



Maximum : 27°
Minum : 12°
Humidity : 34%

SUNSET
Today 06:10 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 06:28 AM

08/Sports.....

Messi's status is still a mystery as Inter Miami prepares for an MLS match



QUICK Take

23 soldiers missing in Sikkim flash flood



AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Twenty-three army soldiers are missing in a flash flood in Sikkim's Lachen valley. The flood was caused by a sudden cloudburst over Lhonak Lake in North Sikkim, which led to a sudden increase in water levels in the Teesta. The release of water from the Chungthang dam further exacerbated the situation, causing the water level to rise to 15-20 feet downstream. "Three bodies have been recovered from Teesta Barrage. They are yet to be" **P-04**

ED arrests AAP MP in liquor scam



AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Enforcement Directorate has arrested AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh in a money laundering case linked to the investigation into the Delhi liquor policy. Searches were being conducted at the Delhi residence of the MP since early on Wednesday morning. This is the third major arrest from the party. Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain was arrested in May last year on charges of laundering money through four companies **P-04**

Man arrested for raping minor in Srinagar



MONITOR NEWS BUREAU

SRINAGAR, OCT 4: Police arrested a person accused of raping a minor girl in Srinagar. A police spokesperson said on X: "One Irshad Ahmad Langoo S/o Bashir Ahmed Langoo R/o Hamdaniya Colony arrested for raping a minor girl." Police have registered an FIR No. 97/2023 u/s 376 of IPC, sections 5(N), 6 under the POCSO Act in Bemina police station.

Kashmir now attracting serious investment; JSW Group leads the way

MONITOR NEWS BUREAU

NEW DELHI: Indian companies are beginning to make forays into Jammu and Kashmir, driving a revival of construction, tourism, and entertainment four years after the abrogation of Article 370.

The Financial Times reported that New Delhi has been quietly pressing companies to invest in Kashmir since revoking the state's special autonomous status in 2019, part of a campaign to bring the region to heel following a decades-long separatist conflict. As the unrest has abated — with dissidents silenced or imprisoned — some businesses are now heeding the government's call.

Sajjan Jindal, the billionaire industrialist and chair of conglomerate JSW Group, is investing \$20mn-\$25mn in a new steel facility in Pulwama, outside Srinagar, the capital, which is due to open in March. The move made "business sense", he said — but he also cited patriotic duty.



"We wanted to also support the government's initiative of industrializing the J&K area," Jindal told the Financial Times, using an abbreviation for the territory. "As a patriotic Indian, I feel that it's my responsibility." "We have to do things to nor-

malize the situation in Kashmir," Jindal said, so that "business becomes more important over territorial disputes". The region has long had a successful agriculture sector and a niche in high-end handicrafts but has struggled to build a vi-

able industrial base in the Kashmir valley, in part because of the conflict. The unemployment rate was 23 percent in March, the third-highest in the country, according to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy. This year, the **PAGE 04**

J&K witnessing revival of cultural identity, spiritual traditions: LG



MONITOR NEWS BUREAU

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 04: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today said J&K is witnessing a revival of cultural identity and spiritual traditions. "We are witnessing a revival of J&K's cultural identity and spiritual traditions which have always promoted co-existence of almost all major religions, spiritual streams known to humankind and gave the ideals of humanism, communal harmony, and peace to the world," he said. Sinha was addressing a gathering after inaugurating Jagadguru Sri Ramanujacharya Saraswathi Bhandaram Digital Library and Sri Yadugiri Yathiraja Mutt Branch, Kashmir at Shivpora, Srinagar. In his address, the Lt Governor congratulated the Sri Yadugiri Yathiraja Mutt and followers of Jagadguru Sri Ramanujacharya ji on the occasion. Union Home Minister Amit Shah ji has conveyed his best wishes and

assured that he will personally visit Mutt's Kashmir branch, the Lt Governor said. The Lt Governor recalled the immense contribution of Jagadguru Sri Ramanujacharya to the society. "Sri Ramanujacharya through his philosophy of vishishtadvaita preached love, peace, compassion, universal brotherhood, and social equality. He showed the society path of righteousness, virtue, and devotion that influenced the 'Bhakti Movement'," the Lt Governor said. The Lt Governor also highlighted Sri Ramanujacharya ji's deep spiritual connection with Kashmir. While composing the epic 'Sri Bhagya', Jagadguru traveled to Kashmir to refer to Bodhayana Vritti Grantha on Brahma Sutras. When this voluminous and his most famous work was complete, he again visited Kashmir and dedicated Sri Bhagya' to Maa Sharada, the Lt Governor observed. The Lt Governor shared **PAGE 04**

CS reviews progress of IT initiative, directs incorporation of PSGA timelines



MONITOR NEWS BUREAU

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 4: To review the status of the implementation of various ongoing initiatives of the IT Department, Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta today chaired a detailed meeting of the IT Department at the Civil Secretariat here. The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, IT Department, Prerna Puri; CEO, JKeGA; State Informatics Officer, NIC besides other senior officers of the IT Department. While chairing the meeting, the Chief Secretary reiterated the

importance of e-services in transforming the life of a common citizen and said that e-services are a very potent tool in realizing the J&K administration's aim of "Bhrashtachar Mukta J&K". Maintaining that e-services have brought about efficiency and transparency in the functioning of all the departments, he said that e-initiatives are being appreciated by the public at large for their inherent hassle-free, transparent nature. CS reemphasized the need to achieve the target of 1,500 e-services to almost eliminate the need for a common citizen to **PAGE 04**

LAHDC polls: Kargil records 77.71% turnout

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Kargil recorded a 77.71 percent voter turnout in Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) polls held on Wednesday.

This was the first time elections were held in Ladakh since the abrogation of Article 370. The hill council election in Kargil was the first local poll in Ladakh since it was split from Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019 to become a union territory.

Deputy Commissioner, Kargil, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse as saying, "We have a total of 278 polling stations. Arrangements have been made to carry out free and fair elections. Out of the 278 stations, 114 are hyper-sensitive and 99 are sensitive polling stations."

Queues were seen at polling stations since early morning with many elderly voters among the first to cast their vote. The counting of votes is scheduled for October 8 and the new council will be



in place before October 11.

The existing council headed by National Conference's Feroz Ahmad Khan completed its five-year term on October 1.

A total of 95,388 voters were eligible to exercise their franchise to decide the electoral fate of 85 candidates in 26 seats of the 30-member Hill Council, according to election officials.

Four councilors with voting

rights are being nominated by the administration.

National Conference and Congress have announced a pre-poll alliance but have put up 17 and 22 candidates respectively. Both parties said the arrangement has been restricted to areas where there is a tough contest with the BJP.

The BJP, which won one seat in the last election and later **PAGE 04**

After Basohli Pashmina, Udhampur's Kaladi gets GI Tag



MONITOR NEWS BUREAU

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 04: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha extended his hearty congratulations to the weavers, producers, and families associated with Basohli Pashmina and Kaladi dairy product from Udhampur for getting the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.

In a tweet, the Lt Governor said: "A moment of pride for J&K. Basohli Pashmina & Udhampur Kaladi get Geographical Indication (GI) Tag. It will boost the morale of weaver producers, and families associated with Kaladi dairy product. **P-04**

'Agri Se So': Meet Kashmir innovator who developed smart tool that saved farmers from spinal problems

ISHFAQ-UL-HASSAN

SRINAGAR: Shahid-ul-Islam Bhat could not sleep for weeks after seeing farmers crashing after hard day labor. Farmers were increasingly developing lumbar and spinal issues and some of them were left unable to work even at a young age. Pained to see their plight, Bhat decided to explore his skills and invent a tool that could make farming easy. After toiling for a year, Bhat invented 'Agri Se So', an all-in-one tool that can help in sowing seeds and drilling soil. It can be converted into a sickle or axe for cutting crops. "I could not endure the pain of farmers. I wanted to do something. I tried to make a tool that could ease their burden. I started with wood and

tin sheets. Once I mastered it, I used metal. Since I did not have means, Islamic University helped me in my pursuit," Bhat told The Kashmir Monitor. Hailing from the picturesque village of Thokarpura in South Kashmir's Pulwama district, the B.Sc (first year) Zoology student wanted to become a mechanical engineer to live his dreams. But life had other things in store for him. Coming from a humble background, his father and elder brother are daily wage earners in south Kashmir. He started pursuing his dream when he was in class VII, but due to a lack of avenues, it did not click. "Agri Se So' is unique product. It can perform the works of more than four products. It is an eco-friendly product that



I COULD NOT ENDURE THE PAIN OF farmers. I wanted to do something. I tried to make a tool that could ease their burden. I started with wood and tin sheets. Once I mastered it, I used metal. Since I did not have means, Islamic University helped me in my pursuit,"

does not harm the environment and does not harm human beings. The three unique features of the product are foot spring used for drilling and also for crop cutting," he said. Given the success of the tool, Bhat has decided to patent it for posterity. "I have decided to launch my own company. I have also decided to patent this product. I want to make farmer and people-friendly products to ease the burden of the common man," he said. A few years ago, the young innovator hogged the head-

lines for reusing solid waste to save the fragile environment in Kashmir. From empty soft drink bottles to steel scrap, Bhat reused waste to create trucks and sports car replicas. The young innovator has been working to create a shoe that would be used as a torch while walking. "Our elders go to masjids for Fajr and Isha prayers and it is pitch dark outside. So I want to create a shoe that will have an inbuilt torch and help people to navigate the route with ease," he said.

Kashmiri actor to shoot film on 'love and peace' in Vale



MONITOR NEWS BUREAU

SRINAGAR: Rahul Bhat, a Kashmiri actor who has appeared in Bollywood movies, is camping in Kashmir to scout out locations for his upcoming feature film. The actor who featured as the main lead in "Kennedy" said the movie will revolve around the theme of love and peace. "We want to make a Kashmiri film

that tells a human story, like Iranian films do. We want to make a Kashmiri movie with a human plot that talks about love and peace," he said. While Bhat claimed his film will not touch the subject of violence or terrorism, he said the film will have cast and crew from Kashmir. "We want to make a film about love which would be a story about a village here. This is a real story," the actor said. **PAGE 04**