

BRIEF NEWS

Without water conservation efforts, society cannot progress: President Murmu

Expressing concern over the declining quality and quantity of groundwater, President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday stressed the vital role of collective responsibility in preserving water resources.

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Delhi HC Closes Plea To Permit Climate Activist Sonam Wangchuk, Others To Protest

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday closed the proceedings on a plea seeking permission for climate activist Sonam Wangchuk and others to hold a peaceful protest at Jantar Mantar here.

Petitioner Apex Body Leh's counsel said they no longer wished to

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J&K Police Debunks Rumors About Non-Local Laborers Being Asked to Leave

The Jammu and Kashmir Police have firmly dismissed rumors circulating on social media about non-local laborers being asked to leave the Valley.

The rumors, which had spread across several platforms, sparked concern among laborers working in Kashmir.

In response, the Kashmir Police issued a statement on X (formerly Twitter), assuring the public that the claims are entirely unfounded.

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Recruitment Module Of New Militant Group 'Tareek Labaik Ya Muslim' Busted In Kashmir: CIK

The Counter-Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) on Tuesday busted recruitment module newly formed militant group Tareek Labaik Ya Muslim, officials said.

"CIK conducted a major operation, carrying out raids across multiple districts including Srinagar, Ganderbal, Bandipora, Kulgam, Budgam, Anantnag, and Pulwama,

During the operation, he said, "a recruitment module of the newly formed terrorist organization 'Tehreek Labaik Ya Muslim' (TLM) was dismantled,".

This group, he said is

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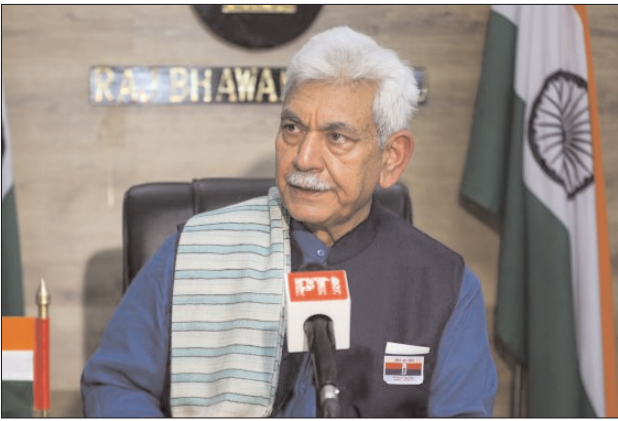
LG office will extend full support to govt that meets expectations of people: Manoj Sinha

JAMMU RISING  
JAMMU, OCT 22

An government that takes appropriate steps to meet the expectations of the people would have the full support of the LG's office, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said.

Sinha said the local bodies' elections in the Union territory will be held as soon as the backward classes commission submits its report on the number of reserved seats for the OBCs, weather conditions allow it and required security forces are made available.

In a interview to PTI on Monday evening, Sinha said, "The government



that takes appropriate steps to meet the expectations of the people, I assure them, the LG's office will be ready to give full support to it."

Any elected government that comes into power

wishes to fulfill the people's expectations, he said when asked about the working arrangement between the LG's office and the chief minister.

National Conference's Omar Abdullah was sworn

in as the first chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir after it became a Union territory.

On the Congress's opposition and subsequent filing of a petition in court against the nomination of five MLAs to the J-K assembly, Sinha said India is a democracy and everyone has the freedom to oppose anything.

"The country knows that when the Puducherry Assembly was formed, honorable Lal Bahadur Shastri was the home minister. He introduced a proposal to fill all seats through nomination. Some parliamentarians

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China Confirms Agreement To End Standoff In Eastern Ladakh

BEIJING, OCT 22

China on Tuesday confirmed that it has reached an agreement with India to end the standoff between the two armies in eastern Ladakh.

"Over a recent period, China and India have been in close communication through diplomatic and military channels on issues related to the China-India border," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian told

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NIA chargesheets key aide of Khalistani terrorists in Punjab terror conspiracy case

NEW DELHI, OCT 22

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has chargesheeted a key associate of Khalistani terrorists Rinda and Landa in a Punjab terror conspiracy case, the probe agency said on Tuesday.

The charge sheet against Gurpreet Singh alias Gopi of Punjab's Tarn Taran has been filed before an NIA special court in Mohali on Monday, according to an offi-

CM Omar Abdullah directs strict adherence to power curtailment schedule, will personally monitor compliance



JAMMU RISING  
JAMMU, OCT 22

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today directed Power Development Department (PDD) to strictly adhere to the announced power curtailment schedule, emphasizing that he will personally oversee its implementation on day-

to-day basis during the winter months.

The Chief Minister made these remarks while chairing a comprehensive review meeting of the PDD, a department under his portfolio, to assess its preparedness ahead of the winter season in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, and Principal Secretary PDD Rajesh H. Prasad and other concerned.

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"Restoring trust with China will take time": Army Chief on India-China Border patrolling agreement

NEW DELHI, OCT 22

Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Tuesday emphasised the need to rebuild trust between India and China following the recent border patrolling agreement.

Speaking at an event titled "Decade of Transformation: Indian Army in Stride with the Future" at the United Service Institution, Gen. Dwivedi made his first statement after the announcement of the India-China border patrolling agreement.

Gen Dwivedi stressed that restoring trust along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) would be a gradual



process, to return to the April 2020 status quo. "We are working to rebuild trust, and restoring that trust will take time," he added, highlighting the steps of disengagement, de-escalation, and buffer zone management as crucial for easing tensions between the two nations.

He further explained

that the process will take place in phases, with each step aimed at reducing tensions. "This normal management of the LAC will not just stop there. There are phases in that as well," he added.

Referring to the buffer zones created along the LAC, Gen Dwivedi underscored that trust between the two countries will be rebuilt through mutual understanding. "We are trying to restore the trust. How will the trust be restored? It will get restored once we can see each other and convince each other. And we need to reassure

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CC J solved online fraud recovered amount of ? 2.56 lakhs.

JAMMU RISING  
JAMMU, OCT 22

Cyber cell ( CCJ) DPO Jammu, a dedicated unit to deal with cases of online/offline frauds and cyber crime who has been relentlessly working day in and day out for ensuring the safety and security of masses in general has once again successfully recovered an amount of ?2,56,000/ from fraud

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Govt employees demand revocation ban on protests/Strikes

R.C. BHAT

JAMMU, OCT 21

Recent press conference given by some government Employees Unions of state government in which they demanded immediate revocation order on strikes or protests by employees without more delay which right was snatched by LG.adminstration.I

n recent years, the revocation of bans on employee protests and strikes has become a significant milestone for labor rights globally. The ability of workers to organize and voice their grievances is fundamental in any democ-

racy, and restrictions on such actions have long been a point of contention between governments, businesses, and labor groups.

Historically, many countries and companies imposed bans on employee protests and strikes, citing the need for productivity, public safety, or national security. In some cases, these bans were implemented during periods of political instability or economic crisis, where governments feared that labor unrest could exacerbate national problems. However, these restrictions often resulted in greater discontent

among workers, leading to underground movements and worsening working conditions.

The recent revocation of such bans in several countries has been viewed as a victory for labor rights activists. For example, countries like Tunisia, Chile, and South Korea have made strides in rolling back restrictions on worker protests in various sectors. This shift is seen as part of a broader global trend toward increasing protections for workers, driven by international labor organizations, human rights groups, and growing public support for fair labor practices.

In many of these cases, the decision to lift bans has been influenced by changing economic conditions and political will. Governments are beginning to recognize that employee protests and strikes, when conducted lawfully, can be an essential mechanism for maintaining balance in the labor market. Allowing workers the freedom to express dissatisfaction with working conditions can prevent more disruptive forms of dissent and help foster negotiations between employers and employees.

One notable example of

such change occurred in Tunisia, where a history of civil unrest due to labor grievances led the government to adopt reforms that granted workers greater rights to protest. These reforms have encouraged dialogue between labor unions and employers, reducing the tension that typically follows such bans.

The revocation of these restrictions is expected to improve not only the relationship between labor and management but also the overall quality of employment. Workers now have greater agency to demand fair wages, safe working

environments, and reasonable hours, which has the potential to reduce exploitation and improve productivity in the long run.

In conclusion, the lifting of bans on employee protests and strikes marks a significant shift toward more inclusive and democratic labor relations. It underscores the importance of workers' rights and the role that lawful protest plays in maintaining a fair balance between labor and management, ultimately contributing to the development of healthier work environments and stronger economies.



## Without water conservation efforts, society cannot progress: President Murmu

“Groundwater is not only getting polluted but also depleting. This is a serious concern,” the president said while conferring the National Water Awards on Tuesday.

She warned that without conservation efforts, society cannot progress.

Murmu said that all major civilisations have thrived around water bodies, and yet, in modern times, water is often neglected.

“We at times forget the importance of water,” she said.

Murmu emphasised the role of the state governments in water management, praising the Ministry of Jal Shakti and minister C R Patil for their dedication to conservation.

The president lauded the winners of the National Water Awards for their efforts and urged that their best practices be shared widely.

The awards, organised by the Department of Water Resources under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, recognised efforts across nine categories, with Odisha securing the top spot for Best State, followed by Uttar Pradesh while Gujarat and Puducherry were joint third place.

The National Water Awards started in 2018 to promote water conservation in line with the government’s vision of a ‘Jal Samridh Bharat’ (water-sufficient India). (PTI)

## LG office will extend full support to govt that meets expectations of people: Manoj Sinha

opposed this at the time, and it was then decided that 10 per cent of the members would be nominated. In an assembly of 30, three members would be nominated,” he said.

He further added that a court order has also been issued on the matter earlier.

“This is part of the State Reorganization Act. Those who object can approach the court, but I don’t believe there is anything unconstitutional here,” he said.

Certain provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which bifurcated the erstwhile state into two Union territories — Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, empowers the LG to nominate five MLAs to the J-K assembly. The NC, PDP, Congress among others have opposed this provision.

LG Sinha said the panchayat elections should have been held earlier, but the administration is awaiting the report on reservations for Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

“If the elections had been held without this (report), the court would have stopped them. Therefore, we had to go to Parliament to amend this. Preparations (for polls) are certainly complete,” he said.

Sinha said as soon as the report of the backward classes commission is received, and based on the availability of security forces and weather conditions, local bodies elections will be held.

The Jammu and Kashmir government has set up a commission to recommend the number of seats reserved for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in local bodies.

## Recruitment Module Of New Militant Group 'Tareek Labaik Ya Muslim' Busted In Kashmir: CIK

believed to be an offshoot of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

" It was reportedly being operated by a Pakistani terrorist handler known as '@ Baba Hamas, the officer said.

Further details would be shared later, the officer said.

## J&K police counter-intelligence team conducts raids against new militant outfit

thisers operating in the Kashmir valley with the active support of Pakistani agencies, the officials said.

“It was further found that the terrorist handler is providing seditious material and directions to OGWs/supporters/facilitators/sympathizers through various covert/en-

rypted social media applications for radicalisation and luring the youths to join terrorist ranks of newly floated terrorist organization TLM,” a statement said.

The module is in continuous touch with handlers and members of terrorist organisations across the border and is learnt to be using encrypted internet messaging platforms, besides other software applications, the officials said.

The raids led to the arrest of some suspects and the seizure of incriminating materials in the form of digital devices, SIM cards, mobile phones and laptops having a bearing on the investigation of the case, they said.

“This newly floated terrorist organisation has claimed a few incidents in the recent past which include a fire incident in Panchayat Ghar in the Seer area of district Pulwama, and another fire in a remote village of Doda (though not corroborated on the ground).

“This outfit also remained involved in pasting of posters at various locations in South and Central Kashmir and on internet-based social media platforms as well,” the statement said.

The counter-intelligence wing said the investigation is aimed at dismantling the terror ecosystem in the Union territory by not only identifying overground workers supporting and abetting terrorism but also by ensuring legal action as envisaged by the law.

## C C J solved online fraud recovered amount of ? 2.56 lakhs.

sters in three separate complaints who used to deceive the people by adopting different tactics and extract money from them.

In one complaint the complainant invested in trading and in other two complaints the complainants lost money in online shopping.In this regard the complainants approached cyber cell Jammu of being fraudulently cheated.

Taking the cognizance of matter the cyber cell Jammu took no time to start the investigations and acted swiftly while exhibiting the ultimate professional excellence through its dedicated skilled human resource which was put to task and in no time the lost amount of \*Rs.2,56,000/\* was recovered from the fraudsters.

District Police Jammu, equipped with advanced technology and expert human resource remains at the forefront in the fight against cybercriminals.

## “Restoring trust with China will take time”: Army Chief on India-China Border patrolling agreement

each other that we are not creeping into buffer zones that are created,” he said.

He also mentioned that ongoing patrolling activities provide a chance for both sides to reassure one another. “Patrolling gives you that kind of advantage, and as trust is rebuilt, other stages will also follow through,” he noted.

In early May 2020, troops from China’s People’s Liberation Army and the Indian Army clashed at locations along the LAC, the disputed boundary between China and India. The situation escalated on June 15-16, 2020, resulting in casualties on both sides. (ANI)

## Delhi HC Closes Plea To Permit Climate Activist Sonam Wangchuk, Others To Protest

press the plea as the protest stood withdrawn following a discussion with the authorities.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who was representing Delhi Police, added that Wangchuk has also withdrawn his fast and, therefore, the petition might not survive.

Wangchuk — who had been sitting on an indefinite fast at Delhi’s Ladakh Bhawan since October 6 — ended his fast on Monday evening after the home ministry assured him that the talks on Ladakh’s demands will resume in December.

In view of the statements of the parties, a bench of Justices Prathiba M Singh and Amit Sharma said, “Petition is dismissed as withdrawn.”

Wangchuk and his associates from Ladakh had marched to the national capital to demand the inclusion of Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. They were detained at the capital’s Singhu border by

the Delhi Police and released on the night of October 2.

The march was organised by the Apex Body Leh, which along with the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), has been spearheading an agitation for the past four years to demand statehood for Ladakh, its inclusion under the Sixth Schedule, early recruitment process along with a public service commission for Ladakh and separate Lok Sabha seats for Leh and Kargil districts.

The Sixth Schedule pertains to the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram as “autonomous districts and autonomous regions”.

On October 21, Joint Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Prashant Lokhande met the activists and handed them a letter from the home ministry.

The letter said the high-powered committee of the ministry, which was holding talks with representatives from Ladakh, will meet them next on December 3.

Following this, Wangchuk and his supporters decided to break their fast and called off the sit-in.

On October 9, the high court had asked the Delhi Police to respond to the plea seeking permission to hold a peaceful protest at Jantar Mantar. (Agencies)

## CM Omar Abdullah directs strict adherence to power curtailment schedule, will personally monitor compliance

“Once a curtailment schedule is announced, we must ensure it is followed rigorously, otherwise our credibility is at stake. We need to re-examine the schedule, considering the resources currently available to us and what we anticipate in the near future,” the Chief Minister stressed.

He further reiterated the importance of strict compliance with the schedule once it is finalized. “I will personally monitor the situation on a daily basis, especially as winter sets in,” he said.

The Chief Minister also emphasized that the curtailment schedule must remain fair and equitable, without any influence from political or other external forces. “There must be no interference from those with political or other forms of influence. The schedule should be transparent and fair for all,” he added.

In an effort to incentivize efficiency, the Chief Minister suggested that areas demonstrating better management of electricity usage should be rewarded. “Reward those areas that are more efficient in managing curtailment. The schedule should be localized and reflect performance, particularly in areas where AT&C losses are lower,” he advised.

Given the forecast of an early winter onset by the Meteorological Department, the Chief Minister instructed PDD officials to expedite their preparations. “We have indications of early snowfall this year, so our winter preparedness must reflect that possibility,” he said, urging that seasonal pruning be completed within the next three to four weeks.

During the meeting, Principal Secretary PDD Rajesh H. Prasad provided a detailed presentation on the current power scenario in Jammu and Kashmir.

The presentation covered a wide range of topics, including the existing power supply situation, energy requirements, and peak availability during the winter months.

Key areas of discussion included strategies to mitigate the winter power deficit, banking agreements for up to 500 MW of additional energy, and allocations from the central government. The meeting also reviewed power purchase liabilities, loans raised, payments made, and ongoing efforts to improve revenue realization through enhanced billing systems, e-governance, and IT interventions.

A significant focus was placed on reducing Aggregate, Technical, and Commercial (AT&C) losses, with the Chief Minister urging that all necessary steps be taken to minimize these losses. The status of ongoing projects and system additions were also discussed in detail, with an emphasis on ensuring timely implementation before the onset of winter.

## ED arrests six in cross-border trafficking Case

key members of a syndicate that smuggled heroin from Afghanistan and Iran concealing them within shipments of talc stone and gypsum powder,” the ED said.

These persons incorporated Sandhu Exports, a “front company” owned by Prabhjit Singh, to carry out the smug-

gling of drugs, it alleged.

The accused, the agency said, “disguised” the origin of the illicit funds, which were further layered and integrated into seemingly legitimate financial activities.

It was also found that the syndicate did not make any payments to Afghan suppliers until the drugs were sold in the local market, the ED probe found.

They used “cash” to purchase vehicles like Toyota Fortuner, Etios, Hyundai Verna etc, from the second hand market for trafficking the drug.

Cash, as per the ED, was also used for purchase of high-end smartphones and encrypted communication apps were used to coordinate smuggling activities.

“Drugs smuggled from Iran and Afghanistan used to be imported via Nhava Sheva Port, later stored at a rented godown in Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh and further distributed for local supply in parts of Delhi, Punjab and Haryana.

“Transportation was carried out in lesser quantities of 10 kg to prevent detection by law enforcement agencies,” it said. (AGENCIES)

## China Confirms Agreement To End Standoff In Eastern Ladakh

a media briefing here.

“Now the two sides have reached a resolution on the relevant matters which China speaks highly of,” he said.

Going forward China will work with India to implement these resolutions, he said.

He, however, declined to provide details.

On the bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping on the margins of the BRICS summit at Russia’s Kazan, he said, “We will keep you updated if anything comes up.”

India on Monday announced it has reached an agreement with China on patrolling along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, in a major breakthrough in ending the over four-year-long military standoff between the two armies.

The ties between the two Asian giants nosedived significantly following the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades. (Agencies)

## NIA chargesheets key aide of Khalistani terrorists in Punjab terror conspiracy case

propelled grenade) attack on police station Sarhali in December, 2022, as per NIA investigations, which have revealed that he had remained in contact with his foreign-based handlers from jail and even after his release from jail in that case, it said.

NIA investigations have further found that Gurpreet had conspired to raise funds for BKI and its operatives in India through large-scale extortion from businessmen on the directions of Landa. He had also recruited vulnerable youth for the BKI terror module, the NIA said.

Gurpreet had additionally carried out recces of the targets identified by Landa and had made attempts to eliminate those targets, it said.

NIA, which had seized an illegal weapon from the accused’s house during a search operation in January this year, has charged him under various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Indian Penal Code and Arms Act, the statement said. (Agencies)

## J&K Police Debunks Rumors About Non-Local Laborers Being Asked to Leave

“The recent post in the social media about non-local labourers being asked to leave, is completely baseless.

The J&K Police is committed to maintain security and a sense of safety to all intending to earn their livelihood,” read the official post from the Kashmir Police account according to KNS correspondent.

Authorities emphasized that maintaining peace and ensuring the safety of all residents and workers in the region remain top priorities.

The police further urged people not to believe or spread rumors that could disrupt the peace and harmony in the area. (KNS)



## Sakeena Masood chairs maiden review meeting of HED

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, OCT 22**  
Minister for Education, Social Welfare and Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Masood Itoo, today chaired maiden review meeting of Higher Education Department (HED) at Civil Secretariat here. The Minister had a detailed review of functioning of the department including achievements and challenges faced by the department in improving education outcomes, research and development besides infrastructure development and filing of vacancies. Maintaining that well-being of the students is top priority for the government, the Minister stated that officers should keep in mind the best interests of the students and work towards that goal. She asked the officers to work hard for the benefit of students and strive towards enabling our institutions match global standards of knowledge production and dissemination. She sought details about the ongoing construction of 51 colleges and asked the concerned to expedite the work for benefit of the



student community. She also asked the officers to examine the feasibility of establishment of new colleges as per the laid down norms and guidelines. Regarding NAAC accreditation of colleges, HED Minister sought inputs about the progress made in respect of all the required parameters. She asked them to prioritise the areas as per the accreditation requirements so that all colleges in Jammu and Kashmir are NAAC accredited. Regarding the annual transfer drive, the Minister highlighted that students should be made aware of the same so that they do not have to come to offices with applications. Earlier, the HED Minister was given a detailed presentation wherein she was informed about the major digital interventions in

higher education, component wise Capex Budget 2024-25, National Education Policy, industry-academia collaboration, status of posts among other things. She also reviewed the hostel facility for students in colleges and said that work on all the under construction hostels should be expedited. It was informed in the meeting that three hostels for girls are under construction in Bemina, Kupwara and Pulwama degree colleges. The Minister assured support to address all the issues of Higher Education department including the dearth of staff, infrastructure and equipment. She told the officers that all interventions should be carried out for the benefit of the student community.

## Summer Internship on Digital Literacy concludes at GDC Ramgarh

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, OCT 22**  
Government Degree College Ramgarh in collaboration with District Hub for empowerment of women 'Mission Shakti' (Social Welfare Department), organized "Summer Internship programme on Digital Literacy" for students of 5th semester. The internship program under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao culminated today with an awareness cum certificate distribution programme. The event was organized under the guidance and supervision of the Principal of the college, Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra with the support of faculty members. Dr. Ruchi Thakur District Mission Coordinator SANKALP: Hub for empowerment of



women, Mission Shakti, along with gender specialists Mansi Abrol and Ritika Banotra attended the event and highlighted the department's unvarying commitment towards women's empowerment. The program featured a captivating nukkad natak presented by Ravi Dutt and his team, which illustrated the critical message of saving and educating daughters. The performance emphasized the significance of female education in empowering girls and

enhancing their future prospects. Earlier, a one-month digital literacy computer course was organized in the College, in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department. Upon successful completion of this course, certificates were awarded to the participating students, along with bags provided by the Social Welfare Department. The event also included a prize distribution ceremony, where bags were given to the toppers of Semester III and Semester V, recog-

nizing their outstanding academic achievements. Principal Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra expressed her heartfelt thanks to the resource person Mr. Gulshan Dubey and members of the Social Welfare Department for their invaluable contributions. The program was attended by all the faculty members and students of the college. Lastly, refreshments were also served to all students by the social welfare department, Samba.

## DLSA Budgam organises Awareness program on JK Legal Services Act at GBHSS Budgam



**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, OCT 22**  
The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam Tuesday organised an awareness program on the JK Legal Services Act at Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School (GBHSS) Budgam. The program, held under the guidance of Chairman DLSA/Pr. District and Sessions Judge Budgam and under the supervision of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Sub-Judge/Secretary DLSA Budgam aimed to educate students, staff, about their rights and responsibilities under the Act. The program was attended

by the school staff members, students, DLSA staff and Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA Budgam. The Speakers emphasized the participants about the importance of the Prevention of Legal Services Act. The presentation given on the occasion not only informed participants about the legal framework of the Act but also highlighted the significance of creating a safe and respectful environment for all. The enthusiastic participation of the students demonstrated their keen interest in learning about the Act.

## MLA Shopian chairs introductory/review meeting with District & Sectoral Officers

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, OCT 22**  
The Member Legislative Assembly (MLA) Shopian, Shabir Ahmad Kullay today chaired an introductory cum review meeting with district and sectoral officers of the district at Mini Secretariat, Shopian. The Officers from R&B, Jal Shakti, Health, School Education, Irrigation, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, etc presented the department wise activities, development and welfare initiatives being undertaken in the Shopian Assembly Constituency. District Capex 2023-24 and 2024-25 achievements and ongoing works were also highlighted during the review meeting by respective district Officers. On the occasion, MLA took stock of various developmental issues pertaining to road connectivity, water supply issues, MC Shopian activities including beautification, health, school education, accelerating irrigation canals network, rural development, horticulture, agriculture works and schemes and other issues of public importance. The MLA discussed and deliberated on various public welfare measures and sought details of ongoing activities and requirements, department wise.

## Week-long sports event inaugurated at District Jail Anantnag



**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, OCT 22**  
The Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Anantnag today inaugurated a week-long sports event at District Jail Anantnag in collaboration with the Department of Youth Services and Sports. This initiative, which commenced today and is scheduled to culminate on 30th October 2024, is designed to promote a spirit of competition, teamwork, and overall well-being among the inmates, offering them an opportunity to engage in meaningful physical activities during their time in custody. In his address at the inaugural

function, Secretary DLSA emphasized the significant role sports can play in the rehabilitation process of inmates. He underscored how such events can help to alleviate the psychological stress and emotional strain. By encouraging physical activity, the initiative seeks to build a more positive and healthy environment within the jail, while also helping inmates develop discipline and confidence, the qualities that are essential for their reintegration into society post-release, he said. The event includes a variety of sports such as football, volleyball, and athletics, all aimed at

engaging the inmates in healthy competition while promoting a sense of normalcy and routine. The DYS&SO Anantnag acknowledged the efforts of the Department of Youth Services and Sports for their collaboration and extended his gratitude to the jail authorities for facilitating the event. He expressed his belief that such events are crucial in helping inmates acquire skills, develop character, and maintain physical fitness, which can be invaluable when they eventually return to society.

## Javed Dar calls for prompt action on public concerns

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, OCT 22**  
Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Javed Ahmad Dar, today emphasized the need for prompt redressal of genuine public grievances during a meeting with various public delegations at his office today. Javed Dar, who is also the Minister for Cooperative and Elections, reiterated that the government is committed towards addressing the genuine issues of the general public, ensuring that their voices are heard and their issues are resolved amicably. While listening to the public issues and concerns, the Minister assured that all the genuine



demands shall be taken up with the relevant quarters for timely redressal. Javed Dar asked the officials to prioritize transparency, accountability and timely action in resolving public grievances. The Minister engaged with representatives from diverse sectors and public deputations from different districts, listening attentively to their concerns and providing guidance on resolving issues relat-

ed to agriculture, rural development and public services. Various issues were taken up with the concerned for on the spot redressal. He stressed the importance of swift action in addressing genuine public grievances. The Minister assured prompt service delivery to the general public and exhorted upon the officials to prioritize transparency and accountability in resolving public concerns.

## MVD Anantnag organizes Health Camp

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, OCT 22**  
The Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) of Anantnag, in collaboration with the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Anantnag, organized a free health camp specifically for drivers and transport workers. This initiative aimed to enhance the well-being of drivers by providing essential health services, including vital eye examinations crucial for road safety. The event drew a significant turnout of drivers and transport workers, who benefited from free medical consultations and vision tests, alongside guidance on maintaining good health while on the road. This camp is part of MVD's ongoing efforts to ensure that drivers are physically fit to operate vehicles safely. Dr. Showkat Bhat, Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Anantnag addressed participants during the event, highlighting the importance of adhering to road safety measures. He provided key safety instructions such as avoid Rash Driving, avoid using Mobile Phones while Driving and other Safety Precautions such as Drivers were advised to regularly maintain their vehicles, use seatbelts, avoid driving under the influence of alcohol, and follow all traffic rules to minimize accident risks.

## Status of works under District Jal Jeevan Mission reviewed at Kupwara

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, OCT 22**  
The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the status of various works under District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM) in district Kupwara. Addressing the meeting, the DDC stressed upon the concerned officers to ensure completion of all ongoing works by adhering to the deadlines already fixed for completion of different water supply scheme projects. She enjoined upon them to work in tandem and maintain close communication among their departments for earlier removal of bottlenecks to ensure



that the work on any project is not hindered. During the meeting, it was informed that 251 works have been tendered in PHE Division Handwara, PHE Division Kupwara, SSD Tangdar and Ground Water Division. Out of these, 246 works have been allotted, of which 85 works have been completed

so far and work is apace on the rest of the projects. Regarding the status of Dug wells, it was informed that out of the 14 Dug Wells allotted in PHE Division Kupwara and PHE Division Handwara, 10 works stand completed. Besides, construction of 21 bore-wells has also been completed.

The DDC also took a detailed review of various works pertaining to the Rapid Sand Filtration Plant, Over Head Tanks, Pipe Network works and Electro-Mechanical Schemes. She also took review of the division wise Forest Clearance cases and directed the officers of the concerned departments to work in tandem and maintain close communication for earlier disposal of cases so that the work on the projects are not hindered. Chief Education Officer Kupwara, CPO, Executive Engineers from PHE Division Kupwara/Tangdar, R&B Division and other concerned attended the meeting.



# Shankaracharya calls for declaration of 'Gau' as 'Rashtra Mata'

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, OCT 22**  
Jyotishpeethadhishwar  
Shankaracharya Swami Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati ‘1008’ ji, during his two day visit to Jammu district, led the installation of the Gau Dhvaj and presided over a Gau Mahasabha, as part of his ongoing ‘Gau Dhvaj Sthapana Bharat Yatra’.

Upon his arrival to the winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, a traditional ‘Paduka Poojan’ ceremony was held. This was followed by a visit to the Bawe Wali Mata temple, where he paid obeisance to the revered deity of Jammu.

On Tuesday, Shankaracharya Ji inaugurated Ranbir Library at ancient Raghunath Temple, and performed the installation of the Gau Dhvaj at a Gaushala in Lower Gadigarh, Jammu, alongside Param GauBhakt Pujya Gopal Mani Ji, who spearheads the Gau Pratishtha Andolan, Nirmal Swaroopji Brahmachari and Devendra Pandey Ji, President, Hindu Mahasabha. The event saw the participation of hundreds of devotees, members of civil society, and local residents.

In his address at the Gau Mahasabha, Shankaracharya Ji elaborated on the significance of the Gau in Sanatan Dharma. He emphasized that the First Revolt of Indian Independence in 1857 was ignited by the issue of greased cartridges made from cow fat. Expressing concern over the rising incidents of cow slaughter in India, especially in recent years, causing the drastic decline in the population of sacred cows, he called upon the nation to remove the sin and shame of cow slaughter from Indian soil and to work toward declaring the Gau as Rashtra Mata (Mother of the Nation). He remarked, “Those who view the



cow merely as a source of milk or meat, fail to understand its divine significance. Serving cows is akin to attaining divine blessings, as the Lord Himself says, 'Gavam Madhye Vasaamyaham', meaning 'I always reside among cows.' The cow is integral to our rituals, and serving the cow is equivalent to serving our 33 crore deities. In fact, the first bread of every day is traditionally offered to the Gau, which embodies these divine entities. Without the Gau, all religious rituals and worship are incomplete and meaningless."

Shankaracharya Ji also recounted the ancient tale of King Dilip, who, heartbroken due to his lack of heirs, followed the advice of Guru Vashistha and served a Gau for 40 days. As a result, he was blessed with a son, Aja, from whose lineage Bhagwan Ram, the epitome of dharma, was born. Bhagwan Ram is worshipped particularly at the famed Raghunath temples of Jammu.

In his concluding remarks, Shankaracharya Ji praised the efforts of Gopalmani Ji for his unwavering dedication to the cause of cow protection. He

urged the gathering to extend their support to the movement and further strengthen the campaign.

The Gau Dhvaj Sthapana Bharat Yatra, which commenced on September 22, 2024, from Ayodhya Dham, aims to have the Gau officially declared as the Rashtra Mata. The journey began after a sacred circumambulation of Ramkot and has since traveled across various states and Union Territories, installing the Gau Dhvaj and raising awareness about cow protection.

A significant milestone in this movement was achieved when the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Eknath Shinde, under the guidance of Shankaracharya Ji, declared the indigenous Rama cow as the Rajya Mata (Mother of the State). The cabinet resolution formalizing this declaration was ceremonially handed over to Shankaracharya Ji Maharaj.

Following the event in Jammu, Shankaracharya Ji's Yatra will continue toward Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, as part of the next leg of this historic journey.

# Omar Abdullah led govt committed to balanced development of all regions of J&K: Javed Rana



**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, OCT 22**

Several delegations from various districts of Kashmir province today met the Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest & Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana today at the Civil Secretariat here. The visiting deputations raised critical developmental concerns pertaining to their respective areas, seeking the Minister's intervention in redressal of the same. During the interaction, the delegations expressed their gratitude to the Minister for his leadership in spearheading and organising the electorate of far flung Pir Panjal

region. A delegation led by General Secretary of SFC, Retired Employees Forum J&K, submitted a memorandum to the Minister urging his intervention for granting pensionary benefits to employees of J&K State Forest Corporation (SFC). The Contractors delegations also submitted representation seeking release of pending funds, clearance of the revised cost estimates (LIS) Scheme, establishment of a revolving fund and other issues. They brought to his attention pressing issues like release of UT share for Tral lift irrigation Scheme

and particularly those related to infrastructure development and social services, requesting the government's immediate attention to these matters. Responding to the issues of the delegations, Javed Rana assured the deputations that their concerns would be addressed on priority. He reiterated the commitment of Omar Abdullah led government towards ensuring balanced development of all regions and sub-regions of Jammu and Kashmir emphasizing the government's priority to address the needs of every community with special focus on the downtrodden.

# Sakeena Masood visits SKIMS, takes stock of well being of injured persons of Gagangeer attack



**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, OCT 22**  
Minister of Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare, School Education and Higher Education departments, Sakeena Masood Itoo today visited Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, to take stock of well being of injured persons of

recent Gagangeer attack. During the visit, the Minister was briefed by a team of senior doctors about conditions and health status of injured persons as well as the medical procedures being followed for their effective treatment. Sakeena Masood, during the visit, interacted with injured persons and

sought their well being. She assured them of all possible support. Interacting with doctors and paramedics on the occasion, Sakeena Masood asked them to ensure best medical treatment for the injured for their prompt recovery. She also asked the Hospital Administration to ensure that all nec-

essary medical resources are made accessible at the hospital for better treatment of patients and in case seek opinions from other hospitals for their effective treatment. On the sidelines of the visit, Sakeena Masood also inspected the Critical Care unit and Emergency wards of the SKIMS. During the inspection, Sakeena emphasized on the importance of maintaining quality patient care and effective emergency response systems at the hospital, highlighting that being one of the premiere health facility of Kashmir, people have lot of hopes from its patient care. She also engaged with patients and attendants, assuring them best possible medical treatment at the hospital.

# Govt committed to catalyse youth initiatives: Dy CM

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, OCT 22**  
Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, said that the Government is committed to catalyze various youth initiatives for creating a vibrant eco-system for honing technical skills of youth so that they can set-up their own income generating units and create jobs for others as well. The Deputy Chief Minister was interacting with a deputation of Heritage Craft instructors who called on him the other day. They also highlighted various issues including opening of admission process in ITI's for facilitating youth for start up and youth employment schemes. He assured the deputationists that all the issues highlighted by them would be redressed in a time bound manner. He said that the government is committed to facilitate the youth for undertaking start up programmes and self-employment generating schemes, which would redress the menace of unemployment being faced by the youth.

# FIFTH DAY

## Sh. Rohit Bhalgotra

*Vith profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of o  
eloved Son-in-Law Sh. Rohit Bhalgotra who left for the heaven  
abode on 21-10-2024.*

*Fifth Day will be performed on **23-10-2024 (Wednesday)** a  
H no. 383, Lane no. 4, sub lane no.2, Laxmi Vihaar,Anand  
Nagar,Bohri,Jammu from **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM***

**DEEPLY LOVED AND MISSED BY-**  
**Smt. Krishna & Sh. MadanMohan Puri**  
(Mother-in-Law &Father-in-Law)  
Ph no. - 7006162644,9419140762,9086567172



# 5 | Jammu Rising NEWS

## In Poonch, the traffic rules are being flouted, the relevant departments are silent and spectators

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, OCT 22**  
In the border district of Jammu and Kashmir, Poonch, the traffic law is being flouted, but unfortunately, the concerned departments are silent and spectators. In Poonch city, two-wheelers with modified silencers choke people's eardrums, private eco-cars are being used for commercial purposes, and children are loaded into these small vehicles like luggage. It is blocked and hundreds of two wheelers without HSRP are seen crawling on the roads but unfortunately the departments are unaware of them and instead of obeying the traffic rules they give them open concessions due to which accidents occur. Apart from this, people are loaded into vehicles and taken like sheep and goats, but no law enforcer dares to question them. On the sides of the Poonch river and near the banks of the river, the tractor drivers take the material and dance on the roads as if they have bought the roads, while a few months ago these tractors were being confiscated as they were only for agricultural use, but now what it became law that they were back engaged in commercial activities. The people of Poonch have demanded personal intervention from Deputy Commissioner Poonch



Vikas Kundal in this regard to avoid future accidents.

## Jammu Kashmir Teachers Association meets Chief Minister Omar Abdullah

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, OCT 22**  
A high-level delegation from the Jammu and Kashmir Teachers Association (JKTA), led by its UT President Bhupinder Singh, met with the Hon'ble Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar. The delegation extended their heartfelt congratulations to the Chief Minister on his appointment as the leader of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. During the meeting, the delegation engaged in a comprehensive discussion regarding the critical issues affecting the employees and officers of the School Education Department, emphasizing the need for immediate reforms and improvements in the education sector. The meeting centered around several key demands, starting with the long-overdue Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) process, which has been stalled since 2014. The delegation strongly urged the Chief Minister to expedite the DPCs, particularly for teachers awaiting promotions to master roles. Such promotions, the delegation emphasized, are crucial for the professional growth and motivation of educators, as well as for maintaining high teaching standards. The Annual Transfer Drive (ATD) 2024 was another significant issue raised during the discussions. The current zonation system, which often re-

sults in an unequal distribution of teaching staff, has been a long-standing concern for the association. Rural areas, in particular, face acute shortages of teachers, while urban schools tend to be over-staffed. To remedy this imbalance, the JKTA proposed that future transfer drives take proximity to teachers' residences into account, reducing disruptions to the academic calendar and improving teacher satisfaction. A major point of contention has been the lack of a unified attendance system for teachers. Currently, teachers are burdened with multiple systems for marking attendance, which detracts from their primary responsibility of teaching. The delegation stressed that a single, streamlined attendance system would significantly enhance efficiency and free up valuable time for classroom instruction. The JKTA also addressed the urgent need for a fair and transparent transfer policy for Rehber-e-Taleem (RET) teachers, particularly for female teachers, allowing for intra-district transfers based on family circumstances. They also proposed a Zonal-level transfer policy for male teachers to ensure a more equitable distribution of teaching staff across different regions. One of the most pressing concerns raised by the delegation was the plight of Educational Volunteers (EVs), who have contributed significantly to the education sector but remain in precarious

employment conditions. The JKTA called for the immediate regularization of EVs, ensuring job security for these valuable contributors to the education system. In addition to these demands, the delegation highlighted the growing administrative burdens placed on teachers, which detract from their ability to focus on teaching and student development. The association recommended that ministerial staff be provided to high schools and higher secondary schools, allowing teachers to concentrate on their core responsibilities. To ensure better accountability and transparency, the delegation proposed the establishment of a time-bound grievance redressal mechanism within the Zonal and Chief Education Offices. Such a system would ensure that teachers' concerns are addressed efficiently and promptly, without unnecessary delays. The promotion and preservation of cultural heritage through education was also a key point of discussion. The JKTA strongly advocated for the inclusion of indigenous languages such as Bhaderwahi, Bhalesi, Padri, Sarazi, and Pogali in the school curriculum. Introducing these languages at the primary level would help preserve the linguistic heritage of the region and foster a sense of cultural identity among students.

## Tournament to begin from October 23 to be staged at Jammu Tawi Golf Course

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, OCT 22**  
The Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI), the official sanctioning body of professional golf in India, along with J&K Tourism, will be staging the fourth edition of the J&K Open presented by J&K Tourism which will be held at the pristine Jammu Tawi Golf Course in Jammu, from October 23 – 26, 2024. The total prize purse for the event is INR 50 lakh. The Pro-Am event will be held on October 27. The tournament is supported by Presenting Partner J&K Tourism as well as Host Venue Jammu Tawi Golf Course. Jammu and Kashmir is home to some of the top tourist destinations in the country. Jammu, bestowed with breathtaking scenic beauty amidst the proud mountain ranges exhibits all the qualities that make it a sought-after tourist destination. Among the most popular tourist attractions in the Jammu region are the Mata Vaishno Devi Temple, Amar Mahal Palace, Mubarak Mandi Palace and Patnitop, to name a few. The tournament is part of J&K Tourism's great initiative of promoting golf tourism in the region. J&K is blessed with some spectacular golf courses such as Jammu Tawi Golf Course, Royal Springs Golf Course (Srinagar), Pahalgam Golf Course (Lidder Valley) and Gulmarg Golf Club. These courses provide a heavenly experience to golfers. The top Indian professionals participating in the event include Shaurya Binu, Varun



Parikh, Olympian Udayan Mane, Sachin Baisoya, Shankar Das, M Dharma and Abhinav Lohan, to name a few. The foreign challenge will be led by Czech Republic's Stepan Danek, Americans Dominic Piccirillo and Digraj Singh Gill, Canadian Sukhraj Singh Gill, Sri Lankans N Thangaraja and K Prabakaran, Bangladeshis Jamal Hossain, Badal Hossain, Md Akbar Hossain and Md Jakiruzzaman Jakir and Nepal's Subash Tamang. Ms. Yasha Mudgal, IAS, Commissioner Secretary, J&K Tourism, said, "J&K Tourism warmly welcomes participants, sponsors and media to the 4th PGTI J&K Open 2024 in Jammu, a celebration of golf, tourism and camaraderie." Mr. Vivekanand Rai, IRS, Director, Tourism, Jammu, stated, "The fourth edition of J&K Open 2024 adds a new dimension to our tourism offerings. Golf provides a platform to showcase Jammu's natural beauty, cultural diversity and hospitality. I invite everyone to explore the region's rich heritage and unique experiences, making it truly unforgettable." Ms. Sunaina Sharma Mehta, JKAS, Joint Director, Tourism, shared, "We are thrilled to welcome national and international golfers and present the vibrant art, craft,

and cultural heritage of Jammu. She further added that the event will also include a two-day Dogra food festival and a FAM tour, offering players a chance to explore nearby heritage tourist destinations." Mr. Manav Gupta, Secretary, Jammu Tawi Golf Course, said, "The Jammu Tawi Golf Course has consistently demonstrated its commitment to promoting golf in India and providing

an exceptional experience for players and spectators alike. Hosting the PGTI tournament for the third year in a row is a testament to the golf course's excellence and its pivotal role in elevating the standards of golf in India. I look forward to welcoming golf enthusiasts, media representatives and sponsors to witness this prestigious tournament." Mr. Uttam Singh Mundy, CEO, PGTI, said, "This year's J&K Open presented by J&K Tourism is, as always, one of the most-awaited tournaments of the season, with the professionals relishing the memories of playing at the pristine Jammu Tawi Golf Course in previous years.



HAPPY SILVER JUBILEE TO BEAUTIFUL COUPLE. ALWAYS STAY HAPPY, HEALTHY AND BLESSED

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL DIVISION JAMMU

#### NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Short Term)

MHDJ/e-NIT 127 of 2024-25

Dated: 19.10.2024  
Due : 28.10.2024

On behalf of the President of India, e-tenders in two cover system on turnkey basis are invited from registered/reputed firms having sufficient relevant experience for the work mentioned below:

S. No	Description of work	Project Authority	Estt	AAA/ TS	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of tender document	Time of completion	Eligibility Criterion of Bidder
1	<b>PROVIDING AND FITTING OF AC-02NO(S), VOLTAGE STABILIZERS-02NO(S), RE-INSTALLATION OF OLD-03AC(S), ALONG WITH ELECTRICAL &amp; ALLIED WORKS TO BE INSTALLED AT HON'BLE HIGH COURT COMPLEX, JAMMU.</b>	Registrar Judicial Jammu	1.612 LACS	ACCORDED	Rs.4000.00 in the Shape of CDR/FDR/TDR valid for 12 months pledged to the Executive Engineer MH Division Jammu	Rs 200.00 in the shape of Challan through J&K Govt. Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work duly credited to 0059-PWD (Revenue) and uploading a copy of treasury challan / receipt on e-tendering portal. <b>OR</b> The bidder may deposit tender fee in the shape of e-Challan through Account no. 0097010100002163 in the name of Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospital Division Jammu Name of Bank: J&K Bank Town Hall Jammu Branch Code:0097 IFSC code: JAKA0TNHALL MICR CODE: 180051025	10 days	Registered & Reputed firms having sufficient experience as per Annexure "C" similar nature of work

THE NIT CONSISTING OF Qualifying INFORMATION, ELGIBILITY CRITERIA, BILL OF QUANTITIES (BOQ) SETS OF TERMS & CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT & OTHER DETAILS CAN BE VIEWED / DOWNLOADED FROM THE WEBSITE [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in).  
DIP No:DIP/J-5951/24 Dt: 21-10-2024

SD/-  
(Er. Vishal Mahajan)  
Executive Engineer  
Mechanical & Hospital Division  
Jammu

### GOVERNMENT OF UT JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PCD(PHQ) J&K JAMMU/ SRINAGAR

#### INVITING E-TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No/EE-PCD/PHQ/62/2024-25 Dated: - 18-10-2024

Executive Engineer PCD PHQ&K JAMMU/SRINAGAR on behalf of The President of India invites tenders by e-tendering on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt. / CPWD / Railways and other State / Central Governments for the following works.

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estimated Cost (Rs. In lacs)	Cost of document (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time Allowed for completion	Date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Construction of boundary wall at Police Post Delina Baramulla (Balance work)	PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jmu/ Sgr	29.39 lacs	2000/-	58780/-	90 working days	26-10-2024	"A" & "B",

- Date of Publishing 19-10-2024 at 1400 hours.
- The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 1430 hours on 19-10-2024.
  - The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 19-10-2024 to 25-10-2024 upto 1600 Hrs. The bids received will be opened at 1100 hours on 26-10-2024 on line.
  - The complete bidding process will be on line.
  - Technical bids of bidders shall be opened on line in the office of Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar on 26-10-2024 at 1100 Hrs.

DIP No:DIP/J-5897/24 Dt:21-10-2024

(Er. Neera Gupta)  
Executive Engineer  
PCD (PHQ) J&K Jmu/Sgr.

No:- e-NIT/EE-PCD/PHQ/2024-25/ 4794-5801  
Dated: 18-10-2024.



EDITORIAL

Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar's recent visit to Pakistan for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in October 2024 marked a rare diplomatic engagement between the two countries, as tensions have remained high since the revocation of Kashmir's autonomy by India in 2019. Although no bilateral talks were held, the visit has sparked cautious optimism about potential improvements in the relationship.

Jaishankar used the SCO platform to reinforce India's stance on terrorism, extremism, and the need for cooperation based on mutual respect. His message, though not directly naming Pakistan, was clear in calling for introspection on the use of terrorism as a state policy, a long-standing Indian concern regarding Pakistan. At the same time, Jaishankar emphasized the importance of regional cooperation in areas such as trade and connectivity, which could greatly benefit South Asia if handled with mutual respect for sovereignty.

Former Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif expressed hope that this visit could signal a fresh start, urging both nations to focus on long-term peace and collaboration on critical issues like energy security and climate change. However, despite these hopeful gestures, deep mistrust remains, and both sides acknowledge that it will take sustained effort to bridge the gap in relations.



VIJAY GARG

Several countries are renowned for offering world-class medical education, providing high-quality training, research opportunities, and globally recognised degrees. Here are some of the best countries for aspiring doctors:

Medical education is a highly sought-after field for students from India and South Asia, and selecting the right destination is crucial for both educational quality and career prospects. In India, over 24 lakh students compete for just 1 lakh MBBS seats through the NEET.

This intense competition has driven many to explore international options.

Historically, the UK was a favoured choice, but in recent years, other countries have emerged as top destinations for medical aspirants.

THE DECLINE OF THE UK AS A MEDICAL DESTINATION

Before independence, the UK was a prime destination for Indian medical students. However, before India's independence, the UK was a prime destination for medical students. However, after the UK stopped recognising Indian medical degrees in the late 1970s, interest waned, and students began looking elsewhere, such as Russia. Despite Russia's popularity, the language barrier and the prevalence of Russian-medium programs made adapta-

Navigating medical education abroad



tion difficult for Indian students, pushing many to seek other alternatives.

RISE OF CHINA AS A MEDICAL HUB

In the early 2000s, China gained prominence due to its strong infrastructure, affordable tuition, and relevant curriculum. English-medium programmes were introduced to attract international students. However, post-Covid-19 pandemic travel restrictions and new Indian regulations have created hurdles, as China currently does not offer the licensing exam in English, complicating the return pathway for Indian students.

THE PHILIPPINES: A POPULAR ALTERNATIVE

The Philippines has become a popular choice due to its English-based curriculum and high success rate in India's Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE). This makes it a strong option for students seeking a smooth transition to practicing medicine in India. However, clinical exposure can vary depending on the region and medical school, with some schools having limited access to advanced facilities.

NEPAL AND BANGLADESH: CLOSE AND CONVENIENT

For students seeking prox-

imity to home, Nepal and Bangladesh offer affordable medical programmes in English, with socio-cultural similarities making them attractive. The short travel distance adds convenience for students. However, challenges in Nepal include learning the local language and limited hands-on patient care during internships. In Bangladesh, overcrowded medical schools can affect the learning experience, and some areas have subpar living conditions, along with occasional political unrest.

THE CARIBBEAN: A GROWING OPTION

For those deterred by the high competition or fees in the US, Caribbean medical schools are increasingly attractive. These institutions follow a US-based curriculum, allowing students to gain access to clinical rotations in prestigious teaching hospitals across the US, UK, and Canada. This exposure provides hands-on experience within different healthcare systems, enriching their medical training. Caribbean medical schools offer smaller class sizes, promoting personalised attention and better student-faculty interaction. Many schools provide dedicated USMLE preparation, boosting students' readiness

for licensing exams.

Graduates often enjoy strong US residency placement opportunities, enhancing their career prospects. With affordable tuition, straightforward admissions, and multiple yearly intakes, these schools are an attractive option for aspiring medical professionals aiming to practice in the US. However, students should research accredited and well-established schools to ensure quality education and career outcomes.

OTHER EMERGING DESTINATIONS

Countries like Georgia and Kyrgyzstan have also gained popularity due to their English-medium programs and affordable tuition. However, students should carefully evaluate the geopolitical stability of these regions before committing.

Choosing the right country for medical education is a critical decision for any aspiring doctor. Each country offers unique advantages, and students should carefully weigh factors before making their choice.

**VIJAY GARG RETIRED PRINCIPAL EDUCATIONAL COLUMNIST STREET KOUR CHAND MHR MALOUT PUNJAB**

Protests mark a new era of awakening

DEBASISH BHATTACHARYYA

At a time when the country's political landscape has left successive generations disillusioned, eroding faith in the principles of fairness and justice, the "Never-Seen-Before Youthquake" in Kolkata stands as a beacon of hope. The gruesome incident at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital served as the tipping point, unmasking the deep-rooted nexus of politicians, officials, and antisocial forces. In response, a new generation is rising, asserting its voice with unwavering resolve across Kolkata and beyond, demanding accountability and change.

The unrelenting protests led by the community of junior doctors, strongly supported by various sections of society including the differently-abled and senior citizens reflect a powerful collective desire to dismantle the entrenched political structures that uphold the unjust systems they stand to inherit. These protests signify a refusal to accept a legacy of unfairness, marking the rise of a movement determined to reshape the future with integrity and fairness. Primarily, the youth-led protests continued for several weeks, drawing widespread attention both nationally and globally. Eloquent, principled, and resolute, the protesters' actions and demands were beyond reproach. In a striking display of creativity and courage, the protesting doctors held aloft the symbolic emblems of their movement plastic replicas of the human spine, human brain, and brooms embodying the fearless, selfless spirit of a cause destined to be remembered as a defining chapter in the history of speaking truth to power and challenging the illusion of invulnerability maintained by those ensconced in their self-perceived ivory towers.

In a rare display of collective concern and unity, Kolkata witnessed truly heartwarming scenes: poor daily wage earners and rickshaw pullers joining the protest, roadside tea vendors offering free tea, small eatery owners providing food at no charge, delivery personnel from food service apps dis-



tributing bottled water, and ordinary citizens including septuagenarians bringing provisions from distant places to support the protesting junior doctors.

Kolkata reminded the entire country, and perhaps the world, that even in an era dominated by the attention economy and transactional exchanges, there are still those who genuinely uphold the values of shared humanity and solidarity. The unique strength of the protest lies in its ability to push the political class to the periphery, rendering them almost irrelevant a remarkable achievement in a state that has long been politically charged yet largely insensitive and anesthetized. If the populace had been more aware and engaged, the Left Front would not have maintained power for 34 years, nor would the Trinamool Congress continue to hold sway.

Now, a rising consciousness across society has ignited widespread outrage against those entrusted with governance, those who have either enabled or directly participated in institutionalized corruption and misconduct, allowing it to flourish in an organized and systemic manner. This widespread frustration is not merely a reaction to the brutal rape and murder of a young doctor but an enduring and deep-seated anger that persists in defiance of the prevailing political malaise. Until just a few weeks ago, the Trinamool Congress's grip on power in

West Bengal seemed unquestionable, unshakable, and undeniable. Youth-led protests have long been a powerful catalyst for social change, and the scale of the demonstrations in Kolkata and beyond is a powerful reminder that the youth serve as the conscience of the nation.

What sets these protests apart is their apolitical stance, illustrating that regardless of how firmly a government may seem entrenched in power, movements grounded in just causes can reveal even the most resilient regimes as surprisingly vulnerable, as recent events have clearly shown. People everywhere are anxiously awaiting the outcome.

Given the history of questionable investigations, the entrenched methods of the system, and the clear lack of political will, it is increasingly evident that public inquiries alone are insufficient. Their outcomes frequently veer off course, resulting in endless cycles of blameshifting that enable politicians, perpetrators, and regulators to evade accountability. The country has witnessed how these delays often serve a hidden agenda to diffuse guilt, shift blame beyond reach, and allow the responsible parties to disappear from view. Yet, as always, there remains a glimmer of hope that this time, justice will be delivered swiftly measured in days, not years.

Like any crisis, the current protests present an opportu-

nity amidst pervasive poor governance: a chance to grasp the extent of the decay that has infiltrated every facet of society, to acknowledge and address the genuine concerns and earnestness of the people, and to recognize the urgency of embracing our collective responsibility as citizens. Looking towards the future, our social awareness must strengthen, as the weaker it is, the more fertile the ground becomes for the political class to evade accountability. We must look within, confront our own deficiencies, and hold a mirror to the areas where we fall short. The government's mandate is clear: tackle corruption head-on, uphold fairness, and dismantle the pervasive nexus at every level.

However, achieving these goals will require more than mere rhetoric; it demands genuine, sustained action and accountability. Finally, to our junior doctors, we extend a salute for enduring the scorching sun and torrential rain, standing resolute in their commitment – a powerful lesson for us all, rooted in principles we seldom acknowledge or appreciate. This lesson transcends generations, cultures, and geographical sites of resistance.



# Refreshed Australia eager to make amends against India

NEW DELHI

Australia captain Pat Cummins is determined to 'make amends' against India in the upcoming five-match Test series, as he aims to reclaim the Border-Gavaskar Trophy for the first time in over a decade.

The two teams will face off in a five-match series starting November 22 in Perth. India will come into the contest with the Border-Gavaskar Trophy firmly in their grasp, having held it for nearly a decade and winning two consecutive series in Australia.

"We've had a bit of a break, so I'm excited for the five match Test series. Excited to get into it," the 31-year-old told Star Sports.

"We haven't had a lot of luck against India over the last few Test series, but we always pride ourselves on playing well here in Australia."

India had won the last Border-Gavaskar series in Australia 2-1 in 2020-21. Rishabh Pant's second innings heroics of unbeaten 89 in the final Test saw India chase down 328 to seal a historic three-wicket win at the Gabba.

It came after enduring a humiliating collapse in the first Test in Adelaide, where they were shot out for 36 -- their lowest-ever Test score.

The last two series were a long time ago, so I think we've gotten over it. But we have really high expectations when we play Test cricket in Australia," Cummins said.

"I think that's from the fans and the media as well. So anytime we don't win down here, of course, you look at those series a bit more closely.

"The last series, in particular, was a really tough one. It went right down to that last session at the Gabba, and un-



fortunately, we couldn't pull it off. A lot of the guys in the team are the same as those who played in that series, and we're here to make amends," he added.

Cummins identified Rishabh Pant as India's 'X-factor' but stressed that his team is focused on rectifying the setbacks from four consecutive series defeats to India.

"Rishabh had a great series here in Australia last time. He's always a bit of that X-factor in the middle order," he said.

"You never quite know what you're going to get, which is exciting, even as the opposition. And he's always got something to say behind the stumps -- he's very funny, makes me laugh."

Asked how the Australian bowling line-up rates talented youngsters like Shubman Gill and Yashasvi Jaiswal, Cummins said: "I've played a little bit against Shubman. Haven't seen a lot of Jaiswal, just a bit in the IPL.

"But they both look like young guys who've scored a fair few runs in different formats. We'll get down here and have a good look at them. But yeah, we're still a little while away from the series, so I can't say I've been planning too closely for them yet."

Cummins also rued about missing key all-rounder Cameron Green who has been ruled out for six months after choosing to undergo surgery for a stress fracture in his lower back.

"He's a big loss for us. Not only for his batting, but he's probably the best gully fielder I've ever seen, and a great bowler we need as well, so we're really going to miss him," he said.

Australia will face Pakistan in a white-ball series before the much-anticipated Test series against India.

It will be the first Test series between India and Australia comprising five matches since 1992.

# India gear up to settle the score against Germany



NEW DELHI

International hockey will return to the capital after a 10-year gap when Olympic bronze-medallists India take on world champions Germany in a two-Test bilateral series starting in New Delhi on Wednesday, aiming to test some new faces and extract revenge for a recent heart-break inflicted by the visitors.

For the last 10 years, the capital's Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, once considered the spiritual home of the game, has not hosted any international match.

The last game played here was the 2014 Hero World League Final, although inter-departmental hockey has been held here occasionally.

But the two Tests against the world No.2 and Paris Olympics silver-winning outfit on Wednesday and Thursday would be a perfect comeback for the sport.

It has been learnt that over 12,000 fans have already registered for the free tickets on offer through a private ticketing portal. The National Stadium has a seating capacity

of just over 16,000.

The two Tests hold great significance for Indian hockey, which is on an upswing following back-to-back Olympic bronze medals in Tokyo and Paris.

In the French capital, the Indians, under the talismanic and in-form Harmanpreet Singh's leadership, lost 2-3 to Germany in a closely-contested semifinal.

"This series is not just about the two teams playing; it's about reviving the spirit of hockey in Delhi. We hope this will inspire more young players from the region to take up the game," Harmanpreet had said after the rubber was announced.

That sentiment aside, India also have a very good opportunity to avenge their loss in Paris.

But the Germans will be a hard nut to crack as they are the reigning world champions and displayed that fortitude in Paris, going down only in the shoot-out to Netherlands in the gold medal match.

Going by rankings, the

Germans are favourites as India are currently placed fifth in the world but in modern hockey, there is hardly any difference between the top 10 teams and anyone can beat a high-placed rival on their day.

In the last five encounters between the two sides, India hold an edge, having won three and lost two.

India have been on a high since the Paris Olympics. A new-look team retained the Asian Champions Trophy title in September, beating hosts China 1-0 in the final. That was India's fifth ACT title.

The Indians have fielded a mix of youth and experience for the two matches, thereby highlighting chief coach Craig Fulton's vision of planning for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

The most notable inclusion in the squad is defender and drag-flicker Varun Kumar, who is returning after a sabbatical from the game that was forced by allegations of sexual harassment by a junior volleyball player. His

name has since been cleared in the matter.

The Indians will be led by star drag-flicker Harmanpreet, who is enjoying the form of his life and mid-fielder Vivek Sagar Prasad will be his deputy.

The hosts, however, will continue to miss the services of mid-field mainstay Hardik Singh, who is still recovering from an injury he sustained at the Olympics.

Fulton drafted in some new faces in mid-fielder Rajinder Singh and striker Aditya Arjun Lgale, who will be making their international debut. Besides Vivek, veteran Manpreet Singh will be in charge of the mid-field.

Striker Mandeep Singh, who was rested for the ACT, will look to dazzle upfront in the company of Sukhjeet Singh, Abhishek, and Dilpreet Singh among others.

Indian goal will be manned by Krishan Bahadur Pathak and Suraj Karkera, who lived up to expectations in the ACT in Hulunbuir, China after the legendary PR Sreejesh's retirement.

# KL Rahul vs Sarfaraz: India's middle-order battle heats up

NEW DELHI

India assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate said on Tuesday that middle-order batters KL Rahul and Sarfaraz Khan are locked in a selection battle for the second Test against New Zealand here even though head coach Gautam Gambhir is keen to give the former, a long rope.

With India looking to bounce back from the eight-wicket thrashing at Bengaluru in the opening Test, focus will be on the team combination with Washington Sundar being added to the squad. Shubman Gill and Rishabh Pant are both aiming to shake off injury concerns for the match starting Thursday.

"Yeah, there's no point in sugarcoating it, there's a fight for a spot," ten Doeschate told the media when asked if Rahul and Sarfaraz were battling for a place in the team, here at the MCA Stadium ahead of India's training session.

"Sarfaraz was obviously brilliant in the last Test. I went to KL after the last Test (and) said how many balls do you play at (and) miss at? He didn't play at (and) miss at one ball and that's what tends to happen when you're not getting runs.

"There's certainly no concerns about KL, he's batting nicely, he's in a good mental space. But we are certainly going to have to fit seven pieces into six spots for this Test and look at the pitch now and decide what's going to be best for the team," he said.

Sarfaraz scored a second-innings 150 in the Bengaluru game, while Rahul re-



mained off-colour in both essays.

While admitting that it is difficult to keep Rahul out of the equation in the Test format, ten Doeschate said head coach Gautam Gambhir is "keen to" give him a long rope.

"It's not like we're worried about his form. If you go on just the past three months since Gauti has been in here, he's keen to give him (Rahul) as much rope as we can. We have a lot of faith in him," he said.

"But at the same time, it's a very competitive environment, with Sarfaraz getting 150 plus runs (222 not out) in the Irani Trophy final. The decision will be what's best for the team, but we'll certainly back all the guys in," he

added.

Pant, who did not keep wickets for a significant part of the opening Test, and Shubman Gill, who missed the match due to stiffness in his neck, are close to attaining their full fitness.

"Rishabh is pretty good. I think Rohit (Sharma) touched on it the other day. He was having a little bit of discomfort at the end range of his movement with the knee. But fingers crossed, he'll be good to keep in the Test as well," he said.

"He (Gill) looks so (available for this Test). He has batted last week in Bangalore, he had a few nets, he's got a little bit of discomfort, but I think he'll be good to go for the Test," he added.

# Cricket, hockey, shooting, badminton dropped from CWG

NEW DELHI

In a body blow to India's medal prospects in the Commonwealth Games, key sports such as hockey, badminton, wrestling, cricket and shooting have been dropped from the 2026 edition by host city Glasgow, which unveiled a pruned roster of 10 disciplines to keep the event budget-friendly and free of "operational risks".

Table tennis, squash and triathlon have also been axed in a bid to limit the cost and streamline logistics given that only four venues will host the entire showpiece. The total number of events at the Games will be nine fewer compared to the 2022 Birmingham edition.

"The Games will include 10 sports -- striking a balance between ensuring the event has a multi-sport feel and the need to manage financial and operational risk," the Commonwealth Games Federation said in a statement.

"The sports programme will include Athletics and Para Athletics (Track & Field), Swimming and Para Swimming, Artistic Gymnastics, Track Cycling and Para Track Cycling, Netball, Weightlifting and Para Powerlifting, Boxing, Judo, Bowls and Para Bowls, and 3x3 Basketball and 3x3 Wheelchair Basketball," the Commonwealth Games Federation said in a statement.



The 23rd edition of the Games is scheduled to take place from July 23 to August 2, marking Glasgow's return as host after 12 years.

"The Games will take place across four venues -- Scotstoun Stadium, Tollcross International Swimming Centre, Emirates Arena -- including the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome, and the Scottish Event Campus (SEC). Athletes and support staff will be housed in hotel accommodation," it added.

The roster is a massive setback to India's medal prospects given that bulk of the country's medals came from the removed disciplines in the past editions. Shooting

was never expected to return after being dropped from the Birmingham programme four years ago, owing to logistics.

While announcing the Glasgow schedule, the CGF said "Glasgow 2026 will feature a 10-sport programme concentrated across four venues within an eight-mile corridor".

This ruled shooting out of the roster as the Barry Buddon centre in Dundee -- the venue during the 2014 CWG -- is more than 100km away from Glasgow. Also, archery continued to be ignored. The sport last featured at the Games in the 2010 Delhi edition.

Glasgow Green, which

# Why Sanju Will Cherish Rohit Forever

NEW DELHI

Sanju Samson has disclosed that he was set to play in the 2024 T20 World Cup final, but was dropped from the playing XI just before the toss.

The wicket-keeper batter revealed that Captain Rohit Sharma informed him of the decision and provided an explanation.

"I had a chance to play the final. I was told to stay ready. I was ready. However, they decided before the toss that we would go with the same team. I was like, no worries. I was in that type of mood," Samson told journalist Vimal Kumar in an interview.

Best eye cream practices to target wrinkles, dark circles and puffiness

Best eye cream practices to target wrinkles, dark circles and puffiness

Rishabh Pant was retained as India's 'keeper-batter throughout the tournament. While he impressed in the group

stage, his performance declined in the later stages. Samson revealed that Rohit informed him of his exclusion from the final during the warm-ups, but later returned to explain the decision.

"During the warm-up, Rohit took me to the side and started to explain to me why he is making that decision. He was like, 'You understood, na?' You know his way, very casual?. I told him, 'Let us win the match and then talk. You focus on the match'," Samson said.

"He came back one minute later and said, 'I know you are cursing me in your mind. I think you are not happy. I feel like you have something on your mind.'" Then we had a discussion. I told him, 'As a player, I want to play'."

Samson expressed regret at not being able to play a World Cup final under Rohit's captaincy and highlighted how Rohit's decision to spend time with

him before the toss, instead of focusing on the players who were going to feature in the final, touched his heart.

"Since childhood, I wanted to come here and do something. Then he was like, 'My pattern is like this' and all that. I said 'I totally respect that you came and explained it to me. I said, 'I will have a regret; I could not play a World Cup final with a leader like you. This will be a regret in my heart that I missed a World Cup final with a leader like Rohit Sharma. That will stay in my life'," Samson stated.

"After this, I thought, such a big thing like a World Cup final. Before the final, you have changed your decision. You spent 10 minutes with the player that is not playing just before the toss. He gave me 10 minutes before the toss. After that, I got to know this person has some other qualities."



# Ahead of Maha poll, Yogi's 'Batenge toh katenge' posters in Mumbai

**NEW DELHI**

Ahead of the Maharashtra assembly polls on Tuesday, posters featuring Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his slogan "Batenge toh katenge" (If we are divided, we will be destroyed) have appeared in various parts of Mumbai. "The opposition is engaging in political manoeuvres, and we have responded to that. The people of North India believe in Yogi and his slogan 'Bantenge to Katenge,' and so we have started to respond to the opposition tactics in Maharashtra as well," said BJP member Vishwabandhu Rai who put up the posters in Mumbai's western suburban. "In Haryana, you have seen how people have stood together and responded, supporting the Bharatiya Janata Party. We are also now going to apply this in Maharashtra", he added.

Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath had in August made a strong pitch for national unity as he cited the



turmoil in Bangladesh to warn against the consequences of divisions in society. In its first list for Maharashtra assembly polls, the BJP has retained 71 sitting MLAs in the first list of 99 candidates.

The elections to the 288-member assembly will be held on November 20. The result will be declared on November 23.

# 30 flights get bomb threats on Monday night

**NEW DELHI**

As many as 30 domestic and international flights operated by Indian airlines received bomb threats on Monday night, according to sources.

The flights of IndiGo, Vistara and Air India were among those that received the bomb threats, the sources in the know said.

An IndiGo spokesperson on Tuesday said four of its flights on Monday received security-related alerts. They are 6E 164 (Mangaluru to Mumbai), 6E 75, (Ahmedabad to Jeddah), 6E 67 (Hyderabad to Jeddah) and 6E 118 (Lucknow to Pune).

Passengers from these flights disembarked safely, according to four separate statements from the airline.

"We worked closely with the relevant authorities, and standard operating procedures were followed," the spokesperson said about the security alerts related to the four flights.

An Air India spokesperson confirmed that some Air India flights that operated on Monday were subject to security threats received on social media.

"Following the laid down protocols, relevant authorities were immediately alerted, and all security procedures strictly adhered to, as per guidance from the regulatory authorities and security agencies," the spokesperson said in a



statement.

A Vistara spokesperson said a few of its flights that operated on Monday received security threats on social media.

"We immediately alerted the relevant authorities and are following all security procedures as directed by them," the spokesperson said in a statement.

In little over a week, more than 120 flights operated by Indian carriers have received bomb threats.

Even though bomb threats are hoaxes, things cannot be taken non-seriously, Civil Aviation Minister K Ram-mohan Naidu had said on Monday.

Meanwhile, the government is planning legislative actions to deal with bomb threats to airlines, including placing the perpetrators in the no-fly list.

Amendments are being proposed to The Suppression of Unlawful Acts against Safety of Civil Aviation Act (SUASCA), 1982 whereby the perpetrators could be arrested and probe can be initiated without a court order for offences when an aircraft is on the ground.

Also, changes are being planned to aircraft security rules to ensure stringent punishment for perpetrators of bomb threats to flights.

# What's Holding Up Candidate Lists In Maharashtra?

**NEW DELHI**

Assembly elections to the 288-member Maharashtra Vidhan Sabha are by the middle of November.

Exuding confidence, Maharashtra Pradesh Congress President Nana Patole said last fortnight: 'All the problems have been solved. The Congress will contest the larger number of seats (in the alliance). We will announce our candidates on Vijayadashami (October 12).'

He was referring to a composite list of candidates of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), which has the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray, or UBT) and the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Chandra Pawar, or SCP), apart from the Congress and smaller parties as its members.

On October 9, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader and Ajit Pawar associate Praful Patel said the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Mahayuti alliance (comprising the BJP, Shiv Sena, and the NCP along with some smaller parties) would 'announce its first list of 235 candidates on Saturday, October 12'.

Vijayadashami came and went and even a day after that, there is no sign that either alliance is ready with a list of candidates.

The problem can be summed up in one word: Split.

Both alliances have two divided parties.

While the Election Commission of India has arbitrated and has ruled on the name and symbol of the split parties, the squabble is over the relative strength of the factions and how this should be judged: Should its pre-split status be respected? Or post-split?

Adding another dimension, Prithviraj Chavan, former Maharashtra CM

and a Congressman, said: "The Congress won the maximum seats in the Lok Sabha polls in Maharashtra, and it will repeat its performance in the assembly polls. The next chief minister of Maharashtra will be from the Congress."

But a chief minister can be elected only if the party contests and wins the largest number of seats. So how will the seats be divided?

"Winnability will be the criterion for distributing tickets," Chavan said.

Winnability is one problem. How will this be judged? On the basis of the pre-split result, or the post-split result, or the Lok Sabha poll result?

Chavan was unwilling to spell out the details.

This is not the only issue. It is also the strike rate. How many seats did parties fight and how many of those did they win?

In the Mahayuti, the nature of the discussions is no different.

Union Home Minister Amit A Shah was in Mumbai to iron out wrinkles and BJP sources say the party will contest around 150 seats, becoming the 'senior' partner in the alliance.

But the BJP would like to use the Eknath Shinde faction of the Sena strategically against its previous party colleagues.

"We want to use a thorn to take out the thorn," said a BJP member from Maharashtra.

So, in Mumbai and its suburbs -- wherever the two Sena factions are strong -- the BJP would like to deploy them against each other and keep its own forces in reserve.

Obviously, this is causing resentment in some quarters in the BJP. This is just one example of the size of the problem.

BJP state President Chandrashekhar Bawankule strongly refutes this.

"Like the last elections, this time too, the BJP will contest in more seats in the Vidarbha region while in the rest of the regions there will be proper seat distribution. Hindutva is our main agenda. Ticket distribution will not happen based on caste and community, but merit and the winnability criterion only," he said.

The setback faced by the Congress in Haryana has not helped the situation.

Even before the full result was out, in Maharashtra, SS UBT Spokesperson Priyanka Chaturvedi was on camera, demanding the Congress treat it with more respect.

"The Congress needs to think about its strategy because wherever there is a direct fight with the BJP, the Congress gets weakened," she said.

Congress spokesman Jairam Ramesh didn't bother to put a gloss on his rebuttal.

"I would like to remind (everyone) that the Congress was the number 1 party in Maharashtra during the Lok Sabha elections. There is a coalition dharma in alliance and any talks should take place between partners and not through the media," said Ramesh, without naming anyone.

Although he holds the finance portfolio, Ajit Pawar left a cabinet meeting midway and denied he had 'walked out' because of any differences with Chief minister Eknath Shinde.

His clarification gave the game away. He said: 'The cabinet has the right to overrule the finance department.'

The strains are telling as old friends and new enemies face each other in the battlefield.

# Several injured in blast at Ordnance Factory in MP; 1 missing

**NEW DELHI**

More than a dozen workers were injured in a powerful blast at the Ordnance Factory Khamaria in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur district on Tuesday morning, an official said.

The blast took place at around 9.45 am when explosive material was being filled in bombs in a refilling section of the factory, the official from the establishment said. Among the injured persons, two were in a serious condition and admitted to a hospital. Another worker was missing and was possibly trapped under the debris of the section in which the blast took place, he said.

The blast was so powerful that it was even heard by people a few kilometres away, as per eyewitnesses.

The Ordnance Factory Khamaria is one of the major ammunition production unit under the Department of Defence Production.

More than a dozen workers received injuries in the blast and efforts were on to



locate a missing worker, who was possibly trapped under the debris of the building, the official said.

A probe has been ordered into the incident and the exact cause behind the

blast will be known after completion of the investigation, he said.

Fire brigade and security staff of the factory launched a relief and rescue operation, the official added.

# Smog engulfs Delhi as air quality drops to 'very poor'

**NEW DELHI**

A thick layer of smog enveloped Delhi on Tuesday morning as the city's air quality deteriorated to the 'very poor' category with 27 monitoring stations falling in the red zone, the Central Pollution Control Board said.

The city's air quality index (AQI) was recorded at 317 at 9 am on Tuesday, it said.

This deterioration in air quality led to prompting enforcement of Stage II of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in the national capital, which enforces a ban on the use of coal and firewood, including tandoors in hotels, restaurants, and open eateries, as well as diesel generator sets, except for emergency and essential services.

Several areas including Mundka, Bawana, Wazirpur, Jahangirpuri, Anand Vihar, Alipur, Ashok Vihar, Aya Nagar, Burari, Dwarka, Mandir Marg, dropped to the 'very poor' category.

Meanwhile, as the city grapples with pollution, Delhi recorded a minimum



temperature of 20.4 degrees Celsius, two notches above normal.

Humidity was at 93 percent at 8.30 am, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The weather office has predicted clear sky for the day, with the maximum

temperature likely to settle around 35 degrees Celsius.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

# Why Stalin wants Tamilians to have '16 children'

**NEW DELHI**

The Lok Sabha delimitation exercise may make people think about raising "16 children", Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin said on Monday while referring to a Tamil adage. His comments came just two days after his Andhra Pradesh counterpart N Chandrababu Naidu asked women to have more children to stabilize the population in his state.

Stalin, who was attending a mass marriage event in Chennai, referred to a Tamil saying pathinarum petru peru vazhvu vazhga, meaning acquire 16 different kinds of wealth and lead a prosperous life while talking about the census and delimitation process which will redraw the electoral map of India.

"The Parliament delimitation process may encourage the couples to have many children and give up thoughts of a small family. But whatever be the outcome, provide Tamil names to your children," the CM said after solemnising the marriages of 31 couples at a function held under the aegis of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments department.

There is a concern among southern states that the delimitation process based on population may reduce their representation in Parliament, penalising them for successfully implementing population control measures. In February this year, the Tamil Nadu Assembly also passed a resolution opposing the delimitation process.

Stalin's comments came two days after Naidu said there was a need to manage the population in Andhra Pradesh given there will be an increase in the ageing population.

"Till 2047, we will have the demographic dividend, there will be more youngsters. After 2047, there will be more old people, if less than two children are given birth (per woman), then the population will reduce. If you (each woman) give birth to more than two children, then the population will increase," Naidu said on Saturday during a



public meeting in Amaravati.

Noting that the southern state's birth rate has plummeted to 1.6, he feared the continuation of the current situation could lead to a further decline of the birth rate to 1 or lower, where only "old people will be visible in the society".

Stalin said in the past, the elders used to bless newly married couples to acquire 16 kinds of wealth (pathinarum petru peru vazhvu vazhga) including fame, education, lineage, wealth, etc., and not 16 children. Gradually, people have come to believe in raising a small family for prosperity, he said.

"That blessing doesn't mean beget 16 children, now a situation has arisen where people think they should now literally raise 16 children and not a small and prosperous family," Stalin said.

Responding to Naidu's comments, senior YSRCP leader Jupudi Prabhakar Rao questioned the efficacy of the CM's 'vision' of asking people to have fewer number of children about 10 years ago and more now. "What about himself (Naidu). He has only one son and his son (Nara Lokesh) also has only one son. He is a visionary right," Rao told

PTI.

Further, the opposition party leader asserted that the people of the state did not follow birth control heeding Naidu's advice, advising the CM to refrain from comparing himself to some erstwhile Chinese leader who had given such successful calls in the past.

AP Congress welcomed Naidu's call for raising the population. Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) vice president Kolanukonda Sivaji observed the CM gave such a call keeping the best interests of South India in mind.

"Because, under delimitation, Parliament seats in our region (south India) will reduce and they will get added to the northern states. That's why, to overcome this there is no time. So, when the population here increases, our seats will be with us," said Sivaji.

Saving South India's Parliament seats as the correct interpretation of Naidu's call, Sivaji noted the NDA ally did not directly drive home this message but subtly chose the plummeting birthrate ploy to avoid friction with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Sangh Parivar.



# Private banks leading AI adoption in banking services, says RBI study

**NEW DELHI**

Private sector banks in India are taking the lead in the adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in areas like fraud detection, customer segmentation, and chat automation, according to a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) study.

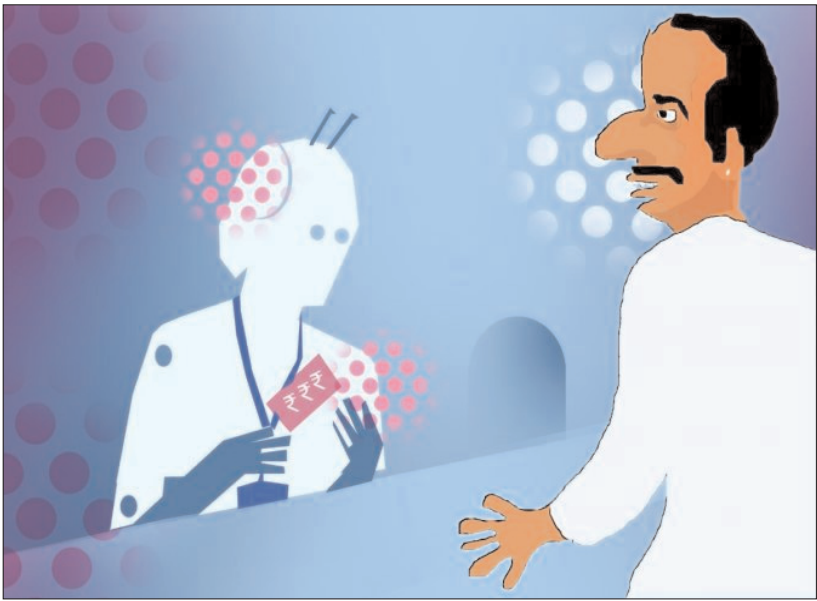
The asset size and capital adequacy ratio are influencing the rate of adoption.

The size and financial health had a positive influence on the banks' focus on AI, reflecting the impact of economies of scale and the availability of investment on technological advancement, notes the study titled 'How Indian Banks are Adopting Artificial Intelligence?'.

Private banks often cater to more financially aware and affluent customers and therefore could see higher potential for leveraging AI-based solutions like customer segmentation, robo-advisory, and robo-wealth management tools to cross-sell or provide other financial services.

Private banks, especially those with a smaller branch network, are also much more likely to adopt AI-based solutions to gain new customers or cross-sell different products, as it represents a more cost-effective solution, it said.

On the other hand, public sector banks (PSBs) already have well-es-



lished offline channels, especially in rural and semi-urban areas.

However, with the rapid advancements in AI, especially Generative AI and Large Language Models in the last two years, public sector banks also appear to be increasing their usage of AI-based solutions.

AI is expected to have the potential to reduce inefficiencies through automation by minimising errors in human decision-making and by providing cost-effective solutions.

AI is expected to make banking services accessible to the population at the bottom of the pyramid, the study said.

While the integration of AI into banking and finance offers immense opportunities, it also presents challenges such as the possibility of bias, lack of transparency, and issues surrounding the ethical use of data.

The ethical use of data requires an in-depth evaluation in view of its implications for the financial sector and the overall economy, the study added.

# Hyundai makes muted market debut, fall nearly 6% post listing

**NEW DELHI**

Shares of Hyundai Motor India Ltd, the Indian arm of South Korean automaker Hyundai, on Tuesday made a muted market debut and further fell by nearly 6 per cent against the issue price of Rs 1,960.

The stock listed at Rs 1,931, reflecting a decline of 1.47 per cent from the issue price on the BSE.

Later, the stock made some recovery and hit a high of Rs 1,968.80, up 0.44 per cent.

But, it failed to carry the momentum and further tanked 5.81 per cent to Rs 1,846.

On the NSE, the stock made its debut at Rs 1,934, down 1.32 per cent. Later, in the trade shares of the firm tumbled 5.88 per cent to Rs 1,844.65.

The company's market valuation stood at Rs 152,290.52 crore during the late morning trade.

In traded volume terms, 11.72 lakh shares of the firm were traded at the BSE and 177.84 lakh shares on the NSE.

"Hyundai Motor India Ltd's IPO listed at Rs 1,934, marking a 1.33 per cent loss against its issue price of Rs 1,960, which was largely in line with expectations.



"Despite the discounted listing, Hyundai Motor India's strong fundamentals, being the second-largest passenger vehicle manufacturer in India and its strategic focus on the SUV segment, continue to support its long-term growth prospects," said Shivani Nyati, head of wealth, Swastika Investmart Ltd. In the equity market, the benchmark indices gave up early gains and were trading lower.

The BSE Sensex traded 243.19 points lower at 80,962.92 and the NSE Nifty quoted with a decline of 74 points at 24,705.45.

The initial public offer of Hyundai Motor India Ltd got subscribed 2.37

times on the last day of the bidding on Thursday, helped by institutional buyers.

This was the largest IPO in the country, surpassing LIC's initial share sale of Rs 21,000 crore.

The Rs 27,870 crore initial share sale had a price band of Rs 1,865-1,960 per share.

The Initial Public Offer (IPO) was entirely an Offer For Sale (OFS) of 14,21,94,700 equity shares by promoter Hyundai Motor Company (HMC), with no fresh issue component.

HMIL commenced operations in India in 1996 and currently sells 13 models across segments.

# FPI selling tops \$10 bn in Oct amid China shift

**NEW DELHI**

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have net sold domestic shares worth over \$10 billion so far this month amid a shift to China, which not only offers attractive valuations compared to India but has also announced several measures to support the economy and the stock market in recent weeks.

If the trend doesn't reverse, this will be the first time that overseas funds will yank out more than \$10 billion from Indian equity markets in a month.

According to the NSDL data, FPIs had offloaded Indian shares worth \$9.9 billion, or Rs 82,845 crore, until Friday.

On Monday, they sold another Rs 2,262 crore (\$270 million) worth of shares, the provisional data provided by the exchanges suggested, taking the selling tally this month to \$10.17 billion.

Before this, the highest FPI outflows took place during the peak of Covid-19 sell-off in March 2020, at \$7.9 billion.

The sudden sell-off and the uncertainty around the economic impact of the pandemic had triggered a 23 per cent collapse in the Sensex and the Nifty 50 index back then.

This time, however, despite the record FPI selloff, the Nifty 50 index is down just 4 per cent and the Sensex 3.7 per cent.

Strong inflows from domestic institu-

tional investors (DIIs) mitigated the blow from overseas selling.

In October, DIIs have been net buyers, accumulating shares worth Rs 77,000 crore.

They have bought shares worth Rs 4.1 trillion so far this year.

"No one was expecting China to do anything positive.

"It was a massive underperformer. Foreign investors liked India but did not like its valuations.

"They had to come here because there was nowhere else to go," said Andrew Holland, CEO of Avendus Capital Alternate Strategies.

"When China started the massive stimulus first, they had to cover whatever short positions they had, and then they had to get exposure as quickly as possible for fear of missing out.

"The Middle East and higher oil prices affect India.

"The economic data from the US has raised concerns about interests not falling as quickly as investors hoped. And flows are going to go to China as earnings are not great either in India," he added.

China's Hang Seng trades at 9.4 times its one-year forward earnings, while the Shanghai Composite Index trades at 12 times.

In contrast, the Nifty and the Sensex trade at 20.6 and 20.7 times, respectively.

"India's equities are facing triple

negatives: weakening GDP growth, high EPS expectations (17 per cent), and historically the highest multiples (nearly 23x)," pointed out a note by Macquarie last week.

Several large companies missing earnings estimates too has added to the gloom.

The escalating tensions between Israel and Iran have also kept investors worried and guessing about the impact of the conflict on oil prices and global trade.

Investors were worried that Iran may block the Strait of Hormuz, a critical sea trading route through which more than a third of the global crude oil supply passes.

A bunch of strong macro data from the US last week led investors to pare bets on rate cuts by the Fed in November.

Going forward, China, West Asia developments, and the outcome of the US Presidential elections will affect FPI flows.

Some experts opined that the \$10 billion sell-off was significant, but not much given the current backdrop.

"It's a big number. But India's market capitalisation has also grown and hit new milestones.

"And domestic investor flows are more than balancing the FPI outflows," said Siddhartha Khemka, head of retail research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

# Brics likely to focus on closer energy partnerships among members

**NEW DELHI**

The 16th Brics Summit beginning Tuesday in Kazan, Russia, is expected to see more focus on creating a sharper energy policy for Brics that ensures closer partnership among members in both energy security and energy transition, official sources said.

The same is expected to be a part of the Kazan declaration, currently being negotiated, they added.

The bloc is also expected to proceed on improving non-dollar-based payment systems as a priority for Russia, petroleum ministry officials said.

India continues to be the second-largest buyer of Russian crude, closely following China.

In September, oil imports from Russia stood at 1.79 million barrels per day (bpd), up from 1.61 million bpd in August, estimates made by London-based commodity data analytics provider Vortexa, which tracks ship movements to estimate imports, show.

Brics energy ministers had met in September on the sidelines at the Energy Week International Forum in Russia.

Subsequently, Russian President Vladimir Putin had last week emphasized the dominance of Brics countries - Russia, India, China, and South Africa -- in essential markets such as energy, metals, and food that are critical to ensuring sustainable economic development.

India and Russia have been exploring a national currency settlement system to reduce their dependence on the US dollar. Under the mechanism, central banks of the two countries are reportedly trying to set a direct exchange rate between their currencies, by deciding on a refer-



ence rate, instead of pegging it against the US dollar.

The latest Summit will also be the first with Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Iran and Ethiopia participating as members, and a decision on whether to expand membership further is expected.

The sixth entrant, Argentina, has pulled out after initially joining last year.

Integration of the new members will remain a priority of the Summit, foreign secretary Vikram Misri said on Monday.

"Strengthening economic cooperation, promoting cooperation for energy, food security, science, healthcare, environmental protection, culture, sports, youth exchanges, and civil society are the key focus areas of the Summit," Misri said.

The bloc is also expected to take a call on expanding Brics further.

At least 23 nations had applied to join the bloc.

Foreign ministers had been tasked

with developing the Brics partner country model, and a list of prospective countries would be presented in Kazan.

Initially, bringing together five of the largest developing countries of the world, Brics now represents half of the global population, 37.5 per cent of global GDP, and 40 per cent of global trade.

The Johannesburg-II Declaration adopted at the last Summit in South Africa accepted that global growth momentum had weakened and the economic prospects had declined due to trade fragmentation, prolonged high inflation, and tighter global financial conditions.

Of the Indians illegally contracted to fight in the Russian Army, 85 have been brought back, while two have lost their lives, Misri said.

He said at least 20 Indians are known to be still enrolled in the Russian Army, and the government is in touch with Moscow to bring them back.

# Adani to buy CK Birla group firm Orient Cement for Rs 8,100 cr

**NEW DELHI**

Billionaire Gautam Adani-led Adani Group on Tuesday said it will acquire CK Birla group firm Orient Cement at a valuation of Rs 8,100 crore as part of its expansion drive.

Ambuja Cements, the cement and building material company of Adani Cement and part of the diversified Adani Group, has signed a binding agreement for the acquisition of Orient Cement Ltd (OCL) at an equity value of Rs. 8,100 crore.

As per that its step down unit "Ambuja will acquire 46.8 per cent shares of OCL from its current promoters and certain public shareholders", according to a joint statement.

The acquisition will be fully funded through internal accruals, it added.

The latest acquisition will add 16.6 MTPA (million tonne per annum) capacity to Adani Cement, which operates through Ambuja Cements in the sector.

In June this year, Adani had announced the acquisition of Hyderabad-based Penna Cement at an enterprise value of Rs 10,422 crore,



which added 14 MTPA capacity to the country's second largest manufacturer." This timed acquisition marks another significant step forward in Ambuja Cements' accelerated growth journey, increasing cement capacity by Rs 30 MTPA within two years of Ambuja's acquisition," said Karan Adani, director of Ambuja Cements.

By acquiring OCL, Ambuja is poised to reach 100 MTPA cement capacity in FY25, he said, adding, "the acquisition will help to expand Adani Cement's presence in core markets and improve its pan-India market share by 2 per cent."

OCL has 5.6 MTPA clinker capacity and 8.5 MTPA cement capacity along with the statutory clearance to increase the clinker capacity by another 6.0 MTPA and cement capacity by another 8.1 MTPA.

# FPI selling tops \$10 bn in Oct amid China shift

**NEW DELHI**

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have net sold domestic shares worth over \$10 billion so far this month amid a shift to China, which not only offers attractive valuations compared to India but has also announced several measures to support the economy and the stock market in recent weeks.

If the trend doesn't reverse, this will be the first time that overseas funds will yank out more than \$10 billion from Indian equity markets in a month.

According to the NSDL data, FPIs had offloaded Indian shares worth \$9.9 billion, or Rs 82,845 crore, until Friday.

Before this, the highest FPI outflows took place during the peak of Covid-19 sell-off in March 2020, at \$7.9 billion.

The sudden sell-off and the uncertainty around the economic impact of the pandemic had triggered a 23 per cent collapse in the Sensex and the Nifty 50 index back then.

This time, however, despite the

record FPI selloff, the Nifty 50 index is down just 4 per cent and the Sensex 3.7 per cent.

Strong inflows from domestic institutional investors (DIIs) mitigated the blow from overseas selling.

In October, DIIs have been net buyers, accumulating shares worth Rs 77,000 crore.

They have bought shares worth Rs 4.1 trillion so far this year.

"No one was expecting China to do anything positive.

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"They had to come here because there was nowhere else to go," said Andrew Holland, CEO of Avendus Capital Alternate Strategies.

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# Raaj Kumar: Bollywood’s moody master of the drawn-out, deadly dialogue



Urdu poet Jigar Moradabadi could have never conceived that the opening couplet of his ghazal placing man at the centre of the cosmos would achieve such fame — but as an iconic Bollywood dialogue performed by a rather unlikely hero whose spare frame, unconventional looks, and signature diction were, however, offset by an evident aura of over-the-top superiority.

“Hamko mita sake ye zamaane mein dam nahi/Hamse zamana khud hai zamaane se ham nahi,” declaimed Raaj Kumar, playing an idealistic professor in the academic crime thriller ‘Bulundi’ (1981), making the sher his own. It would be added to the list of his trademark, crowd-pleasing, one-

liners he regularly delivered over his nearly half-a-century film stint.

In an industry known for idiosyncracies, Raaj Kumar, born Kulbhushan Pandit to a Kashmiri Pandit family on this day (October 8) in Balochistan in 1926 and a Sub-Inspector of police in Bombay’s Colaba or Mahim before joining films, was in a league of his own.

Added to his grating and drawn-out but by no means unpleasant style of speaking, prefixed with ‘Jaani,’ was a penchant for his flamboyant outfit, especially white shoes, the way the camera introduced him on screen, and clear choices with whom he would work — or not. There was a story that he was offered the role Amitabh Bachchan would go on to

make famous in ‘Zanjeer’, but turned it down because he could not abide the smell of the oil that the director (Prakash Mehra) used in his hair, or alternatively, he did not like his face!

However, ace filmmaker B. R. Chopra, who brought Raaj Kumar to prominence with his lost-and-found epic ‘Waqt’ (1965) and ‘Hamraaz’ (1967), termed him an “an absolute delight to work with.”

“He was totally a director’s actor who put in that extra little something which only belongs to the greats. The only little difficulty that takes place is right at the beginning. He needed exactly 48 hours to discuss the script with the writers. If he was satisfied with the role, he would sign on immediately. He always needed to be approached properly. He always arrived well prepared and was most punctual. When I heard about his problems with other directors, I used to chuckle to myself. They must have allowed themselves to be taken for granted,” he wrote in a piece for a film magazine after the actor’s demise in 1996.

And that was borne out by his performances over the years, whether he played a hapless peasant or a debauched nawab or zamindar with skeletons in his closet, a dedicated police officer or a canny gangster, a committed doctor or a resigned patient.

During his stint as a Bombay cop in the 1940s, Raaj Kumar was reportedly urged by his friends to take the plunge into films and he finally agreed. However, sometime in the late 1940s, he is said to have point-blank refused an offer made by the legendary Sohrab Modi, who spotted him among the audience at a cinema, was impressed, and approached him. Raaj Kumar debuted with ‘Rangeeli’ (1952) but that and his next three bombed badly.

He finally came to prominence as the hapless handicapped husband of Nargis in Mehboob Khan’s ‘Mother India’ (1957), the rebellious elder son of the unswervingly righteous Sultan of Iran in Sohrab Modi’s ‘Naushervan-e-Adil’ (1957) — which showed that the filmmaker had forgiven him his earlier refusal, and then, the elder brother of Dilip Kumar in ‘Paigham’ (1959).

Raaj Kumar went on to solidify his prowess with tear-jerker ‘Dil Apna Aur Preet Parai’ (1960) — the first of a quartet of hit films with the talented Meena Kumari till ‘Pakeezah’ (1972) where his observation on the heroine’s feet became legendary too, romantic drama ‘Dil Ek Mandir’ (1963) — which fetched him a Filmfare Award for Best Supporting Actor, and ‘Godaan’ (1963), based on Munshi Premchand’s story.

# Sonakshi Sinha says OTT allows actors to lend depth to their characters



Bollywood actress Sonakshi Sinha, who was recently seen in the streaming movie ‘Kakuda’, has said that the medium of OTT allows actors to explore their characters in depth.

Sonakshi has done 2 OTT shows so far, a rustic and rooted ‘Dahaad’ and a period drama ‘Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar’ in which she got to be the quintessential Sanjay Leela Bhansali heroine.

She also got feted with the Best Actress award for her stellar performance in ‘Heeramandi’ recently at an awards function.

The actress said, “The fact that I’ve won this award two years in a row, first for Dahaad and now for Heeramandi, is truly humbling. It’s a testament to the kind of diverse and strong roles that the OTT space is now offering to actors. Each project gives me the chance to explore something new and push boundaries”.

She also shared her experience of working on both OTT and the big screen, as she shared, “OTT is truly a game-changer at the moment. The roles offered on OTT are more complex, layered, and challenging in ways that commercial films don’t always allow”.

“The big screen is more about entertaining a larger audience, while I feel that OTT offers more room to explore characters in depth, which has really resonated with viewers. I’ve received so much love for my work on both platforms, and I’m just grateful for it. It’s exciting to be part of this digital revolution where content is truly king”, she added.

The actress recently also shared her process for approaching her characters, she said, “I arrive on set, face the camera, and that’s when the character comes alive for me. It’s hard to explain, but having a strong imagination really helps”.

# Kajol gets sentimental, remembers her father in heartfelt post

Actress Kajol recently shared a touching message on Instagram, reflecting on how we remember loved ones who have passed away. Along with the hashtag #missyouaddy, she posted black-and-white pictures that captured her pensive mood.

Her heartfelt message read: “How did we remember people before photographs or videos? How did we grieve without societal pressures and religious expectations? We did it with our hearts... by doing things that meant something to them. Maybe that’s why we loved harder... being something they wanted us to be. Living our lives in a way that made it better just because they were in it. Missing them isn’t enough; doing something about it every day makes it bearable. #pujostarts #missyouaddy #loveyoualways”.

On the work front, Kajol will star in the upcoming Netflix thriller “Do Patti,” alongside Kriti Sanon and Saheer Sheikh. Kajol plays a cop for the first time in this film, slated for release on October 25 on Netflix.

The first promo of



“Do Patti” has been released, featuring Kriti Sanon and Kajol. The promo shows Kajol visiting a cafe to catch Kriti Sanon. Another song from the movie, “Ranjan,” featuring Kriti Sanon and Saheer Sheikh, has also been released. The song has been received well by music lovers.

Saheer Sheikh is a known TV star. He is best recognized for his roles in ‘Mahabharat’ (Arjun), ‘Navya,’ and

“Kuch Rang Pyar Ke,” transitions from TV to film with “Do Patti.” The film, produced by Kriti Sanon and Kanika Dhillon, “Do Patti” promises to be an intriguing thriller. This marks Kriti’s debut as a producer. Also, this is the first time Kajol will be playing a cop in a film. Prior to this Kajol played a lawyer in the Disney+ Hotstar series ‘The Trial’.

# Samantha Ruth Prabhu reveals why fashion is ‘fun again’ for her

Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu loves getting dolled up and revealed that fashion is fun again for her.

Samantha took to Instagram, where she posted a string of pictures dressed in a nude hued skirt with fringes and a crop top. She chose statement gold chunky jewelry and subdued make-up to complete the look.

For the caption, she wrote: “Fashion is fun again because I get to play dress up with my best friend. Outfit @kreshababajofficial Accessories @zohra.india @sim-ranchhabrajewels Styling @jukalker Makeup & Hair @avnirambhia with @makeupbyjill Photography

@kannasrihari.”

Samantha keeps experimenting with her looks and shares it on her social media to treat her fans and followers.

Last month, the actress for the promotions of her spy action series “Citadel: Honey Bunny” posted mesmerising pictures, showcasing her elegance in a stunning white outfit.

She donned a white tube top designed in a flower shape, adorned with pearl embellishments, paired elegantly with matching trousers.

In her post, she included a sparkle emoji and tagged her location as London, UK.

# ‘Bigg Boss 18’:Salman Khan urged to convince makers to stop using animals in show



Bollywood superstar and “Bigg Boss 18” host Salman Khan has been requested by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) to convince the makers of the controversial reality show to not use animals.

A letter issued by PETA India addressed to Salman with the subject “Urgent Request to Keep Animals Out of Bigg Boss”, read that there are complaints over the “keeping of a donkey in the Bigg Boss house.” The letter read: “We are being inundated with complaints by members of the public who are deeply distressed over the keeping of a donkey in the Bigg Boss house. Their concerns are valid and must not be ignored.”

“As one of India’s most influential stars and the host of Bigg Boss, you have the power to set a compassionate example. We respectfully ask that you use this influence to urge the show’s producers to avoid using animals as props for entertainment.”

The letter mentioned that it would not only “prevent stress to the animals and upset to viewers” but also “set a powerful precedent”.

“We also urge you to encourage Advocate Gunaratna Sadavarte, who has reportedly brought Max into the house, to surrender the donkey to PETA India to rehome in a sanctuary with other rescued donkeys. Such a move would surely win Advocate Sadavarte fans,” he said.

The letter firmly mentioned that using an animal on the show set is no “laughing matter.”

“As prey animals, donkeys are naturally nervous. They, and other animals, would find the lights, sounds and clamor that is standard on all show sets confusing and frightening. That a show set is no place for an animal is obvious to viewers who are saddened to see the donkey kept in a small, confined space standing in waste.”

“Moreover, donkeys are social animals, whose wellbeing is best ensured by permitting them to be part of a herd. Just as we humans live in family groups, so do donkeys.”

The letter further read: “It is reported Advocate Sadavarte keeps the donkey for research regarding milk. But donkeys produce milk strictly for their foals.”

# Rohan Sippy, Nilesh Sahay join hands for holiday themed action comedy ‘Iss Diwali’

Filmmakers Rohan Sippy and Nilesh Sahay have joined hands for the holiday themed action comedy entertainer christened “Iss Diwali”.

Sippy said: “I’ve loved watching films that feature chemistry between charismatic leads, from ‘Ram Balram’ and ‘Do Aur Do Paanch’ to ‘Main Khiladi Tu Anari’ the original ‘Bade Miyan Chote Miyan,’ and later making films like ‘Bluffmaster’ and ‘Taxi No. 9 2 11,’ so it is very exciting to take ‘Iss Diwali’ forward which continues this tradition, with the magic and emotion of our most important family festival adding to the genre’s appeal.”

The film unfolds during the Diwali festival against a backdrop of political intrigue. It is presented by industry veterans Ramesh Sippy and Zaheeda, reports variety.com.

Sippy is known for helming “Nautanki Saala,” “Dum Maaro Dum” and “Bluffmaster”. He will collaborate with Sahay, who wrote, produced and directed the action film “Squad.”

Other details about the film are still kept in wraps. Casting for “Iss Diwali” is currently underway, with announcements expected in the coming months.

# When Akshay Kumar spoke about careers of heroines post marriage

Akshay Kumar, who is currently preparing for the release of his new movie “Singham Again”, has been vocal about issues pertaining to women.

Recently on social media, an old video of him surfaced in which he was sharing his thoughts on women’s careers after marriage. In the video, which is from the late 1990s, a younger Akshay talked about what happens to heroines when they get married.

In the clip, he shared his observations, saying, “I don’t think so. It is like that. But basically, what happens is that after the heroine gets married, she just stops working or her husband stops working. So these are the basic kinds of things that happen. That’s why she goes or leaves the industry. That’s what I have seen in the industry for two and a half years—what I’ve seen.” He further added, “I think she can still carry on; why not? I mean to maintain her figure and be perfect. After all, she is a heroine;

# Deepika Singh: Work I take on should have an impact or be remembered through the years



Ever since she started working on the small screen, she has made sure that women are in the center. Popular television star Deepika Singh says it is a conscious effort and that she is very particular about the fact that her work should have an impact.

Talking about picking up a roles with women being the centre theme, Deepika told IANS exclusively: “Yes, it is a conscious effort. I am very particular when I take on a role, and that’s why I take time to choose my projects. The shows or work I take on should have an impact—a powerful one—or should be remembered through the years.”

“When I heard this show, I felt I fit into it seamlessly,

and though it’s challenging, it gave me strength to want to do it. I love challenges. The character of Mangal is naive and strong for me and for all the women who face similar situations,” added the actress, who gained the spotlight with “Diya Aur Baati Hum,” where she played IPS Sandhya Rathi.

The 35-year-old actress made a comeback with “Mangal Lakshmi”, which has turned out to be one of the most popular shows on the small screen.

How does it feel?

To which, the actress said: “When you take up a show, you don’t know if it will do well or not. You go into it with conviction and hope to get the best of it. My parents

and my in-laws were eager to get back, and that too with a bang, their blessings and prayers, and my hard work have paid off for my fans, who have always stood by me.”

Deepika continued, “I feel blessed and loved, and I shall continue to give my very best in all that I do for the love and sake of everyone who has immense faith in me. Destiny helps, but without hard work, nothing gains popularity. I am glad our efforts are paying off.”

The New Delhi born actress strongly believes the show empowers women and that her character is “relatable” to women who are homemakers in today’s world.



## World Sepsis Day: Timely treatment key to ward life-threatening infection



Immediate treatment is crucial to warding off sepsis — a life-threatening emergency caused by a dysregulated host immune response to an infection, said experts on World Sepsis Day on Friday.

World Sepsis Day takes place annually on September 13 and is aimed at raising awareness of the devastating condition that claims millions of lives globally each year.

In 2020 alone, there were 48.9 million sepsis cases globally, leading to 11 million deaths — representing 20 per cent of all global deaths.

The burden is particularly heavy in low- and middle-income countries, where 85 per cent of sepsis-related deaths occur.

In India, there were an alarming 11.3 million cases and 2.9 million deaths in 2020, underscoring the

urgent need for improved prevention, early diagnosis, and effective treatment strategies.

Sepsis can lead to severe outcomes, including organ failure, septic shock, and high mortality rates. Survivors may face long-term effects like chronic muscle weakness, pain, fatigue, and cognitive issues.

“Sepsis is a life-threatening emergency where the body’s response to an infection spirals out of control, leading to self-damage of organs and impaired function,” Dr. Chinnadurai R, Lead Consultant – Critical Care, Aster RV Hospital, told IANS.

The critical condition often results from bacterial infections like pneumonia, urinary tract infections, abdominal infections, or bloodstream infections. Viruses such as influenza and Covid-19 can also trigger sepsis, while fungal and parasitic infections are less common causes.

“Immediate treatment is crucial and involves early detection, administering broad-spectrum antibiotics

within the first hour, providing supportive care (for example, intravenous fluids, oxygen), and controlling the infection source by draining abscesses or removing infected tissue,” Chinnadurai said.

Dr. Aakashneel Bhattacharya, Consultant, Infectious Diseases, Paras Health Gurugram said: “Preventing sepsis starts with taking precautions such as practicing good hygiene, keeping wounds clean and covered, staying up-to-date on vaccinations, and seeking timely medical care for infections before they escalate”.

The experts also called for raising awareness about sepsis through public education, early treatment, training healthcare professionals to manage sepsis effectively, and adhering to evidence-based guidelines are key strategies.

With timely recognition and treatment, the rates of hospitalisation and death from sepsis can be significantly reduced.

## Scientists develop nasal drop that can treat common cold in kids faster

Using hypertonic saline nasal drops can reduce the duration of the common cold in children by two days, a new study led by an Indian-origin scientist has found.

Every year, children may suffer from up to 10 to 12 upper respiratory tract infections, commonly known as colds, which can significantly affect them and their families. There are medications that can alleviate symptoms, such as ibuprofen and paracetamol, but there are no cures for colds that can heal more quickly.

The study by the University of Edinburgh in the UK found that salt-water nasal drops can help reduce the duration of cold symptoms in children.

“Since salt water solutions are commonly used as a cure to nasal infections as well as for gargling, that was the inspiration for this idea, to check whether a homemade cure could be replicated in a large-scale trial as well,” said Dr Sandeep Ramalingam, consultant virologist, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and honorary clinical senior lecturer, University of Edinburgh.

For the study, the researchers recruited 407 children aged up to six years and found that those using salt-water nasal drops had cold symptoms for an average of six days, compared to eight days for usual care. The children also needed fewer medicines during their illness. The study also found that fewer households reported family members catching a cold when children received salt-water nasal drops, with 82 per cent of parents saying the drops helped the child get better quickly and 81 per cent saying they would use them in the future.

The research also showed that parents can safely make and administer nose drops to their children, giving them some control over the common cold affecting their children.

Offering parents a safe and practical way to limit the impact of colds on their children and family would represent a significant reduction in the health and economic burden of this most common condition. This incredibly inexpensive and simple

## Apple Watch Series 10 likely to feature sensor to detect sleep apnoea

The soon-to-be-launched Apple Watch Series 10 is likely to feature an upgraded ECG sensor that can help detect sleep apnoea, according to media reports.

Sleep apnoea is a serious sleep disorder where breathing repeatedly stops and starts. People suffering from the condition repeatedly take pauses in breathing, as well as snort and gasp — all while in sleep. This lowers blood oxygen levels, making the condition potentially fatal.

The reports noted that using the sleep tracking feature, the new Apple Watch Series 10 will be able to detect sleep apnoea in users. It can then alert the user and recommend further tests. Other key health features include a change in the processing of the health data collected by these sensors.

This includes using new algorithms in the Health app on the



iPhone to look for atrial fibrillation, rather than on the Apple Watch itself, the reports claimed. The highly-anticipated event, with a tagline “Its Glowtime” is expected to take place on September 9.

Other potential features for the Watch Series 10 include slightly larger displays and a thinner case which will be available in both 44mm and

48mm sizes.

Further, it is also likely to come with better water resistance to allow for support of the Apple Watch Ultra’s Depth app.

Another feature expected is “Reflections,” a watch face that reacts to ambient light.

Despite the new additions, Apple will not likely include the blood oxygen sensor feature which it

removed from existing watches following a patent dispute with Masimo.

Apple Watch is known to provide heart health features such as high and low heart notifications, cardio fitness, irregular rhythm notifications, the ECG app, and atrial fibrillation (AFib) history. It has also been instrumental in saving many lives.

In May, Apple Watch Series 7 saved a Delhi woman’s life by alerting her abnormal heart rhythm. In January, a London-based doctor saved the life of an elderly woman mid-air using Apple Watch’s banned pulse oximeter that monitors blood oxygen levels.

## Lift or stairs? Always choose stairs

According to a study presented at ESC Preventive Cardiology 2024, climbing stairs is associated with a lower risk of cardiovascular disease and death. Even though cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in the world, it is largely preventable through regular exercise. However, about one in four adults do not meet the recommended levels of physical activity. Climbing stairs is an easily accessible way to incorporate physical activity into your daily routine.

To find out if climbing stairs could reduce the risks of cardiovascular disease and premature death, UK researchers examined nine studies that included a total of 4,80,479 participants, aged 35 to 84 years, and 53 per cent women.

The research included participants who were healthy as well as those with a previous history of heart attack or peripheral arterial disease. Studies were included regardless of the num-



ber of stairs people climbed or the speed at which they climbed. Climbing stairs was associated with a 24 per cent reduced risk of dying from any cause and a 39 per cent lower risk of dying from cardiovascular disease, compared with not climbing stairs.

Stair climbing was also linked with a reduced risk of

cardiovascular disease including heart attack, heart failure and stroke. “Based on these results, we would encourage people to incorporate stair climbing into their day-to-day lives. Our study suggested that the more stairs climbed, the greater the benefits-but this needs to be confirmed. So, whether at work, home, or else-

## Overlooking invasive fungal infections could prove deadly

Invasive fungal infections (IFIs) represent a serious and often overlooked threat to human health. These systemic infections occur when fungi, typically present in the environment, establish themselves in deep tissues, leading to potentially fatal outcomes. The morbidity and mortality rates associated with IFIs are alarmingly high, especially when left undiagnosed or misdiagnosed. IFIs can be classified based on their histologic forms, including yeast, mould, or dimorphic fungi, with common examples being invasive aspergillosis (IA), invasive mucormycosis, invasive candidiasis (IC) and invasive cryptococcosis.

One of the most insidious aspects of IFIs is their ability to masquerade as other respiratory conditions, such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), or to complicate pre-existing diseases like tuberculosis (TB). This overlap in clinical presentation can lead to significant diagnostic challenges, resulting in missed or delayed diagnoses and suboptimal patient outcomes.

Asthma and COPD are prevalent respiratory conditions, affecting millions of individuals worldwide. Both diseases are characterised by chronic inflammation and airflow obstruction, manifesting in symptoms like wheezing, coughing, shortness of breath, and chest tightness. However, these symptoms are not unique to asthma and COPD; they can also be indicative of IFIs, particularly those caused by Aspergillus species, such as invasive aspergillosis.

Overlapping Symptoms: The clinical overlap between IFIs and conditions like asthma and COPD is profound. Patients with underlying lung diseases are particularly vulnerable to these fungal infections, which can exacerbate their existing respiratory symptoms. This overlap often leads to misdiagnosis, as the standard diagnostic tests for asthma and COPD, such as spirometry and imaging studies, are not designed to detect fungal infections.

Diagnostic Challenges: The diagnostic challenges posed by IFIs in this context cannot be overstated. Patients with undiagnosed IFIs may receive inappropriate treatments, such as corticosteroids, which are commonly prescribed for asthma and COPD. While corticosteroids can alleviate inflammation, they also suppress the immune system, potentially worsening an underlying fungal infection.

A pertinent example of this diagnostic dilemma is Allergic Bronchopulmonary Aspergillosis (ABPA). ABPA occurs when the immune system reacts to Aspergillus spores, leading to severe asthma-like symptoms. Without proper diagnosis and antifungal treatment, ABPA can cause irreversible lung damage, further complicating the clinical picture and leading to long-term health consequences.

## Mammogram recommended from age 40

The US Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF) has issued new recommendations for all women to start getting mammograms every other year beginning at age 40 and continuing through age 74. Previously the task force had recommended women to start screening at age 50, and women between the ages of 40 and 50 could choose to have breast cancer screening based on their risk factors and health history.

“More women in their 40s have been getting breast cancer, with rates increasing about two per cent each year, so this recommendation will make a big difference for people,” the Task Force chair said. “By starting to screen all women at age 40, we can save nearly 20 per cent more lives from breast cancer overall.”

Screening for breast cancer can

help with early diagnosis and treatment, and reduce the risk of dying from breast cancer. This guideline, however, does not apply to women who have a BRCA gene variant, a history of chest radiation, or a personal history of breast cancer. These women should talk to their health care provider.

But the USPSTF still differs from other medical organisations like the American College of Radiology that recommends mammograms every year starting at age 40. According to it one in six breast cancers are diagnosed in women in their 40s. About 75 per cent of women diagnosed with breast cancer have no family history of the disease. And according to one study mammography screening can reduce the risk of dying from breast cancer by nearly half.

## How anger can hurt your heart

Getting angry can constrict blood vessels and increase a person’s risk of developing heart disease, according to a US study published in the Journal of the American Heart Association.

Previous observational studies have already shown that negative emotions like anger can increase the risk of heart attacks and strokes. To explore how this happens, the researchers recruited 280 healthy adults aged 18 to 73 years who were free of cardiovascular disease and other risk factors such as hypertension, diabetes, and high cholesterol. All participants were non-smokers and did not have a history of mood disorders.

The researchers measured blood flow changes in the blood vessels of each participant’s dominant arm. Then, they were randomly assigned to four groups: those in the anger and anxiety groups were asked to talk for eight minutes about personal experiences that had evoked those emotions; the sadness group was asked to read aloud for eight minutes statements that elicited sadness; and the control group just counted numbers for eight minutes to induce an emotionally neutral state.

The ability of the blood vessels to dilate was reduced by more than half among those in the angry group compared with those in the control



group. And these negative effects lasted up to 40 minutes after the angry episode. However, being anxious and sad did not have any impact on blood vessels. “If you are a person who gets angry all the time, you are having chronic injuries to your blood vessels,” said the study leader. “It is these chronic injuries over time that may eventually cause irreversible effects on vascular health and eventually increase your heart disease risk.”

Studies have linked impaired blood vessel dilation to the development of atherosclerosis, or the buildup of fatty deposits inside the vessel walls, which in turn can lead to heart attack and stroke. The study underscores the importance of anger management to reduce the risk of heart disease.

## Esketamine injection may reduce risk of postpartum depression



A single low dose injection of esketamine given right after childbirth can reduce the risk of major postpartum depression by about three quarters, finds a US study published in The BMJ. Up to 26 per cent of women suffer from depression during the perinatal period which is a strong predictor of postpartum depression.

Esketamine is made from a drug called ketamine which is used as an anaesthetic and to treat depression. To find out if a single low dose injection of esketamine given just after childbirth might reduce postpartum depression in mothers, the researchers enrolled 361 mothers, of an average age of 32 years, across five Chinese hospitals. The women did not have a medical history of depression, but had mild prenatal depression as indicated by a depression scale.

Participants were randomly

assigned to receive either esketamine or placebo intravenously infused over 40 minutes after childbirth.

They were interviewed 18 to 30 hours after childbirth and again at seven and 42 days. None of them took antidepressants or received psychotherapy during the follow-up period. Forty-two days after giving birth, 6.7 per cent of mothers given esketamine experienced a major depressive episode compared with 25.4 per cent of those given a placebo-a risk reduction of about 75 per cent.

Mothers treated with esketamine experienced more adverse events such as dizziness and double vision, but the symptoms lasted less than a day and did not require treatment. “Low dose esketamine should be considered in mothers with symptoms of prenatal depression,” the authors concluded.



# Workshop on “Entrepreneurship Development and Career Opportunities” organized

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, OCT 22**  
The Employment Information cum Advisory Bureau (EIAB), Department of Lifelong Learning (DLL), University of Jammu, organized a career counselling workshop titled "Entrepreneurship Development and Career Opportunities after Graduation" for the students of Government Degree College, Kunjwani. This initiative is part of the vision of Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, to enhance the employability skills of youth and focus on essential skill development. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Priyanka Sharma, Director, DLL, University of Jammu, and Dr. Manisha Kohli, Principal, Government



Degree College, Kunjwani. In her inaugural address, Dr. Manisha Kohli highlighted the importance of career counselling in helping individuals make informed career choices, leading to greater satisfaction and success in life. She emphasized that entrepreneurship development programs create employment opportunities, ultimately raising the standard of living. She commended the Department of Lifelong Learning for organizing such workshops for the students. Dr. Priyanka Sharma, Director DLL, University of Jammu, underscored the role of Entrepreneurship Development Programs in stimulating economic growth by empowering individuals to start their own ventures, which in turn generates employment. She also noted that career counselling helps students explore various career paths and understand job market demands. The resource persons for the workshop were Dr. Zahid Ali Dar, Project Manager, JKEDI, and Dr. Harleen Kour, Senior Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, University of Jammu. Dr. Zahid Ali Dar presented insights on entrepreneurship growth and competitiveness, providing detailed information on startups and the various schemes available for aspiring entrepreneurs. Dr. Harleen Kour, in her presentation, elaborated on the significance of career counselling and highlighted new and emerging career opportunities for graduates.

# Vikramaditya Singh inspects Rani Samadhis Complex post-renovation

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, OCT 22**  
Vikramaditya Singh and Martand Singh, Trustees of J&K Dharmarth Trust, accompanied by Yuvrani Chitrangada Singh inspected the Rani Samadhis Complex in Jammu today to review the site after the completion of extensive renovation and restoration works. Ashok Kumar Sharma, IPS (Retd.), Secretary of the Trust accompanied with the Trustees. During the inspection, Vikramaditya Singh expressed satisfaction with the quality of the restoration, highlighting the importance of preserving such a significant heritage site. He commended the efforts put into the renovation and emphasized the need to maintain the complex as a symbol of cultural and historical pride. Notably, Dharmarth Trust has undertaken the renovation and restoration of Rani Samadhis Complex nearly two years ago. The Trustees have directed the Secretary and Pujaris to ensure that the complex is well-maintained and preserved, so it continues to serve as a cherished heritage site for generations to come. Following the inspection, Yuvraj Vikramaditya Singh paid obeisance at the Shree Rانبireswar Temple. He offered prayers for the peace, prosperity, and well-being of the people of Jammu & Kashmir, reaffirming their commitment to preserving the cultural and spiritual heritage of the region.



# Dire need to eliminate roots of militancy in J&K: Arvind

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, OCT 22**  
Arvind Gupta, senior BJP leader and MLA candidate from Jammu West, today strongly condemned the heinous militant attack in Gagangir area of Ganderbal district in Kashmir Province, where seven innocent civilians, including a doctor, lost their lives. While visiting the grieving family of Shashi Abrol, one of the seven victims, Gupta expressed his deep condolences and assured the family of his full support. During the visit, Arvind personally pledged to assist the wife of Shashi Abrol by ensuring her employment and vowed to facilitate



the education of their children. "This senseless act of terrorism is a reminder of the dire need to eliminate the roots of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir. The government must take all necessary steps to secure the lives of innocent citizens and ensure such barbaric acts do not recur," he said, stressing the urgency of addressing the core issues fueling terrorism in the region. The senior BJP leader urged the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, to provide a government job to the widow of Shashi Abrol as a means of support for the bereaved family. He reiterated the BJP's commitment to ensuring peace, security, and development in the Union Territory and called for stronger measures to curb the menace of terrorism once and for all.

# Justice will prevail only in Ram Rajya: Shankaracharya Swami Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, OCT 22**  
“Modern-day human beings think and act to make their own self secure, comfortable and happy. Their natural instinct of self-preservation makes their behavior this way. But they become truly human only when they try to make others secure, comfortable and happy,” said Jagadguru Shankaracharya Swami Shri 1008 Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati Ji Maharaj on Wednesday. He added, “To go beyond one’s own self and serve others is social service. From birth to death, an individual man goes on receiving things from society. He is indebted to society.” Accompanied by JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla, Swami Ji visited Goshala and KanSHIPuri Dham at Gadigarh. Shankaracharya Swami Shri 1008 Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati Ji Maharaj was accorded grand welcome at Raman Bhalla’s residence where hundreds of devotees were eagerly waiting to seek his blessings. Addressing the devotees at residence of Raman Bhalla, Jagadguru Shankaracharya said the teachings of saints have relevance in the present time and a real tribute to such personalities is to follow the path laid down by them. “The teachings of great saints are universal in nature and promote self-realization by devotion, service and love of mankind. Dharma encompasses all forms of duty that an individual is supposed to perform,” he said. “We must strive to carry out our responsibilities in all our capacities as parents, children, siblings, spouses, workers and leaders. We must also repay our debts to God, the holy men, the ancestors, the society and the lower forms of creation.” “Family as the basic unit of society performs various functions to keep social processes in place making it the most important unit of society. We often do not understand

the significance of the family as a unit of society in protecting Dharma and keeping its principles alive,” Jagadguru Shankaracharya said. He also said that if the environment of the family is good, it becomes very easy for the younger generations to get attached to the Dharma. “If a family initiates, then others will join the movement,” he added. One of his key causes is cow protection, which Swami Avimukteshwaranand believes is essential in Hindu culture. He has campaigned for stricter laws against cow slaughter and has called for cows to be treated as “Mother of the nation”. His campaign called the “Gau Dhvaj Staphna Bharat Yatra,” involves traveling across India to promote cow protection. Despite facing opposition, particularly in northeastern states, he continues to advocate for this cause. He has argued for severe penalties for cow slaughter, emphasizing the importance of cows in Hindu culture.

# Omar should study delimitation history, statistics properly: Arun Gupta

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, OCT 22**  
Decades ago, when the constituencies for Constituent Assembly were created in 1951, delimitation was done in an unfair manner. This had resulted into far more seats being created in Kashmir as compared to Jammu, BJP spokesperson Arun Gupta said here on Tuesday. He was responding to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah’s comments regarding the delimitation that happened in 2022. The CM had insinuated that the delimitation was done in a manner to allot more seats to Jammu than Kashmir. This had been done to disempower the National Conference (NC), he had hinted. Similar thoughts have been articulated by several other Kashmiri politicians, he said. The facts were contrary to the narratives sought to be created by the CM, Mr Gupta said. The 37 assembly segments in the Jammu region were divided unequally between the two Lok Sabha seats in the region. The Jammu Lok Sabha seat had 20

assembly segments and over 20 lakh voters in 2019 Lok Sabha elections. The Udhampur Lok Sabha seat had 17 assembly segments and over 16.50 lakh voters in 2019 Lok Sabha elections, he pointed out. After the delimitation of 2022, all the five Lok Sabha seats in the Union Territory (UT) have 18 assembly segments each. This could become possible only by increasing the number of assembly segments to 90 and distributing them evenly under each Lok Sabha seat, Mr Gupta added. In the Assembly elections a month ago, the Srinagar district had a total of 7,74,462 voters. It had a total of eight assembly segments and the average voter per segment comes to 96,808 voters. The Eidgarh assembly segment was the smallest, voter-wise, and had only 61,885 voters. In Jammu district, there were a total of 12,00,977 voters and it has 11 assembly segments. The average voter per assembly segment in Jammu is 1,09,180. The smallest assembly constituency in

Jammu district is Marh which has 93,598 voters. The Jammu district thus had 1,09,180-96,808= 12,372 voters more than the average for a Srinagar constituency. Since Jammu had 11 assembly segments, the total additional voters in the district, as compared to Srinagar district, thus come to 1,36,092 voters. Two assembly constituencies like Eidgarh thus need to be created in the Jammu district alone, he said. If Jammu and Srinagar district are treated fair and square, equally and equitably, far more assembly segments will have to be created in the entire Jammu region, Mr Gupta added. The NC founder, Sheikh Abdullah, had created assembly segments in such a manner that they were very small in its own strongholds, the central Kashmir. The south Kashmir areas as also the north Kashmir areas, were treated unfairly in allocation of assembly seats, Mr Gupta argued. In the next delimitation

# LG Sinha inaugurates ‘Jashn-e-Sangam’, organized by JKAACL, Wadies Hindi Shiksha Samiti

**JAMMU RISING**  
**JAMMU, OCT 22**  
Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today inaugurated ‘Jashn-e-Sangam’, at Tagore Hall Srinagar. In his address, the Lt Governor appreciated the efforts of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages and Wadies Hindi Shiksha Samiti for organizing the 3-day Literary fest dedicated to promote art, culture and language. Jammu & Kashmir has rich cultural diversity in the form of art, literature,

music, folk and traditions, which bind the people together. The events like ‘Jashn-e-Sangam’ also bring people from different regions, languages and cultures on common platform to celebrate unity and shared cultural roots with the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, the Lt Governor said. The Lt Governor lauded the significant contribution of writers, poets, literary personalities of Kashmir in promotion of Hindi. “Non-Hindi speak-

ing people have contributed immensely to promote Hindi language,” he said. The Lt Governor said the promotion of Hindi and other languages among students in non-Hindi-speaking regions is recognized as a vital initiative. Hindi cinema has its outreach all over the world and has contributed immensely in promotion of Hindi language. Similarly, regional languages have made immense contribution in literature, culture and nation building. Also, the NEP 2020

has emphasised on promotion of mother tongue, local and regional language as medium of instruction in schools. Such efforts reinforce the values of unity, cultural pride, and shared expression, he added. The Lt Governor also highlighted the vital steps taken under the guidance of Hon’ble PM Shri Narendra Modi, in the last few years for the promotion of languages in J&K including Hindi, Kashmiri, Dogri, Urdu, Gojri, Pahari, Punjabi, Shina.