

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 06, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Ex-Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrio gets 22-year jail in Jan 6 US Capitol riot case



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BRIEFLY

SPG Director Arun Kumar Sinha dies at 61

NEW DELHI, Sep 6 (Agencies): Director of the Special Protection Group (SPG), Arun Kumar Sinha, passed away at a hospital in Gurugram early on Wednesday, an official said.

He was 61 and had been unwell for the past few months.

Sinha was a 1987 batch Kerala cadre IPS Officer and serving as SPG Director since 2016.

He was recently given an extension in service.

The Special Protection Group (SPG) was raised in 1985 with a view to providing security cover to the Prime Minister, former prime ministers and their immediate family members. Later, its mandate was amended and it now provides security cover only to the prime minister of the day.

Teen dies by suicide in North Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Sep 6 (Agencies): A teenage boy committed suicide by jumping into a river in the Sopore area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Tuesday evening.

Quoting an official, Kashmir Scroll reported that a 16-year-old boy from Noorbagh Sopore committed suicide near Chankhan Bridge Sopore by jumping into river Jhelum.

He said that locals rushed to the spot and rescued the boy following which he was shifted to SDH Sopore. However, he was declared dead on arrival by the doctors.

Search operation underway near LoC in Poonch

JAMMU, Sep 6 (Agencies): Security forces on Wednesday launched a search operation after observing suspicious movement near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said.

The operation was launched in the Sawjian sector in the early hours of the day and was under progress when last reports were received, the officials said.

They said the troops picked up movement of a group of suspected terrorists attempting to sneak into this side from across the border. Reinforcements have been rushed to the area and further details are

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Brashtachar Mukht J&K Week

CS virtually interacts with stakeholders across the UT



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Sep 6: On the 3rd day of the 'Brashtachar Mukht J&K

Week', Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta continued today holding virtual interactions

with all the stakeholders including the Deputy Commissioners, PRI members, Prabhari

Officers, government departments and general public in order to have a first hand assessment of the progress of the campaign on the ground.

During his interactions, Dr Mehta encouraged all to talk freely about the menace so that the evil is eradicated from the system effectively. He made out that only by talking about it there could be a clear idea about its impact and further action needed. He advised the general public to come forward and give their suggestions or file their

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In anticipation of emergencies, JK residents will get phone alerts

SRINAGAR, Sep 6 (Agencies): In a bid to enhance emergency preparedness and response in the regions of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, authorities are set to introduce a "safety messaging system" equipped with "warning sounds" and automatic readout alerts. This initiative comes on the heels of successful trials of Cell Broadcast Alert System (CBAS) carried out by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).

The CBAS system is designed to capture public attention with high-pitched audio alerts, enabling rapid responses to various emergency situations.



These scenarios encompass a wide spectrum of potential threats, including earthquakes, flash floods, militant attacks, epidemics, and law and order issues.

The primary objective of these new features is to deliver timely warnings, thereby mitigating potential loss of life and property. The system's

upgraded technical capabilities facilitate the immediate dissemination of disaster management messages to all mobile users within a specified area, significantly reducing the warning time.

The License Service Area (LSA) in Jammu and Kashmir has been chosen as the testing

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Crime Branch charge-sheeted nine persons for encroachment of Govt land

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 6: Economic Offences Wing, CB Jammu charge-sheeted nine accused in case FIR No. 84/2016 U/S 420, 447-A, 120-B RPC, r/w 5(2) P.C Act P/S EOW, CB, Jammu for their involvement and criminal conspiracy for encroachment of State Land 11 Marlas (belonging to Irrigation department) and establishment of business units i.e. a building and petrol pump at village Rakh Dhok Jourian, Akhnoor, Jammu.

The accused include Swarn Singh, son of Lt. Sh. Jhandu Ram; Manjeet Singh, son of Swarn Singh, both residents of Ward No. 06 Jourian, Jammu; Jai Paul

(the then XEn Irrigation Division Akhnoor), son of Sai Dass, R/o H. No. 08, Lane No. 05, Pandoka Colony, Paloura, Jammu; Ashok Nanda (the then AEE Irrigation Division Akhnoor), son of Late C.L. Nanda, R/o 1/6, Green Enclave Rehari, Colony, Jammu; Krishan Lal, son of Mahin Ram, R/o Rattanpur, Jourian; Guldev Raj, son of Baisakhi Ram, R/o Pandori Manhasa, Bishnah, Jammu; Baldev Singh, son of Dhama Ram, R/o Ward No. 5, Tehsil Jourian; (then posted Incharge Ziladar Irrigation Division Akhnoor); Randeep Singh (the then work supervisor Irrigation Division Akhnoor), son of Uttam Singh, R/o H. No. 147, Agore, Bhal-

wal, Jammu; and Jagat Ram (Now Expired), son of Pukhu Ram, R/o Chak Bhagwan, Jourian.

The case owes its origin that a written complaint was lodged by Aman Choudhary, son of Darshan Lal R/o H. No. 38-B Friends Lane Talab Tillo, Jammu alleging therein that one Manjeet Singh and his father Swarn Singh, son of Jhandu Ram, both residents of Jourian, District-Jammu have constructed building which they have given to SBI on rent and also installed a Petrol Pump on the State land (Irrigation Deptt.) encroached by them with the connivance of the Revenue Department, Irrigation Department and the

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Machail Mata Yatra wraps up, draws massive pilgrim crowd

SRINAGAR, Sep 6 (Agencies): Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kishwar, Khalil Poswal, ON Wednesday announced the conclusion of the Shri Machail Mata Yatra-2023 in Padder, a significant pilgrimage event in the region, second only to the Amarnath Yatra.

Official records indicate that Two Lakh pilgrims paid their respects at the hallowed shrine.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kishwar, Khalil Poswal, told the news agency KS that he extends heartfelt congratulations to all the residents of Kishtwar, security agencies, and the civil administration for their outstanding efforts in ensuring the safe and successful culmination of Shri Machail Yatra 2023.

The Yatra concluded on September 5, with immense religious fervor and enthusiasm. The Machail Yatra is an annual pilgrimage of great significance, and the seamless coordination and dedication of the security agencies and civil administration have played a pivotal role in its successful conclusion.

Govt approves Rs 3,760 Cr viability gap fund to promote battery energy storage system

NEW DELHI, Sep 6 (Agencies): The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a Rs 3,760 crore viability gap funding for setting up battery energy storage system in the country, said Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur.

The entire Rs 3,760 crore viability gap funding will be borne by the



central government, the minister said while briefing media about the Cabinet decisions. The fund will be

released in five tranches till 2030-31 and help in creation of 4,000 MW hours storage.

The viability gap funding, Thakur said, will lead to an investment of Rs 9,500 crore.

India aims to meet its 50 per cent of energy requirements through renewable energy and non-fossil energy sources.

NC entitled for symbol of plough in Hill Council polls

SRINAGAR, Sep 6 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Wednesday set aside the notification issued by the Union Territory of Ladakh on August 5 for the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) election in the Kargil region scheduled on September 10.

Dismissing the peti-

tion filed by the Union Territory of Ladakh, the Court further held that the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Party (JKNC) is entitled to the 'plough' symbol.

The Union Territory of Ladakh had earlier opposed the allotment of 'plough' symbol to JKNC. The Court imposed a cost of Rupees One

Lakh on the Ladakh Administration for filing the petition.

The Ladakh Administration had filed the special leave petition challenging the direction passed by the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to notify the 'plough' symbol for JKNC.

Man evading arrest apprehended after 18 years from Delhi by Crime Branch Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Sep 6 (Agencies): A Man Evading arrest was apprehended after 18 years by a special team of Economic Offence Wing of Crime Branch Kashmir from Delhi on Tuesday.

In a handout, the crime branch said that its Economic Offences Wing Srinagar has arrested a 'Proclaimed Offender' named Samiul-Lah Sheikh, S/o Abdul Rashid Sheikh, R/o Darish Kadal, Srinagar (a/p Arampora Nawakadal, Srinagar) from New Delhi. He is wanted in multiple cases

of cheating and had been evading arrest for the last 18 years.

The spokesman further said that the modus operandi adopted by the accused individual in committing financial crimes was that he would fabricate fake and forged revenue documents and hoodwink the banks by availing hefty loans against such documents. He had swindled more than one crore of rupees from various banks and had been constantly changing his residential locations since the year 2007

to escape the clutches of law. A special team of Economic Offences Wing Srinagar (Crime Branch Kashmir), which had been assiduously working on tracing the conman, succeeded in locating and arresting him from his hide-out in the Lajpat Nagar area of New Delhi.

In case FIR No. 59/2007 of Police Station Special Crime Wing Srinagar (Crime Branch Kashmir), the accused was involved in hatching a criminal conspiracy to fraudulently avail a

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Omar Abdullah welcomes Supreme Court verdict on Ladakh Polls

SRINAGAR, Sep 6 (Agencies): NC leader Omar Abdullah on Wednesday welcomed the Supreme Court order on the allotment of "plough" symbol to it, saying the BJP and Ladakh administration "did everything possible" to deny them their right, but the court saw through it.

"@JKNC got the verdict we wanted & deserved. Our symbol, the plough, has been given to us by the Hon Supreme Court earlier this morning," Abdullah said in a tweet.

The former J-K chief minister alleged that the "BJP ably assisted by a totally biased Ladakh administration, did everything possible to deny us our right".



"The court saw through this & penalised them with ₹1 lakh costs imposed on the administration. Congratulations to @JkncKargil and a huge thank you to @ShariqJReyaz for the amazing job he did arguing this in front of the HC & SC," he added.

The Supreme Court on Wednesday set aside the August 5 notification of the election department for the Ladakh hill council polls and direct-

ed the issuance of fresh notification within seven days for it.

A bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Ahsanuddin Amanullah also dismissed the plea by the Ladakh administration opposing the allotment of "plough" symbol to the NC and imposed a cost of Rs 1 lakh on it.

The Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court had dismissed the Ladakh administration's plea against a single bench order allowing NC candidates to contest the upcoming polls for the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Kargil, on the party symbol.

The administration had approached a

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NDS organizes Bhajan Sandhya on Krishna Janamashtami

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 6: Nami Dogri Sanstha (NDS) organised Bhajan Sandhya at Vriddh Ashram Ambphalla Jammu in connection with Shri Krishna Janamashtami in collaboration with the Ashram . R.K Chibber, former Chairman and Director Jammu and Kashmir Bank, was Chief Guest on the occasion whereas the function was presided over by Padma Shri Jatinder Udhpuri former Director Radio and Sahitya Academy Awardee.



Renowned Educationist I.D Soni Chairman Vriddh Ashram Patronised the function . Senior Advocate Surinder Kaur was Special Invitee and Advocates Suneet Singh Jamwal and Amit Gupta Vice President Jammu Bar Association were Guests of Honour . Mahant Rajesh "Bittu" Chairman Religious Tourism, Culture and Heritage was Special Guest . Yash Pal Yash well known Music Composer and General Secretary NDS compered the programme.

Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila President NDS shared the Dias. At the very outset Guru Suraj Singh renowned singer of the our Sub-

continent and Guru Parshotam Kumar renowned Tabla Player (Both Music Teachers) were felicitated by NDS on Teachers Day for their outstanding services. The Trophies and Shawls were presented to them by Prof.I.D Soni , R.K Chibber, Padma Shri Jatinder Udhpuri, Professor Anupama Sharma , Jatinder Kaur , Capt Lalit Sharma , Yash Pal Yash and Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila. This was followed by a mesmerising and captivating singing performance by Guru Suraj Singh and accompanied by Guru Parshotam Kumar Ji on Tabla . The programme was a devotional treat to the audience. Parvinder Singh Apple and Suresh Kumar singers also presented few devotional Bhajans . Capt Lalit Sharma, APCCF (Retd) and Con-

vener NDS in his opening Address while high lighting the contribution of teachers for creating a aware and knowledgeable society said that our thought and personality is blend of the teachings of our teachers. He further said that devotional singing can enable us to be in contact with the divinity like Surdas and Mirabhai and we are aware of the mesmerising effects of our great singers like Tansen and Baijubaaba. The magical flute notes of Lord Krishna are pious and spiritual he observed. R.K Chibber appreciated the singing talent and acumen of Guru Suraj Singh and Tabla beats of Guru Parshoam Kumar. He said that Krishna consciousness can sublime us and make our lives meaningful laden with spirituality . He described the teachers as real builders of a strong

nation. Padma Shri Jatinder Udhpuri remembered Dr Radha Krishnan on his birthday which is commemorated as Teachers' Day . He recited his Dogri poem on "Vriddh Ashram" describing it a temple of Karam Yogies and a pious threshold of an eternal journey. He also shared pleasantaries with the ashram inmates. Mahant Rajesh Bittu described Lord Krishna and Lord Shiv as son -in- laws of Duggar and this fact makes us significant people in the universe he remarked. Advocate Surinder Kaur said that teachers are our best friend , philosopher and guides. Advocate Suneet Singh Jamwal said that duggar has vast potential in every field and only teachers can identify and promote this. Other personalities who attended include Som Raj Tarch, Ashok Gupta former Editor Shiraza , Chaman Lal Sagoch prominent singer, Advocate Utkarsh Pathania, Jatinder Kaur , Prof Anupama Sharma, Dr Vijay Kumar, Pt Suresh Poonchi , writer and Inspector Vikramajit Singh and Badgotra sahib General secretary Vriddh Ashram. Adv Amit Gupta Vice President NDS extended vote of Thanks.

Kashmiri Displaced People Wing DPAP J&K greets people on Janmashtami

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 5: In a joint statement issued by Leaders of Kashmiri Displaced People Wing DPAP J&K Sanjay Dhar President, Piary Pandita Chairman, Rook Krishen Koul Vice President, Raj Kumar Tickoo General Secretary, Gahwar Wani Spokesperson, Daizy Dhar Mahila President, Geeta Koul Vice President Mahila Wing Non Camps, Vijay Karhalu Vice President Srinagar, Ravender Singh Secretary, Vikas Koul Secretary Naveen Gosani Youth President, Shikha

Koul Women's Youth President, Neha Mian Mahila General Secretary, Renu Razdan Mahila Secretary, Arun Krishna President Unit Jagti, Man Mohan Raina Unit President Purkhoo, Charanjeet Singh Publicity Secretary, A.K. Koul Secretary and many other Leaders greets people of all country men and J&K People on the auspicious occasion of Zaram Satam and Krishna Janmashtami. In a message these leaders said Krishna Janmashtami is one of the most auspicious Hindu Festivals that is celebrated every year across the Nation. The day also marks the

birthday of Lord Krishna who is believed to be the eighth incarnation of Lord Vishnu. These KPDW leaders also said the Purna Avtar or the complete manifestation of the supreme cosmic energy KPDW leaders said the festival fortify the belief that life of morality and righteousness can be obtained amidst all difficulties through commitment, devotion, selfless service and compassion. May this Janamashtami strengthen our faith in this goodness of mankind and bring a lot of happiness , prosperity and well being in every one's life.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, REW POONCH

TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No 186 of REW POONCH 2023-24 Dated:- 31-08-2023 2nd, 3rd & 4th Call

For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, the Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch, as his representative invites tenders by e-tendering mode from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Union Territory Govt/CPWD/MES for the following work under:

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estt. Cost (Rs in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor	Position of Funds				
Under PRI Grant													
1	Repairing of School Building Govt. P/S Nallah Ward No. 05 Pyl. Phagla Upper Block Lassana Under PRI Grant Year 2023-24 2 nd call	Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	3.00	200	6000	30 days	(1000 Hrs) on or after 11-09-2023 in the office of Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	DEE	Partially Available/Demanded				
2	Construction of Road at W. No.5 Nallah to Moh. Shaikhan Part 2 nd Pyl. Kunaiyian Lower Block Poonch Under PRI Grant Year 2023-24 2 nd call		3.00	200	6000	30 days							
3	Title work from Link Road to H/o Late Mohd Javid, Yaqoob and others W.No.3 Pyl. Kunaiyian Lower Block Poonch Under PRI Grant Year 2023-24 2 nd call		3.00	200	6000	30 days							
4	Upgradation of Road/Drain Chitta Katha to Darshan Singh W.No.7 Pyl. Kunaiyian Upper Block Poonch Under PRI Grant Year 2023-24 2 nd call		2.50	200	5000	30 days							
5	Construction of Eidgah near main chowk Jaranwali Gali Pyl. Jarranwali Gali Block Balakote Under PRI Grant Year 2023-24 2 nd call		2.70	200	5400	30 days							
6	Provision of Channel Fencing of Graveyard Near H/S Sangiote Pyl. Sangiote Block Balakote Under PRI Grant Year 2023-24 2 nd call		3.00	200	6000	30 days							
7	Culvert and Construction of Tractor Road Morri Kalsi Allu Zairat W.No. 01-02 Pyl. Hari Budha Lower Block Lassana Under PRI Grant Year 2023-24 2 nd call		4.50	300	9000	45 days							
8	RCC Culvert B/Path Near GMS Hattian W.No. 01 Pyl. Seri Khawaja Left Block Lassana Under PRI Grant Year 2023-24 2 nd call		2.40	200	4800	30 days							
9	Construction/Upgradation of Road Dhandi Pyl. Fazlabad Upper Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2023-24 2 nd call		3.00	200	6000	30 days							
10	Construction of Road Kallan to Bajjara W.No 3 Pyl. Draba Khatian Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2023-24 2 nd call		3.50	300	7000	45 days							
11	Upgradation of Road W.No. 06 Pyl. Draba Khatian Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2023-24 2 nd call	3.00	200	6000	30 days								
12	Upgradation of Road at Mohalla Batangi W.No. 04 Pyl. Draba Khatian Block Buffiaz Under PRI Grant Year 2023-24 2 nd call	3.00	200	6000	30 days								
Under DDC Grant													
13	Construction of Road from Panja to Moh. Kass Qazian Pyl. Kallar Mohra Block Balakote Under PRI Grant Year 2023-24 3 rd call	Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	3.00	200	6000	30 days	(1000 Hrs) on or after 11-09-2023 in the office of Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	DEE	Partially Available/Demanded				
14	Balance Work of P/S Lamna Mohri Pyl. Jarranwali Gali Block Balakote Under PRI Grant Year 2023-24 3 rd call		2.00	200	4000	30 days							
15	Construction of Water Tank Nr. Wazir Hussain/Akbar Din/M Khalil Mohd Younis W.No. 03 Pyl. Gohlad Mustafa Nagar Upper Block Mendhar Under PRI Year 2023-24 5 th call		2.20	200	4400	30 days							
16	Toilet Complex Naban W.No. 05 Pyl. Jugal Block Mendhar Under PRI Year 2023-24 4 th call		2.00	200	4000	30 days							
17	Toilet Complex Moh. Nagal Gali W.No. 04 Pyl. Jugal Block Mendhar Under PRI Year 2023-24 4 th call		2.00	200	4000	30 days							
18	Fencing of Graveyard Moh. Tara Pyl. Gursal Sar Block Mendhar Under PRI Year 2023-24 4 th call		1.00	200	2000	30 days							
19	R/Wall Near the H/o Mohd Bashir Lower Lonti Harh Pyl. Poshana Block Buffiaz Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24 3 rd call		2.00	200	4000	30 days							
20	P/Work Near H/o Mukhtar Majaz Pyl. Tarraranwali Block Buffiaz Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24 3 rd call		1.80	200	3600	30 days							
Under BDC Grant													
21	Upgradation of Road From Katal Dab to Jamia Masjid Hari Budha Lower Block WBM Grade II and Hume Pipe Culvert Pyl. Hari Budha Lower Block Lassana Under BDC Grant Year 2023-24 2 nd call		2.50	200	5000	30 days							
22	Construction of Community Toilet Nr. Community Hall Mundemar Pyl. Marhote Lower Right Block Lassana Under BDC Grant Year 2023-24 2 nd call	2.02	200	4040	30 days								
Under DPAP Grant													
23	Construction of B/Path/P/Work Near L/o Sheraz Ahmed Pyl. Fazlabad Upper Block Buffiaz Under BDC Grant Year 2023-24 3 rd call	1.50	200	3000	30 days								
24	Construction of L/Drain/P/Work Near L/o Wassem Khan Mohalla Tand Pyl. Fazlabad Upper Block Buffiaz Under BDC Grant Year 2023-24 3 rd call	1.50	200	3000	30 days								
25	Construction of B/Path/R/Wall P/Work at Mohri Near L/o Rayasat Khan and Others Pyl. Fazlabad Upper Block Buffiaz Under BDC Grant Year 2023-24 3 rd call	1.50	200	3000	30 days								

NOTE: The Contractors registered with DDC, Poonch in reference to GOVT. Order No: 238-F of 2021, Dated 07-09-2021 can participate upto an amount of Rs 3.00 Lacs, in local Panchayat works.

NOTE: No PRI member shall be allowed to take part in Tendering process

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	31-08-2023.
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 01-09-2023 to 09-09-2023, 1855 Hrs
3	Bid submission Start Date	01-09-2023 from 1855 Hrs onwards
4	Bid Submission End Date	09-09-2023 up to 1855 Hrs
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) (in case of holiday, the bid shall be opened on next day)	11-09-2023 on or after 1000 Hrs in the Office of the Executive Engineer REW, Poonch
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) (of only successful technical bidders)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.**
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website <https://www.iktenders.gov.in/> to acquaint bid submission process. No:- XEN/REW/P/2747-58

Dated:-31-09-2023

DIP/J-7834/23

Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Wing Poonch

Regarding women's reservation, poem again filled the air

Top News Report

JAMMU / HYDERABAD, Sep 6: Ahead of the upcoming special session of Parliament from September 18 to 22, popular Bharat Rashtia Samithi (BRS) leader and Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) Kavita has once again come forward for women's reservation.

He made a passionate appeal to all the political parties of the country to increase their public representation in the Parliament and Legislative Assemblies in order to empower the half of the country's population. Former MP from Nizamabad, Kavita has taken this important step by sending a letter to the presidents of all 47 political parties represented in the Indian Parliament, urging them to unite, forgetting their differences, and pass the long-awaited Women's Reservation Bill in this special session of Parliament. requested to pass. It is noteworthy that this Women's Reservation Bill provides for reservation of 33% seats for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. Despite being an important step towards gender equality and inclusive governance, the Bill has been in legislative limbo for a very long time. All political parties talk about supporting this bill but no one takes initiative for it. Several attempts have been made to introduce this bill in the Parliament but it could not be passed. Now poetry has led it again. Prior to this, Kavita has been a prominent voice in raising the demand for the Women's Reservation Bill. Prior to this, she sat on a hunger strike at Delhi's Jantar Mantar in March demanding the introduction and passage of the Women's Reservation Bill and held talks with political parties and civil society organizations across India to raise the demand for the bill was doing. The heads of 47 political parties to whom he has written letters include Bharatiya Janata Party President JP Nadda, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, RJD President Lalo Prasad Yadav, NCP's Sharad Pawar, JDU's Nitish Kumar, Biju Janata Dal's Naveen Patnaik, Y.S.R. Presidents of total 47 parties including K Jagannathan Reddy, TDP's Chandrababu Naidu, PDP's Mehbooba Mufti, Aam Aadmi Party's Arvind Kejriwal, CPI's Sitaram Yechury are included. MLC Kavita, a popular woman leader known for her unwavering commitment to women's rights and social justice. In this letter, MLC Kavita highlights the important role of women in the Indian discourse and the urgent need for their representation in legislative bodies.

BJP will win LAHDC Kargil elections: Sat



Top News Report

KARGIL, Sep 6: Former Minister and BJP President of J&K Sat Sharma, while addressing public during campaign of LAHDC elections at Shargole Constituency of Kargil, stated that BJP will form its own Government in the upcoming elections that are scheduled to be held on 10 September. Sharma was also accompanied by Former MLC Vikram Randhawa, Candidate of Shargole Mohd Ali Chandan and several others including

local leaders of the area. Sat Sharma said that the public has full faith in the pro-public policies of BJP led by PM Narendra Modi which has done a lot for the welfare of Ladakh UT. Sharma said the massive response amongst the public in all corners of Kargil shows that people are ready to vote for BJP as they want the development to prosper in every area. Sharma also stated that the opposition is only working on hollow slogans and is trying to distract the public. He also appealed to the

masses to vote for BJP to continue the developmental spree in the UT especially Kargil. Vikram Randhawa said that people from all sections have expressed their faith in PM Modi's leadership and they want to connect with the PM for strengthening the development further in Kargil. He also stated that due to its people welfare policies and clean administration, BJP will emerge victorious in LAHDC Kargil elections and will serve the public in the best way possible, he added.

Director Horticulture Jammu observes "Brashtachhar Mukh JK Week" at Lower Narayana

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 6: Director Horticulture Jammu Ram Savak, as a Prabhari of Panchayat Lower Narayana of block Khour, on Wednesday chaired a Gram Sabha with respect to "Brashtachhar Mukh JK Week" at Lower Narayana wherein Tehsilard Khour, large number of farmers including women along with PRI members besides representatives of various departments attended the programme. Speaking on the occasion, Director Horticulture took detailed review of progress of works under taken by different departments for the overall development of the Panchayat along with grievances of the public in general.

Chief Horticulture Officer Jammu Ashwani Sharma and other senior officers of line departments briefed the public about the schemes of their respective departments. While addressing the gathering of farmers during the programme, Ram Savak briefed the farmers about the various Centrally and UT sponsored schemes of the department. He said that keeping in view the suitable agro-climatic conditions, there is immense potential for horticulture crops in the area which must be tapped and appealed the PRI members and field functionaries to work in tandem for doubling the farmers income. He also discussed in detail the Holistic Agri-

culture Development Plan (HADP) and its execution with the PRI members. Later, the Director Horticulture Jammu started the plantation drive by planting a sapling of Mango plant for compact plantation in a farmers' field at village Gurha Jagir, Akhnour covering an area of 20 kanals. He interacted with the farmers and emphasized that the horticulture cultivation presents a remarkable opportunity for sustainable growth, both at the individual and community levels. By harnessing the potential of fruit plants, we can not only improve our environment but also create avenues for economic prosperity and this initiative will lead to positive transformation.

EDITORIAL

SHRI KRISHNA-A
SYMBOL OF LOVE

Krishna Janmashtami is celebrated in India and other countries on the occasion of the birthday of Shri Krishna in the month of August or September of the year. It is a spiritual festival and a symbol of faith of Hindus. This festival is celebrated for two days.

On the occasion of Krishna Janmashtami, the vibrancy of the markets can be seen weeks in advance; wherever you look, markets are decorated with colorful and captivating idols of Krishna, flower garlands, puja materials, sweets and various decorative items.

The importance of Krishna Janmashtami festival is very wide, there is a very influential statement in the Bhagavad Gita "Whenever there is a decline of Dharma and an increase of Adharma, then I will be born". No matter how powerful the evil is, one day it must come to an end.

Man becomes aware of this statement of Geeta during the festival of Janmashtami. Apart from this, through this festival, the coming generations of Sanatan Dharma will be able to know the qualities of their idol and will try to follow the path shown by them. The festival of Krishna Janmashtami reflects our civilization and culture.

To make the young generation aware of Indian civilization and culture, it is very important to celebrate these popular Teej festivals. Such spiritual festivals are seen as the soul of Sanatana Dharma. We all should take interest in these festivals and know the popular stories related to them.

Looking at the childhood exploits of Shri Krishna, it can be inferred that he descended on earth to continue his journey and fulfill his purpose. His power and valor is revealed by the killing of demons (Pootna, Baghasur, Aghasur, Kaliya Naag) one after the other.

Despite (after) being very powerful, he behaves normally among common people, breaking pots, stealing butter, playing with cowherds.

Shri Krishna is considered a symbol of love. In the couplets of Sufi saints, a very beautiful depiction of Krishna's love and separation leela with Radha and other gopis is found.

Krishna was the most knowledgeable, Yuga Purush, very powerful, influential personality and a skilled politician but he never used his powers for himself. His every work was for the upliftment of the earth.

Due to the birth of Krishna in prison, most of the police stations and jails of the country are decorated on the occasion of Krishna Janmashtami and a grand festival is organized here.

Because of the works of Shri Krishna, Vitthal in Maharashtra, Shri Nathji or Thakurji in Rajasthan, Jagannath in Orissa and so on are worshiped by many names all over the world. Everyone needs to take inspiration from his life that no matter what happens, a person should always keep walking on the path of his actions.

How to raise standards of school education in the country

By: Vijay GarG

The National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF) released by the ministry of education (MoE) is intended to guide school education. Since education is not only relevant to its immediate participants but is critical to the well-being of society at large, it is useful to understand what the NCF is about. In the spirit of full disclosure, Curriculum refers to the entire experience of children in schools in pursuit of educational objectives—the learning goals, syllabus, pedagogical practices, teaching-learning-materials, classroom practices, culture of schools, and more. This expansive notion of curriculum is important to use rather than a narrow definition because children's learning is shaped by all these aspects. This broad understanding of curriculum is more real than the narrower idea that includes only the syllabus, content, pedagogy and assessment.

The NCF is not a curriculum; it's a framework to develop curricula. As a framework, it describes the principles, goals, structures and elements for the development of curricula, which will then guide the syllabus, teaching-learning material including textbooks and assessment (examinations). All of these will have to be developed by appropriate institutions at the state level, like boards or other bodies responsible for schools. The

NCF will guide the pedagogy, as also the practices that determine school culture and other experiences of school students that schooling systems will have to nurture, change and develop.

Such a common national framework enables harmony and cogency in school education across Indian states, while recognizing that school education is the domain of states. The NCF is thus an important mechanism that upholds the integrity of our country's federal structure. It provides common principles and objectives derived from our constitutional vision, educational research, and experience, but states determine their own priorities and the curricula for their school systems.

The NCF could have remained at a high level of abstraction in its approach and principles. But decades of experience suggests that specificity is critical to enable practitioners of education. 'Practitioners' include teachers, school leaders, syllabus developers, textbook authors, education administrators and others. The details in the NCF aim to help change actual practices on the ground. Yet, none of its details is prescriptive, it is only explanatory.

For example, the NCF could just say a school's cultural practices must promote equity and pluralism. Instead, the NCF states this principle, but then goes on to specifically articulate practices that help develop the values of

equity and pluralism. The specific practices ground the principles and make them real. But these practices are illustrative, and schools are free to choose and develop their own practices based on these principles.

In essence, a teacher or anyone else developing the syllabus should be able to draw implications for this role from the NCF with minimal intervention by 'education experts'. This seems like a basic requirement for all such documents. Surprisingly, this has often not been the case.

In order to be effective in bringing about desired changes in practices on the ground, the NCF is designed so that it can be implemented with resources that schools currently have. This isn't to say that the NCF is not committed to ensuring that schools get the resources they need and must have. But it also recognizes that implementation cannot be predicated on all the resources being available right away. If we wait until we have all that schools need, the practical reality of our country is such that implementation will keep getting pushed out with the excuse that "we will do it when we have the resources."

The approach taken by the NCF is to ensure that it is implementable within current circumstances, charting a path forward as the resources improve. For instance, the NCF gives the same importance to the arts, including music, as to mathematics.

But the immediate response would be, "We need arts teachers in all schools before we can hold arts classes." But this can take as long as 10-15 years.

To address this practical reality, the NCF does three things. First, it articulates learning standards for arts that must be achieved even if a dedicated subject teacher is not available. Second, it creates 'timetable space' for arts in accordance with its importance. Third, it suggests a practical way of training existing teachers (say, of a language or mathematics, for instance), with the help of other available local resources, so that they are able to teach arts to meet learning standards.

In the past week, since the NCF has been released, most media headlines have focused on its suggestions for board exams, reflecting our society's obsession with testing. This is one of the very attributes that the NCF attempts to change. But the document reaches deep into all aspects of school education. Over the next several columns, we will explore how the NCF deals with these many other specific and important aspects of school education, and how these may help in improving it.

*(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
Columnist Malout
Punjab)*

BOI - Celebrating Glorious Relationship of 117 Years

By: Vinod
Chandrashekhar
Dixit

Bank of India has travelled a long way gaining strength, braving strong winds of change and now it is going to be 117 years young Bank. BOI is a great Institution as it has been strong historically, culturally and has been a leader all through and has allowed to be challenged. Bank was founded in 1906 as the first bank during the British Raj that catered to the people of India rather than the colonial administration. BOI is celebrating its 118th Foundation Day.

Built on principals of prudence and caution and being forward looking, BOI has come out stronger weathering many crisis in the banking as well as other environments and has grown to be the repository of trust among its stakeholders. Bank has built "Relationship Beyond Banking" with its millions of its customers across the globe who are ambassadors of goodwill. BOI is today the preferred choice of customer. Why? This happens due to delivery of superior products and efficient services and it has acted as good professionals with courtesy and dignity.

BoI has time after time invested its money and its faith in the people of India. Bank of India has been able to discharge its role as one of the leading devel-

opment banks in the country and has adapted well to changing times and technology on par with other banks. The pioneering role the bank has played in the rural and micro credit areas deserves the highest praise. Preserving, protecting and nurturing trust has been the centerpiece for BOI.

Banking is a service industry driven by the customers and with customer centric approach only, one can lead to success in this industry. Bank of India is a very powerful brand and its huge force has taken responsibility to protect enhance the image of the Bank at all the times.

Bank is also privileged to have not only a good network of branches, but vast majority of loyal customers. Bank's satisfied customers are the best ambassadors of the Bank. There is no doubt that courtesy builds the relationship with a customer to such strong point that he eventually becomes an advocate for the Bank. Amongst all banks Bank of India remains one of the front runners in the commitment and implementation of Financial inclusion initiatives. Bank has been aggressive in financing Govt. Sponsored schemes and achieving all the targets allotted.

Bank's greatest assets are, undoubtedly, its employees, who have brought it a reputation as tall as its long history of over 117 years. BoI has made a rapid growth over the years

and blossomed into a mighty institution with a strong national presence and sizable international operations. In business volume, the Bank occupies a premier position among the nationalised banks.

Top Managements have initiated very good reforms in bank and is reviving very fast. The key to success in today's competitive banking industry is to extend speedy, efficient, fair and courteous customer service. BOI, in order to remain true to its corporate ideals and to reach the optimum level of customer satisfaction is always been passionate about providing the best banking services to its customers. Bank strives to work hard, win the customer's confidence and play its role as a knowledgeable and well informed employee. Customer delight at all levels and in all transactions is its goal. With the inspiring leadership of Top Executives, enthusiastic efforts of experience staff members and an outstanding team of new professionals, BOI is striving hard to achieve its corporate goals and to take the bank to greater heights.

BOI has shown good growth despite amidst several challenges. Customers acquisition and introduction of new projects, campaigns and products as well as services have given a new impetus. Bank is also privileged to have not only a good network of branches, but vast majority of loyal custom-

ers. Bank's satisfied customers are the best ambassadors of the Bank. There is no doubt that courtesy builds the relationship with a customer to such strong point that he eventually becomes an advocate for the Bank. The "Bank of India" Brand name now stands for Growth, Quality, Trust & Proactive service. The Bank has always been a frontrunner in the area of Priority Sector and Agriculture lending, harnessing the vast potential of the rural market through its wide network.

BOI is an organization of great character and depth. Its greatest assets are, undoubtedly, its employees, who have brought it a reputation as tall as its long history of 117 years. Bank is today stronger, bigger, more vibrant and confident. Albert Einstein once said "Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep you balance you must keep moving." The huge force of BOI has the capacity to walk an Extra Mile and put in extra efforts by "Working More" and "Working Better".

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Lecturers' delegation calls on Sunil Sharma, highlights concerns over ATD 2023, regularisation issues

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Sep 6: A delegation of lecturers from both the Jammu and Kashmir divisions, led by Pardeep Koul, District President of the All JK +2 Lecturers' Forum Kishtwar, paid a visit to Sunil Sharma, the General Secretary of BJP J&K and former Minister of Power. The delegation addressed two critical issues impacting the lecturers' community and sought Mr. Sharma's intervention for their resolution.

One of the key issues raised by the delegation pertains to the protracted delay in the Education Department's process of regularizing In-Charge (I/C) Lecturers, especially those holding postgraduate degrees through distance mode in the Science stream. These lecturers meet all the criteria outlined in Government Order No. 940-Edu of 2017, dated November 17, 2017. Expressing their frustration, Koul conveyed their concerns over the Education Department's failure to resolve longstanding issues. Despite assurances from Principal Secretary School Education Department, Alok Kumar, about initiating



regularisation through a Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC), no progress has been made, causing lecturers to lose faith. Koul urged Mr. Sharma to utilize his influence to expedite the resolution of this matter.

Additionally, the delegation implored Mr. Sharma to address the adjustment of unadjusted I/C lecturers from the Kashmir division promptly. These lecturers have been left in limbo, leading to their growing discontent.

The delegation also raised concerns about the transfer of lecturers under the ATD 2023 policy, emphasizing that these transfers occurred during the academic session, severely affecting both students and lecturers. Many transfers appeared to disregard the academic

needs of schools and students, leaving several schools understaffed. For instance, the transfer of the only Chemistry lecturer at Girls Higher Secondary School Kishtwar was highlighted, which left a large number of students without a subject teacher. The delegation shared their disappointment with the department's decision, which seemed hasty and poorly thought out.

Furthermore, the delegation expressed concerns about the fairness and justification of the zonation in the current transfer policy, labeling it as unacceptable. They urged the revival of a previous transfer policy that was school-specific, student-centric, and fairer in its approach.

Sunil Sharma, after a patient hearing, assured the delegation of his

understanding of the lecturers' genuine concerns. He conveyed his efforts in taking up the matter of regularisation with the Lieutenant Governor, Mr. Manoj Sinha, and Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Mehta. Both officials had expressed their commitment to resolving the regularisation issue swiftly.

Regarding the ATD 2023 transfers, Sharma pledged to meet with Principal Secretary SED, Alok Kumar, to address the ongoing challenges during the mid-academic session. He expressed confidence in Kumar's ability to expedite a resolution within a fortnight or so.

The delegation applauded Sharma for his commitment to addressing their concerns and thanked him for taking their issues seriously.

Gurmeet plays flat rates, Smart Meters implementation

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, SEP 6: Gurmeet Singh, President of Beopar Mandal and District General Secretary of the Congress (Urban), led a peaceful protest in Ward No. 3, Jammu East, along with local residents, highlighting concerns over the implementation of flat-rate billing by the Power Development Department (PDD) and the introduction of smart meters for electricity consumption.

The meeting called for an immediate halt to the issuance of flat-rate bills by PDD authorities, which are causing hardships for consumers facing meter-related issues. Gurmeet Singh stressed the need for a ban on this practice and urged that the responsibility for meter replace-



ments should rest with the department. Temporary connections should not exceed three months, and billing should adhere to standard regulations. Failure to resolve complaints within the stipulated timeframe should result in strict actions against department employees.

Additionally, the participants raised concerns about the installation of new Smart Meters with prepaid systems by the Jammu & Kashmir Power

Development Corporation Limited (JKPDCL/PDD). Participants expressed worries about online vulnerabilities, security threats, and safety hazards associated with these meters. They called for the reversal of this initiative, citing instances of electrical incidents and fatalities in areas where these meters were installed without proper procedures.

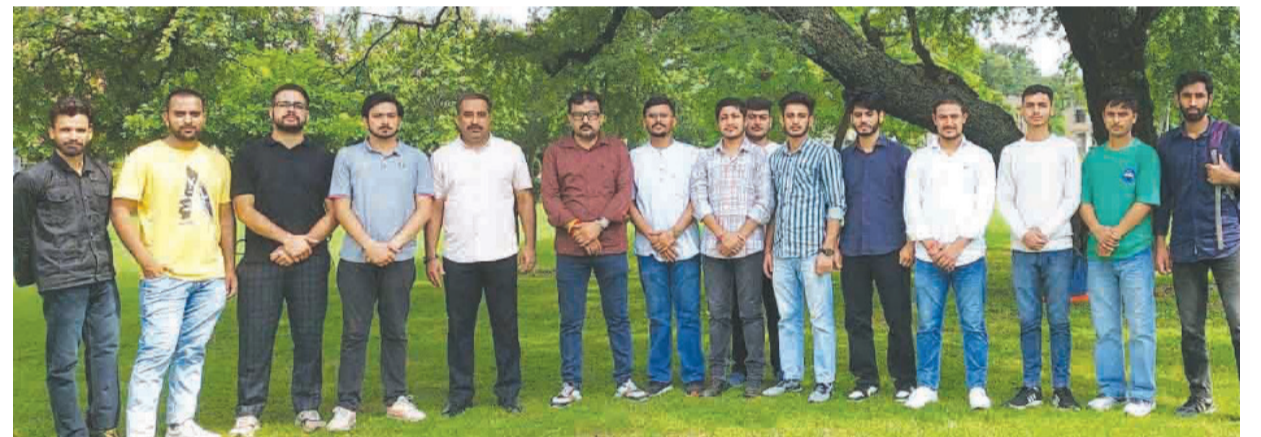
Gurmeet Singh criticized the fast meter counters of the Smart Meters prepaid system

and alleged harassment of consumers, especially those facing financial challenges.

Comparisons were drawn with Punjab's policies, where outstanding electricity dues were waived for economically disadvantaged consumers, and 300 units were provided free. In contrast, the Jammu & Kashmir government continued to press for bill payments during the COVID-19 pandemic, causing financial distress to many families.

Singh strongly opposed the introduction of Smart Meters prepaid electricity systems by JKPDCL and called for an immediate halt to the system. He also demanded the waiver of outstanding bills for the economically disadvantaged and an end to power disconnections.

JKNC calls for united fight in ensuing ULB elections



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 6: National Conference Provincial Joint Secretary Ankush Abrol and Zonal Secretary and Coordinator Jammu District (Urban) Dr. Vikas Sharma today met a section of youth and sounded them to get ready for the upcoming Local Bodies and Panchayat elections adding that in the coming time, all have to give a united fight and make the National Conference candidates victorious supporting and voting for them.

Addressing the Youths, Ankush Abrol said that we will have to wake up, raise our voice vociferously for our snatched right to restore statehood for Jammu and Kashmir. He further said that what we got and what we lost in the last five years also needs to be

considered, simultaneously adding that except desperation, inflation, unemployment, joblessness and arrogant administration, we have got nothing worth mentioning.

Taking a dig at the highhandedness of LG Govt, he said that at this time, everyone is worried about installation Smart Meters by removing digital meters without taking the public in confidence who is clamoring day in and day out for getting inflated power bills, but the LG administration does not care about the genuine grievances of the people, rather meeting out step motherly treatment to them.

While addressing Dr Vikas Sharma said that in the present scenario of misgovernance, the youth are feeling disgruntled and ditched by the present government which is not ready to listen to the

problems of the young generation, who are the future of the country.

He further said that what to talk of getting jobs, even youth have to face a lot of difficulties even in taking admission in University; he rued adding that at present, the admission of undergraduates is going on, but the students having scored above 75% marks are not even being given a chance to choose their favorite subjects. What a pathetic predicament of our students seeking admissions in University, he added.

He lambasted those dividing people in the name of religion and region. He said that the time has come to defeat such forces and strengthen the hands of Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Jenab Omar Abdullah for lasting peace in the Union Territory.

Ridhiaksh Films releases short film 'Chutki'

TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Sep 6: Ridhiaksh Films proudly unveiled its second short film, titled "Chutki," as a special Raksha Bandhan release on August 30, 2023. The film has received high acclaim for its exceptional storytelling and outstanding performances by the cast.

"Chutki" is a heart-warming tale that centers around two school-going children from a quaint village in the district of Doda. The plot revolves around Arti, a talented young girl who secured the 2nd prize in a painting competition, earning her a spot to represent her district in Jammu. However, she faces a significant challenge: she requires watercolors for the com-



petition, but her family is grappling with financial difficulties, exacerbated by her father's recent accident.

In a touching display of sibling love, Arti's elder brother decides to work overtime at a local shop to raise the necessary funds. His goal is to purchase the required colors and gift them to Arti on the auspicious occasion of Raksha Bandhan, enabling her to participate in the pres-

tigious Jammu painting competition and represent their district.

"Chutki" is an emotionally charged narrative that resonates deeply with the audience. The director skillfully weaves the story's threads to elicit a heartfelt response from viewers. Devansh, Namrita, and Simran deliver remarkable performances, breathing life into their respective characters. Rajeev Rana, the film's

writer and director, sets the stage for an engaging and captivating movie.

Notable contributions from other actors, including H. Attaullah, Altmash, and Rehan Wani, in pivotal roles further enhance the film's impact. The film's director extends heartfelt gratitude to the audience for their love and appreciation, as well as to the dedicated technical team that played a crucial role in bringing this remarkable film to life.

"Chutki" is just the beginning, and Ridhiaksh Films promises more compelling projects in the near future, continuing to enthral audiences with their captivating storytelling and outstanding craftsmanship.

Hanjan residents grapple with deteriorating road conditions

TOP NEWS REPORT

KULGAM, Sep 6: The residents of Hanjan, situated in the Zaban area of South Kashmir's Kulgam District, find themselves in the midst of a pressing issue as the condition of the vital link road connecting Hanjan to Zaban Yaripora deteriorates at an alarming rate.

Over the past few years, the state of this crucial road has transitioned from bad to worse, causing significant distress and inconvenience to the local populace. Commuters, in particular, have borne the brunt of this dire situation, and as the region approaches the winter season, their predicament is expected to worsen.

In light of these escalating concerns, the residents of Hanjan have made a heartfelt plea to



the relevant authorities, urging immediate action to rectify the deplorable condition of the road. Their plea is not just a call for improved infrastructure but a proactive step to prevent potential agitation stemming from the ongoing road woes.

One local resident lamented, "Due to the appalling state of the road, commuters are encountering numerous difficulties, and this problem is exacerbated

during the harsh winter months." The situation's impact on daily life and economic activities is a matter of growing concern for the community.

Residents are aggrieved by what they perceive as a lack of attention and maintenance on the part of the authorities. Their sense of frustration is palpable as they express disappointment over the apparent apathy toward their pressing issue.

In light of the prevail-

ing challenges, the local population has collectively appealed to the Deputy Commissioner of Kulgam and the higher authorities of the concerned department, seeking prompt and effective measures to address their grievances. The hope is that their plea will be heard, and immediate action will be taken to restore the vital link road, thereby alleviating the burdens endured by Hanjan's residents.

Mission Statehood opposes Proposed Name Change of country, 'One Nation, One Election'

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 6: In a significant press conference held today, Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, voiced strong objections to recent political developments in India. Dimple addressed two pivotal issues that have captured the nation's attention.

Firstly, Dimple passionately rejected the proposed name change of our beloved country from "India" to "Bharat" by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He emphasized the importance of embracing all the historical names that have represented our nation throughout its rich heritage, including "India," "Hindustan," and "Bharat." Dimple asserted that Mission Statehood unequivocally opposes this name change, emphasizing the need to maintain unity and respect for our diverse cultural identities.

Secondly, Dimple



expressed his strong opposition to the concept of "one nation, one election," particularly in the context of the ongoing National Democratic Alliance (NDA) versus India agendas. He argued that this proposal does not align with the unique topography, demography, identity, and cultural diversity of the Jammu and Kashmir region. Furthermore, he asserted that such a law could potentially have adverse consequences for the democratic fabric of India.

Dimple also criticized the NDA versus India agendas, highlighting that Article 370 and Article 35-A were conspicu-

ously absent from their priorities, which has raised concerns among those who hold these issues dear.

Addressing the legal aspect of the matter, Dimple proudly stated that Mission Statehood has successfully petitioned and advocated for the case related to Articles 370 and 35-A in the Supreme Court. He announced the completion of the hearings on these crucial articles in the highest court of the land.

Furthermore, Dimple alleged that certain political parties, including the Congress Party and other Kashmiri parties, had not filed peti-

tions related to these articles. He claimed that the BJP had sent representatives from dubious NGOs to defend the abrogation of these articles in the Supreme Court.

Looking ahead, Dimple expressed confidence that they would prevail in the Supreme Court and see the return of Jammu and Kashmir as a princely state, with the conditions of the Instrument of Accession preserved, alongside the regions of POK, Gilgit, and Baltistan becoming part of Jammu and Kashmir once again.

In closing, Dimple reasserted his firm rejection of "one nation, one election" and called for careful consideration of its implications on the diverse regions and cultures within India. He concluded by expressing concerns that this law may be used as a tool to consolidate power and move towards a form of dictatorship within the nation.

Chandigarh girl Shweta Sharda looks like a million bucks wearing her sparking Miss Diva Universe crown, but there is more to this beauty than just shimmer and shine

Chandigarh girl Shweta Sharda, India's entry to Miss Universe contest in 2023, came calling on Tuesday. Overwhelmed with emotions, looking a million bucks in a shimmering silver saree and a sparkling crown, the LIVA Miss Diva Universe 2023 is humble, grounded and full of gratitude for all that has doled out to her!

A self-taught dancer, life was not easy for Shweta but she learnt to embrace challenges and to continue on the path she had chosen for herself. Daughter of an autorickshaw driver, her seemingly happy family fell apart when her parents got divorced. She was just a 12-year-old then.

Shweta, who is a gifted dancer, studied in government schools in Mani Majra and Sector 18 and later pursued higher studies from Khalsa College. She worked on her passion, at times, practising eight hours a day post her school and tuitions.

Making a move to Mumbai with dreams in her eyes at 16, she participated in five dance reality shows, making it to every finale! "When God takes one thing away, He also gives something



special in return. In my case, it's my motivation and passion to do something exceptional." Her dance journey brought her up, close and personal with her idol Madhuri Dixit Nene and to cho-

reograph her is what she considers the most memorable time of her life. "People call me a diva but getting a chance to make Bollywood diva dance was so gratifying."

A dancer, she is for life, and confident too. "I am not formally trained in it for we could never afford a fee, but tell me any dance form around the world, and I can do it," she flashes her broad smile.

Her beauty pageant journey gives her a wider platform to reach out to more. "I feel grateful to have this opportunity, to have mentors who have not only worked on my gait or dressing sense but also shaped my persona."

Equally versed in Hindi, English and Punjabi, she's pretty confident about bringing the crown back (Harnaaz Kaur Sandhu won it for India in 2021). "I am putting in so much effort that I don't even realise when the day begins or ends. I am leaving no stone unturned to give my best," she says. Whenever she feels down and out, it's her mother who inspires her not to give up. "She is the strongest woman I know," she says.

In fact, much of her interview revolves around her mother. Shweta admits, "My life revolves around my mother. Everything I do, and all I am is because of her!"

Gigi Hadid becomes picky with work after becoming mother



Supermodel Gigi Hadid feels the need to be more "intention-

al" about the work she takes on now she is a mother. The 30-year-old

model said that she only books jobs that will be "fulfilling" because she doesn't have as much time for her career due to her focus on her and former partner Zayn Malik's little girl Khai, who turns three later this month.

"I think when you are a parent, you have to be intentional because, now, I literally have half the time. I work when my daughter is with her dad, and that's the time I have. And the jobs I choose to fill that time with have to be ones that are fulfilling to me," she told the outlet. Last year, Gigi founded her own fashion brand, Guest in Residence, and while being in charge still feels "surreal", she has learnt to find a balance of being assertive with her vision and being collaborative with the rest of her team. Meanwhile, the model said she is still keen to make the move into movies, but only when the right script comes along.

Neeti Mohan's mantra for work-life balance

Known for her hit Bollywood tracks like Nainowale Ne and Ishq Wala Love, singer Neeti Mohan has revealed her mantra for how to balance motherly duties with career.

Neeti is currently seen as the judge on Sa Re Ga Ma Pa 2023. The singing reality show also features Himesh Reshammiya, and Anu Malik as judges, and Aditya Narayan as the host. In an interview, Neeti opened up on the mantra that she follows to manage her personal and professional lives.

Neeti married model Nihaar Pandya in 2019. The couple has a baby boy Aryaveer, who was born in 2021.

Neeti said, "My mantra is wherever you are, just be there 100 per cent. If



you are with your child, just be with your child 100 per cent, and same goes for the work." On

the work front, Neeti said that she is working on some independent music.

Vicky Kaushal's favourite childhood memories were about going for movies with family

Actor Vicky Kaushal is currently busy promoting his upcoming family entertainer film 'The Great Indian Family' which also stars Manushi Chhillar in the lead role.

Helmed by Vijay Krishna Acharya, the film is all set to hit the theatres on September 22.

While talking about doing a family entertainer film, Vicky said, "I remember when I was growing up, some of my favourite memories were about us as a family going to a theatre and watching a film that we all could enjoy together. I used to look forward to such films because it became an event for my family. It was just a lovely experience, an unforgettable one."

The film is set in the



heartland of India and will revolve around the madness that ensues within Vicky's family

due to some sudden developments that are beyond anyone's control! Vicky added,

"So, when I decided to become an actor, I hoped I could do a film that families would love to come out and see. I wanted to deliver the same experience that I got. I'm really proud to be a part of a family entertainer like TGIF because of the beautiful message that it will deliver to audiences."

Vicky plays the role of a local singing star by the name of Bhajan Kumar in the film.

Recently, the makers of 'TGIF' unveiled the first track of the film 'Kanhaiya Twitter Pe Aaja' which received decent responses from the audience.

Sung by Nakash Aziz, the song is penned by Amitabh Bhattacharya and composed by Pritam.

Talking about his character Bhajan Kumar in the film, Vicky shared, "I play a singing star named Bhajan Kumar in our quirky family entertainer The Great Indian Family and we decided to have some fun before we actually revealed the fact that I was playing this character in the film!"

Apart from this, he will also be seen in director Meghna Gulzar's next 'Sam Bahadur' which showcases story of India's war hero and first Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw and in director Anand Tiwari's upcoming untitled film opposite actor Tripti Dimri and Ammy Virk. The film is all set to hit the theatres on February 23, 2024.

Oprah Winfrey's fundraiser accused of being a sham



Oprah Winfrey had earlier donated a huge sum to the Maui Wildfire Fundraiser started by her and Dwayne Johnson.

However, since then the reality star has been accused of hiring a private security team to her Hawaii estate, while calling her Fundraiser a 'sham'.

A widely shared TikTok video on X claims that Winfrey hired the team before the fires even started with the person saying, "Instead of taking some of that land and housing even a small portion of those displaced people, you hired a private security team to keep them off your land."

The user add, "You are so concerned about Maui, that you are asking the American public, most of whom can't pay their rent right now to donate the money to your fundraiser, instead of actively donating that money and helping."

Priscilla Presley says she didn't have sex with Elvis when she was 14



Priscilla Presley, the former-wife of the late icon Elvis Presley, has again denied that she and the singer were intimate while she was a minor. Priscilla stated this during a presser at the Venice Film Festival, just before Sofia Coppola's new film Priscilla was screened.

The new movie is based on her 1985 memoir Elvis and Me and spotlights their relationship.

She was asked about their relationship, which began with her meeting Elvis at the age of 14, when he was 24. Priscilla insisted that at this stage their relationship hadn't turned sexual.

The pop icon said that the singer always "respected" her age and explained they had an instant connection when they met on a military base in Germany because they felt as if they could talk to one another. "People think, 'Oh, it was sex.' No, it wasn't," Priscilla, 78, said.

Poster of Bhumi Pednekar's film Thank You For Coming unveiled

The makers of the upcoming film Thank You For Coming on Tuesday unveiled a new poster of actor Bhumi Pednekar. Taking to Instagram, Bhumi shared the poster which she captioned, "When the ending is before the beginning...Don't forget to watch #ThankYouForComing. Trailer out on 6th Sept, 1:50 pm."

The makers are all set to unveil the trailer of the film on September 6.

Thank You For Coming is headlined by Bhumi. Dolly Singh, Kusha Kapila, Shibani Bedi, Pradhuman Singh Mall, Natasha Rastogi, Gautmik, Sushant Divgikar, Saloni Daini, Dolly Ahluwalia, Karan Kundrra and Anil Kapoor are also in the film.

The movie will premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) 2023.

Elated about receiving the opportunity to showcase her work at TIFF, Bhumi said, "This is my first time at TIFF. I am ecstatic that I am going there with a film that is so close to my heart, Thank You For Coming."



Amit Shah to visit Bihar on September 16, will address public meeting in Jhanjharpur

The previous visit of Shah to Jhanjharpur was cancelled in June due to law and order problems arising out of a communal flare-up.

PATNA, Sep 6 (Agencies): Ahead of a five-day special session of Parliament, Union Home Minister Amit Shah will address a public rally in Jhanjharpur in north Bihar on September 16. BJP state vice president Santosh Pathak confirmed the Union home minister's visit to Jhanjharpur.

Shah has increased the frequency of his visits to Bihar ever since chief minister Nitish Kumar snapped his party JD(U)'s ties with BJP to form a new government with the support of Grand Alliance (GA) in August last year. Shah had earlier visited Purnea, Nawada, Valmikinagar, Patna and Lakhisarai since the formation of a new grand alliance government in the state.

In his last visit to the state, Shah had addressed a public meeting in Lakhisarai on June 24. The proposed Jhanjharpur rally is being held in the run-up to the Lok Sabha election scheduled to be conducted in 2024, sources in the party said. BJP has already started preparations for the rally being held in the heart of the Mithilanchal



region, which will be in focus of all political parties during next year's general election. The Jhanjharpur rally will be a part of the party's 'Lok Sabha Pravas' programme.

The previous visit of Shah to Jhanjharpur was cancelled in June due to law and order problems arising out of a communal flare-up. "We are enthusiastic about Shah's visit to the Mithilanchal region. His visit will raise the political temperature in the state," said a senior BJP leader requesting anonymity.

Jhanjharpur is among the 10 Lok Sabha constituencies

where saffron has to work hard to register its win in the Lok Sabha election. In 2019, the seat went to BJP's ally JD(U) under the seat-sharing agreement among different constituents of the NDA.

Ram Preet Mandal of JD(U) had won the seat. Nitish Kumar's JD(U) was then an ally of the NDA. While BJP and JD(U) had contested 17 seats each, six seats were given to Ram Vilas Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (LJP). The NDA had won 39 out of 40 Lok Sabha seats in 2019. The lone Kishanganj seat had gone to the Congress, a major

ally of Grand Alliance.

The central leadership of the BJP has asked its state unit to concentrate on the 10 Lok Sabha seats in the state. Besides Jhanjharpur, Kishanganj, Valmikinagar, Vaishali, Nawada, Purnea, Katihar, Supaul, Munger and Gaya have been identified as 'tough' seats for BJP during an internal survey conducted by the party in the state.

Sources in the party said that altogether seven 'leaders' have been given specific tasks to strengthen the support base of the party.

"They all will work under a well-planned strategy to ensure the victory of the candidates of the party on those seats," another BJP leader aware of the party affairs said. The visit of Shah will raise the political temperature in the state as Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar will be on the target of the former.

Nitish snapped ties with the BJP and joined hands with the grand alliance to form the government in the state in August last year.

No agenda for Parliament session, discuss nine issues raised by Opposition: Sonia to PM Modi

Issues listed by Gandhi include Centre-state relations, rise in cases of communal tension and border transgressions by China



NEW DELHI, Sep 6 (Agencies): Congress leader Sonia Gandhi on Wednesday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, pointing out that no agenda has been listed for the special Parliament session and raising nine issues, including violence in Manipur, for discussion.

The issues listed by Gandhi included Centre-state relations, rise in cases of communal tension and border transgressions by China.

"I must point out that this special session has been convened without any consultation with other political parties. None of us have any idea of its agenda. All we have been communicated is that all five days have been allocated for government business," Gandhi said in her letter.

"I earnestly hope that in a spirit of constructive cooperation, these issues will be taken up in the forthcoming special session," she said. Addressing the media

at the AICC headquarters, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said this is the first time that no agenda has been discussed or listed in the business of the House.

"We want that the upcoming session is constructive and this was decided at the meeting of the strategy group and during the meeting of INDIA parties," Ramesh said.

"If there is no 'sheh-nai' of democracy in the mother of democracy, then what kind of democracy is this," Ramesh asked.

He said the rules under which the discussion can take place can be discussed mutually.

Ramesh also alleged that the prime minister is in "panic" and "tired".

The special session of Parliament will be held from September 18 to 22.

Upset over Gujarat woman's love marriage, 4 of her family consume poison

AHMEDABAD, Sep 6 (Agencies): Unhappy over their daughter's love marriage, a couple and their two sons allegedly consumed poison in Ahmedabad district, following which the man and one of his sons died, police said on Wednesday.

The family decided to take the extreme step as they were not happy with the woman's decision to marry a man of her choice about a year back, an official from Dholka police station said, adding that both the families belonged to the Dalit community.

Kiran Rathod (52), wife Neetaben (50) and their two sons Harsh (24) and Harshil (19) from Dholka town here allegedly consumed poison on Tuesday night in a bid to kill themselves, he said.

The man and his elder son died, while his wife and younger son survived and were undergoing treatment, he said.

"When the neighbours got to know

about the incident, they called an ambulance and informed police. Doctors at a private hospital declared the man and his elder son brought dead, while the woman and the younger son are undergoing treatment," the official said.

The police have registered an FIR against 18 people, including the husband of Rathod's daughter, her in-laws, other relatives and friends under Sections 306 (abetment of suicide), 506 (2) (criminal intimidation), and 114 (abetment present when crime committed) of the IPC.

Unhappy over the marriage, Rathod and his family severed ties with his daughter and refused to visit her at the place of her in-laws, as per the FIR.

In an attempt to resolve the issue, their daughter's in-laws and other accused caused them mental torture which they were unable to bear and decided to kill themselves, the FIR claimed.

Bharat vs INDIA row: Mayawati urges Supreme Court to take cognizance of 'shallow politics'

LUCKNOW, Sep 6 (Agencies): Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Wednesday urged the Supreme Court to take suo motu cognizance of "shallow politics" being done on 'Bharat' and 'INDIA' and demanded a ban on all political bodies formed in the name of the country.

Addressing a press conference here, Mayawati said, "Supreme Court should take suo motu cognizance of the shallow politics being done on 'Bharat' and 'INDIA' and ban all organisations, parties, and alliances formed in the name of the country."

The leader made the



remark without clarifying whether she wanted a ban on bodies formed with 'India' or 'Bharat' in their names.

"Bharat that is India is a well-known and dignified constitutional name. The people of our country, belonging to all castes and religions, have immense love and respect for the

sacred humanitarian and public welfare Constitution of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, and it is highly inappropriate to play with their sentiments by changing and tampering with them," she said.

"The truth is that the Opposition itself has given the BJP an opportunity to tamper with the

Constitution... as part of a well-thought-out strategy and conspiracy, by naming its alliance INDIA. Or ... all of this maybe happening with the ruling party and the opposition in cahoots," said the Dalit leader.

Mayawati said the "reprehensible game" of politics which is being played ahead of the General Election due next year is not lost on people.

She said the more important issues of poverty, inflation, unemployment and development are being sidelined.

"Therefore, it is completely right and in public interest for our party to maintain distance from both these casteist,

communal and capitalist alliances," she added.

A G20 invitation bearing the phrase 'President of Bharat' widely shared on social media led to a storm of reactions on Tuesday with the Opposition claiming that the move betrayed BJP's fear of the INDIA bloc.

The ruling party countered the claim asserting there was nothing wrong in using Bharat as it is part of the Constitution.

The BSP has not aligned itself either with the NDA or opposition alliance INDIA.

The Dalit-centric party has 10 MPs in Lok Sabha and a handful of MLAs in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Uttarakhand.

Woman, daughter beaten to death in UP as husband's prayer meet was in progress

ALIGARH, Sep 6 (Agencies): A 55-year-old woman and her 22-year-old adopted daughter were allegedly beaten to death by her in-laws over a property dispute in Aligarh district, days after her husband's death.

The double murder took place at Kaimthal under the Gonda police limits when Mukesh Devi, along with daughter

Priyanka, was attending her husband's 'terahvin' (ritual conducted on the 13th day of the mourning period) at her in-laws' place.

Mukesh Devi's husband, Surender Singh, had died of heart attack in Delhi on August 31.

At the ritual, Mukesh Devi was allegedly attacked by her brother-in-law and others with a stick and heavy objects.

When her daughter tried to save her, she was also brutally assaulted. Both suffered head injuries and were declared dead at a nearby hospital, police said.

An FIR has been registered against seven accused -- Dharmveer Singh, Mona Singh, Dubla Singh, Ramesh Singh, Neeraj Singh, Sonu Singh and Rakesh Singh -- under Sections

302 (murder) and 147 (rioting) of the IPC following a complaint by the woman's brother Bholu Singh.

SP (Aligarh rural) Palash Bansal said, "Five police teams have been formed to arrest the accused. We are investigating the matter and action will be taken soon."

Mukesh Devi's nephew Bablu said, "There was

a heated argument between my aunt and her brother-in-law over property. It soon turned ugly and the latter attacked her."

"She was murdered for three 'bighas' of land as the accused did not want the property to go to her adopted child. Her daughter worked at a private firm in Delhi," a neighbour said.

7 killed in road accident in Assam's Tinsukia



TINSUKIA (ASSAM), Sep 6 (Agencies): Seven people were killed and 12 injured in a road accident in

Assam's Tinsukia on Tuesday night, police said on Wednesday.

The accident took place in Kakopathar

area as a speeding truck hit a Tata Magic vehicle in which the victims were travelling.

Additional Superintendent of Police Bibhas Das told ANI that seven people had died in the accident.

"Twelve people were injured and they were rushed to hospital. We have detained the truck driver," Das said.

SC protects four members of Editors Guild against coercive action in two FIRs lodged in Manipur

NEW DELHI, Sep 6 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Wednesday protected four members of the Editors Guild of India against any coercive action till Monday in connection with two FIRs lodged against them in the state for offences, including promoting enmity between two communities.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra also sought response of the state

government on the plea filed by the Editors Guild and fixed the matter on September 11.

Earlier, the top court agreed to hear the plea during the day itself.

On September 4, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh had said that a police case has been filed on the basis of a complaint against the president and three members of the Editors Guild of India and accused them of trying to "provoke clashes" in the state.

A second FIR was also registered against the four members of the Guild, with additional charge of defamation.

The Guild, in a report published on Saturday, had slammed the internet ban in the state as being detrimental to media reportage, criticised what it termed as one-sided reporting by some media outlets and claimed there were indications that the state leadership "had turned partisan" during the conflict period.

6 of family killed in road accident in Tamil Nadu

SALEM, Sep 6 (Agencies): Six members of a family, including a one-year old girl child, were killed and two others injured here on Wednesday after the van they were travelling in rammed into a truck parked on one side of the road, police said.

The vehicle with eight people, including the driver, met with the accident in the wee hours at Sankagiri as they were travelling from Kondalampatti here to Erode district.

The van hit the stationary lorry and in the impact two women and three men besides the child died on the spot. "A woman passenger and the driver sustained severe injuries and they are being treated at a hospital," a police officer said.

The driver is not in a condition to speak and the cause of the mishap could be ascertained only after he recovers. The bodies were taken to a state-run hospital for autopsy, he added. A case has been registered and a probe is on.

Three persons killed, 2 injured as car collides with truck on Mumbai-Ahmedabad highway

PALGHAR, Sep 6 (Agencies): Three persons were killed and two others injured when their car jumped a road divider and collided with a truck on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad highway in Maharashtra's Palghar district on Wednesday morning, police said.

The car with five occupants was heading from Mumbai towards Ahmedabad in Gujarat when the accident took place near Sativali village at around 6.30 am, said senior police inspector Jairam Ranavare from Valiv police station.

The car jumped the road divider, went into a lane on the other side and collided head-on with a truck coming from the opposite direction, he said. Three car occupants died on the spot while two others were injured, the official



said, adding the vehicle was completely damaged.

After being alerted, local police and firemen rushed to the spot. The two injured persons were admitted to a hospital for treatment.

The bodies were sent to a government hospital for post-mortem, the police said.

ASEAN welcomes world leaders as China-US rivalry overshadows region

Neither US President Joe Biden nor his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping are attending the summit

JAKARTA, Sep 6 (Agencies): Southeast Asia's ASEAN bloc on Wednesday welcomed world leaders to Indonesia's capital for a summit likely to be dominated by worry about rivalry between the United States and China overshadowing the region.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which has warned of the danger of getting dragged into other powers' disputes, will gather with US Vice-President Kamala Harris, Chinese Premier Li Qiang, and leaders of various partner countries, including Japan, South Korea, Australia, and India.

Neither US President Joe Biden nor his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, are attending the summit.

High on the agenda is Southeast Asian concern over China's activities in the South China Sea, a strategic trade corridor where several member countries have overlapping claims with China. The bloc is keen



to agree on a long-discussed code of conduct for the waterway.

The United States and its allies have echoed ASEAN's calls for freedom of navigation and overflight and to refrain from building a physical presence in the area. China has built various facilities, including runways, on tiny outcrops in the disputed waters.

"The vice president will underscore the United States' and ASEAN's shared interest in upholding the rules-based international order, including in the South China Sea, in the face of China's unlawful maritime claims and provocative actions," a White House official said on Tuesday.

Just before this week's gatherings, China

released a map with its "10-dash line" delineating what it considers its waters, that appeared to expand its claims in the South China Sea.

The map was rejected by several ASEAN members.

Some ASEAN members have developed close diplomatic, business and military ties with China while others are more wary. The United States has also courted ASEAN countries with varying degrees of success.

ASEAN, in a draft of a statement it will issue this week and seen by Reuters, said it needed to "strengthen stability in the maritime sphere in our region ... and explore new initiatives towards these ends".

'GREAT DANGER'

Lina Alexandra, a political analyst at think tank CSIS, said the draft was "very weak on the issues of the South China Sea". "This really threatens ASEAN's credibility," Alexandra said, noting that the Philippines was losing patience with ASEAN when it came to help on the South China Sea.

"If ASEAN is not useful that is a great danger, because the other option is they go up to the big powers and they bring these big powers to the region."

A source close to the matter verified the draft. President Joko Widodo of ASEAN chair Indonesia warned on Tuesday that members must not become proxies in big-power rivalry. Wednesday's talks

follow an ASEAN-only summit this week with leaders seeking to assert the bloc's relevance in the face of criticism it is failing to press Myanmar's military leaders to cooperate on a plan for peace in their strife-torn country.

ASEAN member Myanmar has been gripped by violence since the generals overthrew an elected government led by Aung San Suu Kyi in early 2021.

ASEAN has agreed on a peace plan, known as its five-point consensus, that calls for an end to violence and dialogue among all parties but the generals have paid little more than lip service to it.

Myanmar on Tuesday rejected an ASEAN call for its armed forces "in particular" to de-escalate the crisis. Myanmar also ceded to the Philippines its turn to chair the grouping in 2026.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam.

UK to ban Russia's Wagner Group as 'terrorist' organisation

LONDON, Sep 6 (Agencies): Britain is to ban Russian mercenary outfit the Wagner Group as a terrorist organisation, Defence Secretary Grant Shapps confirmed Wednesday.

"Given the activities, it's important that as far as the UK is concerned, it will be illegal to be part of them," Shapps told Sky News.

His comments came hours after British media reported that Home Secretary Suella Braverman was to make the Wagner Group a "proscribed" organisation under anti-terror laws, putting it on a par with Islamic State and al-Qaeda.

"Wagner is a violent and destructive organisation which has acted as a military tool of Vladimir Putin's Russia overseas," the Daily Mail quoted Braverman as saying.

"While Putin's regime decides what to do with the monster it created, Wagner's continuing destabilising activities only continue to serve the Kremlin's political goals."

Under the Terrorism Act 2000 the home sec-

retary has the power to proscribe an organisation if they believe it is involved in terrorism. A proscription order makes it a criminal offence to support the group.

"They are terrorists, plain and simple -- and this proscription order makes that clear in UK law," a BBC report added, quoting Braverman.

"Wagner has been involved in looting, torture and barbarous murders," Braverman added in the Daily Mail.

The group's operations in Ukraine, the Middle East and Africa "are a threat to global security," she said.

"That is why we are proscribing this terrorist organisation and continuing to aid Ukraine wherever we can in its fight against Russia."

Draft measures to ban the Wagner Group under the act will be laid in parliament on Wednesday, the reports said.

Shapps said the measures will ban people in the UK from being "actively involved" in the group or displaying its logo.

In July, Britain announced sanctions

against 13 individuals and businesses it said had links to the Russian group in Africa, accusing it of crimes there including killings and torture.

The people and entities targeted -- which are no longer able to deal with UK citizens, companies and banks, and have any UK assets frozen -- were allegedly involved in Wagner's activities in Mali, Central African Republic (CAR) and Sudan.

They included the purported head of Wagner in Mali, Ivan Aleksandrovich Maslov; its chief in CAR, Vitalii Viktorovich Perfilov; and the group's operations head there, Konstantin Aleksandrovich Pikalov.

Wagner founder Yevgeny Prigozhin, who died last month in a plane crash, had already been sanctioned by Britain alongside several of his key commanders who had participated in Russia's war in Ukraine.

Prigozhin -- a Kremlin confidant turned "traitor" -- died two months after ordering his troops to topple Russia's military leadership.

Pakistan: More than 45 women fell victim to Karachi school principal, say police

KARACHI, Sep 6 (Agencies): In another major development in the Karachi school case wherein a principal was arrested over the alleged rape and blackmail allegations, the investigation officer (IO) on Tuesday said that over 45 women fell victim to the accused, Geo News reported.

On Monday, the Pakistani police arrested the accused principal employed at a private school in Karachi for allegedly raping and blackmailing several women.

According to Geo News, the principal used the closed-circuit television (CCTV) footage to blackmail the victims while the investigating team of police also recovered 25 such short video clips from his cellphone.

It is pertinent to know that the scandal emerged after an obscene video of the principal and a female teacher circulated on the internet.

The investigating authorities said that the office of the principal had been sealed and a forensics will be carried out. Meanwhile, the accused identified as Irfan Ghafoor Memon is sent to jail on a seven-day physical remand.

The accused told the police that he had rented the school in December for

Pakistani Rupee (PKR) 1,00,000 per month. He added that there are about 10 female teachers, five male teachers and about 250 students in the school, as per Geo News.

The police said that the case had been registered at the Steel Town police station on the complaint of the state.

The first information report (FIR) includes provisions for sexual harassment, threatening, and blackmailing, said the IO. He added that the principal under the pretext of giving jobs would sexually abuse the teachers.

"The accused used to blackmail the women by filming videos," it added.

The investigating authorities also added that the DVR of the CCTV cameras has been taken as evidence while his mobile phone will also be examined.

The IO also said that a victim contacted him whose statement will be recorded.

He further said that the case is being investigated by a high-level committee, reported Geo News.

The officer also said information about more suspects has come to the fore who have the DVR and videos with them. He assured that the police would arrest two suspects soon.

It's official. Meteorologists say this summer's swelter was a global record breaker for high heat

GENEVA, Sep 6 (Agencies): Earth has sweltered through its hottest Northern Hemisphere summer ever measured, with a record warm August capping a season of brutal and deadly temperatures, according to the World Meteorological Organisation.

Last month was not only the hottest August scientists ever recorded by far with modern equipment, it was also the second hottest month measured, behind only July 2023, WMO and the European climate service Copernicus announced Wednesday.

August was about 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than pre-industrial averages, which is the warming threshold that the world is trying not to pass. But the



1.5 C threshold is over decades — not just one month — so scientists do not consider that brief passage that significant.

The world's oceans — more than 70% of the Earth's surface — were the hottest ever recorded, nearly 21 degrees Celsius (69.8 degrees Fahrenheit), and have set high temperature marks for three consecutive months, the WMO and Copernicus said.

"The dog days of summer are not just

barking, they are biting," United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a statement. "Climate breakdown has begun."

So far, 2023 is the second hottest year on record, behind 2016, according to Copernicus.

Scientists blame ever warming human-caused climate change from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas with an extra push from a natural El Nino, which is a tempo-

rary warming of parts of the Pacific Ocean that changes weather worldwide. Usually an El Nino, which started earlier this year, adds extra heat to global temperatures but more so in its second year.

"What we are observing, not only new extremes but the persistence of these record-breaking conditions, and the impacts these have on both people and planet, are a clear consequence of the warming of the climate system," Copernicus Climate Change Service Director Carlo Buontempo said.

Copernicus, a division of the European Union's space program, has records going back to 1940, but in the United Kingdom and the United States, global records go back to the mid 1800s and those weather and

science agencies are expected to soon report that the summer was a record-breaker.

Scientists have used tree rings, ice cores and other proxies to estimate that temperatures are now warmer than they have been in about 120,000 years. The world has been warmer before, but that was prior to human civilization, seas were much higher and the poles were not icy.

So far, daily September temperatures are higher than what has been recorded before for this time of year, according to the University of Maine's Climate Reanalysis.

While the world's air and oceans were setting records for heat, Antarctica continued to set records for low amounts of sea ice, the WMO said.

Will only agree to India trade deal approach that works for UK, says Rishi Sunak ahead of his first visit to New Delhi as PM

LONDON, Sep 6 (Agencies): The free trade agreement (FTA) talks with India are "progressing" and Britain will only agree to a pact that works for the whole of the United Kingdom, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak told his ministers.

Ahead of his first visit to India as UK Prime Minister to attend the G20 World Leaders' Summit in New Delhi later this week, Sunak updated his top team on the ongoing trade talks, which have completed 12 rounds of negotiations, during a Cabinet meeting.

The British-Indian leader described India as an "indispensable partner" of the UK across all spheres of bilateral cooperation, which he is keen to strengthen further.

"He said negotiations around a free trade deal



were progressing and that he would only agree to an approach which worked for the whole of the UK," notes a Downing Street readout of the Cabinet meeting.

"The Prime Minister said India was an indispensable partner of the UK, both economically and in addressing the global challenges all democracies are facing. He said we must now strengthen the UK-India relationship," it said.

UK Business and Trade Secretary Kemi Badenoch, who has returned from a visit to India after talks with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal last month, also updated the UK Cabinet on the FTA negotiations, saying that

"India is already one of the UK's largest trading partners, with a relationship worth GBP 36 billion a year".

"The Prime Minister

concluded Cabinet by setting out his desire to use our growing relationship in trade, defence, and technology to build a lasting and deep partnership with India which benefits the people of the UK for decades to come," Downing Street said.

The 43-year-old leader is expected to receive a grand welcome when he arrives in New Delhi, with bilateral talks expected with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the course of his stay.

While the details of the visit are yet to be confirmed by Downing Street, some UK media reports have indicated that a sightseeing visit to Humayan's Tomb is expected to be on the agenda for Sunak and wife Akshata Murty.

Ex-Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrío gets 22-year jail in Jan 6 US Capitol riot case

WASHINGTON, Sep 6 (Agencies): A former leader of the right-wing Proud Boys group, Enrique Tarrío, was sentenced to 22 years in prison on Tuesday for his role in the January 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol, the longest sentence so far in the case.

US District Judge Timothy Kelly imposed the sentence on Tarrío, 39, of Miami, for his role in the riot by then-President Donald Trump's supporters. His lawyers said he would appeal.

Tarrío had been convicted of seditious conspiracy for his role in planning the Capitol riot that sought to stop Congress from certifying President Joe Biden's defeat of Trump in an election Trump falsely claimed was tainted by widespread fraud.

Tarrío's lawyers said his absence from Washington on January 6, the result of another judge's earlier order, meant that



he had no "direct influence" on the riot.

But in imposing the sentence, the judge said: "Mr. Tarrío was the ultimate leader of that conspiracy. Mr. Tarrío was the ultimate person who organized, who was motivated by revolutionary zeal."

Prosecutors said Tarrío had remained in touch with the Proud Boys group and monitored their actions.

"He was on a tier of his own," Assistant US Attorney Conor Mulroe said, adding Tarrío was

a uniquely influential figure among the Proud Boys.

Prosecutors had asked Kelly to sentence Tarrío to 33 years behind bars, saying he helped direct the attack from Baltimore.

His attorneys had asked for no more than 15 years.

Kelly last week sentenced another far-right Proud Boys leader, Ethan Nordean, to 18 years. Oath Keepers militia founder Stewart Rhodes in May was also sentenced to 18 years.

In court on Tuesday,

Tarrío said he was sorry for his actions. "I am extremely ashamed and disappointed," he said about violence against law enforcement on that day, adding: "What happened on January 6 was a national embarrassment." More than 1,100 people have been arrested on charges related to the Capitol assault. At least 630 have pleaded guilty and at least 110 have been convicted at trial.

Five people, including a police officer, died during or shortly after the riot, and more than 140 police officers were injured. Damage to the Capitol was in the millions of dollars.

Special Counsel Jack Smith, who was tapped to investigate broader efforts to overturn the 2020 election, has charged Trump, the front-runner for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, for trying to keep himself in power.

Dy Chairman reviews preparations for Space Science Exhibition and Climate Cup Final

Top News Report

LEH, Sep 6: Deputy Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Tsering Angchuk convened a meeting to review the ongoing preparations regarding the upcoming collaborative workshop on LAdakh specific Modeling and space Applications (LAMA) Project and Space Science Exhibition to be held in Leh from Sept 9th-13th, jointly organised by LAHDC Leh, University of Ladakh and Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad.



ADDC Leh; SE R&B Leh, CEO Leh, Dean Science UoL, Executive Engineers of PHE, PDD, and Construction Division attended the meeting. After detailed discussion with the stake-

holders, Dy Chairman instructed all the concerned officers and executing agencies to ensure that all necessary arrangements are made well in advance. LAHDC Leh and SAC-ISRO, Ahmedabad are

exploring collaborative mechanisms for science-based decision support systems and advancing space science research and education in Ladakh with emphasis on developing a joint framework for

institutionalising LAdakh-specific projects (LAMA - LAdakh specific Modeling and space Applications) to address various environmental related issues.

Similarly, Dy Chairman reviewed the preparations for the closing ceremony of the 1st edition of Climate Cup Football tournament to be held on Sept 7th at AstroTurf Open Stadium, Spituk, Leh.

The final of the Climate Cup 2023 will be played between Delhi FC and Tibet National Team.

Cyber security awareness lecture conducted at NCC Trg Academy Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 6: The Cyber Security Cell Jammu, in collaboration with the National Cadet Corps (NCC), organized a comprehensive cyber security awareness lecture at the NCC Training Academy in Jammu.

The event, attended by 500 NCC cadets, aimed to educate and equip them with essential

knowledge on staying safe in the digital world. Expert speakers from the Cyber Security Cell Jammu provided insights into the evolving cyber threats and risks in today's digital landscape.

Cadets were educated on best practices for online safety, secure password management, and recognizing and preventing cyber

attacks. The lecture emphasized the importance of responsible online behaviour and protecting personal information in the digital age.

Spokesperson for the Cyber Security Cell Jammu, highlighted the significance of cyber security awareness in today's world. "The internet has become an integral part of our lives, but it comes with its share of risks. This lecture aimed to empower the future leaders of our nation with the knowledge and skills to protect themselves," spokesperson said.

Shiv Sena demands 50% reservation for women in all polls

Tributes paid to Maasaheb Meena Tai Thackeray

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 6: Shiv Sena (UBT) activists on Wednesday paid heartfelt tributes to the Maasaheb Meena Tai Thackeray on her 27th death day, in a programme held at Party's central office in Jammu.

On the occasion, State President Manish Sahni paid floral tributes to the Maa Meenatai.

Sahni raised the voice on the empowerment of women, who constitute half of the country's population, and raised the demand for 50 per cent reservation for women in all elections across the country.

Sahni said that even after 75 years of independence, women are not being given their due rights in the political arena.

The government is organizing programs such as Amrit Mahotsav and hoisting the flag in every household. However, amidst all this, the freedom of women in our independent nation is still surrounded by questions, he added.

Sahni mentioned that laws have been enacted to ensure 50% reservation for women in Panchayats and local bodies in Maharashtra, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh.

He criticized the draft reservation issued for



women in Jammu and Kashmir's local body elections, demanding an increase in reservation for half the female population to 50%.

Sahni stated that in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, women exercised their right to vote in equal numbers as men, which is a significant milestone in the journey of gender equality in politics in India.

However, it is unfortunate that out of a total of 788 members in both houses of the Indian Parliament, only 103 are women, which accounts for a mere 13%. The situation is even worse in State Assemblies, he said.

Sahni mentioned that there is currently a heated discussion taking place regarding the Bill proposing 33% reservation for women in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, which will

be presented in the special session of Parliament from September 18th to 22nd.

If the government is inclined towards implementing such a measure, it should be increased to 50% rather than remaining at 33%, he added.

Shiv Sena strongly believed that providing 50% reservation for women will empower and uplift their voices, ensuring their equal participation and representation in the political landscape of the country.

On this occasion present Mehila wing Meenakshi Chibber, Gen Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Chairman Rakesh Gupta, vice President Sanjeev Kohli, Balwant Singh, Rajesh Handa, Geeta Lakhotra, Dimple and many others were present.

Army Goodwill School Ziran Tanmarg celebrates Annual Day

Top News Report

BARAMULLA, Sep 6: Army Goodwill School, Ziran Tanmarg celebrated its Annual Day under the Aegis of Pattan B, Himalayan Brigade, Dagger Division.

AGS Ziran was established in 1999 and is being run by the Indian Army with full commitment and sincerity. Over the years AGS Ziran has performed exceedingly well in all spheres to include quality education, 100% result and representation at National and International Sports arena.

AGS Ziran celebrates its annual day every year and adds a golden leaf to its reputation and achievements.

The event started with



a dazzling welcome dance by tiny-tots from kindergarten classes. Thereafter, the students displayed an amazing Kashmiri cultural dance followed by traditional dance from Ladakh by Mehru Nisa.

The event also saw participation from students of Junior classes who presented Bhangra dance showcasing culture and spirit from Punjab.

Master Uzair mesmerized the audience with

his captivating patriotic song.

The event culminated with distribution of awards to academics and sports achievers. Nausheen bagged best in academics for her outstanding performance securing 98% in class Xth board exams, 2023. Best sportsperson award was presented to Master Mehraj. Ex-Alumni of the school Arif Khan who has participated in Beijing Winter Olympic 2022 also gave the motivational Speech to the Students.

The event was attended by 400 Students, including 25 Alumni, 31 teachers, 52 Parents and civilian population from Tangmarg and nearby areas. The Students and

teachers wholeheartedly appreciated the Army efforts in providing quality education to the Children from Tangmarg Region.

Army Officers interacted with the Alumni and parents, taking feedback on the teaching standards, sports facilities and other services being provided by the School.

The endeavour was taken in a very positive spirit by local population who opined that quality of education standards provided by the school is one among the best in Tangmarg region.

They also appreciated the efforts taken by Indian Army in upliftment of quality education in the region.

District Level Inter-School Tournament held at Udhampur

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Sep 6: The District Level Inter-School Tournament under the patronage of the Director of YSS, Subash Chander Chibber, under the advisory of Joint Director YSS Suram Chand and supervision of DYSSO Udhampur, Romesh Chander Mishra.

In the ongoing District level Inter School Competitions for boys U/19 years in the discipline of Taekwondo, Table Tennis, Badminton & volleyball was conducted here at Subash Stadium.

The events also show-



cased the energy and enthusiasm of the youth, further promoting the spirit of sportsmanship and healthy competition.

Earlier, a total of 366 student player from

government and private schools participated in the mega event.

The young players displayed exceptional skills and determination throughout the event. Result:

U 19 BOYS: Taekwondo winners: U-45 kg: Abinandan Sharma of GHSS Udhampur; 45-48 Kg: Keshab Sharma of Happy Model; 48-51 Kg: Tansh Sharma of Common

Public School; 51-55 Kg: Munish Kumar of GHSS Udhampur; 55-59 Kg: Rinku Sharma of GHSS Udhampur.

Table Tennis: Single Event: Madhav Sharma of AOC Udhampur beat Madhav Magotra of AOC Udhampur.

Badminton: Single event: APS Udhampur beat GHSS Ramnagar by 2-0 (21-9, 21-10); Double event: APS Udhampur beat GHSS Ramnagar by 2-0 (21-10, 21-11)

Volleyball: GHSS Mansar beat GHSS Majalata by 2-1 (25-16, 19-25, 15-13).

FROM PAGE 1

CS virtually interacts with stakeholders across the UT

grievances about any aspect of corruption they have come across. He assured them that there is no impunity for anyone to resort to corruption and the law would take its own course irrespective of the position or the post.

While talking to people the Chief Secretary asked them about the accessibility of government services in online mode. He enquired from them about the difference in timeframe for delivery of services through online and offline mode and their preferences between the two. He inspired all to embrace the new and easy-to-use technology so that none of them have to undertake unnecessary travel to avail these services and can accomplish it from the comforts of their homes itself. He motivated them to learn from the youngsters to empower themselves with the IT tool to seek their rights from anywhere on the planet.

During the interactive session the Chief Secretary apprised the public about several IT tools offered by the government to remain informed about government schemes, works or applying for different services. He told them about the benefits of Janbhagadari portal, e-Unnat, Mobile Dost, Scan & Share (OPD Registration), 108 Ambulance Service and other utilities.

He asked them to know about their rights to avoid being exploited by anyone.

During this session the Chief Secretary listening to the grievances of the public and instantly passed on directions for their resolution. He even called for reports about each of such complaints to resolve them on merits in this week itself. He invited all of them to come forward and work collectively with the administration to make J&K 'BrashtacharMukt' in real sense.

In anticipation of emergencies, JK residents will get phone alerts

ground for this ambitious cell broadcasting initiative. The initiative aims to evaluate its effectiveness across diverse mobile operators and cell broadcast systems. This system can identify specific geographical zones and efficiently relay alerts to all mobile users within those areas, alerting them to potential hazards.

CBAS is an advanced technology that transmits crucial and time-sensitive disaster management information to all mobile devices within a designated geographical area, benefiting both residents and visitors alike. It plays a pivotal role in ensuring that emergency information reaches the widest

possible audience, making it an invaluable tool for government agencies and emergency services.

Man evading arrest apprehended after 18 years from Delhi by Crime Branch Kashmir

loan to the tune of Rs 48 lakh from the Indian Overseas Bank (Branch Dalgate, Srinagar) on the basis of fake and forged revenue documents. The case was charge-sheeted against him (in absentia; u/S 512 CrPC) as well as the other co-accused u/S 420, 468, 471 & 120-B RPC before the Hon'ble court of competent jurisdiction, he said.

In case FIR No. 34/2015 of Police Station Economic Offences Wing Srinagar (Crime Branch Kashmir), the accused was involved in hatching a criminal conspiracy to fraudulently avail a loan to the tune of Rs 37.80 lakh from J&K Bank (Branch Zainakot, Srinagar) on the basis of fake and forged revenue documents. The case was charge-sheeted against him (in absentia; u/S 512 CrPC) as well as the other co-accused u/S 420, 467, 468, 471 & 120-B RPC before the Hon'ble court of competent jurisdiction. During the trial of said case, the Hon'ble Court of Pr. District and Sessions Judge Srinagar had declared him a 'Proclaimed Offender', he said.

The accused individual is also wanted in case FIR No. 05/2019 of Police Station Economic Offences Wing Srinagar (Crime Branch Kashmir) which pertains to the availing of a loan to the tune of Rs. 30 lakh by producing fake and forged documents. Consequent upon his arrest, accused Sami-ul-Lah Sheikh has been brought to justice, reads the statement.

Crime Branch charge-sheeted nine persons for encroachment of Govt land

Hindustan Petroleum Company Ltd. situated at D6-A Canal of Irrigation Department, Jaurian.

The complainant further alleged that the above said accused with intention to cause wrongful loss to the state had managed to obtain fake and fraudulent title over the land for establishing business concerns.

On receipt of the complaint, a preliminary verification was initiated with the prior approval of Crime Headquarter J&K to probe into the matter. During the course of PV, the allegations were prima-facie established and the instant formal case was registered for in depth investigation.

During the investigation documentary/oral evidence were collected, together with the circumstantial evidence. The offences U/S

420, 447-A/RPC have been established against accused Swarn Singh and Manjeet Singh and offences U/S 120-B, RPC, 5(2) P.C Act 2006 Svt. stand proved against the accused persons Jai Paul, Ashok Nanda, Krishan Lal, Guldev Raj, Baldev Singh, Randeep Singh, and Jagat Ram.

The charge sheet produced in the Court of law for judicial determination.

Omar Abdullah welcomes Supreme Court verdict on Ladakh Polls

division bench of the high court against the single bench order of August 9 which directed the NC to approach the office of the Election Department of the administration of Ladakh to notify the reserved symbol "plough" already allotted to for in the polls.

According to a notification issued by the election department on August 5, the polls for 26 seats of the 30-member LAHDC, Kargil, are scheduled for September 10 and the counting of votes will take place four days later.

Search operation underway near LoC in Poonch

awaited.

Markets decline in early trade on weak global cues, foreign fund outflows

BSE Sensex declined 45.66 points to 65,734.60 in early trade; Nifty slipped 12.75 points to 19,562.15

MUMBAI, Sep 6 (Agencies): Equity benchmark indices declined in early trade on Wednesday in tandem with weak global cues and foreign fund outflows.

The BSE Sensex declined 45.66 points to 65,734.60 in early trade. The Nifty slipped 12.75 points to 19,562.15.

However, later both the benchmark indices rebounded and were trading in the green. The Sensex quoted 45.98 points up at 65,826.24 and the Nifty traded with a gain of 16.15 points to 19,591.05.

From the Sensex pack, IndusInd Bank, Tata Steel, JSW Steel, Tata Motors, Asian Paints and Maruti were the major laggards.

Bharti Airtel, Ultra-



Tech Cement, HDFC Bank, ITC and Reliance Industries were among the gainers.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong were trading lower while Tokyo quoted in the green.

The US markets ended in the negative territory on Tuesday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.07 per cent to USD

90.10 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,725.11 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

Rallying for the third day, the Sensex climbed 152.12 points or 0.23 per cent to settle at 65,780.26 on Tuesday.

The Nifty advanced 46.10 points or 0.24 per cent to end at 19,574.90.

Six Indian companies enter top 10 digital media players' list in FY23

NEW DELHI, Sep 6 (Agencies): Six home-grown companies secured spots in the top 10 rankings of pure-play digital media companies by revenue in FY23, a report showed on Wednesday.

These six Indian companies are Dream Sports, Gameskraft, Games24x7, Verse Innovations, Jungle Games and Times Internet, according to market research firm Redseer Strategy Consultants.

The Indian digital media market has reached unprecedented heights, reaching an estimated market size of USD 11 billion in FY23.

This growth has been catalysed by the surge in internet users and their engagement, propelling the market at an impressive CAGR of 35 per cent over the last

two years due to COVID-led market tailwinds.

"The focus on 'For India' content and strategic alignment with local consumer interests have proven pivotal for domestic digital media companies. With this trajectory, we anticipate further revenue expansion and market dominance for these platforms," said Mukesh Kumar, Associate Partner at Redseer.

The robust performance of the digital media market comprises various segments such as over-the-top (OTT) video services, audio streaming, short-form video platforms and digital gaming.

"Excluding contributions from social media platforms, this sector alone is responsible for injecting an impressive \$5.5 billion into the

overall digital media market ecosystem," the report mentioned.

Breaking down these numbers, one finds that a dominant share -- approximately 60 per cent -- of this contribution comes from the digital gaming sector.

"This remarkable figure highlights the popularity of gaming sector in India, catering to Indian population with domestic games like rummy and leveraging cricket's popularity through daily fantasy sports," said the report.

With the focus on vernacular content and understanding the diversity of languages and cultural nuances across India, game developers are increasingly localising their products and creating content in native languages, the report added.

Teenage boys who smoke can damage genes of their future kids: Study



LONDON, Sep 6 (Agencies): Boys who smoke in their early teenage years risk damaging the genes of their future children, increasing their chances of developing asthma, obesity and low lung function, a new study has said.

Researchers from the UK-based University of Southampton and the University of Bergen in Norway investigated the epigenetic profiles of 875 people, aged 7 to 50, and the smoking behaviours of their fathers.

They found epigenetic changes at 19 sites mapped to 14 genes in the children of fathers who smoked before the age of 15.

These changes in the way DNA is packaged in cells (methylation) regulate gene expression

(switching them on and off) and are associated with asthma, obesity and wheezing.

"Changes in epigenetic markers were much more pronounced in children whose fathers started smoking during puberty than those whose fathers had started smoking at any time before conception," said Dr Negusse Kitaba, Research Fellow at the University of Southampton.

"Early puberty may represent a critical window of physiological changes in boys. This is when the stem cells are being established which will make sperm for the rest of their lives," Kitaba added.

According to Dr Gerd Toril Morkve Knudsen from the University of Bergen and co-lead author of the study, 16

of the 19 markers associated with father's teenage smoking had not previously been linked to maternal or personal smoking.

This suggests these new methylation biomarkers may be unique to children whose fathers have been exposed to smoking in early puberty.

"Our studies have shown that the health of future generations depends on the actions and decisions made by young people today long before they are parents—in particular for boys in early puberty and mothers/grandmothers both pre-pregnancy and during pregnancy," said Professor Cecilie Svanes from the University of Bergen.

The new findings have significant implications for public health. They suggest a failure to address harmful exposures in young teenagers today could damage the respiratory health of future generations, further entrenching health inequalities for decades to come.

Oil prices spike as Saudi, Russia extend 1.3 million barrel a day oil cut through December

DUBAI, Sep 6 (Agencies): Saudi Arabia and Russia agreed to extend their voluntary oil production cuts through the end of this year, trimming 1.3 million barrels of crude out of the global market and boosting energy prices. The dual announcements from Riyadh and Moscow pushed benchmark Brent crude above \$90 per barrel in trading Tuesday afternoon, a price unseen in the market since November.

The countries' moves could increase inflation and the cost for motorists at gasoline pumps. It also puts new pressure on Saudi Arabia's relationship with the United States, as President Joe Biden last year warned the kingdom there would be unspecified "consequences" for partnering with Russia on cuts as Moscow wages war on Ukraine.

Saudi Arabia's announcement, carried by the state-run Saudi Press Agency, said the country still would monitor the market and could take further action if necessary.

"This additional voluntary cut comes to reinforce the precautionary efforts made by OPEC+ countries with the aim of supporting the stability and balance of oil markets," the Saudi Press Agency report said, citing an unnamed Energy Ministry official.

State-run Russian news agency Tass quoted Alexander Novak, Russia's deputy prime minister and former energy minister, as saying Moscow would continue its 300,000 barrel-a-day cut. The decision "is aimed at strengthening the precautionary measures taken by OPEC+ countries in order to maintain stability and balance of oil markets," Novak said.

Benchmark Brent crude traded Tuesday above \$90 a barrel after the announcement. Brent had largely hovered between \$75 and \$85 a barrel since last October. A barrel of West Texas Intermediate, a benchmark for



America, traded around \$87 a barrel.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan declined to comment on the market impact of the decision, though he said US officials had regular contact with the kingdom. He added that Biden would look to utilize "everything within his toolkit" to assist American consumers.

"The thing that we ultimately stand for is a stable, effective supply of energy to global markets, so that we can in fact deliver relief to consumers at the pump, and we do this in a way that is consistent with the energy transition over time," Sullivan said.

Bob McNally, the founder and president of the Washington-based Rapidan Energy Group and a former White House energy adviser, said Saudi Arabia and Russia had "demonstrated their unity and resolve to proactively manage" the risk of oil prices potentially dropping in tougher economic conditions with their announcement Tuesday. "Barring a sharp economic downturn, these supply cuts will drive deep deficits into global oil balances and should propel crude oil prices well above \$90 per barrel," McNally said.

The average gallon of regular unleaded gasoline in the US stands at \$3.81, according to AAA, just under the all-time high for Labor Day of \$3.83 in 2012.

However, gasoline demand typically drops for US motorists after the holiday so it remains

unclear what immediate effect this could have on the American market, AAA spokesman Andrew Gross said. "I'm more concerned about what the rest of hurricane season may hold," Gross told The Associated Press.

"A big storm along the Gulf coast could move prices dramatically here."

Hurricane Idalia just ploughed through Florida and US forecasters said Tuesday that Tropical Storm Lee in the Atlantic Ocean will become an "extremely dangerous" hurricane by Friday. Meanwhile, higher gasoline prices can increase transportation costs and ultimately push the prices of goods even higher at a time when the US and much of the world are already raising interest rates to combat inflation.

"The impact these cuts will have on inflation and economic policy in the West is hard to predict, but higher oil prices will only increase the likelihood of more fiscal tightening, especially in the US, to curtail inflation," said Jorge Leon, a senior vice president at Rystad Energy.

The Saudi reduction, which began in July, comes as the other OPEC+ producers have agreed to extend earlier production cuts through next year.

A series of production cuts over the past year has failed to substantially boost prices amid weakened demand from China and tighter monetary policy aimed at combating inflation. But with international travel

back up to nearly pre-pandemic levels, the demand for oil likely will continue to rise.

The Saudis are particularly keen to boost oil prices in order to fund Vision 2030, an ambitious plan to overhaul the kingdom's economy, reduce its dependence on oil and create jobs for a young population. The plan includes several massive infrastructure projects, including the construction of a futuristic \$500 billion city called Neom.

But Saudi Arabia also has to manage its relationship with Washington. Biden campaigned on a promise of making the kingdom's powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman a "pariah" over the 2018 killing of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi.

In recent months, tensions eased slightly as Biden's administration sought a deal with Riyadh for it to diplomatically recognize Israel.

But those talks include Saudi Arabia pushing for a nuclear cooperation deal that includes America allowing it to enrich uranium in the kingdom — something that worries nonproliferation experts, as spinning centrifuges open the door to a possible weapons program.

Prince Mohammed already has said the kingdom would pursue an atomic bomb if Iran had one, potentially creating a nuclear arms race in the region as Tehran's program continues to advance closer to weapons-grade levels. Saudi Arabia and Iran reached a détente in recent months, though the region remains tense amid the wider tensions between Iran and the US.

Higher oil prices would also help Russian President Vladimir Putin fund his war on Ukraine. Western countries have used a price cap to try to cut into Moscow's revenues. But those sanctions have seen Moscow be forced to sell its oil at a discount to countries like China and India.

Antioxidants stimulate blood flow in tumours, finds research

WASHINGTON DC, Sep 6 (Agencies): A recent study from Karolinska Institutet published in The Journal of Clinical Investigation shows that vitamin C and other antioxidants cause the growth of new blood vessels in lung cancer tumours.

The discovery supports the notion that antioxidant-rich dietary supplements can hasten cancer growth and metastasis.

"We've found that antioxidants activate a mechanism that causes cancer tumours to form new blood vessels, which is surprising, since it was previously thought that antioxidants have a protective effect," says study leader Martin Berg, professor at the Department of Biosciences and Nutrition and vice president of Karolinska Institutet in Sweden. "The new blood vessels nourish the tumours and can help them grow and spread." Antioxidants neutralise free oxygen radicals, which can damage the body, and are therefore commonly found in dietary supplements. But overly

high doses can be harmful.

"There's no need to fear antioxidants in normal food but most people don't need additional amounts of them," says Professor Berg. "In fact, it can be harmful for cancer patients and people with an elevated cancer risk." Previously unknown mechanism

Professor Berg's research group has previously shown that antioxidants like vitamin C and E accelerate the growth and spread of lung cancer by stabilising a protein called BACH1. BACH1 is activated when the level of free oxygen radicals drops, which happens, for example, when extra antioxidants are introduced via the diet or when spontaneous mutations in the tumour cells activate endogenous antioxidants. Now the researchers have been able to show that the activation of BACH1 induces the formation of new blood vessels (angiogenesis).

While low oxygen levels (hypoxia) are known to be

required for angiogenesis to occur in cancer tumours, the new mechanism identified by the researchers demonstrates that tumours can form new blood vessels in the presence of normal oxygen levels as well. The study also shows that BACH1 is regulated in a similar way as the HIF-1 α protein—a mechanism that was awarded the 2019 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine and that allows cells to adapt to changes in oxygen levels. HIF-1 α and BACH1 work together in the tumours, the new research shows.

Hoping for more effective drugs

"Many clinical trials have evaluated the efficacy of angiogenesis inhibitors, but the results have not been as successful as anticipated," says Ting Wang, doctoral student in Professor Berg's group at Karolinska Institutet. "Our study opens the door to more effective ways of preventing angiogenesis in tumours; for example, patients

whose tumours exhibit high levels of BACH1 might benefit more from anti-angiogenesis therapy than patients with low BACH1 levels." The researchers used a range of cell-biological methods and concentrated most of their work on lung cancer tumours by studying organoids—small cultivated microtumours from patients. But they also studied mice and samples of human breast and kidney tumours. Tumours in which BACH1 was activated, either via ingested antioxidants or by overexpression of the BACH1 gene, produced more new blood vessels and were highly sensitive to angiogenesis inhibitors.

"The next step is to examine in detail how levels of oxygen and free radicals can regulate the BACH1 protein, and we will continue to determine the clinical relevance of our results," says Ting Wang. "We'll also be doing similar studies in other cancer forms such as breast, kidney and skin cancer."

Cancers among under-50s rose by 79 per cent in last 30 years: BMJ study

NEW DELHI, Sep 6 (Agencies): There has been a striking 79 per cent increase in new cases of cancer among the under-50s around the world over the last 30 years, according to a study published in the journal BMJ Oncology.

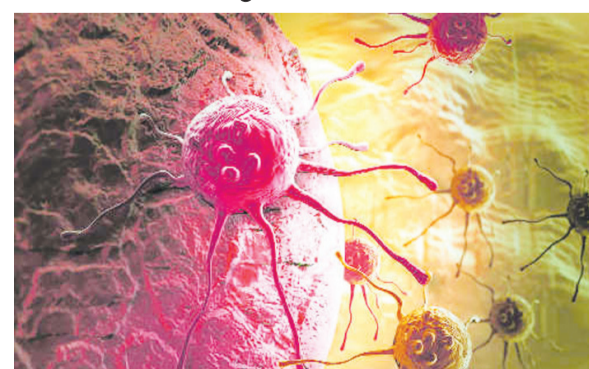
The research found that the fastest rise was in windpipe and prostate cancers while the heaviest death toll was seen for cancers of breast, windpipe, lung, bowel and stomach.

The team led by researchers at the Uni-

versity of Edinburgh in Scotland found that breast cancer accounted for the highest number of 'early onset' cases in this age group in 2019. Cancers of the windpipe and prostate have risen the fastest since 1990.

They estimate that the global number of new early onset cancer cases and associated deaths will rise by a further 31 per cent and 21 per cent, respectively, in 2030, with those in their 40s the most at risk.

The findings upend received wisdom about



the types of cancers typically affecting the under-50s, researchers said.

While cancer tends to be more common in older people, the evi-

dence suggests that cases among the under-50s have been rising in many parts of the world since the 1990s.

The researchers drew on data from the Global

Burden of Disease 2019 Study for 29 cancers in 204 countries and regions. They looked at the incidence, deaths, health consequences (disability-adjusted life years or DALYs) and contributory risk factors for all those aged 14 to 49 to estimate annual percentage change between 1990 and 2019.

In 2019, new cancer diagnoses among the under-50s totalled 1.82 million, an increase of 79 per cent on the 1990 figure, the researchers said.

The team to bring it home?

With 3 all-rounders, 4 bowlers and 6 batters, Rohit's men aim for home run

PALLEKELE, Sep 6 (Agencies): The inclusion of wicket-keeper-batter KL Rahul, whose fitness was under scrutiny, headlined the announcement of India's 15-member World Cup squad today as the selectors strived for all-round balance.

Chief selector Ajit Agarkar said there were no concerns about Rahul's fitness, though he did not travel to Sri Lanka for India's group stage Asia Cup matches.

Rahul is scheduled to reach Sri Lanka ahead of India's Super 4 matches, starting on September 9 against Pakistan.

The selectors also named Ishan Kishan as the second wicketkeeper-batter, and captain Rohit Sharma did not rule out the possibility of playing both Kishan and Rahul in the playing XI if the situation warrants so.

The selection of both Rahul and Kishan meant that there was no place for Sanju Samson, who is currently in Sri Lanka as a travelling reserve for the Asia Cup.

Shreyas Iyer, who played



against Pakistan in the Asia Cup, occupied a spot in the middle-order and there was a two-way tie for the remaining position between Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma. However, Suryakumar was preferred over the youngster despite the former not having a good run in ODIs.

"We're happy. This is the best we can do with balance and depth. We have three all-rounders in the team, four bowlers and six batters. We have thought about it a lot and named

this squad. This is the best combination for us," Sharma said.

In view of the players who missed out, Sharma said the management at times will have to take tough calls for the benefit of the team.

"It is not a bad thing when people are fighting for their spots. The challenges increase and it (the selection) gets harder. But we have to see who is in form, who the opposition is and which player can benefit the most in those circumstances," he said.

"Hardik's form crucial" Sharma said the form of Hardik Pandya will be crucial for the team in its attempt to win an elusive ICC trophy.

The premier all-rounder, who has been named the vice-captain of the squad, has been saddled with leadership duties at various levels.

"His form will be crucial to us. He's a guy who does both the things (batting and bowling), and that's important," said Sharma.

Rahul looking good: Agarkar KL Rahul's presence gives India's World Cup squad "the best balance" as he has met all the fitness parameters, chief selector Ajit Agarkar said today. "KL (Rahul) is looking good. We feel this gives us the best balance to try and do well. KL was part of the camp in Bangalore, and has got over his niggle. He played a couple of games over the last two days (at NCA). He kept for 50 overs and batted for around 50 overs too," he said.

Asia Cup: Vikram Rathour backs team to score big vs Pakistan



PALLEKELE, Sep 6 (Agencies): Ahead of their Asia Cup Super Four match against Pakistan, India batting coach Vikram Rathour said their batters have the skills to post a big score against the Shaheen Shah Afridi-led bowling unit.

Pacers Afridi and Haris Rauf had rocked the Indian top-order in their Group A league

match here on Saturday, reducing them to 66/4 inside 15 overs.

"We will try to bat better in that (Super 4) match. (In the last match) the conditions and situations were different. They are a good bowling attack. It is not like we can't play them (Pakistan pacers). They are a good bowling attack and on certain days they will have

an edge. When we get a start, our batters are capable of putting up a big score," Rathour said.

Rathour was chuffed to see Ishan Kishan responding to the team's guiding philosophy of flexibility with a mature knock against Pakistan. Kishan, who batted at No. 5 for the first time in his career, made 82 off 81 balls against Pakistan. He shared a 138-run alliance with Hardik Pandya to help India post 266 but the rain-hit match was eventually abandoned.

Rathour said it is a good sign for India to have two very good batters in Kishan and KL Rahul to choose from for the middle-order slot.

"Ishan played really well against Pakistan. KL Rahul has done well for the team in the last two years. It is a good problem to have," said Rathour.

Badminton: Indian challenge ends after Satwik-Chirag bow out in opening round of China Open

CHANGZHOU, Sep 6 (Agencies): Commonwealth Games men's doubles champions Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty suffered an opening-round defeat in the China Open Super 1000 tournament, going down in three games to Indonesia's Muhammad Shohibul Fikri and Maulana Bagas here on Wednesday.

The Indian pair, ranked two, lost to the world number 13 duo 17-21, 21-11 and 17-21 in one hour eight minutes.

The Indian mixed doubles pair of Sikki Reddy and Rohan Kapoor also crashed out of the tournament, going down to the Malaysian duo of Chen Tang Jie and Toh Ee Wei 15-21 and 16-21 in the first round.

With the defeats, the Indian challenge came



to an end as no shuttler from the country could advance to the second round of the tournament.

The loss in the opening round just ahead of the Asian Games would be a huge disappointment for Satwik and Chirag after their success in the Swiss Open Super 300, Korea Open and the Indonesia Open Super 1000 earlier this year.

This is the second time the Indonesians have beaten the Satwik-Chirag pair this year. They had defeated

the Indian duo in the pre-quarterfinals of the Thailand Open in June. On Tuesday, World Championship bronze medalist HS Prannoy too had made a shock opening-round exit after going down in three games to Malaysia's Ng Tze Yong.

Reigning Commonwealth Games champion Lakshya Sen had also crashed out of the tournament in the first round after losing to Anders Antonsen of Denmark in three games.

Roberto Mancini set to get started with Saudi team in international friendlies

RIYADH, Sep 6 (Agencies): Roberto Mancini will this week start his bid to make Saudi Arabia's national team as much of an international discussion topic as its big-spending professional league.

Just two years after leading Italy to the European title, Mancini left Rome for Riyadh in August.

His first game in charge of the Saudi team is Friday against Costa Rica at the home of Newcastle United, the English Premier League club owned by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund.

That organization is also funding the arrival of top-class talents such as Cristiano Ronaldo, Karim Benzema and Neymar to Saudi clubs in Riyadh and Jeddah.

"I believe this is a great opportunity for me to



experience football in a new country, especially with the growing popularity of football in Asia," Mancini, who has signed a four-year contract, said. "The presence of top players in the Saudi Pro League indicates the potential for growth in the national football scene."

While the headlines have been on the famous imports, there is homegrown talent in the country. Saudi Arabia's shocking win over eventual champion Argentina last year was one of the biggest upsets ever at

the World Cup. But the team has not played since coach Herve Renard left in March to take over the women's national team of France.

As well as the start of preparations for January's Asian Cup, which Saudi Arabia hasn't won since 1996, Mancini also has the start of qualification for the 2026 World Cup in November.

The same is true of another Inter Milan alumni on Thursday as Jurgen Klinsmann's South Korea takes on Wales in Cardiff, five days before the Koreans meet Saudi Arabia in Newcastle.

Klinsmann, the former coach of the German and the U.S. teams, has failed to win any of the four games South Korea has played, all at home since he took over in February.

There has also been criticism expressed in the Korean media with reports that the 1990 World Cup winner has spent just 67 days in the country in the six months since his appointment.

In August, he held a news conference via Zoom from his Los Angeles home.

"Maybe it's something new to people that are used to doing it differently. I don't blame anybody when they say, 'Where is he?'" Klinsmann told reporters, adding that the work of a national team coach is international. "I am a work-

aholic. I love to work like Koreans love to work. If I'm not maybe 24/7 in the country, I still work 24/7."

Japan is Asia's highest-ranked team at No. 20 and takes on Germany in Wolfsburg on Saturday, less than eight months after defeating the European team at the World Cup. There is also a game against Turkey in Belgium on Tuesday, with English Premier League stars Kaoru Mitoma of Brighton and Hove Albion and Liverpool's Wataru Endo featuring.

"We'll be out to figure out where we stand now by playing these teams with strength," Japan coach Hajime Moriyasu said. "We hope to share and broaden our tactics ahead of the second round of World Cup qualifiers and the Asian Cup."

Asia Cup: Sri Lanka scrape through to Super4s breaking Afghanistan hearts

Following the close finish, Sri Lanka became the second team to qualify for Super4s from Group B after Bangladesh

LAHORE, Sep 6 (Agencies): Mohammad Nabi's game changing 65 off 32 balls came to nothing as Sri Lanka pulled off a thrilling two-run win over an audacious Afghanistan to qualify for the Super4s of the Asia Cup, here.

Kusal Mendis' high-quality 92 had pushed Sri Lanka to 291 for eight at the Gaddafi Stadium.

Due to their inferior run rate, Afghanistan needed to chase down 292 in 37.1 overs and Nabi put them on the cusp of a famous win by smashing the fastest half-century by an Afghanistan batter in ODIs.

In what turned out to be a riveting finish, the qualifying equation came down to 15 runs needed off seven balls and Rashid Khan increased the heart rate on either side of the dressing rooms by finding three fours off left-arm spinner Dunieth Wellalage in the 37th over.

At that tense moment, Afghanistan needed three runs off the first ball of the 38th over with



two wickets in hand. However, Mujeeb Zadran's wicket on the first ball of the over caused heartbreak in the Afghanistan camp with the disappointment written all over the players' faces in the dressing room.

Such was the level of their dejection was that they were not alert enough to know that Afghanistan still had a chance if they hit a six of the following three balls of the 38th over.

Rashid was left stranded at the other end with Fazalhaq Farooqi trapped in front by

Dhananjaya de Silva. Following the close finish, Sri Lanka became the second team to qualify for Super4s from Group B after Bangladesh.

Afghanistan had lost their top three for 50 runs before Nabi produced an innings to remember while batting alongside skipper Hashamatullah Shahidi (59). His special effort comprised five sixes and half a dozen boundaries.

Earlier, Sri Lanka openers Pathum Nissanka (41) and Dimuth Karunaratne (32) gave a brisk start to the innings

before being dismissed by medium pacer Gulbadin Naib.

Rather than the bowlers' skills, it was more about the openers throwing their wickets away after a bright beginning.

Batting at No 3, Mendis then put Sri Lanka on course for a 300 plus total with a near flawless effort comprising six boundaries and three sixes.

The highlight of his sublime innings was the comfort with which he played the wily Rashid, who has built a reputation of foxing the best in

the business. Mendis had no issues picking his googlies and in the 26th over, worked him for three consecutive fours on the leg side. Later in Rashid's spell, Mendis made good contact with the leggies' googly to send it over long on for a maximum.

The Sri Lankan batter deserved a hundred but was run out in an unfortunate with the ball bursting through bowler Rashid's hands to crash the stumps at the non-striker's end, leaving Mendis well out of his ground.

His 102-run stand with Charith Asalanka (36 off 43) further consolidated for Sri Lanka but Afghanistan spinners removed Dhananjaya de Silva and skipper Dasuna Shanaka in a space of six balls to slow down the scoring rate.

In the end, Sri Lanka did well to get close to the 300-mark thanks to a 64-run stand for the eighth wicket between Maheesh Theekshana (28) and Dunieth Wellalage (33 not out).

New Zealand ties T20 series with England 2-2 after winning final match by 6 wickets

The teams now meet in a four-match one-day international series, starting Friday



NOTTINGHAM, Sep 6 (Agencies): New Zealand completed its comeback from 2-0 down to tie the Twenty20 series against England by winning the fourth and final match by six wickets.

Set a victory target of 176 at Trent Bridge, the New Zealanders had a 32-ball 48 from opener Tim Seifert before Glenn Phillips accelerated the middle part of the chase with 42 off 25 balls.

Mark Chapman (40 not out off 25) saw the tourists over the line with 16 balls left to cap a sharp turnaround in the series that England started so well with heavy wins in Durham and Manchester.

New Zealand hammered England by 74 runs in Birmingham on Sunday to stay alive in the series and dominated

the fourth match after dismissing Jonny Bairstow (73 off 41 runs, including six sixes), who gave England a fast start.

From 105-1 early in the 11th over, England lost momentum following the removal of Bairstow and sputtered to 175-8, which always felt too little on a ground known for producing big totals.

The teams now meet in a four-match one-day international series, starting Friday, that serves as a warm-up for the upcoming Cricket World Cup in India starting in October.

In a concern for England, Bairstow didn't keep wicket in New Zealand's chase because of injury. Jos Buttler, who wasn't in the starting lineup to give himself a rest, took the gloves.

SKJAVS Trust honors Dir Agri for Securing GI Tag for Bhaderwahi Rajma, Sulei Honey

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 6: The Shri Kailash Jyotish Avim Vedic Sanathan Trust (SKJAVS Trust) bestowed an honorary recognition upon Mr. KK Sharma, the Director of Agriculture in Jammu, for his instrumental role in obtaining Geographical Indication (GI) tagging for Bhaderwahi Rajma and Ramban Sulei honey. During the event, the Trust's General Secretary, Mr. Prabodh Sharma, lauded the dedication and integrity of Mr. KK Sharma, along with the tireless efforts of local farmers, and congratulated the Agriculture Department on this significant achievement.

KK Sharma, the Agriculture Director in Jammu, expressed his gratitude for the recognition. He shared that the department had submitted applications for GI tagging of various products from the Jammu division, and Bhaderwah Rajma and Ramban Sulei Honey had successfully received the GI tag. With this prestigious distinction, these products will gain recognition both within the country and on the global stage. Bhaderwah Rajma, grown



through traditional methods, and Ramban Sulei Honey are now protected from unauthorized imitation beyond their designated geographical regions.

The process of obtaining GI tagging for these products was initiated by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Jammu, and was subsequently approved. GI tagging is a form of intellectual property right that identifies goods originating from specific geographical locations, possessing distinct characteristics associated with that region. This exclusive status safeguards them from misuse by third parties. Mr. Sharma emphasized that the GI tag ensures that no one can replicate these products outside their designated areas, thereby

preserving their uniqueness.

The GI tagging will not only prevent unauthorized use but also promote exports, bolstering the international recognition of these products and enhancing the economic prospects of local communities. It is a significant step towards the socio-economic development of the producers. To date, six agricultural products from the Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh regions have received the GI tag, including Kashmir's Mushkabudji rice.

The journey towards obtaining the GI tag for Bhaderwah Rajma and Sulai honey of Ramban began in 2020 with the collaboration between NABARD and the Agriculture Department of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sarv Shakti Sewak Sanstha hails LG led Admn for success of Shri Machail Mata Yatra

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU Sep 6: The Sarv Shakti Sewak Sanstha (SSSS) expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor led UT administration and Police for the success of the recently concluded Shri Machail Mata Yatra which witnessed a huge response from devotees around 2 lakh pilgrims offered prayers to holy deity during 43 day long yatra. Sanstha urged the Lieutenant Governor to reduce the helicopter fare and increase the duration of Shri Machail Yatra next year.

Addressing press conference, Sarv shakti Sewak Sanstha Vice President Raj Kumar thanked the Lt Governor, Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh, Adil Director General of Police (ADGP) Sh. Mukesh Singh, Div Com Jammu Ramesh Kumar, DC Khistwar Dr Devansh



Yadav for smooth and successful Machial yatra. Besides these, SSS Sanstha Vice President thanked everyone who undertook the pilgrimage in a large number and with great devotion. "Without administrative help i.e. the facilities set up enroute yatra, a huge crowd turning up for the yatra will not be possible," "People from every section of society participated in the holy pilgrimage and sought blessings of holy deity. Referring to the huge number of Pilgrims, he said this is virtually a triumph of faith and management

excellence due to which Shri Machail Mata Yatra witnesses exponential growth in turnover and popularity this year and breaking past records. "This rise can be attributed to various factors, primarily the meticulous arrangements by the District Administration and accommodations made available to devotees, coupled with the seamless execution of the event's schedule. He said, "Above all this year, the Machail Mata Yatra achieved unprecedented success, largely attributed to the blessing of Maa

Chandi, her Holiness and the comprehensive and tireless efforts of the administration." Expressing gratitude towards district administration, he said, "This year the road and bridge improvements made the Yatra more accessible and efficient, attracting a significant number of Yatries this year. "A notable milestone in this year's Yatra was the installation of a 30 KV Solar Power Plant at the Machail temple which illuminated the temple complex, significantly enhancing the comfort and convenience of Yatries, especially during evening and night visits besides ensuring operation of telecommunication facilities." Extending his thanks to local people, he said, "The Langar facilities set up by local devotees at various spots also helped devotees a lot to meet their day to day needs.

Shiv Sena demands 50 pc reservation for women in all polls

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 6: Shiv Sena (UBT) activists today paid heartfelt tributes to the Maasaheb Meena Tai Thackeray on her 27th death day, in a programme held at Party's central office in Jammu.

On the occasion, State President Manish Sahni paid floral tributes to the Maa Meenatai.

Sahni raised the voice on the empowerment of women, who constitute half of the country's population, and raised the demand for 50 percent reservation for women in all elections across the country.

Sahni said that even after 75 years of independence, women are not being given their due rights in the political arena. The government is organizing programs such as Amrit Mahotsav and hoisting the flag in every household. However, amidst all this, the freedom of women in our independent nation



is still surrounded by questions, he added.

Sahni mentioned that laws have been enacted to ensure 50% reservation for women in Panchayats and local bodies in Maharashtra, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh. He criticized the draft reservation issued for women in Jammu and Kashmir's local body elections, demanding an increase in reservation for half the female population to 50%.

Sahni stated that in the

2019 Lok Sabha elections, women exercised their right to vote in equal numbers as men, which is a significant milestone in the journey of gender equality in politics in India. However, it is unfortunate that out of a total of 788 members in both houses of the Indian Parliament, only 103 are women, which accounts for a mere 13%. The situation is even worse in State Assemblies, he said.

Sahni mentioned that there is currently

a heated discussion taking place regarding the Bill proposing 33% reservation for women in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, which will be presented in the special session of Parliament from September 18th to 22nd. If the government is inclined towards implementing such a measure, it should be increased to 50% rather than remaining at 33%, he added.

Shiv Sena strongly believed that providing 50% reservation for women will empower and uplift their voices, ensuring their equal participation and representation in the political landscape of the country. On this occasion president Mehila wing Meenakshi Chibber, Gen Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Chairman Rakesh Gupta, vice President Sanjeev Kohli, Balwant Singh, Rajesh Handa, Geeta Lakhotra, Dimple and many others were present.

Sanskrit Week Conclusion at Central Sanskrit University

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 6: Sanskrit week which was organized from August 28 to September 5 at Central Sanskrit University, Shri Ranbir Campus Jammu ended on Tuesday on the occasion of Teacher's Day. On this occasion, Special Guest, Shri Purshottam Lal Dubey said that Sanskrit is the most popular language of the world. Sanskrit is the language of culture and values. This language has been in progress since Satyuga. It is an ancient language of the world. Sanskrit is used in the rituals that take place from the birth of a human being till his death. Honorable Guest, Mr. Ved Prakash said that various programs should be organized in schools to promote Sanskrit language throughout the year. The respect of Sanskrit is increasing all over the world, because it is a scientific language. Saras-



wat Guest, Prof Kailash Chandra Dash said that Sanskrit is the oldest language of the world, Sanskrit language is the only medium to connect the students with their culture and make them proud of their culture.

In his presidential speech, Campus Director, Prof. Madan Mohan Jha said that India is a confluence of different languages, in which Sanskrit is the mother of all languages. It has limitless career possibilities.

Coordinator of the Sanskrit Week program, Dr. Rajkumar Mishra,

while giving the report of Sanskrit Week, said that this time during Sanskrit Week, Sanskrit Chaupal, Vethi Drama and Sanskrit Exhibition, Sanskrit Shobha Yatra, Gurukul Sandarshan along with Sanskrit songs, shlokas, well spoken recitations, and essays were organized for enhancing the knowledge of the students in various government schools of Jammu. Quiz and Speech Contests, Painting and Rangoli competitions were organized throughout the week. Prizes were given to the winners of various

competitions. Eminent scholars of Jammu & Kashmir viz. Prof. Kailash Chandra Dash, Mr. Purshottam Lal Dubey, Mr. Vachaspati Shastri, and Mr. Vedprakash Shastri were honored on this occasion. On the occasion of Teacher's Day, the professors of the campus were also honored by the students of Shiksha - Shastri Department. The program began with an invocation by Dr. Praveen Kumar. The guests were duly honored by Dr. Tej Nath Poudel.

In the valedictory ceremony, Dr. Gopal Verma, Dr. Yogendra Dixit, Dr. Praveen Kumar, Kamal Kishore, Pradeep Mishra, Dr. Anayamani Tripathi, Dr. Pawan Kumar Singh, Dr. Sujit Kumar Pandey, Dr. Shibashish, Dr. Madan Singh, Dr. Rekha Mishra, and Dr. Prakash Chandra Yadav were present.

Samvedna committed to serve mankind: Keshav

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 6: Samvedna Society Chairman Keshav Chopra along with District Social Welfare Office Jammu in collaboration with Sood Eye Center (A unit of Aggarwal Hospitals) organises Free Eye check up camp for the students of Residential school of Blind Roopnagar Jammu, Team of Expert doctor comprising of Dr. Uzma Choudhary (M.S) Eye Surgeon examined the Students.

The Camp was inaugurated by District Social Welfare officer Jammu Mamta Rajput (JKAS). Free Medicines were also provided and some students have also been referred to visit the Sood Eye center in which they will get free of cost treatment.

Speaking on the Occasion Mamta Rajput (JKAS) appreciated the work of Samvedna Society and said that Philanthropy services by voluntary organisations playing an important role by providing



much needed aid to the common people, This camp would surely benefit the students of blind school who require ophthalmic consultations by expert doctors.

Speaking on the occasion Keshav chopra said that Samvedna Society works mainly by conducting different health camps/ Eye camps targeting all sections and age group in order to address the problem of blindness holistically, our motive is to provide best healthcare facilities

to the needy people at their doorstep and we will continue conduct these eye camps in future also so that everyone can take benefit of it keshav further added

Mohd Shahbaz Superintendent of Blind school, Sanjay Vidrohi, Shahid Hussian Shah, Rakesh Bali Marketing Head, Brijesh Kumar optometrist, Satveer Kour, Rajesh, Manoj Tandon, Sushil Gupta, Vikas Kumar, Divyansh Gupta and others were also present during the camp.

JKMS clinched first position in Inter School Folk Dance Competition

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 6: The students of JKMS bagged first prize in the Inter School Folk Dance Competition held under the Forum of Youth Talent Search.

With the aim of honing the dancing skills of the students,

a Folk Dance Competition was held wherein the students of various schools participated.

The vivacious dancers set the floor on fire with their energetic performances. The fun filled extravaganza, offered folk dance forms of Rajasthan, Punjab, Jammu & Gujarat.

The spectators witnessed the enthusiasm and energy of the young children. They enthralled everyone with their competitive spirit. It proved



to be an energy booster for their mind and soul.

The air became alive as the students of JKMS clad in vibrant and flashy dresses, whirled and twirled to the rhythmic beats of the song. It was a challenge for the judges to pick out the winners. But after giving a tough competition to the dancers of other

schools the lucky ones who stood out were: Hitarthi Bhan, Tanvi Sharma, Sanvi Verma, Sanvi Thakur, Sanvi Gupta, Drishti Bhagat, Aroohi Verma, Agamjot Kour, Jessica

Mrs. Rajni Gupta Director JKMS congratulated the students on winning the 1st Prize and appreciated the

combined efforts of the students and teachers who were involved in the preparations of the Folk Dance.

She also stressed the need for implementation of such programmes in every stage of school for better progress in academics, social and intellectual life of the students.