap and propelling Ferrari to second place in the constructors' championship standings.

Despite losing the lead to Verstappen on the first lap, Sainz quickly reclaimed it after the restart, breezing past his Red Bull rival into Turn One. Leclerc initially chased down his teammate but ultimately fell back, allowing Norris to gain ground in the closing laps. Leclerc ran wide on lap 62, and Norris seized the chance to secure a second-place finish.



## District Level Kala Utsav held at GHSS Boys Doda to celebrate artistic talent of school students

JI NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, OCTOBER 28

In an inspiring effort to promote art in education and nurture the artistic talent of young students, a District Level Kala Utsav was held today here at GHSS Boys.

The annual event, part of the Samagra Shiksha Scheme under the Ministry of Education, brought together students from across the district, providing them a platform to showcase their artistic prowess and celebrate the richness of India's cultural heritage.

The event was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh, in the presence of Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Mohammad Aslam; Chief Education Officer (CEO) and school principals. The guests commenced the program by



lighting the traditional lamp, symbolizing enlightenment and the spirit of celebration.

Kala Utsav focuses on encouraging secondary level students to explore the fields of art and culture, while helping them develop a strong sense of heritage and diversity.

Top performers from Zonal Level competitions, held in various zones across the district, delivered captivating perfor-

mances that highlighted their artistic skills and dedication.

DC and SSP also inspected various stalls set up by participating schools, where students showcased their creative displays. The dignitaries appreciated the efforts and enthusiasm shown by both students and their teachers.

In alignment with Vigilance Awareness Week, the event included a

pledge ceremony, where participants committed to uphold transparency and accountability, reinforcing the core values of integrity.

The event concluded with lively cultural performances and saw enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, heads of institutions (HOIs), and the general public, making it a truly vibrant and memorable celebration of the arts.

## MLA Kathua chairs introductory meeting with district administration

JI NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, OCTOBER 28

Member Legislative Assembly Kathua Dr. Bharat Bhushan chaired an introductory meeting with District and Sectoral Officers of the Kathua administration here today in the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Surinder Mohan; Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Ranjit Thakur; Superintending Engineer (SE) PWD (R&B); Chief Education Officer (CEO), XENs from different departments including PWD, Irrigation, Flood Control, and PDD, as well as other officials representing various departments.

CPO Kathua, Ranjit Thakur, provided a detailed briefing on the

district's development trajectory, outlining progress in implementing government-led development and welfare schemes. He reported that 28% of the current year's Capex Budget expenditure has been utilized, with the remaining projects being expedited following the recent Assembly elections.

The meeting focused on the status of projects funded under District CAPEX, including District Development Council (DDC), Block Development Council (BDC), and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) grants. Officers from departments such as Public Health Engineering (PHE), Public Works Department (PWD), Rural Development Department (RDD), Irrigation, Flood Control, Handicrafts & Handloom, District Industries Centre

(DIC), Employment, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Social Welfare, ICDS, DUDA, and Health provided updates on various ongoing initiatives. MLA emphasized the need for a compassionate approach in addressing the issues of marginalized communities and ensuring that welfare schemes reach the most vulnerable residents. He urged officials to extend the benefits of welfare programs to those engaged in the unorganized sectors by implementing Labour and Employment schemes.

Dr. Bhushan also advocated for advancing success in Agriculture and allied sectors, suggesting that insights from progressive farmers be shared to inspire more involvement in these sectors. He called for establishing forums where

progressive farmers can motivate others to adopt innovative practices.

Addressing sanitation concerns, Dr. Bhushan took note of litter accumulation in Kathua Canal and specific locations within Kathua town. He directed MC Kathua and the Irrigation Department to install warning signs along the canal, alerting residents to the risks of clogged waterways. Additionally, he instructed MC Kathua and XEN Irrigation to impose penalties on individuals caught dumping litter in the canal and urged for the development of a sustainable cleanliness mechanism for Kathua town. Dr. Bhushan called on field functionaries to work with dedication to fulfill the district's developmental goals in alignment with public aspirations.

## MLA Gurez reviews Developmental Scenario of Gurez Subdivision

JI NEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 27

Member of the Legislative Assembly for Gurez Constituency of Bandipora District, Nazir Ahmad Khan, on Monday chaired a meeting at Dak Bungalow, Gurez, to review the developmental scenario of Gurez Subdivision.

During the meeting, MLA took a detailed, department-wise review of the developmental and infrastructural projects of Gurez subdivision.

The concerned officers from different departments briefed the chair regarding the works taken up, along with their physical and financial status.

It was given out that, for infrastructure improvement across various sectors for 2024-25, with a total allocation of Rs. 3770.51 lacs, under District/ UT CAPEX, Rs. 2368.67 lacs have been released, and an expenditure of Rs. 1407.96 lacs has

been made so far. Regarding the physical progress of works under different sectors, the chair was informed that a total of 174 works under District/ UT CAPEX were taken up, out of which 101 works have been completed.

On the occasion, it was revealed that under District CAPEX, NABARD, JIM, UT CAPEX, and BAPD, 48 PHE works are ongoing with an approved outlay amount of 1903 lacs.

The meeting was informed that under ADF for Gurez Block, 32 PRI works, 04 BDC works, and 03 DDC works have been proposed, and for Block Tulail, 47 PRI works, 04 BDC works, and 08 DDC works have been proposed, while for Block Bagtore, 19 PRI and 06 BDC works have been proposed.

Ex. Engineer PMGSY informed that 10 roads were taken up under PMGSY for macadamization, and all 10 roads have



been successfully macadamized; additionally, 10 roads will be taken up in PMGSY Phase IV.

The MLA also took a detailed review of the Health Sector, Education, PDD, R&B, RDD, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Agriculture, Horticulture, and other departments, and also reviewed measures in place for winter stocking, snow clearance operations, and other public welfare issues.

He also took a detailed review of works under MGNREGA and the status of PMAY.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Nazir Ahmad Khan emphasized coordination among public representatives and government officials for the betterment of public welfare.

He stressed the importance of enhancing the public service delivery mechanism, considering that Gurez is a far-flung area requiring special attention.

He emphasized the redressal of genuine public issues on priority and asked the revenue officers to ensure services under PSGA within the given

timeframe. He urged the concerned departments to take action against the contractors and agencies who fail to complete the works within the stipulated time frame.

While reviewing the Power Development Department, the MLA asked the concerned to keep a buffer stock of at least 10 transformers available for immediate replacement during winters.

The MLA directed the Mechanical Department to ensure fuel storage in Tulail as well, for the operation of snow clearance machinery.

He asked the SDM Gurez to ensure the shifting of six Offices including SDM Office, Tehsil Office, Block Office, Social Welfare, Agriculture and Horticulture to the new Mini Secretariat Building within a week's time to ensure the availability of public dealing offices under one roof for the convenience of the

general public and emphasized to make public dealing easy in Government Offices.

Khan asked the district administration to start helicopter service for Purana Tulail and Gujraan during winters and asked the concerned to ensure a ticket system for Helicopter service in order to provide services to the public without bias.

While reviewing the Health Sector, the MLA emphasized theatre upgradation, functioning of the blood storage unit, and took stock of the availability of medicines and staff in CHC Gurez and directed for starting OPD service at Dawar.

Among others, the meeting was attended by ADDC Bandipora Mohammad Ashraf Bhatt, DDC Gurez Tasleema Begum, SDM Gurez Mukhtar Ahmad, District and sectoral officers of various departments, and other concerned officials.

## MLA Devsar reviews progress of developmental projects



JI NEWS SERVICE  
KULGAM, OCTOBER 28

The Member Legislative Assembly (MLA) Devsar, Peerzada Feroze Ahmad today chaired an officers meeting at Rest House Kulgam to take appraisal of progress of developmental projects across the Devsar constituency.

The meeting was attended by officers from rural development, education, healthcare, agriculture and others.

During the meeting, MLA reviewed ongoing projects and urged offi-

cials to ensure transparency, efficiency, and timely completion of all developmental works.

He emphasized the importance of collaboration between departments to address challenges and achieve desired milestones swiftly.

He encouraged officers to continue their efforts to meet the aspirations of the people of Devsar.

The review meeting concluded with actionable insights and renewed determination to advance the constituency's developmental goals.

## Managing Director JKTPO inaugurates Vendor Development Programme

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, OCTOBER 28

MSME-Development Facilitation Office, Jammu- the field office of Union Ministry of MSME implements various schemes and activities for the benefit of MSME Sector in Jammu & Kashmir.

In furtherance of its objectives, a Vendor Development Programme, being held from October 28, 2024 to October 29, 2024 was inaugurated today by Managing Director JKTPO Khalid Jahangir.

In his address, the Managing Director JKTPO informed the participants about the draft J&K Procurement preference policy 2024 for MSEs which is kept in public domain to seek consultation/comments from the stakeholders in line with Public Procurement Policy 2012.

The objectives of the VDP are promoting the PPP 2012. As per the policy all the government Departments & CPSUs are mandated to provide reservation in their procurement of materials and services from MSEs to the extent of 25% with sub target of 3% reservation



for Women entrepreneurs and 4% reservation for SC/ ST owned MSEs which is yet to be achieved by some PSUs.

Tender fees and EMD exemption are also eligible for MSEs who are registered in the Udyam portal. Udyam registration was introduced by the government for registration of MSEs on self-certification basis without any uploading of documents on www.udyamregistration.gov.in which is totally free. Presently Jammu & Kashmir has more than 4, 50,000 MSEs registered.

In the vendor development programme, various government departments and PSUs informed MSEs

about their annual purchase plan to enable the latter to make informed decisions towards their production. The Government department & PSUs further explained their respective vendor registration procedure, got their queries clarified from MSEs in addition to the lecture about the purchase patterns of products and services required by them. Kunwarani Dr.Ritu Singh attended the programme as the Guest of Honor and motivated the MSEs to improve their designing capacity for getting maximum benefits from Government departments & PSUs under PPP 2012. The VDP was being

organized as per the directions of G.Velladurai IEDS Joint Director, MSME DFO Jammu. IOCL, Power Grid, Food Corporation of India, GeM, SIDBI, DGFT, JKTPO, J&K SICOP and NSSO, Jammu are participating in the VDP being held at Gole Market, Gandhi Nagar. Prominent persons present at the inaugural programme were Lalit Mahajan, President BBIA, Dr. Navneet Kour, Founder Chairperson of NGO SUPPORT, Harbinder Singh, President Tiny & Small Industries Association and others. The programme was coordinated by DK Tyagi, Assistant Director.

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## MLA Chanapora chairs Introduction/ review meeting

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 28

The Member Legislative Assembly (MLA) Chanapora Assembly Constituency (AC), Mushtaq Guroo today chaired a maiden introduction cum review meeting with the officers of District Administration and line departments at Banquet Hall, here.

During the meeting, the MLA took holistic review of overall developmental progress in the constituency.

The Officers presented the department wise activities, development and welfare initiatives being undertaken in the Chanapora-AC.

On the occasion, the MLA took appraisal of various developmental concerns, health sector issues, upgradations and other issues of public importance.

He issued strict directions to the concerned officers from the Health department for starting all facilities available at the Primary Health Centre (PHC) Chanapora for the larger public good and to prepare the DPR for its upgradation to sub district hospital. He said this will also prevent unnecessary rush to the tertiary care hospitals in the city.



Mushtaq also reviewed ongoing work projects being undertaken by the R&B department and other executing agencies and sought early compiling and submission of DPRs for timely start of newly taken up works.

Emphasising on maintaining cleanliness, he directed the Officers from SMC to ensure sanitation facilities are upgraded for

better hygiene. He also directed concerned Officers for repairs and renovation of the Community Centres, with proper furnishing. He also reviewed the buffer stock of Distribution Transformers (DTs) in the constituency and directed the S.E KPDCL to ensure timely replacement of DT in case of damages.

The MLA stated, "I am elected by the people, and

Officers present here are working for the people, so let us coordinate together to give the best to the people."

Among others, the meeting was attended by Superintending Engineers and Executive Engineers of various departments, Chief Planning Officer, District and Sectoral Officers of various line departments.