

TOP NEWS OF J&K

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Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

National Counter-Terrorist exercise of State, Central Police Forces planned next month

NEW DELHI, Sep 8 (Agencies): A joint exercise of various state and central police counter-terrorist forces is planned to be held next month by the federal contingency commando force NSG as part of a strategy to fine tune the national crisis management plan and enhance jointness, official sources said on Friday.

The ninth edition of the exercise code-named "Agni Pariksha" is slated to be held between October 24 and November 4 at the garrison of the 'black cats' commandos force in Manesar (Gurgaon).

The joint national level exercise aims to enhance the counter-terrorist expertise of the state police anti-terrorist squads and those from the central armed police forces (CAPFs) as they are the first responders in case of a terrorist attack, a senior Union home ministry official said.

The aim of this exercise is to ensure minimum casualties and collateral damage during such operations and to achieve better results even as the NSG joins them in due course during a crisis that can occur in any form and in any part of the country, he said.

The exercise, like its earlier editions, will help all the forces understand their respective strengths, weaknesses and provide a platform to share best practices, a CAPF officer said.

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Courts need not show compassion when contemnors use them as legal trick to wriggle out of responsibility: SC

NEW DELHI, Sep 8 (Agencies): Observing that a lenient attitude shown by judicial institutions has emboldened unscrupulous litigants to disobey or commit a breach of an order with impunity, the Supreme Court has said courts need not show compassion when contemnors use them as a "potent weapon" and "legal trick" to wriggle out of responsibility.

The observation came while the top court was adjudicating a case from the Gujarat High Court, which sentenced five people under the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 for their deliberate



and wilful disobedience of an undertaking given to it in 2015 in a property dispute.

The appellants in the matter proceeded to execute 13 sale deeds in favour of different parties, despite the under-

taking given to the high court.

The high court had sentenced three of them to two months of simple imprisonment and asked the remaining two to pay Rs 1 lakh in lieu of sentencing.

A bench comprising Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra said fake apologies should not be accepted and the court was not bound to accept the apology tendered by the contemnors and that apologies thus tendered should be unconditional, unqualified and bona fide.

"Apology is not just a word. The court should not accept the apology when it appears that saying sorry is nothing but a legal trick to wriggle out of responsibility. A true apology must be a deep ethical act of introspection,

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Bypoll Results 2023: BJP wins Tripura, Congress Kerala

CHANDIGARH, Sep 8 (Agencies): The counting of votes for the seven Assembly seats across six states that went to bypolls on Tuesday, began at 8 am at the centres set up in the respective states on Friday.

The seven seats are Bageshwar in Uttarakhand, Ghosi in Uttar Pradesh, Puthuppally in Kerala, Dhugguri in West Bengal, Dumri in Jharkhand, and Boxanagar and Dhanpur in Tripura.

Tripura: BJP wins bypolls in Dhanpur, Boxanagar

The BJP won the by-elections to the Dhanpur and Boxanagar assembly seats in Tripura's Sepahijala district on

Friday, according to the Election Commission.

BJP's Tafajjal Hossain won the Boxanagar seat, which has around 66 per cent minority voters, by 30,237 votes. Hossain got 34,146 votes, while his nearest rival Mizan Hossain of the CPI(M) got 3,909 votes.

BJP candidate Bindu Debnath bagged the Dhanpur seat, which has a significant tribal population, by 18,871 votes. Debnath got 30,017 votes, and his nearest rival Kaushik Chanda of the CPI(M) got 11,146 votes.

Kerala: Chandy Oommen wins Puthuppally

Opposition Congress-UDF on Friday retained the Puthuppally Assem-

bly constituency in Kerala as its candidate Chandy Oommen won by a margin of over 36,000 votes in the bypoll, Election Commission sources said.

While Oommen, son of late Congress stalwart Oommen Chandy, gained a clear edge since the initial round, his nearest rival and ruling LDF candidate Jaick C Thomas could never gain a lead in any rounds.

The CPI(M)-led LDF lost ground even in its stronghold areas, and BJP candidate Lijin Lal was nowhere in the picture when the counting was over.

Chandy Oommen (37), currently chairman of the Youth Congress's

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G20 meet 'Normal Process', but it is better forum than UN: Farooq Abdullah



SRINAGAR, Sep 8 (Agencies): The G20 forum is better than the United Nations as 20 countries discuss their issues and look for solutions, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah said here on Friday.

However, he stressed that the G20 meeting take place in every member country on a rotational basis and it is a normal process.

"G20 (meeting) is

a normal process. It rotates between the 20 countries. It is a good forum where these 20 countries put themselves together and discuss their issues and look for their solutions. It is a good forum rather than the UN where there are so many countries," Abdullah told reporters on the sidelines of a party function here.

When asked what the holding of the meeting in India means for the

country, Abdullah said such meetings take place in every member country on a rotational basis.

"Did the G20 not take place in the other countries? It will happen in Brazil next year, then rotate again," the NC president said.

When asked whether he had received the invitation for the dinner hosted by the President, the Lok Sabha MP said "no".

"Why should president invite me? I don't see why the president would invite me," the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said.

India is hosting the G20 meeting over the weekend.

To another question about the Bharat-India

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Govt rolls out 3rd phase of mandatory gold hallmarking in 55 new districts in 17 States/UT



NEW DELHI, Sep 8 (Agencies): The Government on Friday said the third phase of mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery and artefacts has come into force in 55 new districts in 16 states and one Union territory.

Gold hallmarking is a purity certification of the precious metal and was voluntary in nature till June 16, 2021, when

the government decided to implement mandatory gold hallmarking in a phased manner.

Currently, a total of 343 districts are covered under mandatory hallmarking. In the first phase, launched on June 23, 2021, 256 districts were covered, while the second phase from April 4, 2022, included 32 more districts.

LAHDC polls on October 4; NC gets 'plough' symbol back

KARGIL, Sep 8 (Agencies): Two days after the Supreme Court scrapped earlier notification of 5th general elections of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Kargil, Election authority of the UT has issued a fresh election notification fixing October 4th as polling date.

As per the fresh notification, the process for filing of nomination papers for 26-member LAHDC Kargil will start on September 9 while last date for filing nominations has been fixed as September 16.

Scrutiny of nominations will take place on September 18 while the

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Change Country's name if you have guts; Omar dares Centre

SRINAGAR, Sep 8 (Agencies) As controversy has erupted on the 'Bharat-India' name, National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Friday challenged the Centre to 'change' the Constitution first if they have 'guts'.

Talking to the reporters here, the NC leader said nobody will support the union government if it will change the Constitution to rename the country.

"Nobody can change it... It is not so easy to change the name of the country. To do this, you will have to change the Constitution of the country. If you have the guts, then do it, we will also see who supports you...," Omar Abdullah said.



Speculations have gained ground that the Centre might change the name of the country to Bharat from India after Rashtrapati Bhawan sent out invitations for a G20 dinner on September 9 on behalf of the 'President of Bharat'.

The opposition alleged that the government was resorting to "drama" just because they got together and called their bloc INDIA. BJP leaders have strongly supported the move by the govern-

ment.

National Conference (NC) patriarch Farooq Abdullah also commented on the same on Friday and said, "Read the Constitution first; it is mentioned there that Bharat and India are one. You (media) create controversy."

However, the Ladakh administration announced a new schedule for elections to the fifth Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) in the Kargil region, following a directive by the Supreme Court, Omar Abdullah said that his party is now looking forward to getting the support of the people in the region after the verdict.

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Man held for hugging airhostess, trying to kiss her as Vistara flight was scheduled to land in Mumbai

MUMBAI, Sep 8 (Agencies): A 30-year-old Bangladeshi national was arrested here for allegedly sexually harassing a woman flight attendant on board a Muscat-Dhaka flight travelling via Mumbai, a police official said on Friday.

The incident took place in the early hours of Thursday some time before the Vistara flight was scheduled to land at the Mumbai international airport, he said.

"Mohammed Dulal, a Bangladeshi national, was going to Dhaka from Muscat via Mumbai on a Vistara flight. Half an hour before the plane was to land in Mumbai, Dulal got up from his seat, hugged a woman flight attendant and tried to kiss her," the official said.



He also tried to flash at other cabin crew members and passengers when they tried to intervene, he said.

The accused flyer also did not listen to the flight captain when the latter was reading out a red warning card, declaring him an unruly passenger, he said.

After landing at the Mumbai airport, the accused was handed over to security officers, who took him to the

Sahar police station, the official added.

Based on a complaint lodged by the flight attendant, an FIR under relevant sections of the IPC was registered against the accused and he was placed under arrest, he said.

He was produced in a local court, which remanded him in police custody till Friday, he said.

In a statement, a Vistara spokesperson said,

"An incident regarding an unruly passenger was reported on Vistara flight UK 234 operating from Muscat to Mumbai on September 6. In view of the gross misconduct, the captain issued a warning letter and made the decision to restrain the customer."

"In accordance with the guidelines and our stringent standard operating procedures (SOPs), the security agencies on-ground were informed to take immediate action upon arrival," the airline official said.

The customer has been taken into custody for further investigation by the security agency at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai. The incident has been

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India's G20 Presidency coincides with country's glory in Space: Dr Jitendra

TOP NEWS REPORT

NEW DELHI, Sep 8: India's G20 Presidency coincides with the country's glory in Space, said Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Space and Atomic Energy.

"G20 Summit is happening in India at a time when Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has emerged as the tallest leader of the world. The Summit is taking place at a time when India's flag is flying on the South Pole of Moon, the first time any spacecraft has landed on the farther side of the Moon, and the nation's achievements in Science & Technology, including the pioneering R&D success story in Covid vaccines, are being hailed across the globe," the Minister said. True to the spirit of



'Vasudeva Kutumbakam', the theme of the G20 Summit in New Delhi, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the world today acknowledges PM Modi's mantra of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future.'

In an interview to Doordarshan on the eve of G20 Summit in New Delhi, Dr Jitendra Singh said that India is ready to lead the world in more ways than one. For any future science endeavour, including in the Space sector, all the stakeholder nations of the world would need to come together, he added.

"If we have to go

beyond this, we have to move on collectively, because we are part of the global world. So any further growth has to happen in a much, much extended integration. The main characteristic of the growth from here onwards would be that it would be largely technology driven," said Dr Jitendra Singh.

Pointing out that India's Space programme is now at an equal pace with the world's leading Space agencies, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the NASA might have been the first to land on the moon, but it was India's Chandrayaan-1 that picked up possible

evidence of water molecules on the Moon and now Chandrayaan-3 has for the first time landed on the South Pole of the moon.

"Chandrayaan is being looked up by the entire scientific community across the globe because they expect some new inferences being gathered from there, most from Chandrayaan-3 because it's gone into a virgin area. So obviously, the inputs, inferences that would be forthcoming from there would be of utility to all the other Space agencies as well for their future projects and planning," he said.

Maj Gen Sachdeva visits NCC Hqrs Srinagar

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Sep 8: Maj Gen RK Sachdeva, the Additional Director General (ADG) of the NCC Directorate Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh, undertook a significant visit to the Headquarters of NCC Group Srinagar today. The visit encompassed a series of impactful engagements, underscoring the remarkable contributions and dedication of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) community in the region.

Upon his arrival at HQ NCC Group Srinagar, Maj Gen Sachdeva was accorded a warm reception by Brig KS Kalsi, the Group Commander. A splendid Guard of Honour, executed with precision, was presented to him by NCC Cadets hailing from the picturesque region of Kashmir.

A pivotal moment during the visit was the convening of a conference, presided over by Maj Gen Sachdeva, which brought together all NCC officers. During the conference, the ADG meticulously reviewed the diverse range of activities undertaken by the NCC Group in the realms of both Kashmir and the Union Territory of Ladakh.



Maj Gen Sachdeva lauded the relentless efforts of the NCC Units in the region and fervently encouraged the attending officers to persist in their invaluable work, which contributes significantly to the transformation and empowerment of the youth.

In a poignant gesture, Maj Gen Sachdeva presented certificates of appreciation to select NCC personnel and cadets. Those honoured included Prof Eshrat Ara, the dedicated NCC Officer in charge of GCW MA Road, Cadet Bilal from Amar Singh College, and Sub Naresh Kumar, reflecting their outstanding dedication and contributions to the NCC cause.

The engagement further continued with Maj Gen Sachdeva engaging in heartfelt conversations with cadets, staff, and instructors.

Over a cup of tea, he inspired and motivated them to continue their unwavering commitment to their commendable endeavours.

Closing out the visit on a high note, Maj Gen Sachdeva also paid a courtesy call to Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, the GOC Chinar Corps, at Badami Bagh Cantt. The discussions encompassed a wide array of matters pertinent to the NCC, emphasizing its pivotal role in the region.

Maj Gen RK Sachdeva's visit to HQ NCC Group Srinagar served as a testament to the dedication and excellence displayed by the NCC community in Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh. It underscored the organization's unwavering commitment to the empowerment and holistic development of the youth.

NC pays tributes to Sheikh Abdullah on his 41st death anniversary

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, SEP 8: J&K National Conference today paid glorious tributes to Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah on the occasion of his 41st death anniversary in a function held at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu.

Rattan Lal Gupta, while praising Sheikh Abdullah, discussed various aspects of his life and highlighted his contributions to improve the conditions for the weaker and downtrodden sections of society. Sher-e-Kashmir symbolized the aspirations of Jammu and Kashmir people as no single individual could have even dreamed of doing. "The best tribute to Sher-e-Kashmir will be to strengthen amity among Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs. He urged party workers to take pledge to uphold and preserve the legacy of amity, brotherhood and communal harmony bequeathed by him. Ajay Sadhotra, senior NC leader and former



source of inspiration for generations. His dedication and sacrifice for the nation cannot be forgotten.

The Provincial President said that throughout his charismatic political career, Sher-e-Kashmir symbolized the aspirations of Jammu and Kashmir people as no single individual could have even dreamed of doing. "The best tribute to Sher-e-Kashmir will be to strengthen amity among Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs. He urged party workers to take pledge to uphold and preserve the legacy of amity, brotherhood and communal harmony bequeathed by him.

Ajay Sadhotra, senior NC leader and former

minister, in his address, praised Sheikh Abdullah's slogan of 'Hindu, Muslim, Sikh Ithihaad' and its resonance throughout Jammu and Kashmir. The former minister highlighted Sheikh Abdullah's dedication to fighting for the rights of oppressed sections of society, regardless of caste, creed, or religion. He emphasized Sheikh Abdullah's role in nurturing and strengthening bonds of love between different sections of society and regions of J&K and Ladakh.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Pardeep Bali, Jugal Mahajan, Abdul Gani Teli, Vijay Lochan, Satwant Dogra, Bimla Luthra, Harshvardhan Singh, Nar Singh,

Dr. Shamshad Shan, Shamim Begum, District Presidents Chand Mohan Sharma, Ragbir Singh Manhas, Saudagar Gupta, Laxmi Gupta, BDC Chairperson Ch Rehmat Ali, and Rajni Devi acknowledged Sheikh Abdullah's tireless efforts and sacrifices to uplift the impoverished people of Jammu and Kashmir. They credited Sheikh Abdullah with bringing new hope to the fear-stricken people of all regions of J&K. They called for unity, integrity, brotherhood, peace, progress, and prosperity in J&K, along with the preservation of secularism, socialism, and democratic rights.

Early in the morning Quran Khawani was performed at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu and organized by G.H Malik Senior leader in which special prayer offer for the peace to the departed soul.

All the districts of Jammu Province observed 41st death anniversary of Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohd Abdullah and paid rich tributes to the great leader at their respective headquarters.

Later, Mehmood Rizvi, Advocate J&K High Court, Puran Chand, Ex Chairman MC Bari Brahmana, and Avineesh Mangotra from Ramgarh, along with hundreds of supporters, joined the National Conference due to the party's pro-people policies.

Rattan Lal Gupta welcomed them into the party fold and expressed hope that their joining will strengthen the base of the Party. He said the party is committed to work for the unity, integrity, and prosperity of the people of J&K and preserving the bonds of love and harmony among different sections of society.

J&K unites in patriotism under 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign: Jasrotia



TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Sep 8: Former Minister Rajeev Jasrotia on Friday paid floral tribute to Amar Shaheed Krantiveer Havildar Jagir Singh and Shaheed Joginder Singh at Rakh Lachhipur under Meri Maati Mera Desh program.

Jagir Singh martyred for the country in 2004 and Joginder Singh martyred in 1989.

Jasrotia collected 'Mitti' (soil) from every home, especially the homes of martyrs and the prominent ones under the 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' campaign.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include Gurmeet Singh, Randeep Singh, Paramjit Singh, Jaswinder Singh, Gurjit Singh, Fauja Singh, Ashok Jasrotia, Gyan Singh, Vidya Sagar besides others.

Jasrotia said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his tenure of more than 9 years, many times raised such slogans which later got covered on the lips of the people. Many slogans were converted into a campaign and they brought positive changes in country.

The latest in this

regard is, "Meri Maati, Mera Desh" to honor the brave martyrs of the country. Jasrotia said that a society that forgets its martyrs will itself be forgotten one day. We are indebted to those martyrs who laid down their lives for ours and our families' future.

He said that such events will not only solve the purpose of remembering contributions of the Army but people need to bond themselves with their sacrifices.

He said that the whole nation is indebted to martyrs for their supreme sacrifice. He said those who attain supreme sacrifices for nation are lucky ones and we must stand by the family members of martyrs so that they don't feel alienated.

Jasrotia said that people should not forget the days when our soldiers give their lives while guarding borders for nation's safety. He said that the youth must unite and stand in support of our forces so that they should not feel demoralized in the hands of anti-national elements. He said that being patriotic towards the nation is everyone's

responsibility, for we as a society and as a group.

He added that there is no nation without people and vice-versa and 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign is to honour the country's martyred brave hearts, who put their life at stake for the safety and security of general masses.

He remarked that this campaign is envisaged from 9th August 2023 as a culminating event of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and it is a tribute to the Veers and Veeranganas who have made the supreme sacrifice for the country.

Jasrotia said that 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' also envisions a unified celebration of India's soil and valour, commemorating the nation's journey of freedom and progress.

He highlighted that by connecting with the land and honouring our heroes, this program will instill a sense of national pride and inspire future generations to protect India's cherished heritage.

He further said that youth form a major part of our nation and being patriotic towards it is their major responsibility.

UIET, Kathua Campus organises an awareness programme on 'Entrepreneurship for Self-reliant India'

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Sep 8: To promote the vision of entrepreneurship as a viable avenue for employment among the youth in general and students of the campus in particular, the University Institute of Engineering & Technology (UIET), Kathua Campus, University of Jammu organised an awareness programme on "Entrepreneurship for Self-Reliant India" under Swavlambi Bharat Abhiyaan. The students of the campus participated in various activities, including essay writing, poster making, quiz competitions, declamations, and slogan writing.

Surbhi Kohli Babma, Owner and Director (Life Skills Scoop) was the expert speaker. She said that entrepreneurship plays a pivotal role in building a strong and self-reliant nation by creating job opportunities, driving innovation, and strengthening the economic fabric of society. She opined that in an



era marked by unprecedented challenges and opportunities, entrepreneurship continues to thrive as innovators and visionaries from various sectors forge ahead to shape the future. She reiterated that entrepreneurship is not merely about launching a start-up; it represents a mindset and approach to life and work that embraces autonomy, creativity, and the pursuit of one's passion.

Dr. Meenakshi Kilam, Rector, Kathua Campus, University of Jammu said that the objective of organising this

awareness programme is to focus on the promotion of the idea of self-employment and to change the mindset of youth from job seekers to job providers. She underscored that entrepreneurship is a vital driver of economic growth and self-sufficiency. Further, she reiterated that Kathua Campus (JU) is empowering youth with the knowledge and skills necessary to become successful entrepreneurs, thereby playing a pivotal role in nation-building.

Dr. Sourabh Shastri,

I/C Coordinator, UIET welcomed the guests and said that entrepreneurship emerged as a prominent alternate career choice in today's changing landscape. He further said that similar awareness programmes will also be organised in the future to foster entrepreneurial spirit among youth and contribute to the vision of a self-reliant India.

The special guests including Sh. Agninder Bakshi (Executive Engineer, J&K SIDCO), Mr. Rohit Mishra (HR, M/s Varun Beverages Pvt. Ltd.), Mr. Brij Pal Singh

(I/c Site, M/s Devayani Food Industries Pvt. Ltd.), Shubham Saini (Project Engineer, M/s OPI Pharma Pvt. Ltd.), Pankaj Mehra (Director, M/s Mehra Polyplast Pvt. Ltd.), Abhishek Garg (Director, M/s Micropet Technology Pvt. Ltd.), Tyagi (Site Engineer, M/s Aero-plast Ltd.), Ankur Rana (Project Engineer, M/s Axiom Foods and Beverages Pvt. Ltd.), Virinder Khosla (Owner, M/s Perma Fixer Corporation), Nishant Shukla (Director, M/s Ecoearth Bipol Pvt. Ltd.) and Mr. Rajinder Thareja (Proprietor, M/s Satyam Ispat Udyog) shared their experiences with the aspiring entrepreneurs and students of the campus.

Ritika Goyal and Ms. Nisha Choudhary coordinated the whole programme, whereas Ms. Ritu Sharma delivered the vote of thanks.

The faculty members and non-teaching staff of the campus were also present during the programme.

EDITORIAL

G-20: FORUM TO
WORK TOGETHER

The G-20 is an international organization representing the world's 20 largest economic powers. Its main objective is to work together on world economic development plans and provide solutions to new problems and challenges.

It was formed in 1999 as a consortium of organizations, which was known as G-7. The G-7 included the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom. The G-7 began working together on world economic development plans, but after the 1997 economic crisis, they felt they should also include the world's major economic powers. So, they created the G-20.

Since the G-20's inception, it has played an important role in working together on the world's economic development plans. It also helped boost the world's economic growth during the 2008 financial crisis.

The G-20 has presented several resolutions to work together on the world's economic development plans. These resolutions include clean development, environmental protection, and inclusive growth.

The G-20 has also worked to provide solutions to new problems and challenges. It introduced the Paris Climate Agreement in 2015, an official pledge to curb global warming.

G-20 is an important international organization that plays an important role in working together on the world's economic development plans and providing solutions to new problems and challenges.

India is chairing the G-20 in 2023. India is using this opportunity to boost its global leadership and strengthen its role in global affairs.

The priorities of India's G-20 presidency include; Economic Growth and Inclusion: India is focused on promoting global economic growth and ensuring inclusive growth for all countries. Environmental protection: India is focusing on taking action to combat climate change and environmental degradation. Solving Global Challenges: India is focusing on promoting cooperation to solve global challenges such as terrorism, hunger and poverty.

India believes that G-20 is an important forum where countries of the world should come together to work together on these important issues.

The member countries of G-20 conference are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States of America. The G20 Summit is held annually, under the leadership of a rotating Presidency. The G20 initially focused largely on broad macroeconomic issues, but it has since expanded its agenda to inter-alia include trade, sustainable development, health, agriculture, energy, environment, climate change, and anti-corruption.

G-20's outcome uncertain amid multiple challenges

By: K.C. Singh

The Leaders' Summit of the Group of Twenty, or G-20, is being held in New Delhi on September 9-10, after a nine-month mega buildup by India. There is a domestic context as well as a geopolitical one. It is perhaps not coincidental that India is hosting it just months before the Lok Sabha elections. Scheduling is done by mutual arrangement within one of five groups which gets a turn by rotation.

However, employing the multilateral conference's hoopla for domestic political gain and image building is hardly exclusive to the BJP. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, after regaining power in 1980, was keen to erase the stigma of declaring the 1975-77 Emergency, which had dented her global image. The Commonwealth summit was scheduled in November 1983 for this purpose. The Non-Aligned Summit (NAM) came as a surprise addition in March 1983, when Iraq failed to hold it due to the ongoing Iran-Iraq war. NAM had lost direction under Cuba. The two summits gave Mrs Gandhi a huge boost domestically as well as internationally.

The G-20 has evolved considerably since its conception in 2008, after the banking crisis that hit American financial institutions. Themes got added as global priorities evolved. The 2015 Paris Climate Accord brought climate change and mitigation financing to the fore. The Covid-19 pandemic's outbreak in 2020 added global health to its agenda. The Ukraine war triggered food and energy security concerns. Thus, the agenda evolved from macroeconomic issues to trade, sustainable development, health, agriculture, energy, environment, climate change and anti-corruption.

The themes are handled by two main groups -- Finance and Sherpa.

In addition, Engagement Groups rope in civil society, parliamentarians, think tanks, women, youth, labour, business and researchers. The objective being to harness the energies of disparate groups to achieve, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi spelt out in his PTI interview, a "sustainable, inclusive and equitable" world.

India has to date hosted 220 meetings in 60 cities of all 28 Indian states and eight Union territories. Prime Minister Modi, also in the PTI interview, spelt out how India had shaped the basic themes. They run from Startup 20 to Disaster Risk Reduction and focus on Millets, Cyber Security, Counternarcotics, Life Principles, Women-led Development, Traditional Medicines. Mr Modi concluded that India was laying out the "roadmap for the future". It is "Vishwa Guru" in practice rather than just via pronouncements.

However, aspiring is easier than achieving. Multiple challenges are presented by geopolitical factors. The absence of Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping highlight two obvious difficulties. The Ukraine war has polarised the G-20 group into those opposing Russia and the ones supporting it or wishing to remain neutral. As the G-20 operates on consensus, this has stymied resolutions.

Complicating it further are the India-China differences and the testy US-China ties. This is the first G-20 summit that Xi Jinping is skipping.

What is China's strategy in doing so? First, it comes days after the Brics summit and expansion in South Africa. India went along with the Chinese keenness to expand the group but found that it did not mellow Chinese recalcitrance on the border question. An early hint was the Chinese briefing that India

sought the meeting. Then followed the publication of a map showing large parts of Indian territory as Chinese. The obvious conclusion is, as headlined by the New York Times, that China is snubbing India. A more reasoned explanation can be that Xi's domestic economic difficulties, slumping exports and high unemployment among the youth may have made him fear losing face amongst his peers. That perhaps explains him skipping the Brics Business Forum speech, which his commerce minister delivered on his behalf. Nikkei Asia has reported that at China's last Beidaihe meeting, an annual gathering of Communist Party stalwarts, Xi was reprimanded for mishandling the economy and foreign relations. Zang Qinghong, a former vice-president and confidant of late President Jiang Zemin, had delivered the message.

Alternatively, Xi Jinping may be downgrading the G-20's role as he, and President Vladimir Putin, now have an expanded Brics to use as a countervailing platform. The expansion has left India's sway in Brics diminished as it was made without any transparent norm. For instance, G-20 members Turkey and Indonesia did not find a place, but Egypt, Ethiopia, the United Arab Emirates and Iran did. This appeared like a balancing game to please China without offending the US excessively.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi justified Brics' expansion as a boost to a multipolar world. The argument can be contested as while NAM was a pole distinct from the two poles, the US and Soviet Union, Brics is built around China and Russia which are assuming the role of a rival pole. Thus, the strengthening Brics will only add to that pole's relevance. The Chinese conduct in the aftermath of the Johannesburg Brics summit

confirms their assumed exceptionalism. The US understands this and hence President Joe Biden is coming to the New Delhi summit despite a Covid-19 scare caused by his wife testing positive, to ensure the G-20 remains relevant.

On some G-20 agenda points, India has scored well. India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) is seen as a success. Thus, India has been able to obtain consensus on its working definition, its norms and a roadmap. However, basic issues, like privacy and data safety, which the government downplays in India, would need addressing globally.

However, India has created a great model for using digital services for financial inclusion and extension of social benefits.

Overall, India has used its one-year G-20 chairmanship to project the BJP and the Prime Minister at home and Indian achievements abroad. The Economist concluded in February that "the G-20 looks extremely unlikely to reach consensus, let alone take action, on any significant item on India's agenda". It sounded cynical six months ago.

Today, it appears to be realistic due to the global political uncertainty. Francophone Africa faces an epidemic of military coups. Domestic political ratings are low for British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, French President Emmanuel Macron, US President Joe Biden and Canadian PM Justin P. Trudeau. China's stalling economy is making President Xi more risk prone and aggressive. The Ukraine war is not nearing an outcome or ceasefire.

The possibility of Donald Trump's return to the White House may be encouraging President Putin to await the US presidential election in November 2024. All told, in cricketing T20 terms, the G-20 pitch has an uneven bounce, leaving the outcome uncertain.

Skincare Routine for Autumn: Shahnaz Hussain



It's that time of year again when the leaves start to change color and the air becomes crisp. The changing colors, crisp weather, and the anticipation of the holiday season and everything that goes with it make it a favorite season for many. As we say goodbye to summer, this is also the time of year to switch out your current summer skincare routine. With the change in season comes a change in weather and, for many, a change in the skin.

Autumn is often unpredictable in terms of temperature changes, which can be difficult on your skin. Autumn brings cooler weather and a drop in humidity, which makes for dry, stale air and even drier skin. Autumn isn't just lovely for its beautiful foliage and perfectly crisp temperatures—it also provides ample time for us to prepare for the impending chilly turmoil. Autumn skincare can get overlooked as "a thing" but as a transition season between summer and winter, autumn can give our skin a tough time adjusting without the right support.

It's that time of the year again. As we skip into a brand new season, here's everything you need to do to keep your skin healthy and

glowing
EXFOLIATE REGULARLY IN
AUTUMN

The weather can cause your skin to dry up, leaving a lot of dead skin cells on top of your skin that make it even more difficult to moisturize your skin. As the seasons change and your tan starts to fade, it's time to reset your skin with regular exfoliation. Invest in a good-quality scrub or an exfoliating face mask. Exfoliate your skin at least twice a week to get rid of all the dead skin cells as well as cellular regeneration without risking irritation from excessive skin scrubbing. Releasing the dead cells also helps your skin creams to sink in more easily and reduces the likelihood of dead cells contributing to spots by congesting pores.

When you do exfoliate, avoid products with exfoliating beads, scrubs, and other ingredients that can be too harsh for sensitive fall skin. Instead, look for gentler yet effective ingredients like lactic acid and PHAs.

INJECT MORE MOISTURE
Moisturizing is the key to a healthy and hydrated skin.

Your skin must work extra hard to hold on to hydration in the autumn, so a good day cream and a rich night cream are autumn skincare essentials for all skin types.

Your skin definitely needs a little more moisture now that the temperatures are falling again, but stick with something relatively lightweight—like a serum rather than a heavy-duty cream—for the time being.

Serums are perfect for treating your skin with special ingredients depending on your skin's needs.

Since your skin needs more hydration in autumn, use a serum that hydrates and protects the skin.

Your regular moisturizer might have gotten you through the summer, but a thicker moisturizer in the fall will help better protect your skin from the cool, crisp autumn air. Look for hydrating ingredients and ingredients that suit your skin's specific needs.

If you have oily skin, you can even opt for a light moisturizer. Oilier and acne-prone skin types might want to use a light moisturizer or oil like jojoba that they may not have needed in summer. They'll keep skin supple but overall should avoid thicker products that may clog or contribute to oiliness.

The skincare love doesn't need to stop at the face. You should also moisturize the rest of your body to prevent irritation and dryness caused by colder, drier weather. Use body lotion, hand cream, chapstick, and anything else that will keep you comfortable and hydrated.

WATCH YOUR DIET ---
At the end of the day, what we put inside our bodies is just as important as what we put on the outside. Healthy skin comes from the inside out.

High-fiber foods like dark, leafy vegetables and berries help keep the skin healthy but also acne-free. So it's great to develop a taste for them. To maintain your summer glow into the autumn, eat plenty of fruit and veggies, stick to healthy fats and oils, and keep drinking plenty of water throughout the season to maintain your hydration from the inside. Drinking water is one of the oldest remedies in the book for glowing skin.

Drinking water helps improve elasticity and can save you from wrinkles showing up in the long run! Drinking water helps your skin fight off toxins more effectively because your skin is functioning the way it was always supposed to. High-glycemic foods, such as sweets and refined carbohydrates, can cause sugars and hormones to rise, worsening acne and other skin problems by clogging our skin. Vitamin C will help to brighten and boost skin, stimulating collagen production so skin can better retain moisture, and helping to protect it from external aggressors. The use of vitamin C will help to correct and reverse the damage and assist with maintaining an even skin tone and texture and enhancing the skin's natural glow. Coffee and alcohol are known to make your skin dry. So keep your coffee intake to a minimum, especially during these months when the skin needs more moisture than ever.

Avoid Long Hot Water Showers---
Try showering with lukewarm water instead and limit your time in the shower to a maximum of 10 minutes. Showers that are too hot and too long strip the skin of their natural oils. It is also vital that you moisturize right after you're done with the shower.

These easy autumn skincare tips will help your skin transition from summer to fall. Just remember to be gentle with your skin, hydrate often, and protect it from the elements.

Healthy skin isn't achieved by a spot-treatment mindset, but by investing in your skin 24/7

The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India

Ayush medical camp held at Kalali Tibba

TOP NEWS REPORT

RS PURA, SEP 8: A free medical camp was organized in Srinagar by the Department of Ayush at Kalali Tibba RS Pura where an annual Mela was organized by Jai Baba Birfa Nath Ji Trust in RS Pura. The medical camp was organized on the directions of Director Ayush, Dr Mohan Singh wherein District Ayush Officer deputed a team of doctors from Ayush Unit including Dr Samta, Dr Arti, Dr Kavita, Head Pharmacist Naresh Kumar Sharma for the free medical camp. The government has taken steps to organise such Ayush medical camps at the doorsteps of people



so that all people get benefit from these camps. A team of yoga therapists also guided the people by suggesting exercises which would

help them in dealing with back pain, neck pain and other such problems. The motive of this camp was to make the public aware of Ayush and the ben-

efits of its medicines. This camp got a huge response from people of the locality as nearly 5000 people got benefited from this free Camp. People in huge num-

bers were thronged the medical camp and lauded the efforts of the authorities for providing services to them at their doorsteps. This department plans to continue such camps in future so that people get aware of Ayush medicines and get benefits from them. The organizers of Mela thanked the ISM Department for organizing a free medical and awareness camp at Kalali Tibba. They expressed gratitude towards ISM Department J&K and the Doctors for their services towards Mankind. Team of Doctors also thanked organizers of Mela for their cooperation in organizing the camp.

12-year-girl with bone cancer gets new lease of life at Paras Health Panchkula

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU /PANCHKULA, Sep 8: A 12 yrs old Jammu girl suffering from Ewing's Sarcoma, a type of aggressive bone cancer, got a new lease of life after a successful treatment at region's leading healthcare provider Paras Health, Panchkula.

Dr Jagandeep Singh Virk, Consultant, Ortho-Oncosurgery at Paras Health, Panchkula who performed Limb Salvage Surgery/ Limb Preservation Surgery using Cryotherapy technique on girl said that the child was diagnosed with bone cancer in her leg bone (tibia) 2 months back after which she underwent chemotherapy initially. In this unique surgery, the cancerous bone is resected out of the body and recycled/sterilized in the operation theatre using liquid nitrogen/ cryotherapy technique. The resected cancerous bone was dipped in liquid nitrogen (which is a liquid chemical at minus 196 degrees celsius) for about 20 minutes and then thawed (kept at OT room temperature for another 15 minutes) and then dipped in distilled water for 10 minutes and then re-implanted back in the patient in her leg from where it was taken out. This cryotherapy technique kills all the cancerous cells in the bone and sterilizes the bone before it is re-implanted in the patient, maintained Dr Jagandeep Singh Virk. This technique is also called Recycling Autograft technique since the same cancerous bone is recycled/sterilized and put back from where it was taken out in the patient.

After the surgery, from the next day onwards the girl was made to stand and made to start walking with walker assistance and strength training and physiotherapy was started.

Complete healing of the osteotomy sites (site from where bone is cut) can

be expected by 6-7months by which time the patients can resume all normal activities like running, cycling and all other routine activities which other children do of their age-group.

Giving further information Dr Jagandeep Singh Virk said that this technique was initially started by Japanese Surgeons few years back and has been employed in thousands of bone cancer patients with very good results.

The same technique is well-documented in medical and scientific literature and has been adopted by other countries including India also in various cancer centres. This technique not only kills all the cancer cells but at the same time preserves the natural Bone collagen which gives strength to our bones and is required for healing at the sites from where the bone has been cut.

Meanwhile Dr Jagandeep Singh Virk after his training at various cancer centres in India and Singapore, mastered this technique and has used it in 16 patients of bone cancer till now. 6 of these 16 surgeries have been done at Paras Health, Panchkula mostly in young children.

Dr Jagandeep Singh Virk has performed Limb Salvage Surgeries/ Limb Preservation Surgeries in more than 450 patients till now at Paras Health, Panchkula in the past 4 years for Bone Tumour and Bone Cancer patients from all over India as well abroad from countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Canada, Australia and the UK.

Gurkirat Singh, Facility Director, Paras Health Panchkula said, "With this surgery Paras Health Panchkula has again taken a lead in applying the latest technique and development in medicine while treating the patients. In fact this unique surgery of bone cancer by our doctors has set another benchmark in medical treatment especially in oncology.

LSWSA commemorate Arbaeen at AMU

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 8: Like in other parts of the world, All Ladakh Student Welfare Society (LSWSA) observe Arbaeen at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) Campus, Utter Pradesh on Friday with traditional reverence and solemnity.

For the first time, the newly founded LSWSA took part the Arbaeen procession inside the AMU campus. The procession commenced from Baitu-s-Salat towards VC Lodge via DSW Road, and concluded at Baitu-s-Salat. Thousands of mourners



paid tribute to Imam Hussain, the grandson of holly prophet Mohammad who embraced

Martyrdom in Karbala in southern Iraq, some 1400 years ago. The mourners beat their chests

and reciting elegies and hymns to pay tribute to the martyrs of Karbala.

Corporator Pritam starts PHE pipe work at New Shanti Nagar

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 8: Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Corporator Pritam Singh today kick started PHE Pipe work at work cost of Rs 10 lakh in ward No 55 New Shanti Nagar Kunjwani.

The work was inaugurated by Pritam Singh in presence of Ward President Satnam Singh Sandhu, Ramesh Kumar, Sudesh Mangal, Neeraj Sukhrum and prominent citizens of Ward-55.

The work being executed by Jal Shakti Department will be completed with an estimated cost of Rs 10 lakh.

Corporator said With completion of work, a long pending demand of the residents of this sector will be fulfilled, thus solving the water shortage problem of the locality.

He said that the people of the area were facing the water scarcity



since long time and we're forced to bring water from the handpumps.

But now as the Har Ghar Jal scheme has been started by the government so now the water will be available at every door.

Corporator congratulated the people of locality and assured people that all the long pending

demands of the ward will be fulfilled.

A large number of people were present on the occasion who hailed the JMC and the corporator for this work.

Prominent among them were Ward President Satnam Singh Sandhu, Ramesh Kumar, Sudesh Mangal, Neeraj Sukhrum.

World's 1st Pashmina Transparency Framework launched by Pashmina Goat Project (Start-Up) of J&K

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU /NEW DELHI, Sep 8: Pashmina Goat Project, a pioneering brand name in the world of sustainable fashion and The Real Pashmina, announced the launch of its innovative "Pashmina Transparency Framework" for Technology Development for the Global Pashmina Industry.

This groundbreaking framework is set to transform the way the real pashmina industry operates by ensuring complete transparency from the beginning to the end of every real Pashmina shawl production cycle within the pashmina ecosystem.

Dr. Babar Afzal (Founder) and Dr. Henna Ajnum (Co-Founder) shared that traditionally known for

its luxurious softness and timeless appeal, pashmina wool has long been a sought-after material in the fashion industry. However, concerns about ethical sourcing, authenticity, and sustainability have challenged the industry's practices.

The framework that the startup had developed aims to address these challenges head-on by leveraging cutting-edge technologies such as Blockchain, artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), and Web 3.0 to create an unprecedented level of transparency and traceability.

By utilizing these technologies every step in the pashmina shawl production process is securely recorded in an immutable and tamper-

proof ledger.

This not only guarantees the authenticity of each product but also provides a comprehensive audit trail for all stakeholders. AI-powered authentication can be used to verify the authenticity of pashmina materials, thereby preventing the circulation of counterfeit products. IoT-enabled technology can monitor various parameters such as temperature, humidity, and transportation conditions.

And Web 3.0 Interface can allow consumers and stakeholders to access a wealth of information about the product's origin, production methods, and ethical practices. This fosters a sense of trust and connection between producers and consumers.

Dr. Babar Afzal, (a former McKinsey Analyst and a Silicon Valley Techie) the Founder and CEO of Pashmina Goat Project and the Tech Lead for this ground breaking framework, has been profiled by TIME Magazine, BBC, CNN, Bloomberg for his transition from a Silicon Valley Techie to becoming a Pashmina Goat Shepherd and the only Sustainable Luxury Pashmina Advocate in the world.

He expressed his enthusiasm for the project and stated that "Our Technology Development Transparency Framework is a pivotal step toward ensuring that the pashmina industry aligns with modern values and trends of transparency and sustainability.

GHSS Ramnagar girls win U-19 volleyball title



TOP NEWS REPORT

UDHAMPUR, Sep 8: The fourth day of the District Level Inter School U-19 Girl's Tournament in Udhampur was a day filled with exciting competitions in Volleyball, Table Tennis, Badminton, and Taekwondo.

The U-19 volleyball title was won by the girls from GHSS Ramnagar. They defeated GHSS Udhampur with a score of 2-0 (25-10, 25-13).

Taekwondo winners U-40 Kg: Jyoti Devi of

HSS Girls Udhampur. U-42 Kg: Shriya Sharma of HSS Girls Udhampur; U-44 Kg: Sakshi Mangotra of Prashant Public School; U-46 Kg: Bhavya Rajput of AOC Udhampur. U-49 Kg: Mehak Anthal of AOC Udhampur.

Badminton: In the singles event, Subha Darsini of APS Udhampur defeated Muskan of GHSS Ramnagar with a score of 2-0. In the doubles event, the duo of Subha Darsini and Kritika of APS Udham-

pur triumphed over Radhika and Anjali of GHSS Ramnagar with a score of 2-0.

Table Tennis winners girls: Binakshi Charipathia of GHSS Udhampur; Ishika Thakur of AOC Udhampur; Amita Thakur of GHSS Udhampur; and Anshika Sharma of GHS Barta.

The event was graced by the presence of Chief Guest ZPEO Babey Pushpinder Kour, who delivered an address as part of 'Bhrashtachar Week.'

The tournament is being held under the patronage from Director of YSS, Subash Chander Chibber and guidance from Deputy Director Central Jatinder Mishra, with DYSSO Udhampur, Romesh Chander, overseeing its organization.

The matches were officiated by Sunil Dutt Kahjuria, Manik Nagotra, and Kuldeep Sharma.

The successful organization of the tournament was made possible by dedicated office staff, including Anita Goswami, Som Dev Khajuria, Romesh Chander, Sanjeev Kumar, Vikas Sharma, Sanjeev Kahjuria, Munazim, and Anshu Brat.

The District Level Inter School U-19 Girl's Tournament continues to promote sportsmanship and nurture the talents of young athletes, promising more thrilling matches in the days ahead.

Make This Festive Season Extra Special with MG Astor 'Blackstorm' Limited Edition starting at Rs 14.47 lakh ex-showroom price

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 8: MG Motor India, a British automobile brand with a 100-year-old legacy, today launched the BLACKSTORM edition of the MG ASTOR - India's Most Advanced SUV in its class. With the BLACKSTORM edition, MG India offers its customers yet another stylish option to choose from the popular MG Astor range. It offers a captivating appeal to customers who are looking for a Bold, Sophisticated, and Stylish SUV.

The ASTOR BLACKSTORM limited edition comes with a panoramic skyroof, an All-Black Honeycomb pattern Grille, Black alloy wheels with red front brake callipers, black finish Headlamps, glossy Black Door Garnish and Black Finish Roof Rails that amp up the overall look



of ASTOR BLACKSTORM. The SUV has the 'BLACKSTORM' emblem* on its front fenders on both sides. The interior of the model commands aesthetic appeal with a Tuxedo Black Upholstery with red stitching, Sangria red-themed AC Vents, an all-black Floor Console, steering wheel and doors with red stitches. The ASTOR BLACKSTORM also comes with JBL speakers* and customer can get them fitted* at all authorized MG dealerships pan India.

Commenting on the launch, Mr Gaurav Gupta, Deputy Managing Director, MG Motor India, said, "As the whole country preps up for the upcoming festive season, we at MG Motor India, want to ensure that our customers feel extra special with the Astor's latest limited edition - BLACKSTORM. It has a premium finish with a bold and distinctive design that is sure to win our customers' heart as they look to upgrade their existing vehicles with tech-enabled cars that are not only futur-

istic but also delivers a superior driving experience.

Astor is the first car to get a personal AI assistant in the company's global portfolio. The Autonomous Level 2 MG Astor is powered by mid-range radars and a multi-purpose camera that can realize a series of advanced driver-assistance systems (ADAS). Since its launch in 2021, Astor has been creating memories of a lifetime for our customers. With best-in-class tech, Digital Car Key, 49 + Safety and i-SMART features, MG Astor has truly captured the hearts of tech-savvy consumers who are looking for automotive innovations that deliver a fulfilling driving experience.

Ex-Showroom prices are inclusive of Accessory package. Accessory package will be Dealer Fitment.

As Asha Bhosle turns 90, lyricist Amit Khanna recounts her highs and lows

The lyricist fondly remembers his decades-old association with the legendary singer

By celebrating her 90th birthday with a live performance in Dubai on September 8, Asha Bhosle will be proving yet again that she not only has a tremendous zest for life, but also an ebullience that has enabled her to rule Hindi film music across many genres.

Lyricist Amit Khanna first met Asha Bhosle after the release of 'Hare Rama Hare Krishna' (1971), where he was assisting Dev Anand, and met her last as recently as in 2019 at a music festival in Jaipur.

Khanna says, "I have had the good fortune of writing the lyrics of two of her ageless hit numbers -- 'Jab chhayee mera jadoo' ('Lootmaar'; 1980) and 'Suniye, kahiye, kahate, sunate baaton baaton mein pyaar' (with Kishore Kumar in 'Baton Baton Mein'; 1976). Over the years, I have viewed her as a warm and affectionate person, and a thorough professional. And I have never seen her sloppily dressed, even during rehearsals.

"She had this magical quality of hearing the words of a song and start singing it. She would of course follow the music composer and yet, wherever necessary, not hesitate to lend her own touch. She brought spontaneity to her singing, but it was the way she grasped her songs that would take us by surprise. In the 1950s and 1960s, songs used to be recorded over multiple takes, but Asha Bhosle, unlike many others, never complained.

"Not surprisingly, having spent her opening decade in the film industry being completely over-



shadowed by the established greats of her time -- notably Shamshad Begum, Noorjehan and Geeta Dutt -- she went on to be sought after by composers spanning generations.

"She can look back to working with composers from Hansraj Behl and Sardul Kwatra, to Shankar-Jaikishan, who were behind her first brush with national fame with the 'Boot Polish' (1953) song, 'Nanhe munne bachche teri nutthi mein', to OP Nayyar, who made her the lead female voice of BR Chopra's 'Naya Daur' (1957), to the southern masters Ilaiyaraaja and AR Rahman.

"What was wonderful about her was that even if she was singing for a young composer, say, an Anu Malik, an Anand-Milind, or a Jatin-Lalit, she would sing with the same passion as she would for a Rajesh Roshan, or a Bappi Lahiri.

"In her crowded life, Asha Bhosle suffered a lot personally -- she had to end her abusive marriage with Ganpat Rao Bhosle, with whom she had eloped when she was 16; she was the single mother of three children, two of whom -- music composer Hemant Bhosle and Varsha Bhosle, a singer and journalist who died by suicide -- died when they were young and showed promise; and even her best years with Rahul Dev Burman, whom the world knew as 'Pancham' but she lovingly called 'Bubs', after their marriage in 1980, was terminated by fate because of his death in 1994.

"In between, she was romantically linked with OP Nayyar, but they parted ways in the 1970s. By then Pancham had become very much a part of her life. Pancham enabled Asha Bhosle to foray into multiple genres of

music, with 'Teesri Manzil' being the turning point, which went on to define her career. Interestingly, Pancham's father, the great Sachin Dev Barman, once had a fight with Asha's sister, Lata Mangeshkar, and started giving the younger sibling all the songs that had been assigned for the elder one!

"On one occasion, it was Saraswati Puja, and in the Bengali tradition, she insisted on serving us 'khichuri' and 'baigan bhaja'. It was this hospitality and good food that she was able to introduce in Dubai, which she would visit frequently, when she launched her restaurant Asha. She did not join the venture as just another investor, but was very much a part of the menu planning and food trials.

"Talking about her hospitality, I remember the time I had to pick up Javed Akhtar from the airport. Asha Bhosle was also returning to Mumbai by the same flight, but her driver did not show up. So, I gave her a ride to her house and when we reached there, she wouldn't leave us without serving us tea.

"As Asha Bhosle prepares for her 90th birthday concert, which may be another world record in a career studded with many, one can wonder how many artists would be able to pull off a live show of this magnitude in the eighth decade of their singing career. Having sung more than 20,000 songs in 25-odd languages, without anyone ever complaining about her diction or pronunciation, Asha Bhosle, I am certain, must be unfazed."

Big B is 'scared' of AI



Amid the massive usage of AI across the globe, megastar Amitabh Bachchan said he is scared to get replaced in the future because of it, citing that it has already started happening in films. Artificial intelligence (AI) is the ability of machines to perform tasks that are typically associated with human intelligence, such as learning and problem-solving.

In the 18th episode of the quiz-based reality show Kaun Banega Crorepati Season 15, host Amitabh Bachchan wel-

comed Chirag Agarwal, a second year B.Tech student from Ahmedabad, Gujarat, to the hot seat.

For the Rs 2,000 question, Chirag was asked: Which of these terms is also commonly used for writing a computer programme? The options given were: Coding, Hiving, Streaming, and Clicking. The contestant gave the right answer -- coding.

Big B later asked him, "You must have observed that AI has spread to the world. Are you learning about AI in

college?"

The contestant replied: "Sir, a lot of our courses are related to AI. We even study AI."

Chirag then went on to ask the thespian: "I'm sitting in front of you now, I consider myself very lucky. I am watching you live today in flesh and blood. But someday in the future, you could get late for a shoot, and they can send a virtual hologram of you and we can interact with it. I'd like your comment on it." To this, Big B replied in a jokingly manner: "Let me tell you something, you're talking to a hologram right now."

The 80-year-old actor further said: "I'm not so smart to comprehend all this. But yes, I've heard of many such examples. And it scares me. One day, they might replace me. It's already happening in films. They make me sit in a room and there are 40-45 cameras taking shots at once. They ask me to turn around, clockwise and anti-clockwise."

"Later, I find out that using AI, they'll put it anywhere. Even if I haven't shot for it, it seems like I have. They might replace me someday and I will be jobless. Do save me if it happens in the future. We hardly find jobs in my field, and we are happy when we get something to do," he added.

Ayushmann Khurrana is proud of his roots

Bollywood star Ayushmann Khurrana has said since he is a Punjabi, it matters to him a lot that the state of Punjab is proud of his body of work. Ayushmann said: "Being a Punjabi, I have always wanted to make Punjab proud of my work, and I'm indebted to the people of Punjab for the love that they have always showered on me." The 38-year-old actor says he is proud to represent Punjabi culture through his movies and songs. Ayushmann said: "Whatever I'm today is because of his blessings."



Upcoming film Mission Raniganj retains fizz despite title change

The launch of the advance or teaser poster of Akshay Kumar's upcoming film Mission Raniganj--- The Great Bharat Rescue, based on the true and inspiring story of rescue by engineer Jaswant Singh Gill who was from Amritsar, on Wednesday, has created a buzz with cinephiles and netizens taking to social media, discussing the change in the title of the film from The Great Indian Rescue to The Great Bharat Rescue.

This comes at a time when there is uproar in political circles over the Central government's reported intent to change the country's name from India to Bharat.

While the title change has drawn reactions from all cor-



ners, Jaswant Gill's son, Dr Sarvpreet Singh Gill, says that the move has had no impact on the message and content of the film. "We are absolutely thrilled after the first-look posters and announcement. The film has

had several title changes since its conception; first, it was Capsule Gill, later it was changed to The Great India Rescue and now the final title of Mission Raniganj. Whatever is the title, the final outcome of the film will

be good, the story remains the same as it is based on facts and there is no mirch masala to it," he said.

The family is also quite excited with the look of Akshay Kumar as Jaswant Singh Gill. "We had an idea on how he is going to look in the film, but watching the response to the poster release, we are now waiting for the film's release," said Dr Sarvpreet Singh Gill.

The film also stars Parineeti Chopra. The thrilling tale of survival that draws inspiration from the life of mining engineer Jaswant Singh Gill, who heroically rescued trapped miners in the Raniganj coalfields in West Bengal way back in 1989, is one of the most anticipated movies of the year.

Shubhangi Atre inspired by Madhuri Dixit to learn dancing

Shubhangi Atre, who is a trained classical dancer, shared how Madhuri Dixit played a huge role in inspiring her to learn how to dance, adding that dancing comfortably is incredibly therapeutic for her.

Shubhangi aka Angoori Bhabi from Bhabiji Ghar Par Hain also takes up the role of a choreographer in the sitcom. It's truly impressive that her choreographic talent is as precise as her comedic timing on the show.

The actress explains that creating her dance routines brings her comfort and allows her artistic expression to shine, which is a freeing way for her to communicate her feelings as an artist.

Speaking of her choreography skills, the actor shared, "Dancing brings me immense joy and a



deep sense of satisfaction.

Whenever I get a chance to perform, I dive in wholeheartedly. Thankfully, my role as Angoori in Bhabiji Ghar Par Hain consistently provides me opportunities to showcase my dancing skills with various tracks, and I choreograph my routines on set."

"I enjoy the process and can nail the perfect rhythm in 30 to 45 minutes. Dancing comfortably is incredibly therapeutic for me and brings out my best. As a trained classical Kathak dancer, I have crafted dance sequences for every episode. Whether it's classical pieces, Bollywood routines, or culturally rich performances like Garba or Lavni, I have embraced a wide range of dance styles on the show," she continues.

Aastha Sharma borrows inspiration from Kamal Haasan's movie Sadma for Neerja...Ek Nayi Pehchaan



Aastha Sharma from Colors' Neerja...Ek Nayi Pehchaan borrowed inspiration from the iconic character of Somu played by legendary actor Kamal Haasan in Sadma.

Sharing her thoughts about her homage to Kamal Haasan, Aastha says, "I'm honoured that through this show I got to pay tribute to Kamal Haasan's heart-wrenching scene in Sadma. Who hasn't cried copious tears as Kamal Haasan tries to revive Sridevi's memory in the film? The narrative of our show has arrived at an interesting crossroads where all the love Abeer once had for Neerja seems lost. After coming this far and leaving her life in Sonagachi behind, she fears she will be compelled to go back to the ill-famed place. With all these developments in the story, I can't wait for the audience to find out what happens next."

PM Modi to have over 15 bilateral meetings with world leaders on sidelines of G20 summit

On Saturday, he will hold bilateral meetings with the leaders of the UK, Japan, Germany and Italy besides attending the G20 events.

NEW DELHI, Sep 8 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold over 15 bilateral meetings with world leaders between Friday and Sunday as India hosts the G20 summit meeting over the weekend.

Official sources said he will hold bilateral meetings with the US president and the Bangladeshi prime minister on Friday at his official residence. He will also hold a meeting with the leader of Mauritius.

On Saturday, Modi will hold bilateral meetings with leaders of the UK, Japan, Germany and Italy besides attending the G20 events.

On Sunday, he will hold a working lunch meeting with French



President Emmanuel Macron, sources said. The prime minister will also have a pull-aside meeting with his Canadian counterpart Justin Trudeau.

Besides, he will have bilateral meetings with the leaders of Comoros, Turkiye, the UAE, South Korea, the EU/EC, Brazil and Nigeria, the sources said.

The meetings are scheduled to be held at the prime minister's official Lok Kalyan Marg residence ahead of the G20 Leaders Summit starting Saturday.

'Looking forward to meetings' Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was looking forward to his meetings with US President Joe Biden, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth on Friday evening.

"The meetings will give an opportunity to review India's bilateral ties with these nations and further strengthen developmental cooperation," Modi said on X.

Congress asks Modi government to stop suppression of data

NEW DELHI, Sep 8 (Agencies): Accusing the Narendra Modi government of suppression of data inconvenient to it, the Congress on Friday demanded that the government must stop this practice.

"End the suppression of data inconvenient to the government, like the 2017-18 NSS and the 2022-23 CES, stop manipulating NFHS to hide failures in health indicators, and restore faith in India's historically robust statistical system", Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said in a statement on Friday.

The National Sample Survey (NSS) was conducted in 2017-18 but suppressed by the Modi government. The NSS unemployment data was not released until after the 2019 elections; the consumption data is yet to be made public. Leaks of the NSS showed a 45-year high in unemployment and an unprecedented decline in rural consumption



expenditure since 2011-12. The NSS revealed the truth of the Modi government's destruction of the economy thanks to demonetisation and a badly designed GST. So it has now been junked, Ramesh said.

Quoting media reports, Ramesh said the 2022-23 Consumer Expenditure Survey (CES) is also likely to be held back by the government until after the 2024 elections, although it was completed in July 2023. "The Modi government is obviously afraid that its colossal mismanagement and bad governance will be exposed

by the CES", Ramesh said.

The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) of 2019-20 exposed the lies of Modi Government—open defecation had not been eliminated, and the prevalence of anaemia increased among women and children. Embarrassed by its gross underperformance in health indicators, the Modi government suspended the Director of the International Institute of Population Sciences, which conducts the NFHS. It has also stopped measuring anaemia from NFHS-6, Ramesh said.

The Employment-Unemployment Survey of the Labour Bureau was scrapped in 2017; the National Crime Records Bureau stopped collecting data on mob lynching in 2017; data on GDP was manipulated in 2018 to make growth appear lower under the UPA; the Ramesh said the Modi government told Parliament that there was no data on deaths of migrant workers walking thousands of kilometres home due to the unplanned lockdown, no data on the death of COVID-19 warriors, and no data on farmer suicides.

The Congress leader said that in each and every case of suppression of data, the Modi Government is covering up its own failures.

One of the biggest failures of the NDA government was the failure to conduct the decadal Census that was due in 2021, Ramesh said. Noting that the G20 summit with India's rota-

tional presidency has started in Delhi today, the Congress leader said every other G20 country has managed to conduct the Census, despite COVID-19, including other developing countries like Indonesia, Brazil, and South Africa.

Failure to conduct the Census has led to an estimated 14 crore (140 million) Indians being excluded from their food entitlements under the National Food Security Act, Ramesh said.

Ramesh also demanded an updated national Caste Census and ask the Modi government to stop opposing state-level Caste Census efforts.

"Without establishing the count, categorisation and characterisation of the most numerous OBC population, it is impossible to ensure adequate development and social justice for all Indians. We firmly believe in the principle of parity not charity, for which the Caste Census is essential", the Congress statement said.

Non-disclosure of cases in poll affidavit: Nagpur court acquits Maharashtra Deputy CM Fadnavis



NAGPUR, Sep 8 (Agencies): A local court here on Friday held as not guilty Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis in connection with a complaint that accused the BJP leader of not disclosing criminal cases pending against him in his poll affidavit ahead of the 2014 assembly elections.

Civil Judge S S Jadhav said the court has "dosh mukt" (acquitted) Fadnavis, who was present in the courtroom virtually.

Satish Uke, an advocate, had filed an application seeking criminal

proceedings against Fadnavis alleging that cases of cheating and forgery had been registered against the BJP leader in 1996 and 1998 the latter did not disclose this information in his poll affidavit.

Fadnavis had earlier admitted to the court in a statement that there had been an inadvertent mistake on the part of his lawyer while collating information about pending criminal cases against him due to which two criminal cases were not mentioned in his election affidavit submitted in 2014.

In the statement sub-

mitted on April 15, Fadnavis had said there was no intention to deliberately conceal information about the two "insignificant" complaint cases and their non-inclusion in the affidavit of Form 26 was "sheer inadvertence and without any intention".

The Deputy Chief Minister, elected from the Nagpur South West Assembly constituency, further claimed that he had mentioned cases of more severe nature in his election affidavit.

The BJP leader maintained he has been a sitting member of the Assembly since 1999 and has won by a huge margin each time.

Fadnavis had appeared before the court on two occasions to record his statement.

Uke is presently in jail after he was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on charges of money laundering.

2 women drown, 10-year-old missing as car falls into canal in MP

DHAR, Sep 8 (Agencies): Two women drowned and a 10-year-old boy went missing as a car they were travelling in with three others fell into a canal in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district, the police said on Friday.

Divers and rescuers have been pressed into service to locate the child, Om Lakhan,

after the accident on Thursday night, Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Inderjeet Singh Bakrwal told agency.

The car with six occupants plunged into a canal of the Omkareshwar dam at Jamnia village within the limits of the Dharmapuri police station, about 60 km from the district

headquarters, after the person at the wheel apparently lost control of the vehicle.

The ASP said the bodies of Kusum (32) and Jhalu Bai Singh (55) have been retrieved from the water and sent for post-mortem, while Lakhan is missing.

Three other occupants of the car are safe, he said.

Man arrested for airhostess' murder found hanging in Mumbai police's custody

MUMBAI, Sep 8 (Agencies): A 40-year-old man, who was arrested for allegedly killing flight attendant Rupal Ogrey, was found hanging in the Mumbai police's custody in the early hours of Friday, an official said.

Vikram Athwal was found hanging using a pair of pants as a noose inside the toilet of Andheri police station, he said.

It is a suspected case of suicide, the police official added.

Ogrey, 24, was found dead with her throat slit on Sunday night in a rented flat in Marol area of suburban And-



heri. She hailed from Chhattisgarh and came to Mumbai in April for training with a leading private airline.

Athwal, who was doing housekeeping work over the last one year in the residential society where the victim lived, was arrested on Monday on the charge of killing her. A local

court had remanded him in police custody till September 8.

During the probe, the police recovered a knife allegedly used by him to kill Ogrey along with the clothes he was wearing at the time of the crime.

According to police, Athwal was married and had two daughters.

Athwal and Ogrey used to argue over petty issues, the police said, adding that as per their preliminary investigation, Athwal entered Ogrey's flat under the pretext of picking up a garbage bag and cleaning the commode and then killed her.

Hyderabad home guard who set himself on fire dies, Telangana BJP dubs it 'murder' by BRS govt

HYDERABAD, Sep 8 (Agencies): A traffic home guard, who was undergoing treatment in a private hospital after setting himself on fire a few days ago, died on Friday, police said.

Expressing grief over the death, Telangana BJP president G Kishan Reddy said this was a "murder" committed by the BRS government in the state.

Ravinder, who had gone to the Home Guard Commandant's office at Goshamahal here on

Tuesday, set himself on fire, and after being informed about the incident by passersby, police shifted him to a state-run hospital.

He suffered over 50 per cent burns and was admitted to another hospital in the city.

The home guard's wife said on Wednesday that her husband had called her over the phone on Tuesday informing her that two senior police officials -- an assistant sub-inspector (ASI)

and a constable working at the commandant's office -- had "ill-treated" him when he had gone to the office.

She also demanded initiating action against the ASI and the constable.

Asked about reports that the home guard went to the office to enquire about alleged delay in his salary, police ruled out such a thing saying it was not related to salary.

Kishan Reddy, who is also

Union Minister for Tourism, on Thursday paid a visit to Ravinder, who was receiving treatment at the time.

Later, speaking to reporters he said, the BRS government in Telangana failed to keep the promises made and assurances given to home guards with regard to improving their working conditions.

He appealed to home guards not to resort to such extreme steps.

2 Killed, Over 20 Injured In Locals vs Security Forces Gunfight In Manipur

GUWAHATI, Sep 8 (Agencies): At least two people have died, and over 20 injured, in fresh violence in strife-torn Manipur today. Heavy exchange of fire between armed locals and security forces has continued since morning in Pallel town of Tengnoupal district, government sources said.

Visuals from the spot showed ambulances rushing to the spot and carrying the injured to hospitals. Security personnel are also injured, sources said.

According to officials, firing started around 6 am and has continued intermittently.

This comes two days after thousands of protesters gathered at Phougakchao Ikhai in Bishnupur district on Wednesday and tried to break through army barricades in an attempt to reach their deserted houses in Torbung.

"Tension was palpable in the area, with security forces comprising personnel of RAF, the Assam Rifles and Manipur Police firing tear gas shells to bring the situation under control," officials told news agency agency.

A day before the protest, a full curfew had been clamped in all the five valley

districts of Manipur as a preventive measure, agency reported.

Over 180 people have been killed, and thousands have been internally displaced, after protests against a Manipur High Court order that asked the state government to recommend Scheduled Tribe status for Meities snowballed into a full-blown ethnic conflict.

On May 3, a "Tribal Solidarity March" was organised in the hill districts to protest against the court order. This protest turned violent when Kukis and Meitis clashed near the border between Churachandpur and Bishnupur, district, setting off the unrest that has killed many and displaced thousands.

The security forces have created what they call "buffer zones" in areas between Meitei villages and Kuki settlements to avoid the two sides from fighting again.

Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal valley, while tribals, including Nagas and Kukis, constitute 40 per cent and reside mostly in the hill districts.

47 Students Among 55 Injured As Bus Collides With Truck In Maharashtra

PALGHAR, Sep 8 (Agencies): As many as 55 passengers, most of them school and college students, were injured when the bus they were travelling in collided with a truck in Palghar district of Maharashtra this morning, officials said.

The accident took place around 6:45 am near Desai village in Wada tehsil, an official of the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) said.

The bus involved in the accident was operated by the MSRTC. It was carrying a large number of school and college students," the corporation's Thane

divisional controller Vilas Rathod said.

A total of 70 passengers were travelling in the bus when it collided with a truck coming from the opposite direction on Chinchpada-Wada Road. Of them, 55 passengers, including 47 students, were injured. However, none of them suffered any major injury, he said.

All the injured persons, who included the bus driver, were taken to local hospitals. After primary treatment, all of them were allowed to return home, he said.

Police inspector Suresh Kadam confirmed that the injured included a large number of students.

Supreme Court orders release of man jailed for 12 years after finding he was juvenile at time of offence

NEW DELHI, Sep 8 (Agencies): The Supreme Court has ordered the release of a man, who has already served over 12 years in jail after being awarded life sentence in a murder case, holding he was a juvenile when the offence was committed in 2005.

A bench headed by Justice BR Gavai referred to a May 2023 report of an additional sessions judge, who was asked to conduct an inquiry with regard to the plea of juvenility raised by the man, which said his date of birth was May 2, 1989.

"If the date of birth of the petitioner is May 2, 1989, he was 16 years seven months old as on the date of the crime, ie, December 21, 2005. Accordingly, the petitioner was a juvenile in conflict with the law on the date of commission of the offence," the bench, also comprising Justices PS Narasimha and Sanjay Kumar, said in an order passed on September 5.

The apex court delivered its order on a plea filed by the petitioner seeking verification of his claim of juvenility and

consequential orders as per the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000.

It said according to provisions of the 2000 Act, the maximum period for which the petitioner could have been in custody is three years.

"However, as the plea of juvenility was raised for the first time in the present writ petition (filed in 2022) before us, the process of criminal law, which commenced in 2005, led to the petitioner being convicted and sentenced for life imprisonment concurrently by the trial court, the high court as well as the Supreme Court," the bench said.

It said the petitioner has undergone over 12 years in jail.

"Having accepted the report of the II Additional Sessions Judge, Khammam, the petitioner can no longer be incarcerated.

In view of the above we allow the writ petition and direct that the petitioner be released forthwith, if he is not required to be detained in any other case," the bench said.

US teen sentenced to spend rest of his life in prison for killing 5 family members at the age of 14

The convict, now 18, has been sentenced without the possibility of parole

ATHENS (US), Sep 8 (Agencies): An Alabama teenager convicted of killing five family members, including three younger siblings, when he was 14 has been sentenced to spend the rest of his life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Circuit Judge Chadwick Wise handed down the sentence on Thursday to Mason Sisk, now 18. Wise wrote that the crime was "ghastly, disturbing, and draped in unmitigated evil" and warranted the harshest punishment allowed by law.

A jury in April convicted Sisk of multiple counts of capital murder for the 2019 shooting deaths of his father, adoptive mother and younger siblings. All five were shot in the head



at their home in Elkmont. The youngest was an infant.

John Wayne Sisk, 38, and Mary Sisk, 35, were found dead in their home on September 2, 2019, along with their three children — 6-year-old Kane, 4-year-old Aurora and

6-month-old Colson.

Authorities said Mason Sisk initially told police he was in the basement playing video games when he heard gunshots and ran outside to see a vehicle pulling away, but he later told investigators he'd killed the

five. The US Supreme Court said life sentences for those under the age of 18 at the time of their crimes are inappropriate except for the rarest of cases and judges should consider "children's diminished culpability, and heightened capacity for change".

Wise wrote that the slayings were the rare case where a life sentence without parole was warranted for a juvenile defendant. He noted the victims had been killed as they were lying in bed. He wrote that the "circumstances of the Sisk case are much more appalling" than other cases where life sentences have been upheld for juvenile defendants.

Helicopter crash into sea off Dubai leaves two missing

DUBAI, Sep 8 (Agencies): A helicopter crashed off the coast of Dubai during a night training flight, with two pilots on board missing, the United Arab Emirates' aviation authority said on Friday.

The Bell 212 helicopter went down in the Gulf at around 8:30 pm (1630 GMT) on Thursday after

taking off from Dubai's Al Maktoum International Airport, the authority said, quoted by the official WAM news agency.

The pilots -- an Egyptian and a South African -- had been on a training flight for AeroGulf, the UAE's leading commercial helicopter operator.

"Search and rescue teams have recovered

the wreckage and are still searching for the crew," the aviation authority said, adding investigations were underway.

AeroGulf was founded in 1976 to provide services to the oil and gas industry, before expanding its services to other sectors.

In 2022, a paramotor



flier crashed in Dubai, killing the pilot. The same year, a single-engine passenger plane

crashed into a parking lot in the Emirati capital of Abu Dhabi, injuring one person.

Elon Musk blocks Ukraine's Starlink access, cites fear of 'conflict escalation'

SAN FRANCISCO, Sep 8 (Agencies): Elon Musk on Friday said Starlink would have been 'complicit in a major act of war and conflict escalation' if it had agreed to an emergency request from the Ukrainian government.

Musk's statement came in response to an X user, who said, "Elon Musk covertly instructed his engineers to deactivate Starlink's satellite communications network during a MAJOR Ukrainian offensive. This action was taken to intentionally thwart a surprise attack by Ukraine against the Russian naval fleet."

"Now we know that Musk intentionally deactivated Starlink. Ukrainian officials pleaded for the reactivation of the satellites, however Musk was concerned the attack could trigger a nuclear response from Russia," the X user wrote.

In response, Elon Musk took to X and said, "The Starlink regions in question were not activated. SpaceX did not deactivate anything."



Later, Musk posted another tweet and wrote, "There was an emergency request from government authorities to activate Starlink all the way to Sevastopol."

"The obvious intent being to sink most of the Russian fleet at anchor." "If I had agreed to their request, then SpaceX would be explicitly complicit in a major act of war and conflict escalation," he added.

Since Russia's full-scale invasion, Ukraine's military has heavily relied on the satellite communications network known as Starlink, crediting it with allowing front-line troops to stay in contact with their commanders.

The system is owned by SpaceX, which, with the help of private dona-

tions and US taxpayer funding, has provided Ukraine with thousands of Starlink terminals since February 2022.

According to a report with the Business Insider, a biographer who spoke to Musk said the SpaceX CEO expressed concerns about nuclear war following conversations with Russian government officials.

He also personally intervened to block Ukraine from carrying out a drone strike on Moscow's Black Sea Fleet, the report stated.

"Starlink was not meant to be involved in wars. It was so people can watch Netflix and chill and get online for school and do good peaceful things, not drone strikes," Musk told an interviewer.

UK Police searching London's Richmond Park for escaped terror suspect



LONDON, Sep 8 (Agencies): Britain's Metropolitan Police

confirmed on Friday that searches taking place in London's Rich-

mond Park were linked to the hunt for a former army soldier suspected of terrorism offences.

Daniel Abed Khalife, 21, is believed to have escaped from London's HMP Wandsworth on Wednesday morning by slipping out of the prison kitchen where he was working and strapping himself to the bottom of the van.

A major manhunt is under way to track him down, with enhanced security checks at ports and airports which have led to delays for passengers.

Clashes resume between factions in Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp

BEIRUT, Sep 8 (Agencies): Clashes resumed in Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp, with heavy gunfire and shelling wounding several people and prompting residents of the camp and the surrounding area to flee on Friday.

Several days of street battles had broken out in the camp, Ein el-Hilweh, between Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah movement and Islamist groups after Fatah accused the Islamists of gunning down one of their military generals on July 30. Those street battles left at least 13 dead and dozens wounded and forced hundreds to flee from their homes.

An uneasy truce had been in place since Aug. 3, but clashes were widely expected to resume as the Islamist groups have not handed over the accused killers



of the Fatah general, Mohammad "Abu Ashraf" al-Armoushi to the Lebanese judiciary as demanded by a committee of Palestinian factions earlier this month.

A committee of Palestinian factions in Ein el-Hilweh announced on Tuesday that their joint security forces would launch raids in search of the

accused killers. Fatah officials said that the Islamist groups had launched an attack Thursday night in an attempt to forestall plans by the joint security forces to clear militants out of schools they had been occupying in the camp on Friday.

The state-run National News Agency reported six people were wounded, including an

elderly man, and transported to hospitals overnight. There were no immediate reports of deaths. The public Lebanese University announced it would close its branches in the city of Sidon, which is adjacent to the camp, and postpone scheduled exams in light of the fighting.

Officials with the UN Agency for Palestinian Refugees, or UNRWA, could not immediately give information on the number of casualties or displaced.

UNRWA appealed last week for \$15.5 million to repair infrastructure damaged in the last round of clashes in the camp, provide alternate education locations for children whose schools were damaged or occupied by militants, and give cash assistance to people who have been displaced from their homes.

Do more to stop flow of deadly drug Fentanyl, US asks Mexico

WASHINGTON, Sep 8 (Agencies): The Biden administration is facing an "unwillingness" by Mexico to devote enough resources to help stem the flow of the illegal drug fentanyl into the United States, and is pressing Mexican authorities to do more, a US official said.

Todd Robinson, assistant Secretary of State for international narcotics and law enforcement affairs, told a Senate subcommittee the US was continuing to engage with the Mexican government "to convince them that they need to put more resources in" the fight against smuggling of the deadly opioid.

President Joe Biden's administration has been seeking increased cooperation from both Mexico and China in curbing the flow of fentanyl and its precursor chemicals, which have fuelled a sharp rise in US overdose deaths. "To be honest, the challenge that we have with Mexico is their unwillingness to put sufficient resources into the fight, and we are pushing them to do that," Robinson said when asked whether Mexico was showing enough political will to tackle the fentanyl crisis. "The partners that we are working with want to do more. They want to do better. They want to partner with us on greater security both in Mexico and at the border," he said, adding that "we continue to engage with them on that." The Mexican embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Mexican Foreign Minister Alicia Barcena said on August 10 that Mexico was developing a digital tracking system for fentanyl precursor chemicals, including methods to detect the substances at Mexico's ports and border crossing points.

Mexico has vowed to crack down on precursors coming into the country, where they are used to produce fentanyl which is then often smuggled to the US. Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, who has defended his country's efforts, said in April he had written to Chinese leader Xi Jinping urging him to help control shipments of fentanyl.

2024 US Elections: Nikki Haley only GOP aspirant who can defeat President Biden, says CNN poll



WASHINGTON, Sep 8 (Agencies): Indian American Nikki Haley is the only Republican presidential aspirant who can defeat President Joe Biden in the November 2024 polls, a CNN poll has revealed.

More than half a dozen Republican leaders, including two Indian Americans -- Nikki Haley and Vivek Ramaswamy -- are seeking to be the party's presidential nominee.

The race is currently being led by former president Donald Trump who is far ahead of others.

Releasing the results of its latest presidential polls, CNN said, "Hypothetical matchups... suggest there would be no clear leader should Biden face one of the other major GOP contenders, with one notable exception: Biden runs behind former

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley."

In an early gauge of a hypothetical Biden-Trump rematch, CNN's poll finds that registered voters are currently split between Trump (47 per cent) and Biden (46 per cent), with the demographic contours that defined the 2020 race still prominent.

Biden is about even with Ron DeSantis (47 per cent each), Mike Pence (46 per cent Biden), Tim Scott (46 per cent Biden), Vivek Ramaswamy (46 per cent Biden, 45 per cent Ramaswamy), and Chris Christie (44 per cent Biden, 42 per cent Biden).

"Haley stands as the only GOP candidate to hold a lead over Biden, with 49 per cent to Biden's 43 per cent in a hypothetical match

between the two," CNN reported.

That difference is driven at least in part by a broader support for Haley than for other Republicans among White voters with college degrees.

She holds 51 per cent of that group, compared to 48 per cent or less for other Republicans tested in the poll, the news channel said.

The Haley campaign welcomed the polls saying, "This poll confirms what many Democrats and Republicans are saying: Democrats are terrified of running against Nikki Haley."

"When you ask President Joe Biden who they're really worried about, you'll hear one name. 'If they nominate Nikki Haley, we're in trouble,'" said a senior Democratic strategist close to the Biden campaign.

The Hill said those results are good news for Haley, a former United Nations ambassador under President Trump who is looking to build on a strong performance in the first GOP presidential debate late last month to challenge her former boss for the Republican nomination.

Schools shut in China's Shenzhen as record rain flood streets, subway stations



BEIJING, Sep 8 (Agencies): All schools, some subway stations and offices in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen were shut on Friday, as residual storm clouds from Typhoon Haikui unleashed historic rainfall for a fourth day.

China Meteorological Administration said heavy rainfall would continue to fall until early Saturday in the central and southwestern areas of Guangdong, the home of Shenzhen and one of China's wealthiest provinces.

Residents holding onto safety lines waded cautiously through knee-deep floodwaters late on Thursday in Shenzhen, a metropolis of 17.7 million people, videos from state-backed Xinhua showed.

Rescuers also cordoned off overflowing manholes, carried a child from a stranded vehicle and guided others to move their motorcycles through the murky waters, the videos showed.

A rainfall log showed 465.5 millimetres of rain fell in Shenzhen over a 12-hour period, the highest since records began in 1952. Daily rainfall in the city located

in the Pearl River Delta linking Hong Kong to China's mainland was expected to exceed 500 mm, Shenzhen media said.

Typhoon Haikui made landfall in southeastern Fujian province on Tuesday and caused about \$691 million in economic losses before moving westward to Guangdong on Thursday. It has been downgraded to a tropical depression.

Still, Shenzhen's observatory has issued emergency warnings advising residents to stay indoors, warning downpours were abrupt and intense.

Some Shenzhen districts closed offices while all schools were suspended. Several subway stations halted operations.

Waters in Shenzhen reservoir reached their limit early on Friday, prompting authorities to begin discharging water and warning residents downstream in Futian and Luohu districts to keep away from rivers.

Authorities suspended services at Liantang Port and Wanjindu Port connecting Shenzhen and Hong Kong due to flood damage. Fresh food supplies, passengers and trucks were diverted to other ports.

About 130 kilometres from Shenzhen, schools in 10 districts of Guangzhou city were suspended for the day or delayed their opening, while Zhuhai city warned of waterlogging in urban and rural areas and potential landslides.

LFO-BHF to implement J&K Bank's CSR Project on Menstrual Hygiene

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 8: Live for Others - Being Helpful Foundation (LFO-BHF), a registered organization with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India, NITI Aayog, CSR, and E-ANUDAAN signed the MOU with J&K Bank.

Notably, with its mission to serve humanity by addressing issues related to menstrual hygiene during the project, LFO-BHF will target all the 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir to spread awareness about menstruation and required hygiene among students of various schools and colleges besides women of villages and far-flung areas.

Ashok Gupta, Deputy General Manager from J&K Bank and Vivek Parihar, Director & CEO, LFO-BHF signed the MoU in



the presence of Syed Rais Maqbool, General Manager, CSR, J&K Bank.

Besides challenging the taboos surrounding menstruation, the collaborative initiative - having J&K Bank as funding partner and LFO-BHF (NGO) as the implementing agency - will raise awareness about the importance of sanitary pads, napkins. Aimed at the betterment of society by educating

women about menstrual health and hygiene, the CSR project will also witness the free distribution of five lakh sanitary napkins across J&K.

Vivek Parihar, Director and CEO, LFO-BHF described his organization's engagement with J&K Bank for this socially relative issue as an important milestone in eradicating women health and hygiene related taboos in J&K. "While J&K Bank

has been always at the forefront of such people-oriented initiatives, I am sure we would come up to the expectation of the Bank in particular and society at large by giving this project our best and implementing it with professional dedication and societal commitment" he said, adding "LFO-BHF is more than just an organization; it's a force for positive change, dedicated to making the world a better place for all."

Notably, other representatives from LFO-BHF present on the occasion included Vishal Singh, Director & COO, Afreen- president Kashmir province, Urfee- Vice President Kashmir province, Ritik- Secretary Jammu province and Environmental Domain Head (LFO-BHF), Miss Babita-Project Designer (LFO-BHF).

Tarigam road in Qazigund in shambles condition; locals aghast demand macadamization



Top News Report

QAZIGUND, Sep 8: Residents Tarigam area of Qazigund in South Kashmir's Anantnag district are facing with massive ordeal as they have to pass through road full of potholes to reach their homes and the administration is giving deaf ear to their pleas.

The residents are up in arms against the roads and buildings department (R&B) Qazigund for failing to repair the

said road subjecting the residents of the village to extreme hardships due to the dilapidated condition of the road.

They said that they are suffering due to the indifferent attitude of the Roads and buildings department (R&B) towards the village and they are least bothered about their health and hygiene as bumpy roads have become hazardous for them. Adding that condition of the road is in deplorable condition and it is painful for us especially patients.

They urge the Deputy Commissioner Anantnag to look into the matter and hoped that he will ensure macadamization of this road during the current working season so that they could heave a sigh of relief.

Meanwhile Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) of R&B Deptt Qazigund said that "Tender have been already floated for the said road and we have directed the contractor to start the work for the road as soon as possible", he said adding that once work will start it will be completed within one month.

Youth Wing of SSH protest demanding waving off huge electricity bills of poor people

Top News Report

ARNIA, Sep 8: Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K Youth President Ganesh Choudhary on Friday led strong protest against huge electricity bills being served to poor people of border areas in Arnia demanding waving off huge power bills of poor and restoring earlier installed meters.

Speaking on the occasion, Choudhary said poor quality aerial bunched cables installed at the electricity poles of Jammu have become a reason for long power cuts this summer in border areas.

The cables do not take load at

most of the localities and get damaged easily.

"These cables get heated and burn after taking load for a couple of hours, added Choudhary. We have registered complaints of wires getting burnt from dozens of localities on a daily basis. To get rid of such complaints and to protect these cables, the department has increased the scheduled power cuts," Choudhary said.

"The department had promised us that after the installation of these cables and electronic meters, there will be no scheduled power cuts. But despite paying hefty power bills, we are facing 10-hour unscheduled power cuts,"



said Choudhary.

Choudhary said, "We don't understand why the government is not listening to our grievances. Despite all resentment, the government is going ahead with the move," he said.

He said that they want flat rates and not the smart meter-generated power bills. He said that given their economic condition, they won't be able to afford exorbitant bills.

He said that most of the locals are either roadside vendors or labourers. He said the government

should consider the poor people of the society before installation of Smart Meters.

Choudhary further said that most of the people in the area barely earn enough to feed the family. How are they supposed to pay thousands as electricity bills when their salary is meager" he said.

"Despite abundant power resources, people are made to suffer. This is our electricity and we have first right over it," he said. He demanded that the installation of Smart Meters should be halted. He said that the hike in cooking gas and other commodities has already made life difficult for them. Prominent among those pres-

ent on the occasion include State Chairman Sheesh Pal Singh Salthia, Jammu District Present Raj Kumar Gupta, Badi Brahmana Block President Sanjeev Kumar, Samba District President Nek Ram, Bishnah Chairman Vikas Kumar, Arnia Block Vice President Bharat Bhushan, Karan Singh, Bhushan Kumar, Kamal Kumar, Punjab Singh, Jhankar Singh, Mohammed Ashraf, Girish Kumar, Pawan Kumar, Kewal Kumar, Bishnah Block Vice President Pritam Singh, Madhu Bala, Sunita Devi, Sonia Chaudhary, Reena Devi, Veerta Devi, Sheela Devi, Pinky Devi, Sunita Devi, Santosh Devi and Suman Devi.

FROM PAGE 1

Courts need not show compassion when contemnors use them as legal trick to wriggle out of responsibility: SC

self-introspection, atonement and self-reform. In its absence, an apology can be termed as farce.

"The apology tendered should not be accepted as a matter of course and the court is not bound to accept the same. The apology may be unconditional, unqualified and bona fide, still if the conduct is serious, which has caused damage to the dignity of the institution, the same should not be accepted," the bench said.

The top court said there ought not to be a tendency of courts to show compassion when disobedience of an undertaking or an order is with impunity and with total consciousness.

It said the sanctity of judicial proceedings is paramount to the society governed by law. Otherwise, the very edifice of democracy breaks and anarchy reigns, it added.

Dismissing the appeal filed by the contemnors, the bench granted two weeks' time to the appellants to surrender and serve out the sentence as imposed by the high court.

It said the object of the discipline enforced by courts in case of contempt of court is not to vindicate the dignity of the court or the person of the judge, but to prevent undue interference with the administration of justice.

"Any interference with the course of justice is an affront to the majesty of law and the conduct of interference is punishable as contempt of court. Public interest demands that there should be no interference with the judicial process and the effect of the judicial decision should not be preempted or circumvented.

"If a party, who is fully in the know of the judgment or order of the court, is conscious and aware of the consequences and implications of the order of the court, acts in violation thereof, it must be held that disobedience is wilful," the bench said.

To establish contempt of court, it is sufficient to prove that the conduct was wilful and that the contemnor knew all the facts that made it a breach of the undertaking, it added.

"The Act of 1971 is intended to correct a person deviating from the norm and trying to breach the law or assuming law on to himself. It intends to secure the confidence of the people in the administration of justice by disciplining those erring in disobeying the orders of the court or undertaking given to the court.

"We may take judicial notice of the fact with all humility at our command that over a period of time, the courts have shown

undue leniency and magnanimity towards the contemnors. This lenient attitude shown by the courts over a period of time has actually emboldened unscrupulous litigants to disobey or commit a breach of the order passed by any court or any undertaking given to the court with impunity," the bench added.

Bypoll Results 2023: BJP wins Tripura, Congress Kerala

national outreach cell, could well surpass his father's record of margin of 33,255 votes in the constituency, which the late Congress leader represented Puthuppally in the state assembly for over five decades.

Uttarakhand: BJP forges ahead of Congress in Bageshwar

The BJP was ahead of the Congress in the Bageshwar assembly bypoll, with its candidate Parwati Das leading by 1,542 votes as counting progressed on Thursday.

At the end of the seventh round of counting, Das had polled 18,299 votes while the Congress' Basant Kumar had garnered 16,757 votes, Bageshwar District Magistrate Anuradha Pal said.

The BJP moved ahead of the Congress in the third round and has maintained the lead consistently so far.

The seat was held since 2007 by the BJP's Chandan Ram Das whose death in April this year necessitated a bypoll in the seat.

Ghosi bypoll: SP candidate leads over BJP

Samajwadi Party candidate Sudhakar Singh strengthened his lead over his BJP rival Dara Singh Chauhan with a margin of 4,067 votes after the fourth round of counting in the Ghosi assembly bypoll in Uttar Pradesh.

According to the Election Commission (EC), while Singh has garnered 14,286 votes so far, Chauhan has got 10,219. There will be 34 rounds of counting.

The fate of the 10 candidates in the fray was sealed by voters on Tuesday. A voter turnout of 50.77 per cent was recorded in Ghosi, which falls under Mau district.

The Ghosi bypoll was necessitated by the resignation of Chauhan, who had won the seat in the 2022 Uttar Pradesh assembly polls, from the Samajwadi Party in July. He returned to the BJP and was fielded by the party in the bypoll.

AJSU party candidate leading in Dumri bypoll in Jharkhand

AJSU Party candidate Yashoda Devi was leading by 1,551 votes over her nearest JMM rival Bebi Devi in the by-election to the Dumri Assembly seat in Jharkhand's Giridih district.

After seven rounds of counting, the AJSU party candidate, an NDA nominee, secured 25,557 votes, while the JMM candidate, who is the INDIA bloc nominee, got 24,006 votes, they said.

All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen

G20 meet 'Normal Process', but it is better forum than UN: Farooq Abdullah

name change row, the former Union minister said the Constitution has both the names and there is no difference between the two.

"If you see the prime minister's plane, both India and Bharat are written there as well. I don't see any difference between the two, if anyone sees any difference, then they know that, I do not. They are both the same things. It is the media which creates controversy," he said.

On the question about "One nation, one election proposal", he said let the government put it before Parliament, "we will see what we will do".

On the fresh notification by election authorities in Ladakh for the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council polls in Kargil, Abdullah said the notification has been issued and the elections will take place and the people will vote in October.

Govt rolls out 3rd phase of mandatory gold hall-marking in 55 new districts in 17 States/UT

Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, while two districts each in Assam, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

In Rajasthan, the mandatory gold hall-marking will be implemented in one district - Jalore - during the third phase.

Nodal agency Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has successfully implemented mandatory hall-marking in the last two phases, wherein more than 4 lakh gold articles are being hall-marked with Hallmark Unique Identification (HUID) every day.

Since the implementation of mandatory hall-marking, the ministry said, the number of registered jewellers has increased from 34,647 to 1,81,590, while Assaying and Hallmarking Centers (AHCs) rose to 1,471

from 945.

"More than 26 crore articles of gold jewellery have been hall-marked with HUID so far," the ministry said.

Consumers are encouraged to verify the authenticity and purity of the hall-marked gold jewellery items with the HUID number purchased by using 'verify HUID' in the BIS Care App, which can be downloaded from the Play Store.

The number of downloads of the BIS Care App has increased from 2.3 lakhs during 2021-22 to 12.4 lakh in the current financial year. Further, more than one crore hits of 'verify HUID' in the BIS Care App have been recorded as of date in the span of the last two years, it added.

LAHDC polls on October 4; NC gets 'plough' symbol back

candidates can withdraw their papers on September 20. Polling for all 26 seats will be held on October 4 from 8 AM to 4 PM while counting will take place on October 8. Entire elections process will be completed before October 11.

Following the Supreme Court Judgment, Ladakh UT administration has also reserved the "plough" symbol for National Conference party in the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Kargil, polls in fresh notification.

"In pursuance to the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 06/09/2023 in Civil Appeal No. 5707 of 2023 (SLP No. 18727 of 2023), the symbol "Plough" is hereby reserved for the Jammu & Kashmir National Conference Party for the ensuing elections to the 5th Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Kargil," reads the notification.

Earlier National Conference candidates were treated as Independent candidates in the Council elections and allotted different symbols and not 'Plough' which is symbol of the party in Jammu and Kashmir.

Change Country's name if you have guts; Omar dares Centre

we had to fight for the thing that was our right as a political party. Election guidelines are very clear about the allocation of the symbol. Clearly, the administration and Ladakh had a biased agenda which is why they went all the way to the Supreme Court. But if you read the verdict, particularly the detailed judgement and the imposition of Rs 1 lakh on Ladakh administration is itself an indication how seriously the court viewed the conduct of Ladakh government," the NC leader said.

As per the notification, elections to 26 seats of the 30-member LAHDC will be held on October 4. The LAHDC Kargil had

come into effect in 2003.

As per the previous notification the Union Territory of Ladakh had announced that elections to the LAHDC were scheduled to be held on September 10 and counting to be held on September 14.

According to the new notification, the process for filing nominations will start on September 9 and the last date for filing nominations is September 16. The last date for withdrawing nominations has been fixed on September 20, it said.

The counting of votes will take place on October 8.

"Voting will be held between 8 am to 4 pm," it said.

The notification further said that the entire election process should be completed before October 11.

The Supreme Court Wednesday set aside the August 2 notification issued by the Ladakh administration for elections to LAHDC and directed that a fresh notification be issued within seven days.

The bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Ahsanuddin Amanulla imposed a cost of Rs 1 lakh on the Ladakh administration and also dismissed its appeal against an August 14 order of a division bench of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court which had upheld an interim order by a single-judge bench for grant of the 'Plough' poll symbol to the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC).

Man held for hugging airhostess, trying to kiss her as Vistara flight was scheduled to land in Mumbai

reported to the local authorities as per the SOPs, the statement added.

"Vistara stands firm with its zero-tolerance policy against unruly behaviour that endangers the safety, security and dignity of its customers and staff," the spokesperson said.

National Counter-Terrorist exercise of State, Central Police Forces planned next month

It has five hubs or bases across the country, apart from its main garrison in Manesar and a station near the Delhi international airport.

The hubs are located in Gandhinagar, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Chennai and a team of commandos is stationed in readiness 24x7 at each of these centres to respond to any threat situation within a 30-minute mobilisation time-frame.

Reliance explores chip manufacturing, in talks with potential partners: Report

The telecoms-to-energy conglomerate, encouraged by the Indian government, has held early stage talks with foreign chipmakers that have the potential to become technology partners.

NEW DELHI, Sep 8 (Agencies): Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries has begun exploring a foray into semiconductor manufacturing, a move that could address its supply chain needs and cater to growing chip demand in India, two people familiar with its strategy said.

The telecoms-to-energy conglomerate, encouraged by the Indian government, has held early-stage talks with foreign chipmakers that have the potential to become technology partners, said one of the people who has direct knowledge of the plans.

"There is intent, there is no timeline," said the person, adding that Reliance has "yet to make a call on whether they want to ultimately invest."

The names of the foreign chipmakers could not be immediately learned.

The sources were not authorised to speak to media and declined to be identified. Reliance, whose interest in making semiconductors has not been previously reported, did not respond to repeated requests for comment.

India's IT ministry and Prime



Minister Narendra Modi's office also did not respond to requests for comment.

Modi has declared he wants his country to become a chipmaker for the world but those ambitions, first laid out in 2021, have suffered setbacks. The country does not as yet have any chip manufacturing plants, although India's Vedanta V.D.A.N.S and Taiwan's Foxconn 2317.TW are both looking at building facilities.

Reliance sees merit in getting into semiconductors as the move would help safeguard against chip shortages that could affect its telecom and electronic devices businesses, the sources said. In 2021, for example, the conglomerate delayed the launch of a low-cost smartphone it was developing with Google GOOGL.O citing

the chip shortage.

Demand for semiconductors in India and globally is also increasing, they noted. India's government has forecast the domestic chip market will be worth \$80 billion by 2028 compared with \$23 billion currently.

Reliance, which has a market capitalisation of around \$200 billion, would be one of the best-positioned companies in India to delve into semiconductors, said Arun Mampazhy, a former India executive at U.S.-based chipmaker GlobalFoundries.

"They also have deep pockets and know how to work with the government," he said.

But chip manufacturing is an industry that has historically been beset with boom and bust cycles and requires much expertise.

"Getting a tech partner - as

a joint venture, or via transfer of technology, is the make or break point" for Reliance, said Mampazhy.

Setbacks for India's chip ambitions have come despite the government's offer of \$10 billion in incentives.

A \$19.5 billion venture between Vedanta and Foxconn collapsed in July even before it got off the ground as the two sides struggled to find a tech partner, with Foxconn complaining that the project had not moved fast enough.

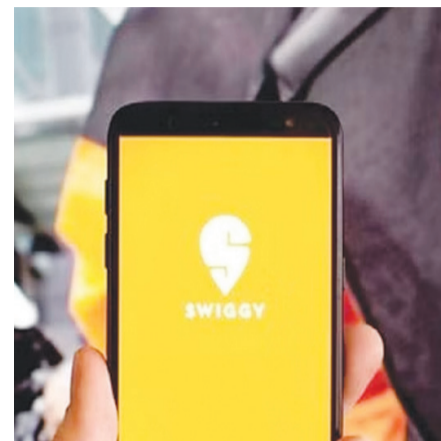
Foxconn has since decided to invest in India without Vedanta.

Plans by ISMC, a venture between Abu Dhabi-based Next Orbit Ventures and Israel's Tower Semiconductor, to invest \$3 billion in India, have moved slowly after Intel sought to acquire Tower. Talks between Intel and Tower later collapsed.

Reliance has for months been considering an investment of \$300 million that would give it a 30% stake in the venture, a third source with direct knowledge of discussions said. Next Orbit Ventures and Tower did not respond to requests for comment.

Food delivery platform Swiggy witnesses yet another high-level exit

Earlier in May, Ashish Lingamneni, vice president, of marketing, and Nishad Kenkre, VP of revenue and growth, left the company.



NEW DELHI, Sep 8 (Agencies): Food delivery company Swiggy has been witnessing many senior-level exits in recent months, and the recent one is Anuj Rathi, the senior vice president of revenue and growth, who resigned after a stint of over seven years at the company.

"After a career-defining journey of 7 years with Swiggy, I've decided to hang up my boots here. It's been an amazing ride and I couldn't be luckier to work with some of the best individuals to deliver convenience to Indians," he said in a LinkedIn post.

"When I started here, Swiggy was

a 2-year-old startup - operating in a few cities and learning to deliver in a hockey-stick growth environment. Every month and every year has been a new challenge and a new learning opportunity for me professionally and personally," he added.

Earlier in May, Ashish Lingamneni, vice president, of marketing, and Nishad Kenkre, VP of revenue and growth, left the company. Kenkre in a LinkedIn post had said that he decided to step away from his current role to take a break, recharge and reflect.

Swiggy, which announced turning EBITDA positive in its food delivery business as of March 2023 successfully integrated Dineout and strengthened its position in Q-commerce with Instamart. In July, it announced the second milestone in its two-year ESOP liquidity program.

As part of this planned 2-year ESOP liquidity program, Swiggy employees will have the option to receive liquidity totalling up to \$50 million against their ESOPs, the food delivery company had said. It recently acquired LYNK Logistics, and with this acquisition, Swiggy has entered the food and grocery retail market.

Foxconn-STMicro to set up chip unit

NEW DELHI, Sep 8 (Agencies): Taiwanese tech giant Foxconn Technology Group is exploring a partnership with STMicroelectronics NV to build a semiconductor factory in India.

As per media reports, Foxconn and Franco-Italian STMicro are applying for PLI incentives for a 40-nanometer chip plant. The government has asked Foxconn, Apple Inc.'s key assembly partner, for more details about its partnership with STMicro, the people aware of the matter said.

Reports stated that by partnering with STMicro, contract manufacturer Foxconn is tapping the expertise of a chip industry pioneer to expand in the lucrative but difficult semiconductor business. Foxconn is also in talks with a few other companies



that have chip-making technology.

This is the second attempt by the Foxconn group to begin semiconductor manufacturing in the country. Earlier, the company partnered with billionaire Anil Agarwal's Vedanta Limited and applied for setting up of fab manufacturing unit in Gujarat. However, the government didn't approve of their application and asked them to reapply under the new scheme.

Later, both the companies announced breaking up of the partnership, and applying indi-

vidually. It is believed that the reason for the rejection of their application was inexperience in chip making. Both Vedanta and Foxconn have no expertise in chip making and are new to the semiconductor sector.

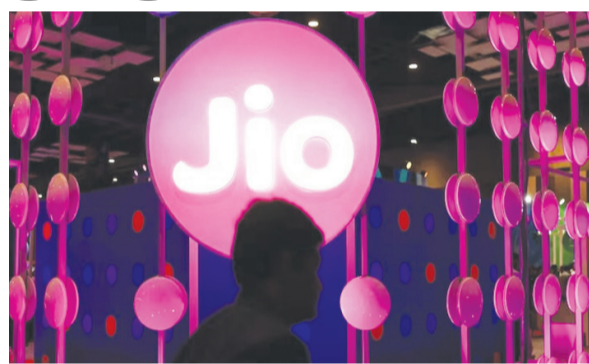
The government also asked them to find partners who are in the semiconductor business. Recently, the government approved the application of US-based Micron Technology Inc., which will invest in a \$2.75 billion assembly and testing facility in Gujarat.

Reliance Jio, Nvidia strike AI deal for apps, 'large language model'

NEW DELHI, Sep 8 (Agencies): In a significant development aimed at bolstering India's artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities, Nvidia and Reliance Industries have forged a partnership to create a foundational large language model tailored for generative AI applications, specially designed to accommodate the linguistic diversity of the nation's population.

This collaboration is set to pave the way for the construction of AI infrastructure that surpasses the computational power of India's current fastest supercomputer.

Nvidia will provide cutting-edge technology, including the NVIDIA GH200 Grace Hopper Superchip and the NVIDIA DGX Cloud, an



AI supercomputing service hosted in the cloud. The GH200 chip represents a groundbreaking advancement in computing architecture, offering unmatched performance and extensive memory bandwidth.

"The Nvidia-powered AI infrastructure is the foundation of the new frontier into AI for Reliance Jio Infocomm, Reliance Industries' telecom arm. The global AI revolution is transforming industries and daily life. To serve

India's vast potential in AI, Reliance will create AI applications and services for their 450 million Jio customers and provide energy-efficient AI infrastructure to scientists, developers and startups across India," said Nvidia.

This AI infrastructure will be hosted in AI-ready data centers, with plans for expansion to 2,000 MW. The execution and implementation of this endeavor will be overseen by Jio, leveraging its exten-

sive expertise in mobile telephony, 5G technology, fiber networks, and other domains.

Jensen Huang, founder and CEO of Nvidia, expressed enthusiasm for this collaboration, emphasizing India's scale, data resources, and talent as key factors in developing AI computing infrastructure that can empower India with large language models for generative AI applications. "We are delighted to partner with Reliance to build state-of-the-art AI supercomputers in India," said he added.

Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries, underscored the transformative potential of this partnership, comparing it to the significant impact Jio has had on India's digi-

tal landscape. "As India advances from a country of data proliferation to creating technology infrastructure for widespread and accelerated growth, computing and technology super centres like the one we envisage with NVIDIA will provide the catalytic growth just like Jio did to our nation's digital march," he added.

Akash Ambani, Chairman of Reliance Jio Infocomm, emphasized their commitment to democratizing access to advanced technologies. He sees this partnership as a pivotal step toward accelerating India's ascent to AI prominence, envisioning the development of a cutting-edge AI cloud infrastructure that is secure, sustainable, and highly relevant to India's unique opportunities.

In a significant breakthrough, scientists successfully create kidneys with human cells in pig embryos

BEIJING, Sep 8 (Agencies): In a significant breakthrough, Chinese scientists have for the first time in the world successfully created kidneys with human cells in pig embryos -- a big advance that may one day pave the way for human organ transplantation and tackle shortages.

When transferred into surrogate pig mothers, the developing humanised kidneys had normal structure and tubule formation after 28 days.

This is the first time the scientists have been able to grow a solid humanised organ inside another species, though previous studies have used similar methods to generate human tissues such as blood or skeletal muscle in pigs.

The researchers focused on kidneys because they are one of the first organs to develop, and they're also the most commonly transplanted organ in human medicine.

"Rat organs have been produced in mice, and mouse organs have been produced in rats, but previous attempts to grow human organs in pigs have not succeeded," said Liangxue Lai of the Guangzhou Institute of Biomedicine and Health, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Wuyi University



in China.

"Our approach improves the integration of human cells into recipient tissues and allows us to grow human organs in pigs," Lai added. The research appeared in the journal Cell Stem Cell.

Integrating human stem cells into pig embryos has been a challenge because pig cells out-compete human cells and pig and human cells have different physiological needs.

For the breakthrough, the team first created a niche within the pig embryo so that the human cells would not have to compete with pig cells by using CRISPR to genetically engineer a single-cell pig embryo so that it was missing two genes that are needed for kidney development.

The researchers then engineered human pluripotent stem cells -- cells that have the potential to develop into any cell type -- to make them more amenable to integration and less likely to self-destruct by temporarily shutting down apoptosis.

Then, they converted these cells into "naive" cells resembling early human embryonic cells by culturing them in a special medium.

Before implanting the developing embryos in surrogate sows, the researchers grew the chimeras in conditions that were optimised to provide unique nutrients and signals to both the human and pig cells, since these cells usually have disparate needs.

Altogether, the researchers transferred 1,820 embryos to

13 surrogate mothers. After either 25 or 28 days, they terminated gestation and extracted the embryos to assess whether the chimeras had successfully produced humanised kidneys.

The researchers collected five chimeric embryos for analysis (two at 25 days and three at 28 days post-implantation) and found that they had structurally normal kidneys for their stage of development and were composed of 50-60 per cent human cells.

At 25-28 days, the kidneys were in the mesonephros stage (the second stage of kidney development); they had formed tubules and buds of cells that would eventually become ureters connecting the kidney to the bladder.

The team next wants to allow the kidneys to develop for a longer duration. They're also working to generate other human organs in pigs, including the heart and pancreas.

The long-term goal is to optimise this technology for human organ transplantation, but the researchers acknowledge the work will be complex and could take many years. Meanwhile, the technology could also be used to study the development of human organs and developmental diseases.

Positive body image linked to better life satisfaction: Study

NEW DELHI, Sep 8 (Agencies): Having more positive body image is strongly associated with better psychological well-being and life satisfaction, according to a study involving 56,968 participants in 65 countries, including India.

The research, published in the journal Body Image, is one of the largest studies ever conducted on the topic of body image.

Previous research has shown that high levels of body appreciation are linked to a range of positive well-being traits such as improved self-esteem and healthy eating habits, and negatively associated with issues such as depression and anxiety.

However, few studies have assessed body appreciation across nations.

The team, led by researchers from Anglia Ruskin University (ARU), UK, asked participants in 65 nations to complete the Body Appreciation Scale-2

(BAS-2), which contains 10 items, including "I respect my body" and "I appreciate the different and unique characteristics of my body." The study found that across nations, greater body appreciation was significantly associated with higher psychological well-being, as assessed using a measure of life satisfaction.

The researchers also found that body appreciation was higher in participants who were single -- compared with being married or in a committed relationship -- and those living in rural areas.

The study also found large differences in body appreciation scores across the 65 survey nations.

Only India and Australia scored lower for body appreciation than the UK. Malta scored highest, followed by Taiwan and Bangladesh.

"This is one of the largest studies on body image ever carried out, brought about by a col-

laborative research effort involving over 250 scientists across the world," Viren Swami, Professor of Social Psychology at Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) and lead author of the study, said.

"Our finding that greater body appreciation is associated with better psychological well-being highlights the importance of developing ways to promote more positive body image globally," Swami said.

The researchers noted that people who live in urban areas may feel stronger pressure to conform to body ideals promoted by Western society, and it is also notable that people from countries considered culturally different to the US appeared to have broadly greater body appreciation.

People in rural areas may also benefit from being in nature, which past research has also shown to be linked with positive body image, they added.

“Don’t Need Your Advice”: Fiery Sunil Gavaskar Shuts Down Pakistan, Australian Experts

NEW DELHI, Sep 8 (Agencies): In India, everybody has an opinion on cricket. And if the subject is the Indian cricket team, then the opinions increase manifold. With the announcement of the Indian team's Cricket World Cup 2023 squad, opinions have flown thick about the team combination. The topic of discussion has mostly surrounded the Indian cricket team, which as hosts are among the favourites to go the distance. Sunil Gavaskar, former Indian cricket team captain and 1983 Cricket World Cup winner, is irked by foreign experts giving their opinion on the Indian team combination.

The triggering point to Gavaskar's outburst was a question about how former Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief Najam Sethi indicated, in a post on X (formerly Twitter), that India are afraid to play Pakistan. "If you see the statements that come out from their side... sadly our media gives them the prominence. We have Pakistan



players, and Australian players selecting Indian team. How is it their concern? Do any Indian players go and select the Australian or the Pakistan team? It's none of our business. But we allow that," Sunil Gavaskar said on Sports Today. "From there it's always Babar is better than Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma; Shaheen Afridi is better

than so and so. Inzamam-ul-haq is better than Sachin Tendulkar. For them, they are always better than us. That is the way they have to cater to their audience." On the Indian cricket team getting extreme 'focus' from overseas experts, Sunil Gavaskar has an interesting logic. "Don't give them space in your papers. You have a South

Africa saying a player should be in your team. You have an Australian saying. It happens too often. They say who should bat at no. 3 or no. 4. C'mon, we don't need your advice," Sunil Gavaskar said.

All-rounder Hardik Pandya has been appointed as Rohit Sharma's deputy as India announced their 15-member squad for the ODI World Cup 2023 on Tuesday. While India have gone ahead with KL Rahul and Shreyas Iyer, who have just returned from injuries, Sanju Samson and Tilak Varma were left out. India have gone with three left-arm spinners while three specialist pacers have been picked.

India's World Cup 2023 squad: Rohit Sharma (captain), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Ishan Kishan, KL Rahul, Hardik Pandya (vice-captain), Suryakumar Yadav, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammad Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav.

Punjab cricketer Shubman Gill turns 24; a look at his sensational career

The cricketer is the world's youngest all-format centurion



NEW DELHI, Sep 8 (Agencies): India's rising batting sensation Shubman Gill turned 24 on Friday.

The batter, who is considered one of the best in the world now, made his international debut in 2019. Since then, this dashing stroke-

player has made major strides year after year to the point that he is now considered the successor Virat Kohli.

The Punjab batter's first major performance came for India U-19 World Cup winning team of 2018, where he served as skipper

Prithvi Shaw's deputy. In six matches, he scored 372 runs at an average of 124, with a century and three fifties in five innings. He was India's highest run scorer in the tournament, overall second and also the 'Player of the Series'.

Gill has represented India in 18 Tests, scoring 966 runs at an average of 32.20. He has scored two centuries and four fifties in 33 innings, with the best score of 128.

At the age of 23, he is the world's youngest all-format centurion.

Gill has a long way to go. But the accolades he accomplished in such a short time prove that the 'Prince of Indian Cricket' he is here to stay.

Surya India's X-factor, feels Harbhajan

NEW DELHI, Sep 8 (Agencies): The Indian duo of Yuzvendra Chahal and Arshdeep Singh should have been picked in the 15-member squad for the upcoming ODI World Cup, said former Indian off-spinner Harbhajan Singh today.

Chahal and Arshdeep were overlooked from the Indian squad, which was announced by the Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee.

"I think there are two people missing in this team. First, Yuzvendra Chahal, and second, Arshdeep Singh. Because a left-arm seamer, if he can bring the new ball inside, it makes it useful in the game," Harbhajan said during a virtual press conference. "If he can get two wickets early in the game, I'm not saying that right-handers can't do that, but a left-hand seamer can get an actual angle to get the wicket."

Backing Chahal's inclusion, Harbhajan said: "Chahal is a proven match winner, someone who has taken more number of wickets than any other spinner, and if he was playing for any other country, I think he would have been in the playing XI all the time."

Harbhajan also sees Suryakumar Yadav as the X-factor in the Indian team for the upcoming World Cup and said he is the most impactful middle-order batter in



India right now.

Despite not able to recreate his T20 magic in the ODI format, Suryakumar, who is the world's No. 1 T20I batter, managed to hold onto his spot in the 15-member squad for the World Cup that had led to a debate over the exclusion of Sanju Samson and rising all-rounder Tilak Varma. "Suryakumar is a complete package. At the number where he bats, I don't think there is any other better player than him in India. What he can accomplish at No. 5 or 6, even Virat (Kohli), Rohit (Sharma), or Sanju (Samson) cannot replicate," he said.

Playing at home and with intense media scrutiny will put the Indian cricket team under a lot of pressure in the upcoming ODI World Cup, feels former Pakistan pace bowler Shoaib Akhtar. India's performance in the ICC events has left much to be desired as they have yet to win a world title since the 2013 Champions Trophy triumph under Mahendra Singh

Dhoni. "Pakistan's going to be all lonely there (in India). Having said that, they will be under no pressure. Playing at home, in front of own crowd, all the pressure will be on India; we will do better," Akhtar said. India will take on Pakistan in the most-anticipated World Cup clash in Ahmedabad on October 14. But before that, they will clash in the Super Four stage of the Asia Cup on Sunday, and may also face a possible title showdown on September 17. Akhtar said the Indian team is still "unsettled" with less than a month left for the World Cup, which begins on October 5. "Why do I have this feeling... why India could not pick their XI in last two years. It's a very strange thing to me that your squad is not settled. Who is your No. 4, where will Virat (Kohli) play 3, 4 or 5? India is not being a settled squad for (the) last two years, this is a very strange thing for me. Who will occupy which slot?" he asked.

World Cup 2023: Sachin Tendulkar presented with 'Golden Ticket' by BCCI secretary Jay Shah

NEW DELHI, Sep 8 (Agencies): Legendary India batter Sachin Tendulkar was presented with a 'Golden Ticket' for the upcoming ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 by The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Jay Shah.

BCCI took to social media platform 'X' to post a photo of Shah presenting the 'Golden Ticket' to Tendulkar. As part of the 'Golden Ticket for India Icons' programme, Tendulkar received the 'Golden Ticket' during a special presentation.

"An iconic moment for cricket and the nation! As part of our 'Golden Ticket for India Icons' programme, BCCI Honorary Secretary @JayShah presented the golden ticket to Bharat Ratna Shri @sachin_rt. A symbol of cricketing excellence and national pride, Sachin Tendulkar's journey has inspired



generations. Now, he'll be part of the @ICC @cricketworldcup 2023, witnessing the action LIVE," posted BCCI.

This move comes after iconic Indian actor Amitabh Bachchan was presented with the 'Golden

Ticket' by Shah.

The 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup is set to be hosted by India from October 5 to November 19, 2023. The tournament will feature ten teams, including Australia, England, Pakistan,

India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, and New Zealand.

The World Cup will kick off with England taking on New Zealand. Hosts India will begin their campaign against five-time World Cup winners Australia on October 8. The first semi-final is scheduled for November 15, followed by the second semi-final on November 16, and the final match on November 19.

India also released their 15-member squad for the 2023 Cricket World Cup with opening batter Rohit Sharma set to lead the Men in Blue.

India 15-member squad: Rohit Sharma (captain), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Ishan Kishan, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj.

King's cup: India pay the penalty in shootout vs Iraq



CHIANG MAI (THAILAND), Sep 8 (Agencies): A Sunil Chhetri-less India conceded a late goal off a debatable penalty to miss out on their first-ever win over higher-ranked Iraq who won via penalty shootout in the King's Cup here.

India will take on Lebanon in the bronze medal playoff on Sunday as Thailand defeated Lebanon 2-1.

India were leading 2-1 till the 79th minute when the referee awarded a soft penalty to Iraq after their striker Aymen Ghad-

hban was squeezed by two defenders in the box during a tussle to get on to a high cross.

It did not look like a clear-cut penalty but Ghadban himself stepped up to take the spot-kick and scored to level the match 2-2 and take it to the shootout.

Iraq then won 5-4 in the shootout with Brandon Fernandes failing to score as his kick hit the post and went out.

Under the tournament's rule, the match will be decided via penalty shootout if the scores are levelled in the regulation time and there will be no extra-time play.

It was a creditable show by the Indian team, which was without their talismanic striker and captain Chhetri, who missed the tournament after becoming a father recently. World No. 99

India played on equal terms against Iraq, ranked 70th in the FIFA rankings, for the most part of their semifinal.

Earlier, Naorem Mahesh Singh had given India the lead in the 16th minute before Karim Ali equalised in the 28th minute, also from a penalty.

India regained the lead in the 51st minute with Iraq captain and goalkeeper Jalal Hasan conceding an own goal with a howler in the effort. Iraq were reduced to 10 men in the stoppage time as Zidane Iqbal was sent off for elbowing Fernandes but India could not capitalise on that as the regulation time ended within a minute and there was no extra time of play.

The loss ended India's 11-match unbeaten streak this year.

US Open 2023: Aryna Sabalenka survives Maddison Keys scare to set up final against Coco Gauff

NEW YORK, Sep 8 (Agencies): 2023 Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka came from behind to defeat America's Maddison Keys in the semi-finals of the ongoing US Open 2023 to book a final against world number six Coco Gauff.

Sabalenka reached her first-ever US Open final following a gritty win over Keys. Sabalenka beat Keys 0-6, 7-6(1), 7-6(5) to book her spot in the final, which is set to be played on September 10.

The match started with Keys dominating the court, surprising specta-

tors by winning the first set 6-0. Sabalenka, however, was not deterred and managed to turn the tide in the second set. Despite losing her serve early on, she broke back and forced a tie-break, which she won, taking the match into a decisive third set.

The final set saw both players fighting for every point. Keys secured the first break, but Sabalenka promptly responded with a break of her own. The match eventually extended to a 10-point tie-break, where Sabalenka quickly took a 4-0 lead. She managed her advan-



tage well, closing out the match and securing her spot in the US Open final.

This victory marks Sabalenka's first US

Open final appearance and her fourth Grand Slam semi-final this year. She has established herself as a formidable player, boasting

a 22-3 record in majors this year, including the Australian Open title.

With this win, Sabalenka became just the third player in the Open Era to win a women's singles semi-final at a Grand Slam after losing the first set 6-0, after Steffi Graf (1992 French Open) and Ana Ivanovic (2008 Australian Open).

Sabalenka will now face Coco Gauff in the final, who defeated Karolina Muchova in her semi-final match. This win also secures Sabalenka as the world number one, regardless of the outcome of the final match.

Gautam Gambhir objects to camaraderie between India, Pak players during match; Shahid Afridi disagrees

NEW DELHI, Sep 8 (Agencies): The India-Pakistan game in Kandy on September 2 during the ongoing Asia Cup saw former Indian cricketer Gautam Gambhir reacting to the bonhomie shared between the players of the two sides.

Following the washout of the match because of rain, the players were seen exchanging a few light-hearted moments. Speaking on Star Sports, Gambhir objected to their camaraderie, saying, "When you play on the field for your national team, you must leave the friendship outside the boundary ropes. Game face hona zaroori hai. Dosti bahaar rehni chahiye. (It is important to have a game face, the friendship should be kept away). There has to be an aggression in the eyes of both sets of players." "You can be as friendly as you want after those six or seven hours of cricket. Those hours are very

important because you're not just representing yourself, you're representing a nation of over a billion.

"These days you see players of rival teams patting each other on the back and exchanging fist bumps during a match. You would never see that a few years ago," Gambhir added.

Reacting to Gambhir's statement, former Pakistan skipper Shahid Afridi has given his opinion about the same.

Disagreeing with Gambhir's views, Afridi said, "That's his thought. My thinking is different. We are cricketers as well as ambassadors. We have fans in both the nations. I think, it would be better if we send out a message of love and friendship. Aggression is there in the ground but there is life off the field as well." The arch-rivals are set to face each other again in the Super 4 stage of the Asia Cup in Colombo on September 10.

Baba Sidhgoria Temple Paloura gears up for 54th Shat Chandi Mahayagya from Sept 14



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 8: Baba Sidhgoria Temple Paloura under the supervision of Mahant Kuldeep Singh Maharaj is all geared up to host the grand 54th Shat Chandi Mahayagya from September 14 to 24, 2023 while the Journey to Enlightenment through the religious discourse of Shrimad Bhagwat Katha by Mahant Shri Dr. Satyanarayan Das Ji Maharaj will commence from September 18 at the temple premises to immerse the devotees in divine bliss.

The 54th Shat Chandi Mahayagya, Hawan

Pujan, Sant Samelan is being organised by Mahant Shri Kuldeep Singh Ji Paloura Wale at Baba Sidhgoria Temple, Paloura, Jammu from September 14 (Thursday) to September 24 (Sunday), 2023 where all the devotees will take part in Mahayagya and listen Shrimad Bhagwat Katha during the programme.

Addressing a press conference Mahant Shri Kuldeep Singh Ji alongwith Team Jammu Chairman Zorawar Singh Jamwal said that it was great pleasure and a matter of pride that the 54th Mahayagya is being organised

and invited all the devotees to get immersed in the religious fervour during the Mahayagya followed by Langar on daily basis.

Giving details Mahant Baba Kuldeep Singh Ji said that Shrimad Bhagwat Katha by Dr. Mahant Shri Sat Naryan Dass ji Maharaj will be held from September 18, 2023 (Monday) while other religious programmes will commence from September 14, 2023 (Thursday).

The religious programme will start on September 14, 2023 (Thursday) at 8 am with Jal Yatra followed by Mandap Pujan and

Yagya from 8 am to 12 noon on September 14. Shrimad Bhagwat Katha by Dr. Mahant Shri Sat Naryan Dass ji Maharaj from 2 pm to 5 pm daily from September 18, 2023 (Monday) to September 24 (Sunday).

The Shoba Yatra from Paloura will start at 3 am and culminate at 7 am on September 24 while Puran Ahuti and Bhandara will be organised at 12 noon on September 24, 2023 (Monday).

Baba Ji also informed that accommodation and food for Pandits and Mahatmas will be arranged daily by the Baba Sidhgoria Ashram Paloura at the temple premises.

The managing committee members include Varinder Singh Badori, Rampaul Sharma Pooni Chak, Ashok Singh Chib, Satish Sharma Narwal Wale, Atul Sood Shiv Nagar, Vasu, Vishu Jaipal Paloura, Suresh Kumar Laswara, Sonu Baba Paloura, Jyot Baba Paloura, Ashok Singh, Corporator, Balbir Singh Paloura, Mohit Gupta, Amarjeet Singh, Deepanshu, Pawan Kumar Sharma, Suresh Kumar Rehari and Kuldeep Gupta Talab Tillo.

JKCCPEU urges Govt to redress demands forthwith

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 7: Jammu & Kashmir Coordination Committee of Power Employees Union JKCCPEU urged government to redress their long pending demands at the earliest.

Addressing a press conference here on Friday, Deep Mehra General Secretary JKCCPEU urged government that DPCs be held every six months to ensure timely promotions for employees in lower grades.

He suggested handing over control of the Employees Welfare Fund to the Managing Director/Chief Engineer for proper distribution.

Many PDL/TDL's who were working in the department before the



ban in 2015 remain unpaid. Some employees had their wages stopped after 2020, despite continuing to work in the department. The employees request a resolution of these unpaid issues for the smooth functioning of the field systems.

The employees are asking for the issuance of a final seniority list of

TDL/PDL, including all pending cases, to simplify the process, particularly for low-paid staff.

The employees requested that the head computer post be converted into a Gazetted post, as is the practice for diploma holders recruited as Junior Engineers.

Other demands include release of

grade benefit, release of GPF Cases, In-situ promotion, finalization of seniority, pending salary of age relaxation, placement Orders of Matriculators and ITI holders, rebate of Electric Charges for employees, etc. The JKCCPEU expressed confidence in the authorities to address these concerns.

Army sets up medical centre, helpline centre in Uri

TOP NEWS REPORT

BARAMULLA, Sep 8: The Indian Army is undertaking efforts to provide essential assistance to the people living in the border villages of the Uri sector.

They have set up a medical centre to

ensure that the villagers have access to healthcare facilities and free ambulance services in Bararipura village.

This initiative aims to address the healthcare needs of the local population and provide

immediate medical aid in case of emergencies.

The Army has established a helpline centre to provide assistance and support to the residents of these border villages. This helpline enables the villagers

to reach out for help during any unforeseen circumstances or emergencies. It serves as a crucial link between the villagers and the Army, ensuring that they receive the necessary help and support in times of need.

Programme on Drug De-Addiction organised at Govt School

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 8: The program on Drug De-Addiction held at Govt Higher Secondary School featured prominent figures such as Purshotam Dhidachi, President of Shri Sanatan Dharam Sanstha Jammu as the Chief Guest, and Akash Kohli, the SDPO Nagrota, along with the Principal of Government Higher Secondary School Jagti as the Guests of Honour.

The Chief Guest, Purshotam Dhidachi, emphasized several critical points during his speech: He pointed out that various departments, including the Police, Drug Control Authority, NCB (Narcotics Control Bureau), and several civil soci-

ety organizations, are involved in combating drug addiction. However, he highlighted the need for improved coordination and planning among these agencies to achieve better results in the fight against drug addiction.

Dhidachi acknowledged India's status as a fast-growing nation recognized by the international community.

However, he cautioned that this rapid growth might attract undesirable elements, possibly conspiring to exploit and ruin the youth through drug addiction.

He emphasized that drug addiction poses a more significant threat than terrorism, describing it as a silent

but destructive killer of society.

Dilip Pandita, the State President of Bhartiya Modi Army in Jammu & Kashmir, also addressed the gathering and focused on the role of various agencies in combating drug peddlers.

Pandita called for greater collaboration among agencies such as the Police, Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), NCB, and other relevant authorities to come together under a single umbrella.

He requested to the youth that come forward with motive to build our nation as Vishwa Guru. He urged the youth as well as authorities of the state government to please remove this evil from the society.

Sankri Devta's Annual Day celebrated with religious fervour

TOP NEWS REPORT

R.S PURA, Sep 8: The ancient Sankri Devasthan located in Pindi Kutoyal on Indo-Pak border remains the center of faith of the devotees.

Today was the annual congregation here. A huge influx of innumerable Kaith Biradari members alongwith their families, was seen paying obeisance at Sankri Devasthan today. The atmosphere remained devotional due to the chants of devotees seeking darshan in long queues for hours.

The Kaith Shiromani Committee General Secretary R.L.Kaith told the devotees that hundred years ago, a cowherd while grazing a Kapila named cow at Meer felt asleep and slept hours.

When he woke up he saw the cow was miss-



ing. He went here and there in her search but couldn't find out. Later one told him that he had seen some Mughals taking the cow towards Umran-Ali.

He reported the matter as heard to owner Sankri Dev. Enraged Sankri Dev then riding the horse marched towards Umran-Ali to chase the Mughals and get his cow extricated from their clutch.

Sankri Dev saw the Mughals at Umran-Ali, where he alone fought them valiently. Unfortunately, the multiple Mughals severed his head but his body continued to fight for a few more minutes, but lastly the body fell on this holy land. Since then, this place is named as 'Pindi'.

Every year a big congregation is held here by the Kaith Biradari to

mark his martyrdom.

Locals said that Sankri Devta is a powerful deity, people come here with their individual wishes, hoping they get fulfilled after the prayer and they visit the Devastation after their wishes get fulfilled.

On the occasion, a ceremony was also held by the Kaith Biradari Shiromani Committee specially to honour the most dedicated person

Dr Ramesh Kumar Kaith by putting sash around his neck for improving Biradari's overall well-being.

Prominent among those who participated in the congregation included Municipal Councillor Krishan Lal, Captain Girdhari Lal, Subedar Bachan Lal, Havildar Des Raj, Hans Raj Loria, Ram Lal, Sat Pal, Bishan Dass and Bawa Ram.

Sucha, Keshav start development works

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 8: Municipal Councillor Ward 31 Sardar Sucha Singh along With BJP Talab Tillo Mandal President Keshav Chopra on Friday Started upgradation of drains with installation of iron gratings work at vikas lane talab tillo

The project is being carried out under the supervision of the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) and has an estimated cost of Rs. 5 lakhs.

Sucha Singh expressed his commitment to completing various developmental works in his ward, highlighting that several projects have already been completed during



his tenure.

He also mentioned that the cooperation of the local residents is crucial for the development and cleanliness of the ward, emphasizing their support for the vision of Prime Minister Modi.

Keshav Chopra, on the other hand, stated that their motto is

"Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas aur Sabka Prayaas," which means that they aim to include and benefit every segment of the society.

He congratulated the residents, indicating that their long-pending demand for this infrastructure improvement has been addressed.

Additionally, the report mentions the presence of several other individuals during the inauguration, including XEn Devanand Sethi, Samardeep Singh, Prabodh Choudhary, Pinky Bhat, Ravinder Kachroo, Ravinder Gupta, Manohar Lal, and others.

GDC Kathua felicitates NSS volunteers

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Sep 8: Principal GDC Kathua Prof Seema Mir along with senior faculty members felicitated Jammu University Vice Chancellor Commendation Certificate awardees.

This year only eleven volunteers honoured with Vice Chancellor Commendation certificates from different colleges of Jammu division.

Among eleven selected volunteers, six Volunteers belong to NSS Units of GDC Kathua.

This certificate is given to the Volunteers for their Contribution to National Service Scheme in addition to regular programmes.



Principal GDC Kathua presented a memento and certificate to the volunteers. Principal congratulates all volunteers for getting this achievement and bring laurels to this prestigious institution.

Principal also congratulates NSS Program officers Prof

Manmohan Singh, Prof Neha Bandral and Dr Suresh Sharma for this great achievement and appreciated their efforts to guide volunteers to get such achievements. Volunteers who got certificate and bring laurels for this prestigious institute were Ritika Jasrotia, Monika Devi, Abhishek

Singh Sumbaria, Mohit Verma, Imran Ali and Abhi Kumar.

The senior most faculty members who grace the occasion with their presence were Prof Raj Kiran Sharma, Dr Amrik Singh, Dr. Shamsher Singh, Dr Kamaldeep Singh and Dr Jogbinder Singh.