

# JAMMU RISING

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## BRIEF NEWS

### Kashmir

#### Receives Season's First Snowfall

Higher reaches of Kashmir on Monday received the season's first snowfall while plains were lashed by rains, ending a month-long dry spell in the valley, officials said.

Affarwat in Gulmarg area of Baramulla district and Sadhna Top in Kupwara

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#### Search Ops Underway In Forests In J&K's Kishtwar To Flush Out Terrorists

Security forces continued their search operation in the dense forests of Keshwan and adjoining areas in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Monday, a day after an Army officer died in a gunfight with terrorists holed up in the

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#### Gold Declines Rs 450 To Rs 79,550 Per 10 Grams; Silver Plunges Rs 600

Gold prices declined by Rs 450 to Rs 79,550 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday amid weak trends in the international markets, according to the All India Sarafa Association. On Friday, the yellow metal had settled at Rs 80,000 per 10 grams.

Silver also plunged Rs 600 to Rs 94,000 per kg on Monday against the previous close of Rs 94,600 per kg.

Price of gold of 99.5 per cent purity fell Rs 450 to Rs 79,150 per 10 grams. The precious metal had

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#### Resolution On Special Status Passed In Assembly Has Been Sent To Authorities Concerned: Rather

Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on Monday said that the resolution for the restoration of the special status passed in the Assembly has been sent to the concerned authorities. Jammu tourism packages

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The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on August 5 passed a resolution seeking dialogue for "restoration of special status and constitutional guarantees" and urging that "constitutional mechanisms" be worked out for the same. The resolution was passed by a voice vote, with all parties barring the BJP supporting it.

"We have forwarded the resolution on the same day it was passed in the Assembly to the concerned authorities", Rather told media persons in Srinagar on Monday.

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## CM calls for sustainable, high-value tourism policy

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, NOV 11

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a high-level meeting at the Civil Secretariat here to review the functioning of the Tourism Department and chart the way forward for a more sustainable, visitor-focused approach in Jammu and Kashmir's tourism sector. Jammu tourism packages

Commissioner Secretary Tourism presented an overview of the department's achievements, promotional activities, and future plans, highlighting recent successful events such as the Kashmir Marathon, G20 Summit, F4 Car Show in Kash-



mir, Sunburn Music Festival in Jammu and the JK Tourism Development Conclave 2024. During the meeting, additional

plans were discussed for promoting adventure activities like skiing and river rafting.

Recognizing the role of

tourism as the "backbone" of J&K's economy, the Chief Minister highlighted its potential to

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## Search ops Underway in forests in Kishtwar to flush out terrorists

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, NOV 11

Security forces continued their search operation in the dense forests of Keshwan and adjoining areas in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Monday, a day after an Army officer died in a gunfight with terrorists holed up in the area. Jammu tourism packages

The security personnel have been scouring the forest area for over four days, looking for the terrorists who abducted and killed two Village Defence Guards (VDGs) last



Thursday.

Sunday's encounter broke out when joint search parties of the Army and police intercepted the terrorists around 11 am in the Keshwan forest area. The exchange of fire went on for more than four hours.

A Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO), Naib Subedar Rakesh Kumar of the Army's 2 Para, was killed and three more soldiers were injured in the gunfight.

Officials said there has

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## Proud to move special status resolution in J&K assembly: Dy CM Choudhary

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, NOV 11

Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Monday said he was proud to move a resolution seeking restoration of J-K's special status in the first Assembly session of the Union Territory, calling it a reflection of the wish of the people who want safeguards for their land and jobs. Jammu tourism packages

The resolution, which was passed in the Assembly on November 7 by a voice vote, seeks a dialogue between the Centre and the elected representatives of J-K for the restoration of special status of the erstwhile state.

The BJP members protested the passing of the resolution by the National Conference government with repeated disruptions of the House during the five-day As-

sembly session.

"I am feeling proud for moving a resolution seeking restoration of special status which was moved by the Assembly recently. It was the wish of every individual who wants protection of land and jobs.

"While the BJP leaders called me 'Jaichand', I want to ask the people of Jammu if they want this special status or not?"

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## CS for implementation of AMRUT projects for their timely completion

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, NOV 11

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired 5th UT Level Steering Committee (UTLSC) Meeting of AMRUT 2.0, called for having the review of on-going projects besides considering new ones for their approval.

Those who were present includes Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production & Forest Departments; Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Secretary, RDD; Director, ULB J/K; DG, Codes; Chief Engi-



neers Jal Shakti & Irrigation Departments besides other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary took this occasion to impress upon the officers of the Department to start executing the approved projects at an earliest so that these are completed on time. He observed that such central schemes are

of national importance therefore deserving focussed attention and smooth implementation on ground.

Dulloo also enjoined upon the concerned to explore all the possibilities of executing these water supply schemes envisaged under AMRUT 2.0 for major towns

through different agencies having reputation of implementing these at national level.

He emphasised on making this scheme successful here as this guarantees augmentation of water supply to these urban centres sufficing their water requirements for many decades to come.

The Chief Secretary urged the concerned to examine the needs of each of the town to be covered under it and prioritize the implementa

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## Some 'Anti-Nationals' trying to divide society; we will have to unite to defeat them: Modi

NEW DELHI, NOV 11

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said some "anti-nationals" were trying to divide the society for their vested interests and stressed the need for people to understand the seriousness of their intentions and unite to defeat them.

The unity and integrity were important to make India a developed nation by 2047, Modi said while virtually addressing a gathering of devotees at Vadtal in Gujarat's Kheda district on the 200th anniversary of Shree Swaminarayan Temple in the town.

"Unity among citizens and integrity of the nation is important to make India a developed nation by 2047. But, unfortunately some people are trying to



divide our society on caste, religious, linguistic, men-women, village-city lines due to their vested interests or due to their narrow-mindedness," the PM said.

"We have to understand the seriousness of the intentions of these anti-nationals and will have to unite to defeat them," he said in his address via

video conferencing.

Modi said the first key step to make India a developed nation is "atmanirbharta" (self-dependence).

He requested all saints of the Swaminarayan sect to join each and every citizen of the country in the pledge to make India a developed nation.

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## Terror attacks rocked 8 of 10 Jammu districts in 2024; 13 Terrorists among 44 Killed

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, NOV 11

After carrying out deadly attacks in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch over the past three years, terror activities spread to six other districts in the Jammu region this year, killing 44 persons, including 18 security personnel and 13 terrorists, security officials said on Monday.

Though the Pir Panjal districts of Rajouri and Poonch witnessed a considerable drop in terror activities in 2024 compared to the previous years, the series of incidents in Reasi, Doda, Kishtwar, Kathua, Udhampur and Jammu from April-May onwards have caused concerns

for the security agencies.

To counter the threat and thwart the attempts of Pakistan-based handlers to spread terror in the peaceful areas, officials said the army in close synergy with the police and the central armed police forces (CAPFs) have launched relentless operations in the vulnerable regions, especially in the dense forests.

As per official data, Doda, Kathua and Reasi districts recorded nine killings each this year followed by Kishtwar (five), Udhampur (four), Jammu and Rajouri (three each), and Poonch (two).

The deceased included 18 security personnel and 13 terrorists, the

officials said, adding that among the 14 civilians killed by the terrorists, seven were pilgrims returning from the Shiv Khouri temple while three were village defence guards (VDGs).

While the pilgrims were killed in an attack on their bus which also claimed the life of the local driver and conductor, the VDGs were shot in Udhampur and Kishtwar districts.

Seven security personnel lost their lives in terror incidents this year in Kathua, five in Doda, three in Kishtwar, two in Poonch and one in Udhampur, the officials said, adding that three terrorists were

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## Army pays tribute to JCO Rakesh Kumar martyred in Kishtwar Encounter

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, NOV 11

Army on Monday laid wreaths on the mortal remains of a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) who laid down his life in a gunfight with the terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district.

Naib Subedar Rakesh Kumar of the Army's 2 Para, was martyred and three more soldiers were injured in the gunfight on Sunday.



The encounter broke out when joint search parties of the Army and police intercepted the ter-

rorists around 11 am in the Keshwan forest area. The exchange of fire went

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## Sale, consumption of tobacco products banned in parts of Sub-Division Katra

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, NOV 11

Additional District Magistrate, Reasi, by virtue of powers vested under section 163 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 do hereby prohibit/restrict the sale/possession/consumption of Tobacco products including Gutka (Chewable & non-chewable), cigarettes and other related products in Sub Division Katra within the following boundaries:-

From Moorie Check Post, from Pantal Naka and from the start Point of Tarakote Track to Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan including track.

Any violation of this order shall invite strict punitive action under section 223 of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Reasi shall implement this order in letter & spirit.

Meanwhile, Additional District Magistrate, Reasi, in exercise of powers vested U/s 163 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 hereby imposed complete ban on illegal use of Sale/Purchase of Portable Chain Saw (Mechanical Cutters) in District Reasi.

Any violation of this order shall invite penal action as warranted under relevant sections of law.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Reasi and Divisional Forest Officer, Reasi/Mahore shall get the order implemented in letter and spirit.

This order shall come into the force with immediate effect.

## Kashmir Receives Season's First Snowfall

district received light snowfall, they said.

Reports of snowfall were received from uninhabited mountainous areas in Kashmir as well. Srinagar and other plain areas of the valley were lashed by rain late in the afternoon, they added.

The snowfall and rain lowered the day temperature significantly, signalling the arrival of winter in Kashmir.

### Search Ops Underway In Forests In J&K's Kishtwar To Flush Out Terrorists

area. Jammu tourism packages

The security personnel have been scouring the forest area for over four days, looking for the terrorists who abducted and killed two Village Defence Guards (VDGs) last Thursday.

Sunday's encounter broke out when joint search parties of the Army and police intercepted the terrorists around 11 am in the Keshwan forest area. The exchange of fire went on for more than four hours.

A Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO), Naib Subedar Rakesh Kumar of the Army's 2 Para, was killed and three more soldiers were injured in the gunfight.

Officials said there has been no fresh contact with the terrorists since Sunday's encounter.

They said three to four terrorists, responsible for the killings, are still holed up in the area and a massive search operation is underway to neutralise them.

The officials added that thick foliage and challenging topography pose a challenge for the security personnel relentlessly chasing the trail to hunt down the terrorists.

On Thursday evening, terrorists abducted VDGs Nazir Ahamed and Kuldeep Kumar and shot them dead in the nearby Kuntwara forest. (Agencies)

## Gold Declines Rs 450 To Rs 79,550 Per 10 Grams; Silver Plunges Rs 600

closed at Rs 79,600 per 10 grams on Friday.

Meanwhile, in futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for December delivery slumped Rs 460 or 0.6 per cent to trade at Rs 76,812 per 10 grams.

"Gold prices are trading lower, with Comex down, slipping from Friday's close of USD 2,685 as the strengthening dollar index exerts pressure on the yellow metal.

"The rise in US bond prices following Trump's election victory is contributing to the corrective trend in bullion," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst – Commodity and Currency at LKP Securities, said.

Silver contracts for December delivery rose Rs 63 or 0.07 per cent to Rs 91,332 per kg on the exchange.

Globally, Comex gold futures slipped USD 17.80 per ounce or 0.66 per cent to USD 2,677 per ounce.

"Last week, Comex gold prices fell to a one-month low of USD 2,650.30 per ounce, as investor sentiment shifted toward risk assets following Trump's election victory and the Republican Party's successful bid to regain control of the US Senate," Kaynat Chainwala, AVP-Commodity Research at Kotak Securities, said.

Gold briefly rebounded above USD 2,700 after the Fed's widely anticipated 25-basis point rate cut. However, a stronger dollar and rising Treasury yields kept gold under pressure, and it closed the week down 2 per cent at USD 2,694.80 per ounce, Chainwala added.

According to Saamil Gandhi, Senior Analyst – Commodities at HDFC Securities, gold resumed trading on a lower note due to a number of bearish factors, such as the strength of the US dollar, bets on less aggressive Federal Reserve interest rate cuts, and elevated US bond yields.

However, Comex silver futures increased 0.23 per cent to USD 31.52 per ounce in the Asian market hours.

According to commodities experts, last week, US President-elect Donald Trump pledged a 10 per cent tariff on all US imports and is expected to trigger a resurgence in inflation and restrict the US Federal Reserve's (Fed) ability to ease aggressively in the near future.

This, in turn, remains supportive of elevated US Treasury bond yields and contributes to driving flows away from the yellow metal, they said. (PTI)

## Special Status Passed In Assembly Has Been Sent To Authorities Concerned: Rather

Rather told media persons "to talk to the political parties in this matter as I am a non-aligned person and have no concern with any political party".

Asked that since the new government assumes office in Jammu and Kashmir, encounters are taking place, Rather said "the law and order is not a state subject. Law and order and Police are being looked after by the central government", he said.

He said Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has conveyed to the law and order machinery to beef up the security grid to stop such incidents. (Agencies)

## CM Omar Abdullah calls for sustainable, high-value tourism policy in J&K

create substantial employment opportunities for youth.

He underscored the need to treat tourism as a structured, long-term endeavour, rather than an ad-hoc activity, by adopting a tourist-centric perspective.

"We need to enhance the tourist experience, so visitors are more likely to revisit and recommend J&K

as a destination," the chief minister remarked.

Addressing key challenges, the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah called for focused efforts in garbage disposal and waste management through sustained campaigns and stakeholder awareness.

During the meeting, he noted the urgent need for additional wayside amenities and certified clean toilet facilities along major tourist routes and at key destinations to elevate visitor satisfaction.

"We must build environmentally conscious infrastructure that respects J&K's unique heritage and architecture," he added.

Chief Minister Abdullah highlighted the importance of shifting tourism efforts from "high volume" to "high value," emphasizing quality over quantity.

He also urged regulated infrastructure growth in newly proposed destinations and developing tourist spots to ensure sustainable development. He stressed the need for synergized efforts with the local community, advocating for all tourism projects to consider heritage preservation and environmental sustainability.

To further improve the tourist experience, the Chief Minister favoured creation of a feedback portal directly linked to his office, enabling tourists to share their experiences and suggestions.

Chief Minister emphasized routine inspections of homestay facilities to maintain cleanliness and essential infrastructure standards, ensuring a welcoming environment for all visitors.

The progress on central government schemes such as PRASAD and Swadesh Darshan was also reviewed. Chief Minister said that Sonamarg has the potential to emerge as a Skiing destination given the abundance of snow there and it needs our attention.

Chief Minister expressed dissatisfaction over poor condition of waste dumping site at Gulmarg and exhorted the concerned officials to improve the waste management facilities in Gulmarg on priority.

Chief Minister proposed sustainable development measures for Gulmarg, called for revitalizing the Gondola service.

He took serious view of mismanagement in Gondola service ticketing which has irked the tourists and has led to black marketing of tickets.

He directed JK Cable Car Corporation to streamline the ticketing process with efficiency, leveraging the technology and making tickets easily available to visitors.

For skiing development, he recommended hiring reputed consultants and experts for proper alignment of skiing drag lifts and emphasized that all plans should consider the impacts of climate change.

Chief Minister underlined the need for taking up green field tourism development projects.

He gave instructions for strengthening of Tourism Development Authorities and taking immediate steps to prepare master plans for every development authority for planned development of tourism destinations.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary Tourism, Yasha Mudgal, Directors of Tourism Jammu/Kashmir and other senior officials from the Tourism Department.

## Proud to move special status resolution in J&K assembly: Dy CM Choudhary

They (BJP leaders) are misleading the people... We all know that this is the demand of the commoners, including the farmers, labourers and businessmen, irrespective of their religious identity," Choudhary said while addressing a function at the National Conference headquarters here.

He also claimed the resolution is meant to safeguard the future of the coming generations, adding that it is in accordance with the promise made by Union Home Minister Amit Shah who assured the people of Jammu and Kashmir of protecting their land and jobs.

"We have a dozen states in the country which enjoy special status... (Bihar Chief Minister) Nitish Kumar wanted special status for his state, but the BJP MLAs enacted a drama (in the Bihar Assembly). We will expose them (BJP) as our resolution is in the interest of the people," Choudhary said.

The deputy chief minister also accused the BJP leaders in J-K of taking orders from "outside", holding them directly responsible for "destroying" the region over the past 10 years.

"Instead of offering employment to the local youth, they (BJP) have provided land and big contracts to outsiders by ignoring the local industrialists. They boast of winning 29 seats in the Jammu region, but they should be thankful that the National Conference did not contest the elections on majority of the seats. Had we did, their fate would have been like their president (Ravinder Raina)," Choudhary, who defeated Raina from the Nowshera constituency, said.

He also said the NC will show BJP the real picture in the upcoming local bodies and panchayat elections.

The BJP downgraded the erstwhile state by bifurcating it into two UTs and then failed miserably to project any new tourist place, especially in the Jammu region, Choudhary claimed.

Referring to the passing of a resolution at the first meeting of the Omar Abdullah-led Cabinet shortly after the formation of the new government on October 16, the National Conference leader said the party will fulfil all its poll promises made to the people of J-K.

"The government has already accepted people's demand by reversing the examination schedule in the winter zone from March-April to November-December to benefit the students. We have also announced age relaxation for the J&K Combined Competitive Examination (CCE), Choudhary said.

Continuing his tirade against the BJP, he claimed the security situation in J-K is there for everyone to see, where not a single day passes without innocent people getting killed.

"We want our country to be strong with J-K as one of its prosperous states. NC is the only party which has sacrificed thousands of its leaders and workers to make India strong," he claimed, adding, "We will continue with our endeavour to strengthen the Constitution, safeguard the borders, and empower every individual."

Claiming that a change in J-K is visible ever since

the formation of the NC government with people visiting the civil secretariat seeking redressal of their problems, Choudhary said, "The BJP rule created a wedge between the administration and the public. We have started working to bridge this gap. It will take some time."

Alleging a scam in the public health engineering department, the NC leader urged people to have patience saying, "We are going to unveil everything."

Speaking at the function, J-K minister Satish Sharma accused the BJP of completely eroding the Dogra identity in the last five years by compromising the resources of Jammu and Kashmir.

"All of us need to unite to make J-K prosperous. We want statehood and special status back to preserve land and jobs for the locals," Sharma said.

"We have to become a bridge between the two divisions of Jammu and Kashmir and reject the vested interests trying to cash in on the 'Jammu versus Kashmir' ideology," he added.

Sharma also called for a vigorous campaign against the menace of drugs, assuring that the government will not hesitate to take stern action against the culprits in its bid to save the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

## First time since independence, remote village in Doda gets road connectivity

liamentary Constituency posted on X, "Under PM @NarendraModi, remote #Doda villages are getting road connectivity for the first time since independence."

"New #NHIDCL & such other projects connect hilly Marmat belt, including my native village #Kalota, where our forefathers never got to see a motor vehicle in their lifetime," Dr Singh further posted.

Meanwhile, MLA Doda West and BJP leader, Shakti Raj Parihar while thanking Dr Singh posted on X, "The expansion and enhancement of the Dranga-Goha-Khellani road has received sanction, with the tender process initiated in record time."

"This essential project will bring immense relief to the communities of Khellani, Marmat, Goha, and other localities. I offer my sincere thanks to PMO @DrJitendraSingh for his unshakeable support in securing project approval," he posted.

## Some 'Anti-Nationals' trying to divide society; we will have to unite to defeat them: Modi

On the occasion, Modi informed the devotees that his association with the Vadtal Swaminarayan Temple dates back to his days as the chief minister of Gujarat.

The Centre recently issued a coin to commemorate 200 years of the Swaminarayan Temple in Vadtal, he said.

"Lord Swaminarayan came before us at a time when our country was weakened due to slavery and people used to blame themselves for the situation. At such a time, Lord Swaminarayan and other saints awakened our self-respect, gave us a new spiritual energy and rejuvenated our original identity," Modi said.

The prime minister also said the demand for skilled Indian youth will increase manifold in the future.

"Today, majority of the world leaders whom I meet express a desire that Indian youth should come and work in their countries. Our youth are capable of fulfilling the needs of India as well as the world," he said.

Stressing the need to preserve the cultural heritage of India, Modi said his government believes in the mantra of "Vikas Bhi Virasat Bhi" (development along with preservation of heritage).

Referring to the Kumbh Mela declared as an Intangible Cultural Heritage by the UNESCO some years back, Modi urged the Swaminarayan sect to make the people of other countries understand the importance of the religious congregation and why it is celebrated.

He said the upcoming Kumbh Mela, to be held between January and February next year in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh is "Purna Kumbh" as it will be celebrated after a gap of 12 years.

"Your temples are situated across the world. I urge you to spread awareness about this Kumbh Mela through your temples. You should also make foreigners understand the importance of Kumbh Mela and why it is being celebrated. Each temple in the world should try to bring at least 100 foreigners to the Kumbh Mela. I know that you can do it," Modi said. (Agencies)

## Search ops Underway in forests in Kishtwar to flush out terrorists

been no fresh contact with the terrorists since Sunday's encounter.

They said three to four terrorists, responsible for the killings, are still holed up in the area and a massive search operation is underway to neutralise them.

The officials added that thick foliage and challenging topography pose a challenge for the security personnel relentlessly chasing the trail to hunt down the terrorists.

On Thursday evening, terrorists abducted VDGs Nazir Ahamed and Kuldeep Kumar and shot them dead in the nearby Kuntwara forest. (Agencies)

## Army pays tribute to JCO Rakesh Kumar martyred in Kishtwar Encounter

on for more than four hours.

Naib Subedar Rakesh Kumar laid down his life on Sunday, while three other soldiers were injured in the gunfight with terrorists in a remote forest area in Keshwan.

The operation comes amid an intensified hunt that has been underway since the recent killing of two Village Defence Guards (VDGs).

The General Officer Commanding (GoC) of the White Knight Corps, Lieutenant General Navin Sachdeva, led the wreath-laying ceremony at the IAF station in Jammu, where the Naib Subedar's mortal remains were brought from Kishtwar.

The bugle sounded at the last post and an Army contingent presented a salute to honour the fallen soldier.

"In a solemn wreath-laying ceremony, GoC White Knight Corps laid a wreath in Jammu to pay homage to the braveheart Naib Subedar Rakesh Kumar, who made the supreme sacrifice while undertaking a counter-terrorist operation in Kishtwar," the White Knight Corps posted on X.

The mortal remains of Naib Subedar Kumar have been airlifted by a chopper to his native place in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi.

Following deadly attacks in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch over the past three years, terror activities have expanded to six other districts in the Jammu region this year, leading to the deaths of 44 people, including 18 security personnel and 13 terrorists, security officials said. (Agencies) Army on Monday laid wreaths on the mortal remains of a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) who laid down his life in a gunfight with the terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district.

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## Terror attacks rocked 8 of 10 Jammu districts in 2024; 13 Terrorists among 44 Killed

killed in a two-day long operation in Akhnoor sector of Jammu region in October, four in separate encounters in Doda, two each in Kathua, Udhampur and Rajouri.

The Rajouri-Poonch belt, which like other parts of Jammu region were almost cleared of terrorism over a decade ago, witnessed deadly terror attacks mostly targeting army vehicles since October 2021, resulting in the death of more than 100 persons, including 47 security personnel and 48 terrorists, besides seven civilians.

Rajouri accounted for 19 deaths in 2021, 14 in 2022 and 28 in 2023. Likewise, Poonch recorded 15 deaths in 2021, four in 2022 and 24 in 2023, the officials said quoting the data.

They said the footprints of the security forces have been increased in many areas where they were earlier reduced or completely withdrawn due to the improved security situation over the years.

Night patrolling has also been intensified across the region, especially in the border villages, to check infiltration of terrorists from across the border, the officials said.

They added that public outreach in the form of medical camps and other welfare measures under 'Operation Sadbhavana' (goodwill), including frequent interaction with the elders and the youth, have also recorded a manifold increase.

## CS for implementation of AMRUT projects for their timely completion

gineering staff of the executing agencies to have a knack of solving technical issues at their own level without resorting to the habit of pushing them up. He maintained that such stunts only add to delaying the vital projects at the peril of common masses.

He also enjoined upon the Department to fix responsibility while taking note of few DPRs requiring revision for want of certain technical feasibilities. He made out that projects certified by the Technical Appraisal Committee should only be taken up for approval so that there remains no scope for any glitches to face in implementation of works on ground.

The Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur gave out details of the projects sanctioned under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 for J&K.

She revealed that these projects aim at making cities 'water secure' and providing functional water tap connections to all households in all statutory towns.

She gave out that the scheme encompasses creating 99 water supply schemes here at a cost of Rs 560 Cr besides some sewage projects for the big cities and rejuvenation of water bodies in these areas.

Mandeep Kaur further added that central allocation to the tune of Rs 611 Cr for water supply, 206 Cr for sewerage & septage management and Rs 50 Cr for rejuvenation of water bodies & development of green spaces in urban areas has been made in favour of the UT.

It is noteworthy to mention here that some of the major towns for which the WSS had been envisaged under AMRUT 2.0 includes Srinagar, Jammu, Budgam, Kulgam, Baderwah, Batote, RS Pura, Akhnoor, Chenani, Hiranagar, Kathua, Lakhnappur, Vijaypur, Reasi, Baramulla, Beerwah, Magam, Pattan, Devsar, Uri, Awantipora, Kupwara, Ganderbal, Sopore and many other smaller towns in both the divisions of J&K.

## Education Department celebrates National Education Day at Girls Higher Secondary School Poonch



**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, NOV 11**  
The Education Department Poonch commemorated National Education Day with a special program at Girls Higher Secondary School (HSS) Poonch. The day, observed to pay homage to India's first Education Minister and Bharat Ratna, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, featured speeches and performances reflecting his

immense contributions to Indian education. Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal attended as the chief guest, bringing focus to the transformative role of education in shaping society. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of education in driving societal progress, urging students to make the best use of online platforms and stay connected with the digital world. "Education empowers individuals and has far-reaching effects on society," he stated, adding that students should leverage technology to broaden their learning and gain skills necessary for a rapidly changing world. Students actively participated, delivering speeches that highlighted the invaluable contribution of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the architect of modern Indian education system and champion of universal education and literacy. They expressed their admiration for his vision and dedication to building a strong educational foundation for the country. The host school Principal Anjum Shaheen also addressed the gathering, outlining various schemes introduced by the Education Department. She spoke on initiatives aimed at enhancing learning environments, improving infrastructure, and ensuring that educational resources reach every student, reflecting the department's commitment to inclusive and quality education.

## Poonch: District level Advisory Committee on PC & PNDT Act discusses enforcement measures



**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, NOV 11**  
Deputy Commissioner, Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting of the District Advisory Committee (DAC) and Supervisor Monitoring Clinical Establishment on Pre-Conception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques (PC&PNDT) Act 2024. Threadbare discussions were held on registration & renewal of ultrasound centres and implementation of PC&PNDT Act, holding of IEC activities for general awareness etc. The DC, who is also the Chairman District Advisory Committee, directed the committee to spread awareness among the ASHA workers, Health workers and people regarding the Act

through workshops, awareness camps and other promotional activities. The meeting was informed that a total of 17 Ultrasound Centres were registered in the district out of which 13 centres were functional, while 4 are under the process of registration. Seeking close check on the illegal practice of pre-natal sex determination, the DDC directed the Health Department to conduct regular inspections of the ultrasound clinics and check the CCTV recordings of the ultrasound clinics to identify and penalize the defaulters. "Conduct surprise visits in centres with Ultrasound facilities and ensure coordination with district administration so that the act is

implemented in its true spirit," said the DC. The DC asked the committee to take necessary action in case of complaints filed against diagnostic centres for non-compliance of the Act and cancel the registrations with due public notice for general awareness that may desist people from visiting these centres. The meeting was attended by ADC Poonch, Tahir Mustafa Malik, CMO Poonch; Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan, MS DH Poonch Dr Nusrat Un Nisa; District Information Officer; Chetan Sharma, DSWO; Wakeel Ahmad Bhatt, members of the committee besides members from NGOs and civil societies of the District.

## Road Safety Awareness Program organized by NHIDCL, MVD Department at Pul Doda

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, NOV 11**  
In a collaborative effort to promote road safety, the National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) and the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) organized an awareness program at Pul Doda. The event aimed to educate road users about safe driving practices, saw a large turnout of drivers and vehicle operators who received guidance on crucial road safety measures. During the session, officials emphasized the dangers of over speeding, distracted driving—especially the use of mobile phones—and driving under the influence of alcohol. The initiative sought to sensitize drivers about their responsibility on the road, stressing how small actions can prevent accidents and save



lives. As part of the program, pamphlets containing road safety tips were distributed among commuters, drivers, and the general public. These informational materials included essential reminders about safe driving practices and highlighted the severe consequences of negligent driving on individuals and families. The pamphlets served as practical resources, reinforcing the event's messages and promoting safe behavior on the road. The awareness drive received positive feedback from participants, who appreciated NHIDCL and the MVD Department's efforts for prioritizing public safety. Attendees were encouraged to share this information within their communities, fostering a culture of road safety and making Doda's roads safer for everyone.

## District-Level Awareness Workshop on Apprenticeship Training held at ITI Doda

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, NOV 11**  
A district-level awareness workshop was organized today here at ITI Doda under the aegis of Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship

Mehta. Aimed at promoting apprenticeship for ITI Trained, the event formed part of the "Kushal Bharat, Viksit Bharat" initiative under the Skill India Mission.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Doda, Sudershan Kumar inaugurated the workshop. Earlier, Er. Naresh Singh, Superintendent of ITI welcomed the chief guest along with staff and enthusiastic students from the institute. In his inaugural address, ADC encouraged participants to take full advantage of the government's apprenticeship



scheme and the benefits available to economically weaker sections. He emphasized the importance of these initiatives in fostering skill development and self-reliance, ensuring that youth from all backgrounds can benefit. During the workshop, students were introduced to the Government of India's apprenticeship portal, which

allows them to register and explore various apprenticeship opportunities nationwide. The event served as a valuable orientation, with officials guiding students on the application process and encouraging them to engage actively with the portal to enhance their professional skills. The event witnessed participation from notable guests, including

J&K Bank Zonal Manager Bua Ditta, Doda Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Mairaj Khalid Bandy, and other dignitaries. ADC urged all attendees to act as ambassadors for these skill development schemes, advocating their benefits within their communities to drive broader participation.

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## Doda admin mulls to host Winter Festival

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, NOV 11**  
Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh on Monday chaired a comprehensive meeting with members of the Hotel Association and other key stakeholders in Tourism. The session aimed to outline strategies for tourism promotion in the district, particularly through the Winter Festival, a signature event planned by the district administration to attract tourists and showcase Doda's natural beauty, culture, and heritage. The meeting covered a wide array of topics, with a primary focus on enhancing facilities and services for tourists. The stakeholders attracted the attention of authorities towards various requirements, including upgrading of tourism infrastructure at potential destinations, improved road connectivity, and the need for high-quality accom-

modation and food services. Additionally, the discussion highlighted the importance of preserving local ecology, managing waste, and promoting sustainable tourism practices. Emphasis was placed on maintaining safety protocols and providing reliable information for tourists through updated digital platforms and brochures. The DC stressed the significance of collaboration among the administration, hotel owners, and local businesses to make Doda a year-round tourist destination. He encouraged innovative ideas to showcase local art, cuisine, and handicrafts as part of the Winter Festival to support local artisans and businesses. Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioner assured all stakeholders of support in addressing their concerns, particularly by streamlining administrative processes and exploring partnerships to enhance tourist amenities.

## J&K Forensic Science Lab announces first ever STR based genetic data publication

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, NOV 11**  
Forensic Science Laboratory, Jammu and Kashmir, has announced the first ever genetic data publication based on hyper variable Short Tandem Repeats (STR's) on UT's human population which was published in International Journal of Legal Medicine (IJLM). Pertinently, the study was conducted on 694 unrelated individuals selected randomly from the large population to find out the genetic implications of demographic dynamics that has taken place in the region. The study confirmed considerable admixture and genetic relation of different districts of Kashmir with adjoining Central Asian/Arab countries which were connected through ancient silk route. Jammu districts, on the other hand, show an appreciable genetic similarities with adjoining states of Indian Union. Besides, Ramban, Reasi and Kishtwar though adjacent geographically were found to be genetically scattered. "This is the first broad based autosomal STR study that has a potential impact on justice delivery in the courts of Law. DNA evidences produced in the courts will now be supplemented by the statistical data presenting the weight of evidence. Besides, it will have a profound impact on management of genetic diseases in the UT of J&K", said the lead author Dr. Nadeem Mubarak.

## Tribal Affairs Minister reviews status of Tribal Bhawan, EMR schools

JAMMU RISING  
JAMMU, NOV 11

Minister for Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today directed for regular reviews by senior officers to enable expeditious completion of all development projects meant for welfare of tribal communities in J&K.

In a meeting attended by Secretary Tribal Affairs, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Rana reviewed the measures being implemented by the Tribal Affairs Department and divisional administration Jammu to remove bottlenecks hampering timely completion of Tribal Bhawan at Nagrota and EMR Schools in Jammu division.



"The government is ensuring efficient implementation of various schemes and policies aimed ensuring socio-economic empowerment of tribal communities", the Minister stated while asking the Secretary Tribal Affairs to chalk out strategy for awareness of tribal communities regarding various schemes meant for their

development. Rana said that government is keen to establish Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) to provide quality education to tribal students in remote areas besides facilitating access to higher education and employment opportunities. "By focusing on academic and holistic development, the EMRSs have emerged as a significant

tool for tribal empowerment", he asserted.

The Minister also stated that the scholarships are aimed to reduce dropout rates and promote education of tribal students. He directed the concerned officer to make a plan with focus on filling critical gaps in education, healthcare and infrastructure in tribal regions, backed by significant budget allocations.

Secretary Tribal Affairs Department informed the Minister about various schemes, physical and financial position of the department, digital interventions besides challenges and subsequent strategies to overcome those challenges.

## DC Ramban reviews performance of Revenue Department

JAMMU RISING  
JAMMU, NOV 11

Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary on Monday chaired a meeting to review the performance of the Revenue Department.

The meeting saw participation from Revenue Department functionaries, including ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak; ACR S. Harpal Singh; SDMs, Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars, and other key personnel.

The Deputy Commissioner assessed the services related to issuance of certificates and updating of revenue records, emphasizing the



delivery of services as per the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA) timeline. He directed officials to prevent unnecessary delays and ensure prompt issuance of certificates to applicants. Highlighting the importance of transparency, the Deputy Commissioner instructed officers to conduct thorough verifications before turning down the

applications and to provide clear, lawful reasons for the rejection. To enhance accessibility, the Deputy Commissioner directed SDMs and Tehsildars to organize revenue camps in their areas to offer doorstep services and assist residents in correctly completing online applications, reducing application rejections.

For efficient

record-keeping, the DC directed officers to maintain both physical and digital records and ensure the timely submission of revenue reports. Tehsildars and Naib Tehsildars were instructed to ensure on-the-spot verification of Girdawari, attestation of inheritance, and other mutations, reducing delays and enhancing accuracy.

## Projects/ works under WUCMA reviewed at Bandipora

JAMMU RISING  
JAMMU, NOV 11

In order to assess the progress of projects/works under WUCMA a meeting of concerned officers was today held at Mini-Secretariat, Bandipora.

The meeting discussed in detail, major functions of WUCMA and Legal Instruments for the conservation and management of Wullar lake. During the meeting, it was revealed that as per revenue records the total lake area of Wullar lake is 130 sq km surrounded by 30 village within district Bandipora and Baramulla with 3.5 lakh population. It was given out that an



expenditure of Rs.230.71 crores have been made out of total Rs.241.49 released funds for different developmental and conservation works of Wullar lake. It was also informed that 5 sq km (500Ha) of critically silted area have been dredged, removing 78.25 lac cumms of silt besides 84

km long Wullar boundary has been completed with 1159 geotagged boundary pillars restoring the water holding capacity of the lake and improve water regime besides restoring habitat for migratory birds. The meeting also discussed works that need intervention of District Administration

for early completion besides discussed waste management under convergence between Municipality, RDD and WUCMA for comprehensive solid waste management plan for 30 notified habitations and master plan for notified villages of Wullar lake.

Speaking on the occasion, Mohammad Younis Malik, Vice-Chairman, Lake Conservation and Management Authority and CEO, WUCMA emphasized the need of conservation and management of Wullar lake keeping in view ecological concerns and safeguarding livelihood of people living around Wullar.

## MP Anantnag-PC chairs DISHA meeting

JAMMU RISING  
JAMMU, NOV 11

Member of Parliament (MP) from 3- Anantnag Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency (PC), Mian Altaf Ahmad today chaired a District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meeting at Dak Bungalow, Anantnag.

The meeting was attended by the Chairperson of the District Development Council (DDC), MY Gorski and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from the district including Peerzada Mohammad Saeed (Anantnag), Altaf Ahmad Wani (Pahalgam), Ab. Majeed Larmi (Anantnag West), Dr. Bashir Ahmad Veeri (Srigufara Bijbehara),



Chaudhry Zafar Ahmad Khatana (Kokernag) and Riyaz Ahmad Khan (Shangus). The meeting focused on the progress of key development projects and government schemes. The MLAs projected the development needs and demands of their respective constituencies. During the meeting, District Development Commissioner

Anantnag, SF Hamid briefed the chair on the ongoing development activities across the district. He highlighted the progress of various government schemes, including MGNREGA, PMAY, NRLM, Ayushman Bharat, JJM, and ICDS, among others. He informed that works under the District CAPEX plan are moving forward with greater momentum, with tenders com-

pleted and several projects already underway. The Member of Parliament conducted a detailed review of these schemes, emphasising the need for improved performance in power transmission, PHE, Health, Agriculture etc distribution networks, MGNREGA, SBM, PMAY, NRLM, and the JJM. He also specifically focused on the welfare of farmers, particularly dairy farmers, urging increased efforts to enhance the marketability of milk production in the district and strengthening the district's electrical network. The chair also stressed on the importance of cooperation and coordination among MLAs, district officers, and other stakeholders. He called for collec-

## Sprawling 975 kanal City Forest Project proposed for Kishtwar Town

JAMMU RISING  
JAMMU, NOV 11

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan today chaired a meeting to discuss and finalise the development of City Forest area on the outskirts of Kishtwar Town, with an emphasis on fostering a green urban environment and enhancing ecological balance in the region.

The meeting, held in the DC office, brought together stakeholders from across the board, including officers from the Forest, RDD, Public Health Engineering (PHE), Public Works Department (PWD), and other allied departments. At the outset, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Kishtwar, Vijay Verma, provided a comprehensive briefing on the City Forest Plan. He outlined the proposed afforestation initiative, which is to be executed on a

sprawling 975 kanal land located on the outskirts of Kishtwar Town. He highlighted the project's primary focus areas, including large-scale plantation, habitat creation, and green cover enhancement, which will contribute to improving local air quality and providing a recreational haven for the residents. During the discussions, the DDC reviewed critical guidelines for the afforestation project, addressing various aspects such as fencing, irrigation infrastructure, and maintenance provisions. He emphasized the importance of creating a sustainable ecosystem through effective forestation practices, further instructing departments to facilitate all necessary provisions, such as water supply, for the new saplings. The District Commissioner also underscored the necessity of involving different stake-

holders to ensure smooth, hassle-free project execution. He called upon the allied departments to work in close coordination and adopt a "war footing" approach, to complete the City Forest project in a time-bound manner. The concept of having Nagar Van (City Forest) at the entry point near Shalimar has been conceived by the Deputy Commissioner R K Shavan. It is his dream project to have a nearby City Forest to minimize the environmental impact due to upcoming Hydroelectric Power Projects in the District. Highlighting the significance of the City Forest, Rajesh Kumar Shavan emphasized the role of green spaces in enhancing the region's ecological resilience, conserving biodiversity, and promoting environmental awareness among local communities.

## Rana advocates participatory approach for conservation of forests

JAMMU RISING  
JAMMU, NOV 11

Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana, today exhorted upon the senior officers of Forest Department to adopt participatory approach towards conservation of forest resources and protection of environment by involving local communities. The Minister directed for implementation of Forest Rights Act, fast-track recruitment, check on timber smuggling and establishing cordial relation/communication with local communities, especially the traditional forest dwellers for conservation of forests.

In a brief introductory meeting with the officers and officials of the department at Civil Secretariat Jammu, Rana expressed hope that the forest fraternity shall work in tandem with communities to conserve and protect forests and environment. He exhorted upon the officers to work with dedication and sincerity to solve public issues and concerns. The Minister stressed

## SWD Udhampur organises awareness camp on women centric schemes at GHSS Pakhlai



Government Higher Secondary School Pakhlai. The event was attended by around 200 participants including the Principal, staff and students. Gender Specialist HEW and resource person from TSWO office highlighted the importance of digital literacy and listed different women centric schemes including provision of Pension for Widows, SMAS, loan schemes,

PMMVY etc. They also introduced the students to pre-matric and post-matric scholarship schemes offered by the social welfare Department with certain eligibility criteria. The program also highlighted the psychological, social and economic consequences of drug addiction and its impacts on individuals and communities. The Principal of the school presented the

vote of thanks and underlined the need to hold such programs on regular intervals to update students about the welfare schemes launched by the government. Later, the Department of Social Welfare gave away School bags and wrist watches to meritorious girls under the aegis of BBBP and water bottles to needy boys under Nasha Mukti Bharat.

## Education Department celebrates National Education Day at Girls Higher Secondary School Poonch

JAMMU RISING  
JAMMU, NOV 11

The Education Department Poonch commemorated National Education Day with a special program at Girls Higher Secondary School (HSS) Poonch. The day, observed to pay homage to India's first Education Minister and Bharat Ratna, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, featured speeches and performances reflecting his immense contributions to Indian education. Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal attended as the chief guest, bringing focus to the transformative role of education in shaping society. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of education in driving societal progress, urging students to make the best use of online platforms and stay connected with the digital world. "Education empowers individuals and has far-reaching effects on society," he stated, adding that students should leverage technology to broaden their learning and gain skills necessary for a rapidly changing world. Students actively participated, delivering speeches that highlighted the invaluable contribution of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the architect of modern Indian education system and champion of universal edu-



cation and literacy. They expressed their admiration for his vision and dedication to building a strong educational foundation for the country. The host school Principal Anjum Shaheen also addressed the gathering, outlining various schemes introduced by the Educa-

tion Department. She spoke on initiatives aimed at enhancing learning environments, improving infrastructure, and ensuring that educational resources reach every student, reflecting the department's commitment to inclusive and quality education.

## GDC Marh hosts Maiden Computer Literacy Program at GM School Dhateryal

JAMMU RISING  
JAMMU, NOV 11

On the auspicious occasion of National Education Day, Department of Computer Applications, Government Degree College Marh has organised a six-day Maiden Basic Computer Literacy Programme for adopted students from Government Middle School, Dhateryal (6th to 8th class students). The event started under the esteemed guidance of the Principal, Prof. Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul, and aimed at equipping young students with fundamental computer skills, fostering early digital literacy, and inspiring a future-ready generation. Prof. Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul emphasized the college's commitment to rural outreach and holistic development in his address. He remarked, "Education is the solid foundation of a progressive society, and digital literacy is now an integral component of that foundation. Through initiatives like the Basic Computer Literacy Programme, we aim to bridge the digital divide and provide rural students with the skills they need to succeed in a digital world." Under the mentorship and expertise of Dr. Rahul Sharma, Head of the Department of Computer Applications at GDC Marh, students will receive hands-on training and guidance in foundational computer skills. The program offers an invaluable learning opportunity for underprivileged students by providing hands-on workshops that equip them with



essential computer skills. The programme has meticulously designed sessions aimed to be engaging, interactive, and age-appropriate, ensuring that students could confidently grasp basic concepts. Dr. Sharma highlighted the importance of early exposure to technology, noting, "It is essential to prepare students for a world where digital fluency

is as important as traditional literacy. Through this programme, we are planting the seeds for a lifetime of digital learning and empowerment." The programme was tailored to introduce essential computer knowledge, enabling students to explore the digital world with confidence. Organized in collaboration with Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), this ini-

tiative aligns with the college's mission to advance quality education and community outreach. Prof. Imtiaz Shahid, expressed optimism for future collaborations, saying, "Our goal is to create sustainable programs that evolve with the students' needs. By monitoring feedback and outcomes, we aim to refine our approach and make a greater impact on the community."



**HAPPY MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY TO BOTH OF YOU. GOD BLESS YOU**

## JAKEDA holds awareness programme on MNRE's PM-KUSUM scheme

JAMMU RISING  
JAMMU, NOV 11

The Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development (JAKEDA), Department of Science & Technology, today conducted an awareness programme at Krishi Bhawan, SKUAST, Jammu, to sensitize the farmers regarding use of solar energy for powering of irrigation pumps. The programme was conducted under the chairmanship of Vice Chancellor, SKUAST, Jammu, Dr. B N Tripathi and supervision of Commissioner Secretary Science & Technology, Saurabh Bhagat. Extension, SKUAST, Jammu, Dr. Amrith Vaid, Additional Secretary, Science & Technology Department, Neelam Khajuria, Chief Scientist & Head, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jammu, Dr. Punit Chowdhary, CEO, JAKEDA, Dr. P.R.Dhar, Executive Engineer JAKEDA,



Khalid Mehmud and Regional Head JAKEDA, Deepak Sharma besides officers from Horticulture, Agriculture, and JAKEDA were present on the occasion. During the programme, the officers and the farmers were apprised of various benefits and incentives being extended by the Union Ministry for New & Renewable Energy MNRE, under PM - KUSUM Scheme, which is primarily meant for upliftment of the farmers. It was informed that the farmers can set up Grid Connected Solar Power Plants in the capacity range of 0.5 MW to 2.0 MW on Barron Land banks for sale of power to DISCOMs and make

an average annual earning of Rs 40 lakh per MW under "Component A" of PM-KUSUM scheme. Besides, 4 acre (approximately) of land is required for development of the 1 MW Solar Plant Project. Besides, the farmers are allowed to install subsidized Solar Powered Pumps up to 10 HP capacities for irrigation purpose with a choice of AC/DC Surface and Submersible Pumps under "Component B" of PM-KUSUM scheme. The Ministry provides a subsidy of 50% of cost of the pump while 30% of cost is being provided by the J&K government and the beneficiary/farmer has to bear only 20% cost of the pump.

In addition, the farmers are allowed for Solarization of grid connected Powered Agriculture Pumps with Solar pump capacity up to two times of installed pump capacity in KW under "Component C" of the PM-KUSUM Scheme. Under this Component, the farmers can export the excess energy to the Grid and shall receive the benefits of the exported energy from the DISCOM. The Ministry provides a subsidy of 50% of the cost of the pump while 30% of the cost is being provided by the J&K government and the beneficiary/farmer has to bear only 20% cost of the pump.

## Health- cum eye check-up camp held for vehicle operators at Ware House Jammu



JAMMU RISING  
JAMMU, NOV 11

Motor Vehicles Department Jammu in collaboration with Health Department organized a free health- cum eye check-up camp and awareness camp on Road safety here today at Ware house Jammu. The camp was organized on the directions of Transport Commissioner Bhawani Rakwal and under the overall supervision of RTO Jammu

Pankaj Bhagotra. As many as 300 drivers and conductors participated in the camp and availed the facilities like eye checkup for colour-blindness, defect in eye sight, test to check BP, Diabetes, Hb etc. Speaking on the occasion, representatives from MVD informed the participants that aim of organizing such medical camps is to spread awareness among drivers about signifi-

cance of personal health and hygiene for welfare of society. They added that such camps will be organized on regular basis in future for the drivers as they hold the responsibility to ensure the safety of passenger so they should often keep their health in good condition and well monitored. The organizers also expressed gratitude to the Drivers for their greater participation and informed that due to the over business the drivers are not able to look after their Health and the basic purpose of the camp is to facilitate them. ARTO also briefed about the Road Safety Parameters to be followed by the Drivers and imparted awareness about the Significance of road safety for safety of human lives. Chief Medical Officer Jammu, Joint Transport Commissioner J&K, ARTO (Hq), ARTO BOI (P&B) and Representatives of Transport Union were present on the occasion.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION DODA**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

**e-NIT No. 25 of 2024-25**

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on **Percentage Rate basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Government for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in Lacs)	Earnest Money	Cost of document	Time of completion (in days)	Date of opening of tender	Class of Contract
01	Construction of R/wall in km 2nd RD (100-106) on Doda Beoli road via Sah.	2.42	4840	600	30 days	On or after 26/11/2024 at 12:30 PM	A, D

- Date of Publishing from 11/11/2024.
- The Bidding documents/deposited can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 10:00A.M on 11/11/2024 to 25/11/2024 (1600 Hrs).The complete bidding process will be on line.
- Technical bids of bidders shall be open ed on line in the office of **Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Doda on 26/11/2024 at 1230 Hrs.**
- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, conditions and other details. Bids must be uploaded along with **Scanned coy of cost of Tender Document in shape of e-challan/ copy of receipt from treasury favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Doda by crediting the requisite charges to the M.H 0059 – PWD (Revenue). Scanned copy of the earnest money / bid security in shape CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Doda will also be required to be uploaded along with.** The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of **L1 bidder will be required to be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Doda within three days of opening of financial bids on-line.**

**DIP No:DIP/J-6801/24 Dt:11-11-2024**

Sd/-  
(Er. Mohd Sajad Khan)  
Executive Engineer  
PWD (R&B) Division,  
Doda

## EDITORIAL

### Breaking the Chains of Bribery in Government Departments

Day by day we saw the news in different news-papers about corruption or anti corruption department registered cases against such culprits but we the people of civil society are also responsible equally.

Corruption disease should be curb irony otherwise this will hallow whole system like cancer.

Bribery in government departments is a toxic problem that erodes the very foundation of public service and trust. When citizens approach government offices for essential services—whether it's obtaining a license, processing a land document, or accessing welfare benefits—they should be met with transparency and integrity. Yet, many government departments have gained a reputation for corrupt practices, where "under-the-table" payments become a silent expectation.

At its core, bribery undermines the principles of fairness and equality. Instead of delivering services to all citizens based on need and eligibility, officials may prioritize those who can pay extra. This denies fair access to those who cannot afford to pay, thus deepening inequalities and perpetuating a cycle of injustice. For the underprivileged, this can mean months or even years of delays, affecting their lives in profound ways—from missing out on health benefits to struggling with property disputes that never see resolution.

The reasons behind this culture of bribery are complex. Low wages in government jobs often create a situation where employees feel pressured to supplement their income. Additionally, a lack of stringent monitoring and accountability systems creates an environment where corrupt practices can thrive with minimal risk. Without a strong fear of repercussions, the temptation to indulge in bribery often wins.

To combat this issue, a multifaceted approach is essential. First, implementing digital processes for service delivery can significantly reduce face-to-face interactions, cutting down opportunities for bribery. Many countries have already seen success with digital governance systems, which offer a level of transparency and traceability that physical processes lack.

Second, salary structures for government employees must be evaluated to ensure they are fair and reflective of the cost of living. When public officials feel economically secure, they are less likely to seek illicit means of income. However, increased wages should be accompanied by strict anti-corruption enforcement policies and a whistleblower system that protects and encourages citizens to report corruption without fear of retribution.

Public awareness is another powerful tool. Educating citizens about their rights to free services and emphasizing that they should not be coerced into bribing is crucial. The media and civil society must play an active role, not only in spreading awareness but also in exposing cases of corruption to build public pressure for reform.

Bribery in government departments is not just a problem for those directly affected; it is a systemic issue that undermines democracy, hinders development, and shakes public trust. The fight against bribery requires the involvement of government, civil society, and citizens alike. Only with a combined effort can we hope to foster a public service environment that is just, equitable, and truly serves the people.

## Flowers to please, and displease, Gods

ROBERT J STEPHENS

In preparation for the many Hindu fall festivals such as Diwali, Dussehra or Durga Puja, worshippers all over the world will purchase flowers for use in ritual worship in temples, outdoor ceremonies or altars at home. Throughout India, markets are always bustling with flower vendors, selling freshly cut marigolds, roses and lotus flowers. Devotees offer flowers and flower garlands to Hindu deities such as Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth; Ganesha, the remover of obstacles; or the warrior goddess Durga. India's wealthiest temple, Sri Venkateswara Temple at Tirumala, used three tons of flowers during a floral bath and procession ceremony in 2024.

The demand for flowers in worship is so high that two sisters from Bengaluru, Yeshodha and Rhea Karuturi, started a subscription-based service in 2019 to provide fresh flowers for puja or ritual worship throughout India. Hindu texts describe worship with flowers as one of 16 "upacaras" or "services" to the divine. In temple rituals, "pujaris," priests responsible for conveying the offerings to the deity, place flowers at the feet or drape them in garlands around the neck of the icon of the deity enshrined in the temple. Flowers are placed on a puja table at the feet of the image with the stems facing the devotee. As a scholar of South Asian religions, I know that stories found in the "Puranas," religious texts likely composed between the second and 10th centuries, describe why gods and goddesses favour certain flowers.

The Puranas, loosely translated as "Old Tales," include popular stories about Hindu gods and goddesses, kings and queens, and sages and other cultural heroes. In her study of the use of Sanskrit ritual manuals in central India, the Indologist Gudrun Buhnemann noted that devotees, ancient and modern, observe



elaborate rules for the use of flowers in the worship of particular deities. For example, the manuals say that basil is favoured by the Hindu god Vishnu but should never be offered to the god Ganesha. Lord Shiva grants blessings to those who worship him through offering leaves from the wood apple tree. Wood apple leaves, however, should never be offered to Surya, the Sun.

The "Skandha Purana" the longest Purana with about 81,000 verses is dedicated to the deity Skandha, a son of god Shiva and goddess Parvati. The text provides a gradation of flowers that culminates in the superiority of the jasmine or "jati" flower for the worship of Vishnu. "The jati flower is better than all other flowers ... the man who duly offers me a splendid garland with a thousand jati flowers ... lives in my heavenly city for billions of kalpas (ages)," Vishnu explains in the text. In her classic study "Offering Flowers, Feeding Skulls: Popular Goddess Worship in West Bengal," religion scholar June McDaniel discusses traditional practices for the worship of Kali, the fearsome and protective mother goddess, who is to be decorated in red hibiscus flowers. Red flowers, in general, are believed to be sacred to Kali.

had fallen from a branch nearby. Brahma convinced the flower to support a false claim suggesting that he had reached the top of the shaft of light. Just at that moment, Shiva appeared from the light and cursed both Brahma and the ketaki flower for their dishonesty. Due to his arrogance and deception, Brahma would henceforth have few devotees.

For its part, despite being aromatic and pleasing to the eye, the ketaki flower is cursed by Shiva never to be offered to him in ritual worship. However, Shiva later amends the curse to allow for the ketaki to be used for worshipping him during the popular festival called the "Great Night of Shiva" or Mahashivratri. Due to the increase in demand, there is a surge in the price of ketaki flowers during this annual spring festival. In one of the most popular Hindu texts, however, the flower offered is less important to the deity than the attitude of the devotee making the offering. In the "Bhagavad Gita" or "Song of the Lord," the deity Krishna declares that he will accept any sincere devotional offering, regardless of the type of flower: "Whoever offers me a leaf, flower, fruit, or water with sincere devotion, I will accept them."

During the coming fall holiday season, devotees around the world will honour many deities, including the mother goddess, with flowers and other rituals. Prominent among the deities will be Sri Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and good fortune. Lakshmi is depicted as seated on a lotus throne, while also holding a lotus in one hand. The lotus flower grows in muddy ponds or pools but blossoms above the water. The lotus in bloom symbolizes many of the qualities associated with Sri Lakshmi, such as purity, prosperity and spiritual enlightenment. When devotees around the world lovingly welcome the goddess into their homes on Diwali, the festival of light, they will be sure to offer Lakshmi her favourite flower – the lotus.

## From Green Chemistry to Green life

VIJAY GARG

Green chemistry is a branch of chemistry that focuses on environmentally friendly and safe methods for manufacturing, using, and disposing of chemicals. Its primary aim is to reduce the environmental impacts caused by the production and use of chemicals. The concept of green chemistry was developed by Paul Anthony Trow in the 1990s, who widely presented its principles. According to Trow, "the methods of production and use of chemicals that harm human health and the environment the least are considered green chemicals." He outlined twelve principles of green chemistry that promote practices reducing harmful chemicals, thereby enhancing health protection and fostering a new lifestyle.

Green chemistry is resource-efficient, minimizing the use of hazardous chemicals. It also conserves energy by employing energy-efficient processes. Economically, it offers benefits through reduced costs associated with minimal chemical usage. By prioritizing sustainability, green chemistry contributes to creating a safe and healthy environment for future generations. Notably, it helps preserve soil health and prevents soil pollution while using processes that consume less energy. Examples of green chemicals include organic fertilizers like manure and green manure, organic pesticides such as neem oil and diatomaceous earth, and green fuels like biogas and hydrogen fuel. Furthermore, green metals, including copper, zinc, and aluminum, can be sourced from natural origins. These examples illustrate the versatility of green chemistry across various fields.

The relationship between organic farming and green chemistry is symbiotic; both are essential for environmentally friendly agriculture. Organic



farming avoids harmful chemicals by relying on natural methods for crop production, while green chemistry enhances environmental protection and reduces chemical use, thus improving crop quality and soil fertility. Additionally, it contributes to water conservation efforts.

Green chemistry also plays a vital role in industrialization by making processes more sustainable and environmentally friendly. By promoting minimal chemical usage, it aids in pollution control. However, a significant challenge for green chemistry is the lack of policy support, as inadequate implementation of necessary policies hampers its development. Therefore, raising awareness about the importance of green chemistry and promoting its growth is crucial.

In daily life, green chemicals can be used for various applications, such as dry cleaning clothes and purifying contaminated water. To further contribute to environmental conservation, individuals are encouraged to use reusable materials,

promote organic farming, and consume organic products. Utilizing energy-saving devices and advocating for green building construction can also significantly impact sustainability.

Green chemicals can be instrumental in the construction of eco-friendly buildings, positively affecting residents' health. For example, energy-efficient windows and doors enhance energy efficiency, while water-saving devices help in conserving water. Improving air quality through green building practices further enhances the sustainability of our living environments.

A green lifestyle embodies environmentally conscious decision-making in daily activities, promoting sustainability. By adopting practices like using bicycles instead of fuel-powered vehicles, individuals can contribute significantly to environmental protection. Green chemistry plays an essential role in supporting such a lifestyle, offering a pathway to cleaner and more sustainable products.

Moreover, green chemistry

has a wide array of applications, including the development of clean paints, detergents, and cleaning products. It can also facilitate the creation of water-saving products like filters and shower taps, as well as waste management solutions that enhance recycling and resource recovery. These applications not only promote a green lifestyle but also safeguard the environment.

The global status and implementation of green chemicals continue to expand. Similar to green chemistry, green computing, or green IT, aims to minimize hazardous substance use, maximize energy savings throughout product lifecycles, and promote recycling and biodegradation. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency initiated the Energy Star program in 1992 to encourage energy savings in appliances and technologies, leading to widespread adoption of energy-saving features like "sleep mode." Various government agencies have since established standards and regulations to foster green computing initiatives.

## For Gambhir, winning series more important than WTC final

NEW DELHI, NOV 11

India's singular focus over the next two months is on winning the five-match series in Australia and the players will not be distracted by the race to reach the World Test Championship (WTC) final, head coach Gautam Gambhir said on Monday.

India were in pole position to make next year's WTC final until a 3-0 whitewash by New Zealand earlier this month allowed Australia to leapfrog them.

Captain Rohit Sharma must now guide his side to a 4-0 win in Australia to guarantee a spot in the final, though their path could become easier depending on the results of other series.

"We are not looking at what's going to happen in the World Test Championship, whether we are going to qualify (for the final)," Gambhir said in a pre-departure press conference.

"Every series is important, as simple as that, when you are playing for your country ...

"For us, it's two good teams playing each other and we are absolutely keen to go out there and perform and try and win the series."

India prevailed in their last two Australia tours but their batting looks less than formidable this time as they look to retain the Border-Gavaskar



Trophy.

The skipper is likely to miss the opening Test in Perth beginning on Nov. 22 to attend the birth of his second child while stalwart Virat Kohli has been out of form.

The absence of the injured Mohammed Shami will also increase the workload on pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, who will captain India should Rohit miss the match.

Rohit's absence would also mean Yashasvi Jaiswal would need a new opening partner and Gambhir was happy with his back-up options even though both Abhimanyu Easwaran

and KL Rahul struggled in two unofficial tests against Australia A.

Former India opener Gambhir hinted that Rahul's 53-Test experience and his ability to bat practically anywhere in the order could tilt the decision in his favour ahead of the uncapped Easwaran.

"There are times when you go with the experienced players," Gambhir said of Rahul.

"That is the quality of the man, that he can bat at the top of the order, he can bat at number three and he can actually bat at number six as well," he added.

## Gill, Jaiswal, Siraj, Wash Arrive In Perth

NEW DELHI, NOV 11

The first batch of India's players landed in Perth on Monday ahead of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series starting in Perth from November 22.

Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Mohammed Siraj, Washington Sundar, Harshit Rana, Akash Deep and Sarfaraz Khan along with Assistant Coach Abhishek Nayar left for Australia from Mumbai on Sunday.

Sundar posted a picture on Instagram stories on his arrival in Perth.

'Australia bound Looking forward to the challenge,' said Sarfaraz on Instagram. Akash Deep with Mohammed Siraj

The remaining players including seniors Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah and others along with Head Coach Gautam Gambhir will depart on Monday night.

Captain Rohit Sharma will stay back in



Mumbai for the birth of his second child and it is not confirmed whether he will join the Indian team in time for the series opener in Perth.

Gambhir also sounded unsure about Rohit's availability for the Perth Test.

"Look at the moment there is no confirmation. We will let you know what the situation will be exactly. Hopefully he will be available, but everything we will get to know before the start of the series," Gambhir said on Monday.

## No confirmation yet on Rohit's availability for Perth Test: Gambhir

NEW DELHI, NOV 11

KL Rahul or Abhimanyu Easwaran will open the batting for India if captain Rohit Sharma is not available for the first Test against Australia in Perth, starting on November 22, said India head coach Gautam Gambhir on Monday.

"Obviously, there is Easwaran, there is KL there (in Australia). We will take a call closer to the first Test match if Rohit is not available," Gambhir said.

"There are options there. It is not that there are no options. There are quite a lot of options in this spot. Once it gets closer to the first Test match, we will try and play the best playing XI who is going to do the job for us," he added.

The India coach revealed that there is no confirmation yet of whether Rohit will play in the Perth Test. The India captain is likely to miss the series opener due to personal reasons.

"Look at the moment there is no confirmation. We will let you know what the situation will be exactly. Hopefully he will be available, but everything we will get to know before the start of the series."

He threw his weight behind the struggling Rahul, who failed in both innings (4 and 10) of India A's practice match against Australia A in Melbourne. He had also managed to score just 12 runs in two innings against New Zealand in the Bengaluru Test recently.

"Two games to go, lot of entertainment...": SKY

"There are times when you go with the experienced players as well, I think and that is the quality of a man that he (Rahul) can actually bat at the top of the order, he can bat at number 3 and he can actually bat at number 6 as well," said the former southpaw.



"So you need quite a lot of talent to be doing these kind of jobs as well and he has kept wickets in one day format as well. So imagine how many countries have players like KL who can actually open the batting and can bat at number 6 as well?"

So I feel that if needed be, I think he (Rahul) can do the job for us, especially if Rohit is not available for the first Test match," Gambhir said.

He also confirmed vice-captain Jasprit Bumrah will take over the captaincy if Rohit is not available.

"Bumrah is the vice-captain, so obviously he will (lead the team). If Rohit is not available, he is going to lead in Perth."

He also threw his weight behind uncapped all-rounder Nitish Rana, who he believes can do the job both with bat and ball.

Shardul Thakur was one of India's heroes at the Gabba with wickets and a half-century and has been seamer all-rounder in conditions like Australia, England and South Africa.

"We have picked the best squad who can do the job for us. Nitish Reddy, we

all know that how incredibly talented he is and if given an option, he will deliver for us," Gambhir said of the Andhra player.

Gambhir, who will be travelling with the second batch of Indian squad on Monday, said adjusting to conditions in Australia over the next 10 days will be vital for the team.

"We have got a lot of experienced players who have been to Australia a lot many times. Their experience will come in handy for the young players as well. These 10 days are going to be very crucial but come 22nd morning, we should be absolutely ready and ready to fire from ball one," he said.

While there is no Mohammed Shami and tremendous pressure on Jasprit Bumrah to carry the pace bowling load, Gambhir feels that the attack is potent even with three inexperienced speedsters in Harshit Rana, Prasidh Krishna and Akash Deep.

"We have got quality. We have got tall guys who can hit the deck like Prasidh and Harshit. All five guys have different skill sets. That makes our fast bowling attack very very potent."

## How Varun Chakravarthy bounced back after three tough years

NEW DELHI, NOV 11

Mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy has described the three-year gap from international cricket as 'tough', but credited the intense domestic grind and the role clarity provided by new head coach Gautam Gambhir as vital in helping regain his lost form.

The 33-year-old spinner recorded his career-best figures of 5/17 in Sunday's second T20I against South Africa, though his efforts could not prevent India from losing by three wickets.

"Definitely, the last three years were a little tough," Chakravarthy said.

"The only thing I could do was play lots of cricket. And I started playing a lot of the domestic league (TNPL) in India. And that definitely helped me understand my game better. And that's what helped me."

Chakravarthy was part of the Kolkata Knight Riders' IPL-winning team this



year under Gambhir, who recently took over as the coach of the Indian team.

Reflecting on his return to the national side, Chakravarthy said that Gambhir's guidance had been pivotal.

"Yes, we played the Bangladesh tour and he was coaching the team. And definitely we spoke a lot and he gave me a lot of role clarity."

"He told me, even if you go for 30-40 runs, it doesn't matter. All you have to look is to pick wickets. So that's your role in the team. And yeah, the clarity which they gave definitely helped me."

Varun Chakravarthy celebrates with teammates

Chakravarthy's match-changing spell reduced South Africa to 66/6 while chasing a modest target of 125, but a gritty partnership between Tristan Stubbs (47) and Gerald Coetzee (19) saw the hosts home in 19 overs, ending India's 11-match winning streak in T20 Internationals.

"During the innings break, Surya (skipper Suryakumar Yadav) came and told us that let's not think about the result and let's just go all out. And

that's what we tried to do. We did our best and we could have pulled it off.

"Obviously, the mindset has to be aggressive when the score is low. You have to pick wickets and that's when we can win the match. That has to be my approach in the next two games also because it's going to be a do-or-die match for us," he said.

The spinner added that performing against a formidable team like South Africa would serve as a confidence booster heading into the remaining matches.

"Definitely, when we came to South Africa, we knew that it's going to be a challenging tour because the Proteas, they are one of the best teams right now and they have a powerful batting lineup."

"Doing well against them definitely gives me motivation to do more better and definitely I can. Hopefully I can do well in the upcoming games."

## Real Sociedad shock Barcelona; Napoli hold Inter

NEW DELHI, NOV 11

Barcelona suffered a shock 1-0 LaLiga defeat at Real Sociedad on Sunday that ended their seven-match winning streak in all competitions as Sheraldo Becker scored for the Basque side in the first half.

Leaders Barcelona got their first taste of defeat in over a month and only their second in their domestic season after they were dominated throughout the match by the home side who wasted several chances.

Heading into the match, Barca had the most prolific attack in Europe's top five leagues with 40 goals as well in the Champions League with 15, yet Hansi Flick's side finished the game having had no shots on target.

Barcelona still lead the standings on 33 points, six ahead of Real Madrid who have a game in hand in second place, while Atletico Madrid are third on 26 points. Real Sociedad are eighth on 18 points.

Missing teenager Lamine Yamal, who had not fully recovered from a right ankle injury suffered in their Champions League win at Red Star Belgrade on Wednesday, Barca thought they had opened the scoring in the 13th minute.

Sheraldo Becker scores for Real Sociedad

Robert Lewandowski fired home a rebound from inside the box, but the goal was ruled out by the VAR, who spotted the Polish striker was marginally offside in the build up.

Real Sociedad then took control of the match and, after Barca goalkeeper Inaki Pena made a fine save to deny a Mikel Oyarzabal free kick, Becker beat the offside trap to race on to a



Luka Sucic header before slotting a tidy finish just inside the post in the 33rd minute.

The home side squandered chance after chance as they overran a chaotic Barcelona defence and the visitors were lucky to get to halftime not losing by a wider margin after Oyarzabal missed a sitter just before the break.

Becker also wasted three golden opportunities early in the second half and Barca goalkeeper Pena made several critical saves to deny efforts by Oyarzabal, Take Kubo and Brais Mendez.

Real continued to dominate but failed to turn their superiority into goals and almost paid the price as Barca went close in the 57th minute.

Fermin Lopez tried his luck with a strike from the edge of the box which deflected off a defender and almost wrongfooted the home side's goalkeeper Alex Remiro, who was quick to recover and palm away the effort for a corner.

"Real Sociedad are a team that presses very well. It was very difficult

for us to put the ball in play," Barcelona's Pedri told Movistar Plus.

"We weren't accurate today and I think it'll be a one-day thing. The team is doing well and it's nothing to worry about."

"In the second half we didn't have any clarity. We have to analyse it and keep working after the international break. We're doing well and we're still in the lead."

Hakan Calhanoglu finally missed a penalty for Inter Milan after scoring a stunning equaliser as they were held to a 1-1 home draw by leaders Napoli in Serie A on Sunday.

The match was a rollercoaster for the 30-year-old Turkey midfielder, who scored a superb long-range goal to cancel out Scott McTominay's opener for Napoli.

However, he then hit the post with a penalty, his first miss for Inter from the spot to end a streak of 19 successful efforts and his first penalty miss since November 2016, when he played for Bayer Leverkusen.

## Has Australia Found New Test Opener?

NEW DELHI, NOV 11

Nathan McSweeney is set to partner Usman Khawaja as Australia's opening batters in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series against India.

With Australia facing an opening conundrum ahead of this highly anticipated series, the inclusion of the South Australian batter marks a decisive move by the selectors.

McSweeney earned his place in the 13-member squad following consistent performances for South Australia and Australia A, as well as a strong domestic season that showcased his adaptability at the top order.

The 25 year old expressed both excitement and readiness for the challenge, emphasising the preparation he

has put in to face the new ball.

McSweeney, who typically bats at three or four, expressed excitement over the opening role, revealing light-hearted support from team-mate Travis Head.

"I just got a text from Travis Head saying, 'I can give you my bat-pad pads' -- so I'll be straight under there, I would have thought," McSweeney told Fox Cricket.

McSweeney added that he feels well prepared, noting, 'It is one position earlier than I normally do; my prep is the exact same, I train with the new ball. I am just really looking forward to the experience and the opportunity.'

The young batter also shared his

readiness to take on the first ball, a task Khawaja reportedly prefers to avoid. 'I have heard that Uzzie is not the biggest fan of (facing the first ball),' McSweeney said.

Reflecting on his experience during the recent Australia A series against India A, he added, 'I faced the first ball in both innings out here at the MCG, so I am comfortable with that.'

McSweeney credited former Queensland team-mate and current Aussie stalwart Marnus Labuschagne as a mentor and valuable resource.

'Growing up in Queensland, the style of play at the Gabba has dictated the way I play, and probably the way he (Labuschagne) plays as well,' McSweeney explained.

## PM hails cleanliness campaigns that earned Govt Rs 2,364 Cr through scrap disposal

NEW DELHI, NOV 10

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday hailed as commendable special government campaigns that earned the Centre Rs 2,364 crore between 2021-24 through scrap disposal, and said it shows collective effort can lead to sustainable results.

The Centre has earned over Rs 650 crore from disposal of scrap during the recently-concluded cleanliness campaign, an official statement issued on Saturday said.

Overall, the special campaigns conducted by the government between 2021-24 have generated a revenue of Rs 2,364 crore through disposal of scrap, it said.

Tagging a post by Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh on the special campaign 4.0, Modi said on X, "Commendable! By focussing on efficient management and



proactive action, this effort has attained great results."

"It shows how collective efforts can lead to sustainable results, promoting both cleanliness and economic prudence," Modi said.

The statement issued by the Personnel Ministry said the special campaign 4.0 generated

revenues of more than Rs 650 crore between October 2 and 31 this year.

The special campaign 4.0 has seen swachhata drives being undertaken at more than 5.97 lakh sites and has resulted in freeing 190 lakh square feet of space for effective office use, it added.

## 'Double Engine' of private investment, mass consumption 'derailed' under Modi Govt: Cong



NEW DELHI, NOV 10

The Congress on Sunday claimed that India was facing a "demand crisis" due to sustained income stagnation and said the 'double engine' of private investment and mass consumption that powered the UPA's decade of sustained GDP growth has been "derailed" in the last ten years of the Modi Government.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh urged the Government to accept what the Congress has been proposing - raising MGNREGA wages to a minimum of Rs. 400 per day, guaranteeing MSP and a loan waiver for farmers, and a monthly income support scheme for women - to kickstart income growth in rural India.

He said that with each passing day, the tragedy of India's dying consumption story becomes more evident.

Last week, several CEOs from India Inc raised the alarm over the 'shrinking' middle class and now, new data from NABARD's All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey (NAFIS) 2021-22 adds to the evidence that India's demand crisis is a result of sustained income stagnation, he said in a statement.

Citing key takeaways from the survey data, Ramesh said the average monthly household income for Indians is Rs 12,698 to Rs 13,661 for agricultural households and Rs 11,438 in non-agricultural households.

"Assuming an average household size of 4.4, the per capita income in rural areas is

an estimate Rs. 2,886 per month - less than Rs 100 a day. The vast majority of Indians therefore have very little money for discretionary consumption beyond that of basic necessities," Ramesh said, citing the data.

"This is hardly the exception - nearly every piece of evidence points to this same damning conclusion: that the average Indian can buy less today than they could 10 years ago. This is the ultimate root cause for India's consumption slowdown," he claimed.

Citing Labour Bureau's Wage Rate Index data, Ramesh said real wages for labourers stagnated between 2014 and 2023, and in fact declined between 2019 and 2024.

Further, he cited the Ministry of Agriculture's Agricultural Statistics data to state that under Dr Manmohan Singh, real wages for agricultural labourers grew at 6.8 per cent each year, he said.

"Under Mr. Modi, real wages for agricultural labourers declined by -1.3 per cent each year," Ramesh said.

Citing periodic Labour Force Survey Series data, Ramesh said the average real earnings over time have stagnated between 2017 and 2022 across all employment types - salaried workers, casual workers, and self-employed workers.

He also cited Centre for Labour Research and Action data to claim that real wages of brick kiln workers have stagnated or declined between 2014 and 2022.

He added that brick kilns involve intensive labour and are a low-paying work of last resort

for India's poorest.

"This slowdown in consumption is destroying our medium-term and long-term economic potential, whatever the quarterly GDP numbers may suggest," he asserted.

Without adequate growth in consumption to assure them of a market for their products, India's private sector will be unwilling to invest in new production, Ramesh argued.

"As the Government's own Economic Survey (2024) acknowledged, 'private sector GFCF (gross fixed capital formation) in machinery and equipment and intellectual property products has grown cumulatively by only 35 per cent in the four years to FY23 - This is not a healthy mix. It is about to get worse, with new project announcements by the private sector falling by 21 per cent between FY23 and FY24," he said.

Very recently, the Confederation of Indian Industry, the premier industry association, has suggested that the Government boost MGNREGA wages by 40 per cent, raise payments under PM-KISAN by one-third, and issue 'consumption vouchers' that can be used by lower-income citizens to purchase specific goods and services over a six-to-eight-month period, Ramesh said.

This is very much in line with the policies the Indian National Congress had advocated in its Nyay Patra for the 2024 Lok Sabha Elections - raising MGNREGA wages to a minimum of Rs. 400 per day, guaranteeing MSP and a loan waiver for farmers, and a monthly income support scheme for women, he said.

The Government must accept this proposal to kickstart income growth in rural India after a decade of stagnation, Ramesh said.

"The 'double engine' private investment and mass consumption that powered the Congress-led UPA's decade of sustained GDP growth has been derailed in the last ten years of the non-biological PM. It is time to set it back on track," he said.

The Congress last week had alleged that deliberate destruction of MSMEs through "neglectful policy-making, a blundering demonetisation, a botched-up GST rollout, and the unplanned COVID-19 lockdown" is partly responsible for the shift away from labour-intensive growth.

## Uddhav siding with those who insulted Balasaheb, Savarkar: Amit Shah

MUMBAI, NOV 10

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray was siding with the Congress, whose leaders have insulted Shiv Sena founder Balasaheb Thackeray and Hindutva ideologue Veer Savarkar.

After releasing the BJP's manifesto for the November 20 Maharashtra assembly polls, Shah also said his party will not allow religion-based reservation in the country.

The opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) (comprising the Shiv Sena (UBT), Congress and NCP (SP) of Sharad Pawar) has no credibility, the senior BJP leader said.

"The Maha Vikas Aghadi's trust has gone below 'pataal'. It has no credibility," he said.

The Mahayuti (which includes the BJP, Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Ajit Pawar's NCP) faces the challenge from the MVA, whose promises insult ideology and promote appeasement, Shah said.

The Congress reneged on pre-election promises made in states ruled by it now, he added.

"I want to ask Uddhav Thackeray if he can request Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to say two good words for Veer Savarkar," Shah said.

Can any Congress leader say a few words in honour of Balasaheb Thackeray, he further asked.

"It would be good if the people of Maharashtra get to know those who have come out with the dream of forming an alliance government amidst such contradictions," he said.

Shah said the BJP's 'Sankalp Patra' manifesto is a reflection of the aspirations of the people of Maharashtra.

"An organisation of Ulemas has demanded reservations for minorities, and state Congress



president Nana Patole acknowledged this," Shah said.

"I want to tell Uddhav Thackeray that you are sitting with people who oppose Ram Mandir, Citizenship

(Amendment) Act, Uniform Civil Code, Waqf board amendments and abuse Savarkar," he said.

If the Waqf board amendments are not made, it can declare your property as its own, Shah said.

Are the people of Maharashtra in favour of giving their right of reservation meant for the SCs, STs and OBCs to the Muslims? Shah said.

"Our Constitution does not provide reservations based on religion. However, the Congress promised reservations before coming to power, and people should take cognisance of this issue," he said.

He also said that for the first time after the abrogation of Article 370 (which provided special status to Jammu and Kashmir), the chief minister of J&K (Omar Abdullah) took oath on the Constitution framed by Dr B R Ambedkar, he said.

The BJP's resolutions are etched in stone, Shah said. "Whether it is the Centre or the state, when our government is formed, we fulfill our resolutions," he added.

The opposition MVA's poll promises are an insult to ideology and promote appeasement, Shah said.

"I want to tell Sharad Pawar that his habit to create a fake mandate will not work now," he said.

"Sharad Pawar should tell people of Maharashtra what was his contribution for them while he was a minister for 10 years in the UPA government," the Union minister said.

Maharashtra has been leading the country in every field for ages, he said.

"The Bhakti movement started from Maharashtra, the movement for freedom from slavery was also started by Shivaji Maharaj from here, the social revolution also started from here and the reflection of the aspirations of the people of Maharashtra is seen in the BJP's Sankalp Patra," Shah said.

The people of Maharashtra have made up their mind to give mandate to the Mahayuti again, he said.

The BJP's poll manifesto is a roadmap for making Viksit Maharashtra for Viksit Bharat, said state Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, who was present on the occasion.

## Wealth creators must not feel heat of system: Jagdeep Dhankhar



NEW DELHI, NOV 10

Those in commerce and business must not feel "heat of the system" as they are the job and wealth creators and contribute to social harmony, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar said on Sunday.

He also said that the principle of "economic nationalism" was more important than fiscal gains of a few individuals.

Addressing an event of Maharaja Agrasen Technical

Education Society here, Dhankhar said he has always advocated that "those in trade, commerce, industry must not feel heat of the system. They must have respect in society".

The vice president was of the view that this segment was the job and wealth creator and contributes to social harmony.

"They are economy drivers...They have learned the art in this country to give back to the society. By and large they do it," he said while noting that the

freedom movement of India is dotted by their contribution.

The vice president also underlined the need to follow the principles of economic nationalism, whereby unnecessary imports can be curbed to save foreign exchange and help local industry flourish.

He told the students that they should respect various views and should never ignore the other point-of-view to ensure social harmony.

Dhankhar also said that divergent views help in course correction.

"Tolerance is a virtue. It is deeply embedded in the ethos of our civilisation. It is the premise of harmony and inclusivity in society. It is an inalienable facet of social harmony," he said.

Lauding the newly-launched internship scheme and National Education Policy (NEP), Dhankhar underlined that NEP evolved after three decades of intense discussions, taking into consideration thousands of inputs.

He said it provides for experiential learning, critical thinking, while enabling industry-academia partnership for research.

## No let-up in Delhi pollution, air quality 'very poor'



NEW DELHI, NOV 10

Delhiites woke up to toxic air on Sunday as the air quality remained in the 'very poor' category.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the Air Quality Index (AQI) of the national capital stood at 334. Some areas, including Alipur, Anand Vihar, Jahangirpuri, Rohini, and

Bawana, continued to experience 'very poor' air quality.

The AQI classifications are: 0-50 'good', 51-100 'satisfactory', 101-200 'moderate', 201-300 'poor', 301-400 'very poor', and 401-500 is 'severe'.

Meanwhile, the minimum temperature on Sunday morning settled at 18 degree celsius, one degree above the season's average for this time.

At 8:30 am, the humidity

level was 91 percent, according to the India Meteorological Department.

The weather department has forecast a mainly clear sky in the morning, with smog or mist likely in the evening and night. The maximum temperature is expected to reach around 32 degree celsius.

A layer of smog covered the national capital Monday morning and the air quality was recorded in the "very poor" category with an average AQI of 358 at 9 am, according to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data.

Delhi has been witnessing very high of level of air pollution for the past few weeks which has been primarily blamed on stubble-burning in neighbouring states, Diwali fireworks and low wind speed.

The AQI was in the 'very poor' category on Saturday and Friday as well.



A baby monkey eats a slice of bread by the side of a road, in New Delhi.

## Drones strike Moscow as top UK official highlights Russian casualties in Ukraine



KYIV, NOV 10

A massive drone strike rattled Moscow and its suburbs overnight into Sunday, injuring a woman and temporarily halting traffic at some of Russia's busiest airports, officials said.

A top U.K. defence official meanwhile said that Russian forces had suffered their worst month of casualties in October since their full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

The chief of the U.K. defence staff, Tony Radakin, told the BBC that Moscow's troops suffered an average of 1,500 dead and wounded "every single day," bringing their total losses in the war to 700,000.

Moscow Mayor Sergey Sobyenin said a total of 32 drones were shot down over the Russian capital's outskirts. Russia's aviation authority said flights were briefly grounded at major international airports including Sheremetyevo and Domodedovo.

A woman in her 50s suffered burns to her face, neck and hands after drones sparked a blaze in her village southeast of Moscow, local Gov. Andrei Vorobyov reported.

No one was hurt in Moscow itself, according to Sobyenin, although Russian channels on the messaging app Telegram carried eyewitness reports of drone debris setting fire to sub-

urban homes.

According to Radakin, ordinary Russians were paying "an extraordinary price" for the war, even as a grueling, month-long Russian offensive in Ukraine's industrial east continues to eke out gains. He did not say how UK officials had calculated the Russian casualty figures.

"There is no doubt that Russia is making tactical, territorial gains and that is putting pressure on Ukraine," he said.

But he said the losses were for "tiny increments of land," and that Moscow's mounting defense and security spending was putting an increasing strain on the country.

Radakin insisted that Ukraine's Western partners should stand by it for "as long as it takes" to beat back Russian aggression, even as allies of U.S. President-elect Donald Trump have signaled that Kyiv may have to cede territory to seek peace.

Both Moscow and Kyiv have kept a tight lid on casualty figures since the start of the full-scale war despite regular reports of Russian forces taking huge losses following "human wave" attacks that aim to exhaust Ukrainian defences.

## Palestinian hospital official says 17 killed in Israeli strike on northern Gaza



DEIR AL-BALAH (GAZA STRIP), NOV 10

An Israeli strike early Sunday on a home sheltering displaced people in the northern Gaza Strip killed at least 17 people, according to the director of a nearby hospital that received the bodies.

Dr Padel Naim, director of the Al-Ahly Hospital in Gaza City, said the dead include nine women, and that the toll was likely to rise as rescue efforts continue. He said they were killed in a strike on a home in the urban refugee camp of Jabaliya, where Israel has been carrying out an offensive for over a month.

The military said it targeted a site where militants were operating, without providing evidence. It said the details of the strike are under review.

Separately, Lebanon's Health Ministry says an Israeli airstrike on Sunday killed at least 20 people in the village of Aalmat — north of Beirut and far from the areas in the south and east where the Hezbollah

militant group has a major presence.

Israeli forces have encircled and largely isolated Jabaliya and the nearby towns of Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun for the past month, allowing in only a trickle of humanitarian aid. Hundreds of people have been killed since the offensive began on Oct 6, and tens of thousands of people have fled to nearby Gaza City.

On Friday, experts from a panel that monitors food security said famine is imminent in the north or may already be happening. The growing desperation comes as the deadline approaches for an ultimatum the Biden administration gave Israel to raise the level of humanitarian assistance allowed into Gaza or risk possible restrictions on US military funding.

The northern third of Gaza, including Gaza City, was the first target of Israel's ground invasion and has suffered the heaviest destruction of the 13-month-old war, which was triggered by Hamas' attack into

southern Israel. As in other areas of Gaza, Israel has sent forces back in after repeated operations, saying Hamas has regrouped.

The military says it only targets militants, whom it accuses of hiding among civilians in homes and shelters. Israeli strikes often kill women and children.

The war began when Hamas-led militants blew holes in the border fence and stormed into southern Israel on Oct 7, 2023. They killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted around 250. Some 100 hostages are still inside Gaza, about a third of whom are believed to be dead.

Israel's offensive has killed over 43,000 Palestinians, according to local health authorities who do not distinguish between civilians and militants in their count but say over half the fatalities were women and children.

Israeli bombardment and ground invasions have left vast areas of Gaza in ruins and displaced around 90% of the population of 2.3 million people, often multiple times. Hundreds of thousands of people are living in crowded tent camps with few if any public services and no idea of when they might return to their homes or rebuild.

Cease-fire talks mediated by the United States, Qatar and Egypt have repeatedly stalled since the start of the year.

Qatar, which has served as a key mediator with Hamas, said over the weekend that it had suspended its efforts and would only resume them when "the parties show their willingness and seriousness to end the brutal war and the ongoing suffering of civilians".

## Indonesia's new leader calls for collaboration with China before heading to US

BEIJING, NOV 10

Indonesia's new leader called for collaboration rather than confrontation with China after the signing of \$10 billion in new deals at a business forum on Sunday in the Chinese capital before heading to the U.S.

President Prabowo Subianto told the forum that his country wants to be part of China's emergence as not only an economic but also a "civilizational power."

"We must give an example that in this modern age, collaboration — not confrontation — is the way for peace and prosperity," he said.

Subianto wrapped up the first stop of his first overseas trip since taking office three weeks ago. He is headed next to Washington — where the U.S. government is confronting China's rise — and then to Peru and Brazil for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and Group of 20 summits.

He and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed Saturday to deepen ties, elevating security to a fifth "pillar" of cooperation in addition to political, economic, maritime and people-to-people exchange. They agreed to hold a first-ever joint meeting of their foreign and defense ministers in 2025, a joint statement said.



"Indonesia is very clear," Subianto said. "We have always been nonaligned, we have always been respectful of all great powers in the world."

Indonesia has remained on the periphery of the territorial disputes between China and its Southeast Asian neighbors in the South China Sea. It doesn't have a formal dispute with Beijing though Indonesia said its patrol ships repeatedly drove a Chinese coast guard vessel away from an Indonesian energy company vessel conducting a seismic survey less than a month ago.

Chinese companies have invested heavily in mining in Indonesia, as they have elsewhere in the world. China also helped build Indonesia's first high-speed railway, a 142-kilometer (88-mile) route between Jakarta and Bandung that opened last year.

But a flood of low-priced Chinese products has hit Indonesia's garment makers hard, shuttering factories and prompting calls for import tariffs. The government has sought to placate domestic producers while not angering the country's biggest trading partner. (

## Hyderabad woman loco pilot Indira Eegalapati raring to ply Riyadh Metro trains



RIYADH, NOV 10

Hyderabad's Indira Eegalapati is among the few women loco pilots associated with the Riyadh Metro, currently running trial trains and raring to go as the rapid transit system nears completion.

"It is really a proud moment for me to be a part of this world-class and prestigious project, especially being an expatriate," 33-year-old Eegalapati, who has been employed as a train pilot and station operations

master for five years, said.

She was working with the Hyderabad Metro when she came to know about the openings here and applied.

Eegalapati and two others from India joined in 2019 but soon Covid struck and they had to undergo the initial training virtually.

Currently, trial runs are going on and according to reports, the Riyadh Metro service is likely to become operational from early 2025.

"It has been a really good

experience so far. The people of Saudi Arabia are very friendly and have a great culture. I can't imagine that I have already completed five years here," Eegalapati, one of the first women recruits, told PTI.

She also said she has never faced any challenge as a woman.

"We have equal opportunities here and there is no gender bias," she asserted.

Eegalapati hails from Dhullipalla in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh but settled in Hyderabad in 2006.

Her father was a mechanic but never compromised in the education of his three children.

"I come from a lower middle-class family and education was a nightmare. But our father ensured that we get our education. Being a girl, marriage was an important thing to our families but for our father, education came first," she said.

Eegalapati completed her engineering, her elder sister is a teacher and youngest is working with Hyderabad Metro as a train pilot.

Her husband also works here in the maintenance department of the Metro.

Eegalapati was also sent to Doha during the 2022 Football World Cup for crowd management support.

"It was a great experience to witness such a crowd and without a single incident, we made it a success," she said.

## Indian submarine INS Vela visits Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, NOV 10

Indian submarine INS Vela arrived in Sri Lanka on Sunday on a three-day visit to the island nation, the Indian High Commission said.

INS Vela is a 67.5m long submarine with a crew of 53 and it is commanded by Commander Kapil Kumar.

The submarine is an indigenous Kalvari-class diesel-electric submarine and it was commissioned into the Indian Navy on November 25, 2021.

During the submarine's stay in Colombo, its crew is expected to participate in activities organised by the Sri Lanka Navy to strengthen camaraderie between the two navies, the Sri Lankan Navy said in a statement.

In addition, personnel of the Sri Lanka Navy are expected to visit the submarine to take part in an awareness programme on its operational features. Moreover, the crew members of the submarine are expected to explore some of the tourist attractions in the country, it said.

Concluding the official visit, INS Vela will depart the island on November 13.



The visit is classified as an Operational Turn Around (OTR), where the submarine will replenish provisions, the Indian embassy said in a statement.

The Indian Navy / Coast Guard ships and submarines have been making regular Port calls in Sri Lanka.

The visit further strengthens the bilateral cooperation and camaraderie between the two maritime nations in keeping with India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy and the Prime Minister's vision of 'SAGAR'

which stands for "Security and Growth for all in the Region", the statement added.

Commander Kapil Kumar will call on the Commander of the Western Naval Area, Rear Admiral WDCU Kumarasinghe at Western Naval Headquarters. Personnel from Sri Lanka Navy and High Commission of India will also visit the sub, The Economynext reported.

A basketball match is planned between the Submarine crew and SLN personnel at Sri Lanka Naval Base in Welisara.

## Taliban will attend UN climate conference for the 1st time



KABUL, NOV 10

The Taliban will attend a U.N. climate conference for the first time since their takeover of Afghanistan in 2021, the country's national environment agency said Sunday.

The conference, known as COP29, begins Monday in Azerbaijan and is one of the most important multilateral talks to include the Taliban, who do not have official recognition as the legitimate rulers of Afghanistan.

The National Environmental Protection Agency posted on social media platform X that a technical delegation had gone to Baku to participate.

Matiul Haq Khalis, the agency's head, said the delegation would use the conference to strengthen cooperation with the international community on environmental protection and climate change, share Afghanistan's needs regarding access to existing financial mechanisms related to climate change, and discuss adaptation and mitigation efforts.

Experts told The Associated Press that climate change has led to numerous and negative impacts on Afghanistan, creating serious challenges because of the country's geographical location and weak climate policies.

"Climate change has result-

ed in higher temperatures, which reduce water sources and cause droughts, significantly affecting agricultural activities," said Hayatullah Mashwani, professor of environmental science at Kabul University. "The reduction in water availability and frequent droughts pose severe threats to agriculture, leading to food insecurity and challenges to livelihoods."

In August, the international aid agency Save the Children published a report saying that Afghanistan is the sixth most vulnerable country to the impacts of climate change and that 25 of its 34 provinces face severe or catastrophic drought conditions, affecting more than half the population.

Afghanistan also had the highest number of children made homeless by climate disasters of any country as of the end of 2023, according to the report.

Professor Abid Arabzai, from Kabul University, said the climate conference would help to secure international assistance and funding to address Afghanistan's climate challenges.

"Afghanistan can clarify its climate actions and commitments to the global community, enhancing its international reputation," said Arabzai.

## Isha Malviya: Would love to explore more opportunities in Punjabi industry



Actress Isha Malviya, who has worked with singer Maninder Buttar in the Punjabi song 'Loafer', has expressed her desire to explore more opportunities in the industry.

The actress also talked about working with Maninder Buttar and revealed that he has always been her 'favourite artist'.

"My fingers are crossed, to be honest, because both Maninder and I have a lot of hope for this song. It carries an

important message from a woman's point of view, which makes it special to me," Isha said.

The actress hopes that audiences like her work in the music video.

"I really hope people appreciate my acting in it. Maninder has always been a star, and he's personally my favorite artist because he's delivered some truly amazing, powerful hits," said the actress.

The 21-year-old actress

hopes to be a part of the industry more.

"It was a pleasure working with him, and it's great that I've started to be a part of the Punjabi industry. I would love to explore more opportunities here," she said.

Born in Madhya Pradesh, Isha, who has over a whopping 2 million followers on Instagram, the actress in August joined actor Parth Samthaa for the audio series 'Secret Ameerzada'.

The two had previously collaborated on the music video 'Jiya Laage Na', sung by Shilpa Rao, and Mohit Chauhan.

Isha, who is popularly known for playing Jasmine Sandhu in the popular TV show 'Udaariyaan', started her career at the age of six as a dancer and later auditioned for shows like 'Dance Deewane' and 'Dance India Dance', among others.

The actress later appeared in several Hindi and Punjabi music videos, including 'Jiske Liye', 'Tu Mileya', 'Bomb Bomb', and 'Ladeya Na Kar'.

After she gained stardom through 'Udaariyaan', Isha was then seen in the 17th season of the controversial reality show 'Bigg Boss', where Munawar Faruqi emerged as the winner.

## When Preity Zinta embarrassed her mother by stuffing oranges in her clothes



Actress Preity Zinta once revealed that she was quite the mischievous child, often leaving her mother embarrassed with her naughty antics.

During her appearance on the chat show 'Rendezvous with Simi Garewal', the actress revealed that at just 12 years old,

she pretended to be 18 by stuffing oranges in her bra to sneak into an army club. While confessing being very naughty as a kid, Preity shared, "I was always a bit of rebellious. I was very very naughty. I think I have embarrassed my mother a lot. Now that I have grown up

and I see my friends with their children's, I am like oh my god, I hope I don't have kids like me."

The 'Soldier' actress went on to describe how her curiosity once led her to pull a prank to gain entry into an adults-only army party.

Zinta added, "As you know, in the army, children below 18 are not allowed to attend army parties. And, it intrigued me to know what was happening behind those doors. So, I went to my mom's cupboard, took out a bra, and stuffed it with oranges. Then, I went outside to the club and stood like this (gesturing at her chest) and said, 'I am 18, can I go in'. A guy kept looking at me."

"My mom got so upset with me, my god, she got really upset," Preity mentioned.

On the work front, Zinta made her acting debut in 1998 with Mani Ratnam's romantic thriller 'Dil Se' opposite Shah Rukh Khan. In the same year, she acted in the film 'Soldier' alongside Bobby Deol. Later, she played the role of a teenage single mother in 'Kya Kehna'. These films earned the actress critical acclamation and shot her to fame.

Preity is also known for her role in films such as, "Dil Chahta Hai," "Kal Ho Naa Ho," "Veer-Zaara," and "Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna."

She was last seen in the 2018 film "Bhaiji Superhit" opposite Sunny Deol.

## Dua Lipa cancels concert at last minute due to 'unsafe conditions', says she is 'heartbroken'

Singer-songwriter Dua Lipa has cancelled a concert citing "safety issues" with the staging and told fans that she's "heartbroken" by the situation.

The singer was due to perform in Indonesia on her Radical Optimism world tour, reports 'Mirror UK'.

She however announced that her performance at Indonesia Arena - Senayan in Jakarta would not go ahead as planned.

She shared the news in a statement on her Instagram Story. Dua told fans, "I am heartbroken to share that I won't be able to perform in Jakarta this Saturday, November 9. I am there in your amazing country and ready to perform, but I am gutted to share that it has been determined that it is not safe for the performance to carry on due to safety issues with the staging".

As per 'Mirror UK', the singer continued by saying in the statement, "I was so looking forward to this night, and it truly pains me that we cannot perform for you all, especially after such a long time since my last performance in Jakarta".

Dua concluded by telling fans on the platform, "Refunds will be made from your point of purchase. I love you all and truly can't wait to be back together in the same room with you singing and dancing our hearts out as soon as possible".

The Radical Optimism tour opened earlier this week in Singapore. Her gig in Indonesia was set to be the third concert on the tour and she's scheduled to next perform in the Philippines on Wednesday. Dua is set to then visit venues in



countries like Japan, Australia, Spain and Belgium in the coming months.

## Dolly Parton isn't 'egotistical' about her success



Singer-songwriter Dolly Parton doesn't take success too seriously. The 'Jolene' hit-maker has enjoyed a

hugely successful career but she's never taken anything for granted and insisted she was just using her

"God-given talent". She said, "I love what I do. I'm thankful I've got to make a living at what I love, report Female First UK.

She told Britain's Closer magazine, "I pray for guidance, and just let me enjoy what I do, what I feel like was my God-given talent. So it never crosses my mind that I should be egotistical about that, I'd be afraid it might be taken away from me".

As per 'Female First UK', Dolly credits her faith for keeping her grounded.

She said, "I just love people and I never forget where I came from or who I am and I'm grounded in my faith and in my principles and my own values. "I live according to the rules that I've set for

myself. But I like people and I like to make people feel like they can be close to me".

Meanwhile, the '9 to 5' singer believes being true to herself is very important. She said, "I guess my own mother gave me the best piece of advice - it was that old saying of to thine own self be true. "I think that says so much more than just that. It's like, be true to yourself, know who you are".

"If you know who you are, and you're grounded in yourself and in your faith, then you can make people feel good around you, because they feel comfortable. "I always say, I don't give advice but I have lots of information", she added.

## Nushratt Bharuccha reveals why her 'new personalised abbreviation' is 'COL'

Actress Nushratt Bharuccha has shared that her new personalised abbreviation is "COL", which means "Crying Out Loud" because she hasn't slept for 48 hours.

Nushratt took to her Instagram stories, where she shared a video while she was getting her make-up done for a performance in Goa.

In the clip she is heard saying: "I want to cry.. I haven't slept in 48 hours guys and I am here in Goa and I thought I will be able to take a nap and I'll be able to sleep before I start getting ready but no, the event has been preponed now."

"I have to go and perform 2 hours earlier than my call time. So I have not even eaten food and I'm getting ready...I can't do this. I want to sleep," she added.

She captioned the clip: "My new personalised abbreviation 'COL CRYING OUT LOUD!!'"

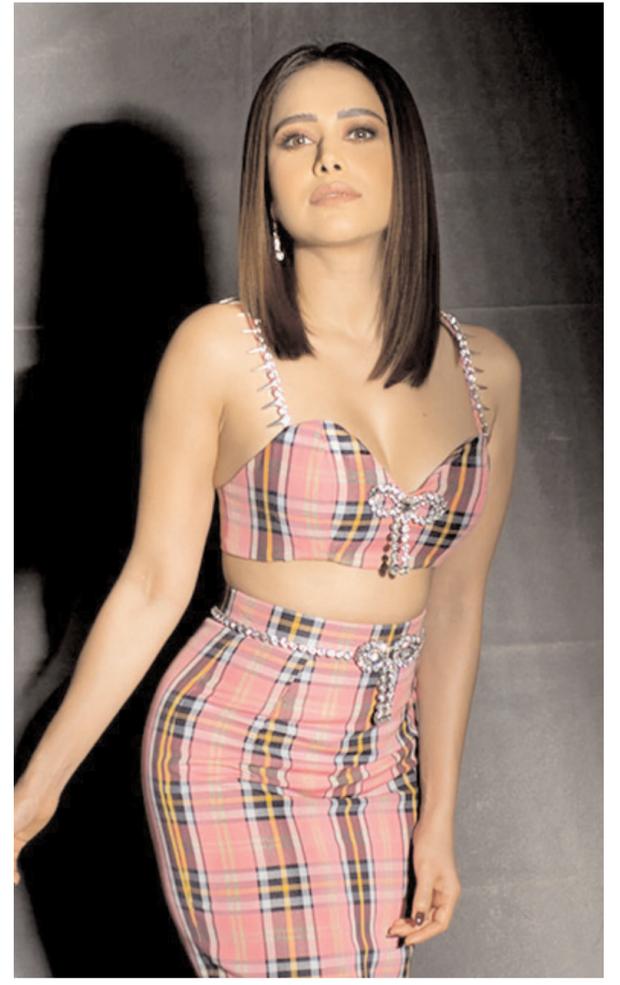
Last week, the actress shared a health update post celebrating Diwali and said that she is unwell as she has fever, body ache and "some unforeseen eye infection."

Nushratt took to Instagram, where she shared a car selfie and revealed that despite her being ill she "dragged" herself for a meeting.

The caption read: "Post Diwali Status: Cold, fever, cough, body ache Anddd.. Some unforeseen Eye infection! Still somehow dragging myself to a meeting!"

Talking about Nushratt, the actress made her acting debut with the 2002 television show 'Kittie Party'. She got her break in Bollywood in 2006 with 'Jai Santoshi Maa'. She has been a part of movies like 'Kal Kissne Dekha', 'Taj Mahal', 'Love Sex Aur Dhokha'.

Nushratt then appeared in romantic comedy buddy film 'Pyaar Ka Punchnama' written and directed by Luv Ranjan. The film starred Kartik Aaryan, Divyendu Sharma, Raayo S



Bakhtira, Sonnalli Seygall and Ishita.

She has featured in 'Akaash Vani', 'Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweetie', 'Dream Girl', 'Chhalaang', 'Ajeeb Daastaans', 'Chhorii', 'Hurdang', 'Ram Setu', 'Selfiee', 'Chatrapathi'. The 39-year-old was last seen in action thriller 'Akelli' directed by Pranay Meshram.

She next has Vishal Furia's

horror-thriller film 'Chhorii 2' in the pipeline. The film begins from where the first installment, which released in 2021, had concluded. Actress Soha Ali Khan has joined the cast of the horror sequel.

"Chhorii" was a remake of the Marathi-language 2017 film "Lapachhapi". It also stars Mita Vashisht, Rajesh Jais and Saurabh Goyal.

## Olivia Colman says she's too emotional for social media, likes to keep it private

Deepinder Hollywood actress Olivia Colman may rule the screen with her performance, but she isn't too confident when it comes to social media.

The actress feels she'd be a "mess" if she used social media. The 'Crown' actress steers clear of apps such as X and Instagram because she knows how upsetting she would find it if she read something negative about herself, reports 'Female First UK'.

She told 'My Weekly' magazine, "I don't do it because I think it would make me cry. "I'd be devastated by someone being horrible. I think I'd be a

mess if I had to deal with comments or negativity. I'm better off not being on it. It's just not for me. I think I'm happier without it. I like my privacy".

Despite her career success, the 50-year-old star, who has two sons, aged 19 and 17, and a nine-year-old daughter with husband Ed Sinclair, insisted her family always come first.

She said, "My family is everything to me. I love my children so much. I love them more than anything in the world. As much as I love acting, I never want to miss out on their lives. Nothing comes before them. I work to make sure we are secure, but

they are always my first thought".

As per 'Female First UK', Olivia previously admitted she is a "bit raw" and often can't help crying on camera.

She told Britain's 'Vogue' magazine, "I have a sneaking suspicion that audiences have seen me crying a little bit too often in the past couple of years. And if people get really fed up with me, then I won't get more work. And if I can't do what I love, then I will shrivel up and die. If something touches me, I cry. That's it. I'm a bit raw, a bit rubbish really".

## Cancer cases rising among Gen X, millennials



Incidence of 17 types of cancer is rising among Generation X and millennials, finds a study from the American Cancer Society published in the journal *The Lancet Public Health*.

Researchers used data from 23.6 million patients diagnosed with 34 types of cancer and from 7.3 million cancer deaths,

for adults aged 25–84 years between 2000 and 2019. To compare cancer rates across generations they broke the data down into five-year birth intervals from 1920 to 1990 and analysed cancer incidence and death among birth cohorts.

Incidence of cancer increased with each successive birth

cohort since 1920 for 17 of 34 types of cancer. People born in 1990 have two to three times higher rates of pancreatic, kidney and small intestinal cancers in both men and women, and for liver cancer in women, than people born in 1955. Other cancers that have increased in younger generations after a decline in older birth cohorts include liver, breast, uterine, colorectal, gastric, gallbladder, ovarian, testicular cancer and anal and Kaposi sarcoma cancers in men.

Correspondingly, cancer deaths also increased for younger generations for colorectal, liver (female only), uterine, gallbladder and testicular cancers. Researchers couldn't find a clear explanation for why the rates are rising. "The data highlights the critical need to identify and address underlying risk factors in Gen X and millennial populations to inform prevention strategies," the study said.

## How cell and gene therapies revolutionising cancer care in India

Our body is made up of cells, and whatever happens to it—good or bad—happens at a cellular level. Cancer, for example, occurs due to a small change in the cell that prompts it to proliferate abnormally. Also, cancer spreads in the body because the immune cells lose their ability to identify the danger cancer cells pose and stop them from growing. We treat cancer by surgically removing the cancer cells from the body or by giving drugs that kill the malignant cells.

The advancement in our capability to manipulate the body's immune cells to identify and eliminate cancer cells is remarkable, particularly at the cellular level. No wonder, cell and gene therapies, once considered futuristic medicine, are now a reality, offering hope to millions by redefining the battle against cancer.

Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy and gene editing tools, like CRISPR-Cas9, are two revolutionary innovations that allow us to personalize treatments based on the genetic profiles of both the patient and the cancer. In CAR T-cell therapy, we extract the patient's T-cells and add a marker to their surface to restore their ability to detect and eradicate malignant cells. And because these are the body's own cells, the treatment

has almost negligible side effects. Moreover, some of these immune cells remain in the memory and prevent cancer relapse. These are also called living drugs because once injected, these cells stay in the body and guard against the relapse of the cancer.

However, the current cost of these therapies is prohibitive. The high cost, along with the need for advanced medical infrastructure and specialised training for healthcare providers, has limited their availability. Yet, the government is making significant investments in biotech innovations through infrastructure development and by offering research grants. This support allows several Indian companies to focus on developing indigenous CAR T-cell therapies. These initiatives will greatly contribute to reducing the cost of these treatments, ensuring that Indian patients have access to them. Moreover, India's generic pharmaceutical sector is using its expertise to develop biosimilars and gene therapies, which will further contribute to the affordability of these cutting-edge treatments.

Cell and gene therapies have proven to be effective in treating various malignancies such as leukemia, lymphoma, and

myeloma. Numerous clinical trials are currently underway worldwide to assess their efficacy. In India, several hospitals and research centers have also initiated clinical trials to test these therapies against a wider range of cancers, tailoring them to the genetic profiles prevalent in the Indian population.

Furthermore, cutting-edge research in this field will ensure that India will soon have more than one CAR T cell products available for its population. Researchers in India are working on developing third and fourth-generation CARs that will be effective against multiple tumor-associated antigens.

Unlike first-generation CARs, which are mono-specific and target only one type of antigen, these CARs will be able to target two antigens and, hence, be more effective in preventing cancer relapse. Collaboration between the public and private sectors, as well as foreign alliances, has produced a favorable environment in the country for innovation. Besides, collaborations with global biotech and pharmaceutical giants are facilitating technology transfer and capacity building, enabling India to take a leap into the future of cancer care.

## No health benefits to moderate drinking

Drinking a glass of wine daily may not be healthy after all.

A new Canadian study published in the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs* debunks the long-held belief that moderate drinking can have health benefits. Many previous studies have linked moderate drinking with lower risks of heart disease and reduced mortality risk. But the current study suggests that those studies suffer from "design flaws".

Studies that showed a benefit mostly included older adults and did not factor in a person's lifetime drinking habits. So moderate drinkers were compared with abstainers that also included people who had quit or reduced drinking due to health problems. "That makes people who continue to drink look much healthier by comparison," the lead researcher said.

The researchers analysed 107 studies on alcohol consumption and all-cause mortality in 48,38,825 participants with 4,25,564 recorded deaths. When they looked at the data as a whole, light to moderate



drinkers (those who drank between one drink per week and two per day) had a 14 per cent lower risk of dying compared with abstainers.

But when they focused only on "higher quality" studies that included people who were younger than 55, on average, and did not consider former and occasional drinkers as abstainers, moderate drinking was not linked to a longer life.

Only "lower quality" studies that included older participants

and made no distinction between former drinkers and lifelong abstainers showed a link between moderate drinking and greater longevity. Moderate drinking can increase the risk of certain cancers and alcohol is a leading cause of preventable death and disability. In January 2023, the World Health Organization said, "When it comes to alcohol consumption, there is no safe amount that does not affect health."

them women. About 32 per cent of them regularly used fish oil supplements.

The research team then tracked the health of participants for an average of nearly 12 years, watching to see how many died, developed heart problems or suffered a stroke. During an average follow up of nearly 12 years, 18,367 participants developed atrial fibrillation, 22,636 had a heart attack/stroke or developed heart failure, and 22,140 died, of whom 14,902 did not have any previous heart issues.

For healthy adults, regular use of fish oil supplements was associated with a 13 per cent increased risk of atrial fibrillation and a five per cent increased risk of stroke. The increased risk was six per cent higher in women and in non-smokers. But for those who already had heart issues, regular use of fish oil supplements was associated with a 15 per cent lower risk of progressing from atrial fibrillation to a heart attack, and a nine per cent lower risk of progressing from heart failure to death.

"Regular use of fish oil supplements might have different roles in the progression of cardiovascular disease," the study concluded.

Weight gain is a common side effect of antidepressants that causes people to stop taking their medication, leading to poor clinical outcomes. Bupropion had the highest adherence rate, at 41 per cent. "Patients and their clinicians could consider weight gain as one reason for choosing a medication that best fits their needs," the study suggested.

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### Some antidepressants cause more weight gain than others

People who take antidepressants are prone to weight gain. But do all antidepressants cause similar weight gain?

To find out, US researchers analysed the health records of 1,83,118 patients, aged 18 to 80, who were first-time users of antidepressants. The researchers tracked weight changes for 24 months after they started taking brand-name or generic versions of one of eight common antidepressants—sertraline, citalopram, escitalopram, fluoxetine, paroxetine, bupropion, duloxetine, or venlafaxine.

Bupropion users gained the least amount of weight. They were 15 per cent to 20 per cent less likely to gain a significant amount of weight compared with those taking the most common antidepressant, sertraline. Those taking escitalopram, paroxetine and duloxetine were most likely to experience weight gain.

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## Treating gum disease can help prevent AFib recurrence



Patients who had their gum disease treated following treatment for atrial fibrillation (AFib), or irregular heartbeat, are significantly less likely to suffer AFib recurrence, according to Japanese research published in the *Journal of the American Heart Association*. AFib can increase the risk of stroke by five-fold. About 20 to 50 per cent of the global population suffer from gum disease. To examine the potential impact of gum disease treatment on AFib, the researchers compared 97 patients who had received radio-frequency catheter ablation to correct AFib and received treatment for gum disease within three months of correcting the irregular heart rhythm, with 191 ablation patients who did not receive treatment for gum disease. During an average follow-up period of between 8.5 months to 2 years after the procedure, 24 per cent of the patients had an AFib recurrence. Patients who had their

gum inflammation treated after catheter ablation were 61 per cent less likely to have a recurrence of AFib, compared with ablation patients who did not get the dental treatment. Patients who had an AFib recurrence had more severe gum disease than those who did not have recurrences.

"Proper management of gum disease appears to improve the prognosis of AFib, and many people around the world could benefit from it," said the lead study author.

According to the American Heart Association, oral health can be an indicator of overall health. Bacteria from inflamed gums can travel through the bloodstream to the rest of the body, including the heart and brain. Chronic gum inflammation may be associated with other health conditions, including coronary artery disease, stroke, and Type 2 diabetes.

## At what ages do people feel most lonely?



According to a US study published in the journal *Psychological Science*, loneliness follows a U-shaped pattern in adulthood—people are loneliest during younger and older adulthood, and least lonely in middle age. This conclusion was based on a review of data from nine long-term studies including 1,28,118 adults of ages 13 to 103 years from over 20 countries. All the studies showed the U-shaped curve.

Loneliness was more prevalent among women, and in people who were divorced or widowed, more isolated, less educated, had lower income, had more functional limitations, were smokers or had poorer cognitive, physical, or mental health. The researchers think mid-

dle-aged adults are the least lonely because they have more opportunities for social interactions, like being married, going to work, and making friends with the parents of their kids' friends. Young adulthood can be lonely because people are often "navigating several important life transitions (like education, careers, friend groups, relationship partners and families)". "What was striking was how consistent the uptick in loneliness is in older adulthood. We do have evidence that married people tend to be less lonely, so for older adults who are not married, finding ongoing points of meaningful social contact will likely help mitigate the risk of persistent loneliness," the study authors said.

## ARE FISH OIL SUPPLEMENTS GOOD FOR THE HEART?



A new study that assessed the benefits of fish oil supplements has yielded mixed results.

Regular use of fish oil supplements could increase the risk of first-time heart disease and stroke among those in good cardiovascular health. However, for those with heart problems the supplement may slow progression of the disease and lower the risk of death, according to a long-term study

published in *BMJ Medicine*.

A rich source of omega 3 fatty acids, fish oil is often recommended for good heart health. To find out the associations between fish oil supplements and new cases of atrial fibrillation; heart attack, stroke, and heart failure; and death from any cause in those with no known cardiovascular disease, the researchers used data from 4,15,737 participants aged 40–69, nearly 55 per cent of

the importance of giving two doses of the vaccine for a long-lasting immune response. A possible reason is the development of the infant's gut microbiome. "With a C-section birth, children are not exposed to the mother's microbiome in the

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## C-section babies need two doses of measles vaccine

Babies born by c-section need two doses of the measles vaccine for optimal protection against the disease. A single dose of the vaccine is up to 2.6 times more likely to be completely ineffective in C-section babies, compared with those born vaginally.

Measles is a highly contagious disease spread by coughs and sneezes. It starts out with cold-like symptoms and a rash, and can lead to severe complications like blindness, seizures and death. Before the introduction of measles vaccine in 1963, major measles epidemics caused an estimated 2.6 million deaths each year.

For the study published in *Nature Microbiology*, researchers used data from previous studies of 1,505 children in China whose



blood samples were taken every few weeks from birth to age 12. About 12 per cent of children born via C-section had no immune response to their first measles vaccination, compared to 5 per cent of children born vaginally. The findings emphasise

the importance of giving two doses of the vaccine for a long-lasting immune response. A possible reason is the development of the infant's gut microbiome. "With a C-section birth, children are not exposed to the mother's microbiome in the

same way as with a vaginal birth," the lead researcher explained. "We think this means they take longer to catch up in developing their gut microbiome, and with it, the ability of the immune system to be primed by vaccines against diseases including measles."

Only 83 per cent children had received one dose of measles vaccine by their first birthday in 2022, according to the WHO, and a lot of children don't get their second measles jab. "Vaccine hesitancy is really problematic, and measles is top of the list of diseases we are worried about because it's so infectious," said the study. At least 95 per cent of the children need to be fully vaccinated to keep measles under control.

# NC will fight vigorously to restore Special Status of J&K: Surinder

JAMMU RISING  
JAMMU, NOV 11

The J&K National Conference (JKNC) held a Workers' Conference at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu, to discuss critical issues like the restoration of statehood and special status to protect the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The workers Conference was presided over by Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu Province JKNC. Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of JKNC, delivered the welcome address, highlighting the hardships endured by the people over the past decade due to anti people policies of BJP Govt. Rattan Lal Gupta praised Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary for his historic resolution in the Assembly, which aims to initiate dialogue on restoring Jammu and Kashmir's special status as a means to protect the rights of its people. "This resolution is a milestone in



our journey to reclaim the rights and dignity of the people of J&K," he said. In his address, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary strongly criticized the BJP for its failure to fulfil its promise for restoration of statehood to J&K. He said that BJP Govt has bifurcated the princely state into Union Territories, snatching the Special Status of this princely state. Surinder Choudhary reiterated NC's unwavering commitment to restoring J&K's special status and statehood, stating that these measures are essential for preserving the unique identity and interests of the J&K people. He emphasized that, as promised by Omar Abdullah,

the NC government had passed a resolution for statehood restoration in its first Cabinet meeting. "We also passed a resolution in the Legislative Assembly to initiate dialogue on restoring special status of J&K, Choudhary strongly condemned the misbehavior and Drama Baji BJP MLA's in the Assembly. This resolution is a step towards reversing the injustice done by the Central Govt as it witnessed the unilateral revocation of our special status. That this resolution rekindles hope for the people of J&K special in securing our land, jobs rights and dignity which are at risk without special status. Surinder Choudhary reaffirmed that the National

Conference remains committed to advocating for the aspirations of J&K's people, promising that the party will continue to fight for justice, rights of the people and their dignity. Addressing the gathering, Minister for Food Supply and Transport Satish Sharma commended Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for his commitment to inclusive governance, ensuring equal representation for the people of the Jammu region. He highlighted the enduring contributions of Sheikh Abdullah and Dr. Farooq Abdullah, whose vision has shaped the political and social landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. "The people of the Jammu region have consistently supported our cause for the restoration of full statehood to J&K. Together, we remain steadfast in our pursuit of this objective," he remarked. Sharma further said that restoration of special status is must for our generations to come.

# Beware of divisive agenda of BJP: Congress

JAMMU RISING  
JAMMU, NOV 11

The Congress fact finding team today reached out to the party workers of District Doda Kishtwar, Ramban and held detailed deliberations at Doda and Batote, Ramban. The team headed by Ravinder Sharma, Chief spokesperson and comprising Former Legislative Council Chairman Jahangir Mir, Former MLCs Ved Mahajan, Naresh Gupta Koodaa, Former MLA Dina Nath Bhagat held day deliberations with senior leadership, party candidates, district and block functionaries

besides PRIs of Chanab region and discussed the outcome of recent elections and challenges before party and suggestions for strengthening of organization at grass roots level. The committee met delegations of prominent workers of eight assembly segments of chenab region and listened their views and their inputs. The workers told them that Congress fully supported the alliance wherever there was no friendly contest, however there was polarisation besides use of huge resources by BJP. Former MLC Sham Lal Bhagat, Ashok Dogra, District

Presidents Sheikh Mujeeb Asif Iqbal, Parvez Wani, Pyare Lal Shan, Riyaz Ahmed DDC, Sheikh Irshad, Javed Lone, Vijay Hitesh, Mohd Abbas, Farooq Ahmed, Mohd Shafiq, Mohd Abbas, Mohd Younis Chaudhary, Farooq Katoch Rashid Malik, Abdul Rashid Naik, Mohd Ishaq Naik, Janak Singh, Runyal and several other prominent leaders attended. Senior Congress leaders cautioned the party workers against the divisive agenda of BJP and asked them to stay united. They told them to fight against the divisive agenda of BJP and other such forces.

# 'Local support' behind surge in terrorism, need to curb abettors of violence: Kavinder

JAMMU RISING  
JAMMU, NOV 11

Senior BJP leader and former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta on Monday claimed that the surge in terror incidents and encounters in J&K is because of local support being offered to the violence mongers. In a statement issued to media persons, the party's stalwart leader said that there is an urgent need to tighten noose around the those elements providing logistic as well as moral support to the terror mongers involved in vitiating peace especially in Jammu region, which conventionally was considered to be peaceful and a land practicing communal harmony. Expressing pain and anguish over the loss of Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) of the Special Forces Naib Subedar Rakesh Kumar of 2 Para, Kavinder said that



the situation in Chenab Valley has turned alarming and therefore security forces should have to ensure that people supporting and harbouring these violence mongers should be dealt with utter strictness as it is not possible to sustain in such deep forests without the local support and the logistics which these violence mongers are getting readily despite many of them entering the areas after infiltrating from Pakistani side. He also conveyed his heartfelt condolence to the family

of the brave son martyred in this encounter. "BJP Government under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi is firmly resolved to devastate all terror outfits and avenge the deaths of all martyred in this fight against the scourge of terrorism", he maintained while claiming that the perpetrators of violence, whether the ultras or their supporters, will have to pay a heavy price for this as security forces are on hunt and will leave no stone unturned to root out terrorism from the soil of J&K.

# Arvind Gupta pledges to transform Jammu West into a Model Constituency

JAMMU RISING  
JAMMU, NOV 11

In a strong push towards bolstering infrastructure in Jammu West, BJP leader and MLA Arvind Gupta today inaugurated two development projects aimed at enhancing public amenities and addressing long-standing civic issues. The first project, a comprehensive lane and drain revamp at Bhawani Nagar in Ward 31. In addition, he also launched similar development works at Lane No. 1A Extension in Ward 30 and also in Ward No 24, further extending essential improvements to drainage systems to support hygienic and safe living conditions for the residents. These development works will be completed with an estimated cost of Rs 65



lakhs. Addressing the gathering, Arvind Gupta expressed his dedication to fostering sustainable infrastructure that aligns with the BJP's development-centric vision for Jammu and Kashmir. "Our objective is to build a constituency that is resilient, efficient, and equipped to handle future growth. The projects initiated today are a testament to the BJP's unwavering commitment to public welfare and our promise to deliver practical, impactful improvements for the

people of Jammu West," he stated. The senior BJP leader emphasized that these projects are part of a broader plan to upgrade local infrastructure comprehensively. The lane and drainage work will not only enhance the sanitation and aesthetics of the area but will also contribute to the betterment of public health and safety, creating a conducive environment for community growth, he added. As part of the BJP's development agenda, Arvind Gupta reiterated that each proj-

ect undertaken is a step towards transforming Jammu West into a model constituency with robust infrastructure, efficient service delivery, and a thriving community. He assured residents of ongoing efforts to identify and address infrastructural needs promptly, promising a constituency that embodies progress and reflects the aspirations of its people. Prominent dignitaries accompanying Arvind Gupta included Executive Engineer Ravi Sharma, Junior Engineer Mukesh, BJP Mandal Presidents Keshav Chopra and Atul Bakshi, former Councillors Sucha Singh and Anu Bali and several local leaders and community members, including

# MLA Akhnoor inaugurates road macadamization project in Panchayat Devipur

JAMMU RISING  
JAMMU, NOV 11

In a major boost to local infrastructure, the Honorable MLA of Akhnoor, Mohan Lal, inaugurated the macadamization of a vital link road in Panchayat Devipur today. The project, covering the stretch from Nai Basti canal bridge to Mill via Radha Swami Ashram up to the house of Jagdesh, is set at an estimated cost of 9.0 lakhs. This road will improve connectivity and benefit countless residents in the area. Prominent community leaders, including Bhushan Bral, Member of the District Development Council; AEE PWD Ashish Bhasin; JE Devinder Kumar; Ex-Sarpanch Ganesh Dass; and respected community figures Jugal Dogra, Gullu Ram, and Ajay Singh Manhas, were present at the inauguration, marking a uni-

fied community commitment to progress. Addressing a gathering of local residents, MLA Mohan Lal expressed his vision for Akhnoor's future, stating his unwavering dedication to transforming it into a model constituency. "We are committed to ensuring that every village in Akhnoor enjoys modern, high-quality infrastructure," he declared. "This project is a step towards fulfilling our promise of connectivity, safety, and progress for all residents." The MLA took the opportunity to emphasize the importance of maintaining quality standards. He urged the engineers and officials of the PWD Department to strictly adhere to quality protocols to ensure that the road serves the community for years to come. "I call upon.

# KNOW DENGUE FOR NO DENGUE Dengue can be Prevented

DENGUE	SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	PREVENTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dengue is a viral disease.</li> <li>• It is transmitted by the bite of Aedes mosquito.</li> <li>• Dengue Fever is a severe, flu-like illness.</li> <li>• Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) &amp; Dengue Shock Syndrome (DSS) are more severe forms of disease, which may even cause death if left untreated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High fever.</li> <li>• Frontal headache.</li> <li>• Pain behind the eyes which worsens with eye movement.</li> <li>• Muscle and joint pains.</li> <li>• Rashes on the body.</li> <li>• Pain abdomen.</li> <li>• Nausea and vomiting.</li> <li>• Bleeding &amp; low B.P in severe cases.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid water stagnation in &amp; around the house.</li> <li>• Empty water reservoirs regularly like storage utensils, air coolers, plant pots, drums, flower pots and bird baths etc.</li> <li>• Keep water tanks and other water containers tightly covered with lids.</li> <li>• Use mosquito repellents/ Anti mosquito creams.</li> <li>• Do not wear clothes that expose arms and legs.</li> <li>• Use mosquito nets while sleeping.</li> <li>• Use netted screens for doors &amp; windows to prevent entry of mosquitoes</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Person suspected of having Dengue should visit nearby Health Facility.</li> <li>• The tests and treatment are available free of cost at Govt. Health Institutions.</li> <li>• Don't take pain killer and any other medicine without consultation of Doctor.</li> </ul>		
<p>DIP/J-6807/24 Dt: 11-11-2024</p> <p><b>ISSUED IN PUBLIC INTEREST BY</b>  <b>STATE MALARIOLOGIST/SPO NVBDCP, J&amp;K,</b>  <b>DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, JAMMU</b></p>		