

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Missing BSF Jawan traced to home in Bihar, to face departmental inquiry

MENDHAR/JAMMU, Sep 10 (Agencies): Two days after he was reported to be missing from his post near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, a Border Security Force (BSF) jawan was traced to his home in Bihar, officials said on Sunday.

The jawan was reported missing from the forward post in Bharni in Balakote sector early Friday, following which the BSF lodged a missing person report at the police station concerned, the officials said.

A police officer said the missing jawan was traced to his home in Bihar Sunday morning and further necessary action was being taken.

The officials said BSF has also started a departmental inquiry against the jawan for leaving his post without permission.

Two drug peddlers booked under NDPS act in Kishtwar, Ramban

JAMMU, Sep 10 (Agencies): Two suspected drug peddlers were detained under the NDPS Act in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar and Ramban districts, police said on Sunday.

Senior Superintendent of Police (Kishtwar) Khalil Poswal said Mohd Iqbal Khanday of Keshwan village was apprehended under the stringent law and lodged in the district jail.

Khanday was involved in multiple drug peddling cases and his bank accounts have already been frozen, the officer said.

Mohd Shafi Sheikh, another notorious peddler, from the Kawbagh village was also taken into preventive detention under provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act for repeated involvement in selling and distributing contraband in Ramban district.

Senior Superintendent of Police (Ramban) Mohita Sharma prepared the dossier on Sheikh. After receiving approval from the competent authority, the peddler was detained under the NDPS act, a police spokesperson said.

LG Sinha credits G20 for tourism growth in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Sep 10 (Agencies): Stating that the authorities are committed to make Jammu and Kashmir a global tourism destination, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday said that terror and its ecosystem had destroyed everyone while as tourism is uniting all and one.

Sinha said this while inaugurating the Bungus Tourism and Adventure festival at Bungus Valley in border district of Kupwara.

Present on the occasion were Divisional



Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bhiduri besides other officials from the district administration.

Addressing the gathering, LG Sinha said that years of terrorism and its

eco-system destroyed and damaged almost every one while as tourism is all set to unite all. "Terror and its ecosystem had given a bad name and image to J&K. "Without peace, no

development and tourism can happen. It is not only the job of security forces to cement peace but every one including locals have to play their part. Elected representatives have a great responsibility," the LG said.

The LG said that the everyone must work to promote tourism. "We must leave no stone unturned to ensure tourism is promoted in J&K. We want J&K to become a global tourism destination and we have been able to achieve that to a greater extent so

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British PM Sunak, wife Akshata perform 'Puja' at Akshardham Temple in New Delhi



NEW DELHI, Sep 10 (Agencies): British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and his wife Akshata Murty visited the Akshardham temple here on Sunday and offered prayers.

Ahead of the visit of G20 leaders to Rajghat

to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi, Sunak, who was dressed in trousers and a shirt, and his wife, wearing a kurta with palazzo, reached the temple early morning and were accorded a traditional welcome.

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Lawyer Babar Qadri Killing: SIA announces Rs 10 lakh reward for information

SRINAGAR, Sep 10 (Agencies): Jammu Kashmir's State Investigation Agency (SIA) has announced a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh for individuals whose information can help nab the killers of lawyer Babar Qadri. He was killed by two assailants at his Hawal residence in Sri-

nagar on September 24, 2020.

"A cash reward of Rs 10,00,000 is offered to those who provide information leading to the arrest of the individuals involved in the tragic killing of senior advocate Babar Qadri, the son of Mohd Yasin Qadri from Zahidpora, Hawal, Sri-

nagar," a public notice issued by the Chief Investigation Officer of SIT said on September 9. "Qadri lost his life to terrorists on September 24, 2020, at his residence."

The notice assured that the identity of the individual providing

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Property of Jailed Drug Smuggler Couple attached in Bandipora

SRINAGAR, Sep 10 (Agencies): Police on Sunday froze property of a notorious drug smuggler couple under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district.

The property worth Rs 56.60 lakh belonging to two notorious drug smugglers identified as Khursheed Ahmad Waza and his wife Poshia Begum, a resident of Ward No. 5 Bandipora, was frozen, Police Xed.

"Frozen u/s 68F(2) of NDPS Act by the Competent Authority & Admin, SAFEM (New Delhi)", police said.

"All these assets were illegally acquired through the sale of narcotic drugs," police

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Kashmiri Kahwa on all Veg Menu for G20 delegates

SRINAGAR, Sep 10 (Agencies): An all-vegetarian dinner hosted for G20 Delegates by President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday evening had Kashmiri kahwa, filter coffee, and Darjeeling tea among the beverages served to guests.

President Murmu and PM Modi welcomed G20 leaders and other guests, including US President Joe Biden and UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, French President Emmanuel Macron, and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa among others before the start of the dinner.

The dinner hosted at Bharat Mandapam, where the Summit was held, was attended by close to 300 people, including heads of state and those who were invited by the Government of India.



"A medley of traditions, customs and climate, Bharat is diverse in many ways. Taste connects us. We celebrate 'Sharad Ritu', the autumn season of abundance in this menu. It showcases the wealth of ingredients across Bharat, expressing our rich culinary heritage in a modern mosaic dedicated to the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - 'One Earth, One Family, One Future', according to the menu paper of the dinner.

To give the taste of millets grown across India "to our esteemed guests, we have included a few dishes in the menu today", which use different types of millets, namely: Foxtail millet (in Paatram), Little millet (in Vanavarnam) and Barnyard millet (in Madhurima)," reads another page of the menu.

The starter 'Paatram' - 'A breath of fresh air' - comprising of foxtail millet leaf crisps topped with a yoghurt sphere and spiced chutney which contains milk, wheat and nuts was served to the G20 leaders.

It was followed by the main course 'Vanavarnam', a jackfruit galette served with glazed forest mushrooms, little millet crisp and curry leaf tossed Kerala red rice,

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Alpine grasslands of Baderwah emerges as favourite destination for picnickers

JAMMU, Sep 10 (Agencies): The high-altitude Jaie Valley meadows near the picturesque Baderwah in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district has emerged as a favourite destination for picnickers this season, officials said. A record four lakh tourists, including 1.20 lakh students, visited the valley - which lies at an altitude of 7,850 feet, 30 kilometres from Baderwah - between May and September, Additional Deputy Commissioner Dilmir Chowdhary said.

Surrounded by coniferous deodar forests,

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Shri Ram Sena expresses grave concern over unscrupulous attempt to commercialize Jogi Gate Cremation Ground

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 10: Shri Ram Sena, Jammu and Kashmir, has raised a serious alarm concerning the ongoing attempts by unscrupulous elements to convert the hallowed Jogi Gate cremation ground in Prem Nagar, Jammu, into a commercial complex.

In a statement released today, Rajiv Mahajan, President of Shri Ram Sena, Jammu & Kashmir, voiced his deep concerns over the alarming construction activities occurring in close proximity to the main entrance of the historic Jogi Gate.

Mahajan expressed his dismay, revealing that some unscrupulous elements are actively engaged in constructing shops on the sacred ground of Jogi Gate cremation ground. These shops had previously been demolished by the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) under the leadership of the then JMC Commissioner, Avny Lavasa. The demolition was carried out due to the construction work being initiated without the requisite permissions.



Mahajan said that previous shops constructed on the land of Jogi Gate were sold to individuals under the pretext of 'Pagri,' with these shops

subsequently being falsely categorized as 'Karayanama' or rental basis in official records.

Mahajan expressed his appre-

hension that if the ongoing illegal construction work at Jogi Gate is not promptly stopped by the administration, these unscrupulous ele-

ments may succeed in selling these shops at exorbitant prices, only to have them deceitfully categorized as 'Karayanama' once again.

Additionally, Rajiv Mahajan also called upon these unscrupulous elements to desist from their efforts to raise illegal construction on this sacred place. He emphasized the universal truth that everyone, regardless of their background or beliefs, ultimately covers their last journey at a cremation ground.

Furthermore, he stressed that the preservation of cultural and sacred sites is not just a responsibility of the government and authorities but a collective duty shared by all members of society. He urged the community to come together in protecting the heritage and legacy of Jogi Gate for the benefit of present and future generations.

Rajiv Mahajan appealed to the Lt Governor to intervene in this matter and direct the authorities concerned to take immediate action to stop ongoing illegal construction at Jogi Gate.

JMC fails to provide basic amenities in Sidhra: Manjit

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 10: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh has expressed concern over the underdevelopment in Sidhra area that falls under the Jammu Municipal Corporation.

As per a press release, a meeting was organized at Sidhra by the party leaders at SC/ST basti to discuss various developmental issues being confronted by the people. The meeting was organized by District President SC Wing Jammu Purnan Chand Rahi.

During the meeting, the people informed the Former Minister about the poor lane, drainage, irregular clean drinking water supply and unscheduled power cuts.

They also raised the issue of development claiming that the concerned authorities were not ready to do any developmental work even after repeated requests in the ST/SC residential colonies.

While referring to their concerns, Manjit Singh said that it was unfortunate to note that the



authorities have turned blind eyes towards the suffering of the people although the area in Sidhra falls under JMC.

"The JMC is getting huge funds in the name of development, but the negligence of Sidhra is unbelievable. The authorities should not discriminate against the people and should equally treat the areas and focus on providing equitable development," he added.

He further said that "The Govt officials are not answerable to the people and hence, the people are facing harassment at the hands of the policy makers because there is no elected Govt in place in Jammu and Kashmir for the last several years."

He said that the gap between Govt and

people has been created by the Govt officials because they do not work in accordance with the public demand but impose unilateral decisions on them which are not suitable for the public.

"We believe that the public representatives including corporators, PRIs and others should be considered before making any kind of decisions. As far as underdevelopment in Sidhra is concerned, it shows that the JMC has deliberately ignored the SC/ST colonies regarding the basic amenities," he said.

He demanded that the Legislative Assembly elections should be held in J&K as soon as possible so that the issues of the people in both the regions can be

addressed.

"There is a feeling of despair among the people and the authorities are not listening to them. Therefore, an elected Govt can address the issues by replacing the present form of Govt in J&K," he added.

Prominent among those who were present in the meeting include SC Wing State President, Both Raj Bhagat, State President Apni Trade Union, Ajaz Kazmi, Provincial President Apni Trade Union, Raj Sharma, District President Apni Trade Union, Anirudh Vashisht, senior leader, Vijay Mangota, Kamlesh Rani, Block President ST Wing, Ghulam Rasool, General Secretary, SC Wing, Sushma Kumari, and others.

People residing in remote areas neglected under present dispensation: Rattan Lal

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, SEP 10: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) Jammu, while urging the party cadre especially the workers and activists to gear up for the upcoming polls, asserted that victory of the National Conference is the only solution of all the problems of the people. He said that people are fed up with the BJP's anti people governance as they are struggling amid miseries thrust upon them by the saffron party's proxy administration in Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

Addressing a day long convention of National Conference workers conducted under the chairmanship of District President of National Conference Tanveer Ahmed Kichloo at Kishtwar, the Chief Guest Rattan Lal Gupta said that the Govt is making tall claims about its so called achievements especially that of equitable development, but the situation on ground speaks contrary.

He said that remote areas of district Kishtwar have been com-



pletely ignored by the incumbent dispensation, not to talk of its remote areas where the conditions are worst with suffering people having none to listen to their woes. The performance of the UT Administration can be well gauged from the fact that even Kishtwar town stands neglected with no visible improvement on ground.

The senior National Conference leader said that BJP is well aware of the misgovernance of its governance and its leaders fear worst defeat in the Assembly elections. He claimed it to be the main reason for delaying Assembly elections in the Union Territory thus depriving the people of the right to enjoy the fruits of democracy. He accused the BJP of blatant murder of democratic principles especially in

J&K.

Earlier while delivering the welcome address by Sajjad Ahmed Kichloo, Zonal President Chenab Valley and former Minister castigated the Govt for having left the people of this region to the mercy of God amid a volley of miseries. He highlighted the problems being faced by the people residing in Paddar, Dacchan, Marwah, Chatroo, Bunjwah, etc. He said that these areas being the NC strongholds stand deliberately ignored by the Administration on the development front. He said that the development works started by the NC government were brought to a halt and no further development has taken place in these areas since then.

Sheikh Ahmed Bashir, Provincial Secretary JKNC, Pardeep Bali, Dr Chaman Lal and Pooja

Thakur in their address on the occasion asked the people to remain vigilant against the divisive forces and maintain communal harmony and brotherhood at all costs.

Later, dozens of functionaries from BJP and Congress who joined the National Conference on the occasion were formally welcomed into the party fold by the NC leaders led by Rattan Lal Gupta.

Rattan Lal asked the newly joined members to work for strengthening the hands of Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah for the betterment of people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Among those who were present include Mushtaq Ahmed Haq, Farooq Ahmed, Istiaq Ahmed Malik, Imtiaz Zargar, Shahid Karipak, Sajjad Ahmed, Zaqar Hussain, Raja Thakur and S.A.Bhat.

Jeet, Keshav inaugurates development work



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 10: Former Chairman Jammu Municipal Corporation & Municipal Councillor Ward 12 Jeet Angral along With BJP Talab Tillo Mandal President Keshav Chopra inaugurated Paver tiles work at Krishna Nagar.

The works will be done under the supervision of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC)

With an estimated cost of Rupees 27 lac from which several works of the ward will be done in this amount. Lane of the area was in a bad condition and the residents especially senior citizens were facing the problem while passing through these lane.

Speaking on the occasion Jeet Angral said that it was a long pending demand of the resi-

dents which has been fulfilled today. Jeet also appealed the locals to come forward and cooperate with JMC for the development of the ward.

Speaking on the Occasion Keshav Chopra said BJP is committed for the development of every corner, BJP's Public representatives are giving their best in providing solutions to the issues faced by the common man.

Ganga Angral, Kanta Devi, Anil Angral, Varinder Dogra, Swaran Samyal, Dr. Surjeet Singh, Rakesh Gupta, Puneet Kapoor, Kundan Lal, Tarun Angral, Kushal Chand, Sanjeev Malhotra, and others were also present during the inauguration.

Miseries of common people increased manifold under BJP Govt: Dr Manohar

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Sep 10: Former Minister Dr Manohar Lal Sharma today organized monthly public meeting at Six Acres Farm Mandli to listen to public issues.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Manohar highlight the issue of deployment of smart meters in J&K, power outages, price-rise, imposition of property tax, Toll Plazas and other such issues which are hampering the daily lives of people in Jammu and Kashmir demanding closing toll plazas, stopping to install pre-paid smart meters, rollback of property tax terming them anti-people decisions.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Manohar said people of J&K are already distressed both economically and politically in view of the long spell of terrorism and the prevailing security situation coupled with the Centre's experiments to deal with the problem as a result the normal business and other activities remain derailed to great extent. In such a situation, J&K can't

be equated with other UTs or states in the matter of taxations, especially when no facilities of the like are available here," he added.

Dr Manohar said bureaucratic regime under the command of the central government is harassing the common man by issuing series of anti-people orders. Claiming that the Modi government has pushed the country into a "vicious cycle" of inflation, he said the prices of essential commodities will automatically fall if the prices of petroleum products are reduced, as it would lead to decrease in transportation costs accusing the Modi government of "ruthlessly profiteering" from the sale of petrol and diesel.

Dr Manohar said without any elected Government, the people of J&K easily fall prey to the malicious tactics of BJP. People are being exploited as taxes in the form of power tariffs, toll taxes, property tax etc and prices soar through the roof. This has been an ongoing issue ever since

the advent of BJP. He said that imposition of property tax was another blow to the already economically and politically distressed people of the region by the bureaucratic UT regime and the Centre in the absence of an elected government.

Dr Manohar said BJP Government in the State and BJP Government at the Centre has increased the miseries of common people manifold. He said rise in prices of food grains, cooking gas, vegetables, fertilizers, seeds have broken the backbone of the common man. The poor middle class BPL people are hand to mouth and their purchasing capacity sharply come down. The people are feeling insecure. Are these "good days", Dr Manohar asked, adding that the common man is praying to God for "old bad days".

Dr Manohar said in present situation, common man cannot have his own house due to rise in prices of cement and steel, sand, bajri and other building

material items like wood etc. BJP Government has not even spared the cost of recharging mobile connections. Service tax on mobiles has badly hit the common youth. The Govt at the centre and UT administration is choosing the opportunity to take certain decisions against the wishes and aspirations and interests of the general people, forcing the people to protest and come on roads, added Dr Manohar. The mining policies of the Govt, leads to great sufferings to all people especially the manifold confusion, smuggling, price hike of building material due to wrong policies of the Govt. The Administration and the Centre keep on making decisions for Jammu and Kashmir's public without any inputs from the stakeholders or thinking of any of the consequences. In a recent example, the installation of smart meters without any control of power tariffs first will cause an immediate and massive financial burden on the consumers, Dr Manohar said.

Khatana commends PM Modi's visionary leadership, India's hosting of G20 Summit

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 10: Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), lauded the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, stating that it has not only transformed Indian politics but also reshaped the global landscape. He emphasized that India's role as the host of the G20 meeting, with Prime Minister Modi as its president, has instilled fresh optimism for global peace and stability at a time when the world faces numerous challenges, including economic slowdown, terrorism, and public health crises.

MP Gulam Ali Khatana noted that prominent world leaders, such as US President Joe Biden, French President



Emmanuel Macron, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, and Russian dignitaries, have all expressed their appreciation for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership as the host of the summit. They have acknowledged India's commitment to the principles of unity and peace.

Reflecting on the domestic front, MP Gulam Ali Khatana praised Prime Minis-

ter Narendra Modi's remarkable leadership during his nine years in office. He commended the Prime Minister for his unwavering focus on uplifting the most disadvantaged sections of society and propelling India to new heights.

MP Gulam Ali highlighted several groundbreaking initiatives introduced by the BJP government for the welfare of the common masses. These include the Ayushman

Bharat scheme, which aims to provide healthcare coverage to millions; the distribution of free rations to 80 crore individuals to address food security challenges during and after the Covid-19 pandemic; and the Ujwala scheme, which has transformed lives by providing clean cooking fuel to women.

During his interactions, MP Gulam Ali Khatana also met with various delegations, including

the All J&K VLWs (Pan-chayat Secretary) Association, JSA Waiting List selectees, Balakote BP Mandal president, and residents of Mendhar advocating for the construction of a road from Mohalla Peeran to Therpal NABARD road. These delegations shared their concerns and demands, highlighting the government's commitment to addressing the needs of its citizens.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL DIVISION JAMMU

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Short Term)

MHDJ/e-NIT 121 of 2023-24 Dated: 08.09.2023 Due : 15.09.2023

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

S. No	Description of work	Project Authority	Estt	AAA/TS	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of tender document	Time of completion	Eligibility Criterion of Bidder
1	Repairs/recharging to 120 TR capacity Air Cooled AC Chiller Plants (02 No's) including allied works installed at Convention Centre, Jammu.	Director Hospital and Protocol, J&K	2.00 LACS	ACCORDED	Rs.4000.00 in the Shape of CD/PSD/10 R valid for 12 months pledged to the Executive Engineer MHC Divn GMC Jammu.	Rs 200.00 in the shape of Challan through J&K Govt. Treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work duly credited to 0059-PWD (Revenue) and uploading a copy of treasury challan / receipt on e-tendering portal.	10 days	OEM/Authorized /Registered & Reputed firms having sufficient experience as per Annexure "C" Similar nature of work

THE NIT CONSISTING OF Qualifying INFORMATION, ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, BILL OF QUANTITIES (BOQ) SETS OF TERMS & CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT & OTHER DETAILS CAN BE VIEWED / DOWNLOADED FROM THE WEBSITE www.jktenders.gov.in.

DIPJ-8012/23

Sd/- Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospital Division Jammu

EDITORIAL

J&K on High Seismic Zone

An earthquake is the sudden movement of the Earth's crust that occurs along the fault lines where the Earth's tectonic plates meet. Any type of movement that occurs in the tectonic plates ranging from colliding, subducting or slipping, builds pressure in the area. If the pressure between the two plates is higher, they break loose. The intensity of the earthquake depends on the pressure created.

Scientists describe the intensity of an earthquake using the Richter Scale, which measures earthquakes on a scale of 1 to 10. The energy released during an earthquake travels as seismic waves in all directions through the earth's layers and the study of these waves comes under Seismology.

A team of experts comprising seismologists and earthquake engineers, who have prepared the Seismic Zonation map of India under the aegis of the Bureau of Indian Standards, Government of India, have placed Jammu and Kashmir on high/ highest seismic zone.

In this map, different parts of the country are classified into five zones based on the earthquake intensities sustained during past damaging earthquakes. These zones are: Zone-I & II: Least active seismic zone, Zone-III: Moderate seismic zone, Zone-IV: High seismic zone and Zone-V: Highest seismic zone.

Since J&K comes under seismic Zones IV and V, it is very rare that people residing there could not have experienced at least one or many earthquake in their lifetimes.

In August 2022 alone, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed an alarming number of earthquakes, with 13 tremors felt in five days. In September this year, two low intensity earthquakes were also experienced till date.

Scientists, so far, have not been able to predict about the timing of earthquake although they have been able to describe different territories and areas in different seismic zones on earth.

Often, an individual's mind goes numb when faced with the natural disaster. However mindful about the situation, one can take measures to escape from the much-dreaded earthquake.

Experts have formulated some guidelines to keep in mind on how to escape an earthquake. These are (a) during earthquake, when inside a closed structure/building drop to the floor, take cover under a sturdy desk table or any solid and heavy structure around you and hold on to it so that it doesn't move away from you. Wait there until the shaking stops; (b) If you are inside an old, weak structure, look for the nearest route out and crawl towards it. Do not rush to the exit point. Get out calmly in an orderly manner; (c) after the shaking stops, take the staircase to reach an open space. Do not use elevators; (d) stay away from windows with glass panes; (e) if you are near an exit, leave the building as soon as possible; (f) when outside move away from power lines, posts, walls, parapets, loose flower pots and other elements that may fall or collapse; (g) when driving a vehicle, pull to the side of the road and stop; (h) do not attempt to cross bridges/flyovers which may have been damaged; (i) if you are on a steep hillside, move away in case of landslides and falling rocks.

After an Earthquake: 1. Check for any gas leakage; 2. Check for any electrical line defaults; 3. Avoid going inside a damaged or weak structure; 4. Avoid driving a two wheeler; and 5. Keep an Emergency Kit ready.

Your emergency kit should include these essentials: -1. First Aid Kits and necessary medicines. 2. Power backups like solar power batteries and power banks, portable bulbs, torch and flashlights. 3. Portable radio to get the latest updates in case your phone runs out of battery. 4. Eatables that can last for more than a week, like biscuits. 5. Copies of your important documents and some cash. 6. Pocket knife. 7. Some warm clothes. 8. Dust masks to prevent any kind of infection and hand sanitiser and 9. A pen and notepad that include all the emergency contacts like the Nearest Police Station, Hospitals and numbers of close relatives.

India dreaming: Can we land on the moon and build toilets too?

By: Anita Anand

On August 23, India made global news by landing its Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft on the hitherto unexplored south pole of the moon, becoming the first country in the world to do so.

"This moment is unforgettable. It is phenomenal. This is a victory cry of a new India," said an exultant Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He added that Isro's moon mission was writing a new chapter in India's space odyssey and elevating "the dreams and ambitions of every Indian".

Are the 1.4 billion Indians dreams and ambitions elevated by the space odyssey or the landing? The "space race" as it is called, was a race between the then Soviet Union (now Russia) and the United States, an outgrowth of the mid-20th-century Cold War, a conflict of ideologies of capitalism and communism. In 1957, the Soviet Union successfully sent Sputnik, the world's first orbital satellite into space and a year later the US launched its first satellite, Explorer 1.

The race to the moon was just that, a race. In the context of the US, Michelle Hanlon, executive director of the Centre for Air and Space Law at the University of Mississippi, says: "We were just sort of rushing to get to be the first, get to the moon first. And that was all about prestige, geopolitics - who's a better country? Whose system is working

better?"

India as a newly independent nation in the early 1950s had ambitions of its own. Scientists like Homi Bhabha and Vikram Sarabhai, with the support of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, worked to initiate the nuclear and space research programmes. Both were staunch nationalists, came from well-to-do industrialist families, studied in England, and believed that science and technology could leapfrog India into the 20th century, making it a global player. Leapfrogging is a phenomenon where a developing country can skip stages of the path taken by the industrial nations, enabling them to catch up sooner, particularly in terms of economic growth.

A space programme at this time seemed practical. "If we do not do it now, we will have to depend later on buying the knowhow from other countries at much greater cost. There are some who question the relevance of space activities in a developing nation. To us, there is no ambiguity of purpose," said Sarabhai.

The significance of India's landing on the south pole of the moon is because of the water. According to Hanlon, for scientists it is important to be at the place where they are doing their scientific experiments and research. "We need to send people to the moon for long periods of time, and in order to do that, they need to have water. We can't send them

with all the water they need because that's just simply too heavy. And water has to be separated into hydrogen and oxygen for use in propulsion, for space exploration beyond the universe, if we want to get to the asteroid belt, which have those rare earth metals that are going to make mining on Earth obsolete. To get the rockets to the asteroids a boost will be needed from the moon, as it would be cheaper." Bhabha, Sarabhai and Nehru were talented and visionary men. However, their vision was slightly obscured by the stark reality of Indians emerging out of colonialism. The essential needs were housing, livelihoods, healthcare, electricity, water, schools and infrastructure, at every level.

India had entered the space race wanting to be included among the superpowers, not to be left behind as a poor nation. Being among the greats stems from a sense of inferiority, camouflaged as superiority. Neither the Soviet Union or the United States have shown much greatness as superpowers and global leaders in their own and other countries, strategically meddling and instigating conflict and war. This continues.

What can Indians be proud of today? Besides the moon landing, some advancements in the standard of living, a modern economy, part of the globalised world and muddling along despite the many challenges it faces. We can

be prouder if we bring more people out of poverty, making livelihoods, education, health and sanitation a serious priority. A 2020 World Economic Forum study found "some 220 million Indians sustained on an expenditure level of less than Rs 32 a day, the poverty line for rural India, by the last headcount of the poor in India in 2013".

The attention and resources allocated for creating a space and nuclear energy programme could have been done for poverty alleviation or meeting the minimum needs of India's poorest. When Sarabhai was asked if the space programme was relevant to the country that needed toilets more, he replied: "We can have a space programme and toilets."

While the space programme has been successful, the attempt to bring toilets to most Indians, however, has not. The World Bank estimates that inadequate sanitation causes India economic losses of \$53.8 billion -- equivalent to 6.4 per cent of its GDP. These losses arise from health-related impacts, including premature deaths, the cost of treating disease and productive time lost due to illness, the impact of women not going to work due to related illnesses and of girls missing school. There is a serious shortage of functioning sewage treatment plants and the estimated 800 treatment plants across the country operate at around 30 per cent capacity.

Bharat vs India: Don't create new fault lines

By: Parsa Venkateshwar Rao Jr

Turkiye is the old/new name for Turkey that Islamist President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had adopted for his country. It is a part of Mr Erdogan's efforts to de-Westernise his Muslim majority country on the edge of Asia and Europe. But Turkiye/Turkey is buffeting an economic crisis with its inflation level at 60 per cent, with its central bank's interest rate raised by 750 basis points, even as Mr Erdogan won a third term as President, and the change in name is seen as tokenism. Of course, Turkish people do use the term "Turkiye". Mr Erdogan is not indulging in regression of a major kind. He keeps Turkiye engaged with the world. He is playing an important role as a deal-maker, if not quite a peacemaker, in the Russia-Ukraine war that broke out in February 2022. And Turkiye is once again seeking membership of the European Union (EU), after Brussels has kept it dangling in the air for decades.

Turkiye serves as a good parallel to the "Bharat" nomenclature flutter. President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi sent out invitations in the name of Bharat, Ms Murmu as President of Bharat and Mr Modi as Prime Minister of Bharat, instead of the customary President of India and Prime Minister of India for the G-20 summit in New Delhi. Like Mr Erdogan, Mr Modi is on a mission to decolonise India, to in one sense "Indianise" India. It is Hindu reassertion with Mr Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party, mainly a party of Hindus, with its ideological mentor,

the Rashtriya Swayasevak Sangh (RSS), advocating Hindu supremacy. It was a no-brainer that using Bharat in place of India is pushing for a misty Hindu India of a thousand-plus years ago. It is a quixotic gesture at best.

For the majority of the people in India, Bharat is officialese at best. Most Indians do not use "Bharat" to refer to themselves in their everyday dealings. Cutting across regional, linguistic and cultural demarcations, they prefer the easy term "India". In many Indian languages, Bharat and its many declensions are used, but "Bharat" in its North India, Hindi version, is never a common coinage. Most Indian languages would go with the vowel-ending "Bharata" and its modifications. So, the Narendra Modi government's use of Bharat in the official invitation is a projection of how the word is projected in official Hindi. The Modi government was not breaking any norms because "Bharat" is official, much too official, as it is enshrined in the Constitution in the words "India, that is Bharat..." The official communications of the Central government are always in the name of "Bharat Sarkar", or Bharat Government. There is nothing radical about it because "Bharat" is a formally recognised name of the country.

There is the immediate political provocation from the Opposition bloc calling itself "INDIA", and Mr Modi, never the one to let pass a rapier thrust from his rivals, has resorted to the easily available constitutional alternative of "Bharat". It is nothing more than that. That is why he has cautioned his Cabinet colleagues not to get drawn

into the duel over Bharat/India, and instead forcefully counter the attack on Sanatan Dharma by DMK leader Udayanidhi Stalin. This is not so much against the DMK as such as it is against the Congress for continuing to support the DMK in a bid to show that the Congress is anti-Hindu. He wants to ride on Hindu sentiments for the 2024 election because his government has nothing much to show for the last five years as well as for the entire decade, including his first term in office.

The G-20 summit and the success of Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya-L1 do not matter to the lives of the ordinary people as they battle rising prices and lack of job opportunities. The promises of India becoming the fifth largest economy and ready to climb to the third position has something unreal about it. Mr Modi is fully aware that the grand successes on broad fronts do not mean much for ordinary people. The issue of Bharat versus India will not resonate, but he hopes that Sanatan Dharma is something that could fire the people in Uttar Pradesh, the state that the BJP bets on the most.

Mr Modi, the BJP and RSS do have radical plans to change India into a Hindu India and wipe away its religious pluralism. When Mr Modi speaks of India's diversity and democracy, he is speaking of linguistic diversity. The democracy he speaks of is of village and city oligarchies of ancient India. There is no room for Muslims and Christians, and Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains are seen as part of amorphous Hinduism. Mr Modi is doing what Mr Erdogan is doing in Turkiye/

Turkey. He wants to impose an artificial unity based on religion. That is indeed the long-term plan of the Hindu parties.

The BJP/RSS plan is unlikely to succeed because inherent diversity in the vast geography that is India will resist homogenising. And it is a natural centrifugal force at work. There is not much need for liberals and secularists to labour the point of heterogeneity in the country. Bharat and Sanatan Dharma is not the glue that holds India together. It is in many ways a self-contained geographical unity. What was once seen as a dismissive description of India being merely a "geographical expression" and nothing more is indeed the binding factor for the subcontinent. And political regimentation of the kind envisaged by Mr Modi and company will only create unnecessary cultural fault lines. So cultural nationalism, Sanatan Dharma and Bharat are supposed to be its key words, and it's a disaster in the making because it's the valleys and hills, mountains and river systems and coast lines that shape communities, which give rise to different social patterns. The play on words like "Bharat" will not affect things like national identity, either for good or for bad. They are mere words. It is the hard reality outside the words that matters the most.

Politicians, unlike poets, have a diabolical plan when they create the web of words. They want to imprison minds in words. Between rhetoric and reality, reality has an edge. People base their responses on reality and not on words. So, the use of words like "Bharat" is not likely to distract people.

UT Admin's assurance to provide hassle-free online services hoax: Dr Vikas



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 10: The assurance of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory administration, which was recently reiterated by the Chief Secretary that there was no chance of corruption in the Government Departments due to full-fledged launch of online services in the JK Union Territory is a far from truth.

This was stated by Dr Vikas Sharma, Zonal Secretary and Coordinator Jammu District (Urban) JKNC, Jammu while addressing a youth meeting today where

he disclosed that online delivery mode of Govt services have become a great headache and hindrance in the way of general public as they are awfully suffering from inordinate delay for months together at the implementation level on ground in getting their genuine official services obtained due to the reasons better known to the officials of various Departments operating online system, he claimed.

He said that in the offices of Deputy commissioner, Jammu, the online services with regard to timely renew-

al of Gun Licences, getting Domicile Certificate is being procrastinated and the applicants have to wait for months together despite completion of all the required formalities fulfilled online nor is there any mechanism in place to intimate the applicants about the reasons for long delay in online services.

Slamming the online service delivery system of the Govt fraught with flaws, Dr. Vikas said that even in the office of RTO, Jammu, the online delivery system is total failure with regard to issue of new /renewed

driving Licences on one pretext of the other he claimed, adding that public is running from pillar to post to get their work done, but all in vain, he said.

He further said that instead of obliterating the root cause of corruption from every fabric in the Government Departments, online service appears to have opened another window for corruption to flourish in public services departments under the guise of quickly benefiting the general public through Online Services.

Dr. Vikas appealed to the Lt Governor to please look into the matter on urgent basis and direct DC/Revenue office, Jammu and RTO office, Jammu to put a stop in inordinately delaying the online services and provide hassle-free services to the public within time bound basis.

DPAP's KDP wing holds meeting at TRT Migrant camp Nagrota



TOP NEWS REPORT

NAGROTA, Sep 10: The Kashmiri Displaced People Wing of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) convened a significant meeting at the TRT Migrant Camps in Nagrota today. The meeting was graced by the presence of DPAP leaders, including Sanjay Dhar, President; Raj Kumar Ticku, General Secretary; Ravinder Singh, Secretary; and Chanrenjit Singh, Publicity Secretary. The gathering witnessed a large turnout, with prominent figures such as Mahraj Krishen in attendance.

During the meeting,

the DPAP leaders provided valuable insights into the party's development manifesto and commitment to good governance when in power. The attendees attentively absorbed the party's ideological principles under the dynamic leadership of Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad Sahib.

The leaders expressed their dedication to addressing the common challenges faced by the camp's residents and pledged to alleviate their daily hardships. These challenges include issues related to the supply of drinking water, as the existing well has become defunct due

to dry conditions, leading to unhygienic water supply and waterborne diseases. Additionally, irregular sanitation in and around the camp was discussed as a pressing concern. Repairs and maintenance of flats and buildings were deemed essential.

Furthermore, the leaders recognized the need for facilitating bank loans, especially for overaged youth, to enable them to secure their livelihoods through trade. The absorption of qualified and educated youth into government jobs was highlighted as a critical demand of the camp residents. Providing suitable accommo-

modation for large families in flats that have remained locked for an extended period, either due to residents owning their own homes or living outside the state, was also identified as an urgent necessity.

The DPAP leaders assured the gathering that they would advocate for these pressing problems and demands with the relevant authorities, prioritizing swift action. In response, the attendees expressed their gratitude to the Kashmiri Displaced People Wing leaders for their immediate attention to these issues and pledged their continued support to strengthen the party's presence.

Nat Manch initiates plantation drive in Batehra Village

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 10: Nat Manch Jammu, a dedicated organization committed to the betterment of humanity, took a significant step towards environmental conservation by organizing a plantation drive in Batehra village. The initia-

tive saw the planting of trees of various species, including fruit-bearing trees.

Dr. Tarun Sharma, the President of Nat Manch, emphasized the organization's unwavering dedication to humanity and its efforts to contribute to tree conservation. He highlighted the importance of

planting and distributing saplings in various locations as part of their mission. Dr. Sharma also called upon individuals from all walks of life to join hands in environmental preservation, engage in plantation drives, and actively participate in efforts to purify the environment and create a greener Earth.

"Bharat" is our motherland, Proud of seeing name used at international meets: Suri

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 10: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member Raman Suri today said that 'Bharat' is our motherland and each one of us must feel proud for getting back this name after centuries. After President Droupadi Murmu used the 'President of Bharat' on the official invitation extended to G20 nation heads, our Prime Minister Narendra Modi used the name 'Bharat' on the podium from where he addressed the G20 nation heads.

Various rulers and invaders had been referring to our proud and prosperous nation

by multiple names but today, when the name Bharat is widely being used even at international meets, opposition leaders are getting irked and giving unreasonable arguments just to satisfy their false ego.

Raman Suri said, "We welcome the 'Bharat' nomenclature and even if Article 1 of the Constitution, says that India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States, getting back just one ancient name Bharat will be a welcome step. Opposition parties had themselves been using 'Bharat' in their campaigns, manifestos, speeches and invites but because it

is the BJP government at the Centre that came out with the novel idea of reverting to ancient name Bharat, they are getting irked.

Raman Suri said that the decision to use 'Bharat' is a welcome statement against the colonial mindset. Ideally, this should have happened long back but it did not, since Congress like parties, impressed with British era names, did not bother to revert to the name Bharat. Today, the entire nation feels happy and derives a sense of satisfaction on listening to the name 'Bharat', that is widely being used in offices, speeches, even on sign-

boards, songs, films, government vehicles and office works.

The BJP leader said that since the President of Bharat Droupadi Murmu has a given priority to 'Bharat' while inviting G20 nation heads, we all must follow the same and feel proud in our Bharat and its achievements. There should be no controversy about this name and the nation must discard 'India' by switching over to 'Bharat' and start using it in our conversations, letters, works, signboards, office works and at all other places wherever the country's name is required to be mentioned.

Dimple reaffirms J&K's integral part in India

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 10: In a press conference held today, Sunil Dimple, the President of Mission Statehood, emphasized the historical significance of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji's Instrument of Accession conditions, which solidified Jammu and Kashmir as an integral part of India on October 26, 1947. Dimple highlighted that this event is commemorated annually as Ascension Day.

Dimple strongly criticized leaders of the BJP government, alleging that they have consistently questioned and challenged the patriotism and nationalism of the people of Jammu and Kashmir in an attempt to divert attention from what he referred to as "unconstitutional blunders" made on August 5, 2019. On that date, Article 370 and Article 35-A were abrogated, and the two-hundred-year-old state of Jammu and Kashmir



was reorganized into Union Territories.

Dimple asserted that Mission Statehood's legal case is robust and that they are confident of winning their case in the Supreme Court. Their goal is to restore the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir with the original Instrument of Accession conditions, including the areas of POK, Gilgit, and Baltistan.

Dimple voiced strong criticism of the NDA government, stating that Article 370 and Article 35-A are not included in their agenda.

Dimple predicted that the BJP is destined for

defeat in the 2024 parliamentary elections due to controversies surrounding proposed name changes from "India" to "Bharat." He emphasized that Mission Statehood firmly rejects this notion and takes pride in all names of the country, including India, Hindustan, and Bharat. Dimple accused the BJP of creating these controversies to deflect from their failures across various fronts in the country.

Regarding the ongoing Supreme Court hearing on Articles 370 and 35-A, Dimple expressed satisfaction with their legal team's perfor-

mance and the progress made.

Dimple firmly rejected the concept of "one nation, one election," arguing that it is not suitable for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the diverse topography, demography, identity, and culture of the region. He alleged that the BJP government's motive in pursuing this law is to establish a form of dictatorship in India.

Dimple emphasized that the special status, Instrument of Accession conditions, and Articles 370 and 35-A are not part of the agenda of any Indian or NDA alliance.

Madhuparamhans Maharaj imparts profound wisdom in Rakhbandhu discourse



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 10: In an enlightening discourse to a captivated congregation in Rakhbandhu, Sadhguru Shri Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj of Sahib Bandgi delivered profound insights into the human condition and the spiritual journey.

Sadhguru Maharaj began by observing that, from a worldly perspective, it seems that the world is spiraling into chaos and away from the soul's true purpose. He expressed the notion that humanity may be influenced by negative forces that lead us astray.

The spiritual leader emphasized the timeless wisdom found in scriptures, where the soul is described as unique and beyond the realms of birth and death. Sadhguru Maharaj questioned the whereabouts of the soul and drew parallels between the actions of the soul and those of a juggler's monkey.

"Just like a juggler makes the monkey do whatever work he wants, the soul appears to be entangled in various worldly pursuits," Sadhguru Maharaj said. He highlighted that most human actions seem

driven by self-interest and lack a genuine connection to the well-being of the soul.

Sadhguru Maharaj noted the disconnect between the mind and the soul, emphasizing that the mind exerts dominance over all the senses. He highlighted the need for individuals to recognize the influence of the mind and the importance of making conscious efforts to align with higher spiritual truths.

He provided a practical example of a smoker who acknowledged the harm caused by smoking but continued the habit, emphasizing the power of the mind to overshadow one's better judgment. Sadhguru Maharaj cautioned about the detrimental effects of smoking on the lungs, teeth, heart, kidneys, and brain, highlighting the interconnectedness of bodily functions.

Keep strict vigil on drug proliferation, consumption: SSH

TOP NEWS REPORT

UDHAMPUR, Sep 10: Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri today convened a meeting at village Manda Tikri of district Udhampur. The meeting featured extensive discussions on several critical facets concerning drug addiction, besides promoting Nasha Mukta Panchayats, identification of hotspots, frequent monitoring, the setup of drug de-addiction and rehabilitation centers, tracking mechanisms, and the cultivation of illicit poppy.

Speaking on the occasion, Kesri emphasized the urgent need for comprehensive awareness programs against drug abuse. He demanded the stakeholders to conduct awareness campaigns in schools, colleges, and beyond, adopting a holistic approach that targets the



younger population while involving parents.

He requested detailed reports from relevant departments regarding measures taken to combat the drug menace in the district. Tehsildars must be specifically directed to make provisions for the identification tracking mechanism system. Furthermore, Kesri demanded con-

ducting sensitization programs on drugs in different blocks. He stressed the necessity for sustained efforts from law enforcement agencies and urged all stakeholders to work together in a coordinated manner.

Kesri demanded education department to promote anti-drug abuse awareness in all educational institutions and

acquaint the students about its ill effects on the health of society. He urged Police department to keep strict vigil on drug proliferation, consumption and intensify awareness against such addictive substances involving concerned stakeholders from civil administration.

Prominent among those present on

the occasion include Balveer Kumar, District Udhampur President Rajesh Khajuria, Rural District Head Anil Vijay Kumar, Advisor Mohan Lal Malhotra, Senior Deputy Chief Rajendra Singh, Pritam Singh, Rajesh Honda, Pankaj Kumar, Rahul Kumar, Varun Kumar Sharma, Vijay Singh besides others.

Shah Rukh Khan's action thriller 'Jawan' enters Rs 100 crore club

The craze for Shah Rukh Khan's blockbuster action-thriller 'Jawan' doesn't appear to be going away anytime soon.

The film has now entered the Rs 100 crore club.

The film minted Rs 46.23 crores in India which took the film's total collection to Rs 111.73 crores in just two days of its release.

Taking to Instagram, trade analyst Taran Adarsh shared a post and wrote, "#Jawan is PHENOMENAL on Day 2 [working day, after *partial holiday* on Thu] Biz jumped post 4.30 pm...Evening/night shows on...Metros, non-metros, mass pockets - the response is EXCEPTIONAL... Sat - Sun will witness BIGGG GAINS... 235 cr 250 cr [*extended* weekend] on the cards... Thu 65.50 cr, Fri 46.23 cr. Total: 111.73 cr. #Hindi. #India biz. #Boxoffice."

The film witnessed a massive start at the Indian box office and



collected Rs 65.50 crores on its opening day.

According to Red Chillies Entertainment, the film minted Rs 129.6 crore worldwide gross. This marks the biggest opening day in the history of Indian cinema.

With this, the SRK starrer film has become the biggest Hindi opener film of all time.

Earlier, SRK's comeback film

'Pathaan' minted Rs 55 Crores on its opening day and now 'Jawan' has surpassed its first-day collection.

Helmed by Atlee, the film stars Shah Rukh Khan, Nayanthara and Vijay Sethupathi in the lead roles. Actor Deepika Padukone could be seen in a guest appearance role.

The film received massive responses from the audience

as well as the critics.

SRK visited a number of locations for 'Jawan' promotional events. In Chennai, he attended a significant pre-release function. The 'Jawan' trailer was on display at Burj Khalifa during his visit to Dubai.

He also offered prayers at the revered shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi in Jammu.

Recently, he sought blessings at the Sri Venkateshwara Swamy temple in Tirupati.

He was accompanied by his daughter Suhana and his manager Pooja Dadiani. Both SRK and Suhana were dressed in white ethnic outfits. His Jawan co-star Nayanthara, along with her husband Vignesh Shivan was also clicked at the temple.

Apart from this, SRK will be next seen in director Rajkumar Hirani's next film 'Dunki' opposite Taapsee Pannu.

The official release date of 'Dunki' is still awaited.

Reel help!: Anupama Solanki shares how Jamtara helped her escape fraud



Actress Anupama Solanki says that the Netflix series Jamtara, which talks about financial frauds, actually helped

her in real life too.

She says, "It highlights that fraudsters often possess a level of cunning intelligence, necessitating that one must be even more astute to outsmart them. An instance from my personal experience during the Covid-19 lockdown exemplifies this. I sold a cupboard on OLX to free up space in my room, and a potential buyer quickly showed interest. He claimed to be an Army officer who had recently moved to Mumbai and urgently required the furniture, he conversed maturely and made an immediate offer without haggling. Initially, I was elated, though a hint of suspicion lingered. He even sent me a token payment of rupee one via Google Pay, further bolstering my trust. But it all turned out to be fraud."

She adds, "This is precisely why I appreciate Jamtara on Netflix. Its portrayal of such schemes serves as a reminder for all to be vigilant against scams. While I do admire the show's content, I believe that such informative series should also be available on YouTube, ensuring a wider reach and helping people protect their finances."

Entry mode: Amandeep Sidhu gets candid about her role in the new season of Saubhagyavati Bhava

Amandeep Sidhu, who has gained recognition for her versatile acting skills, is all excited to join the new season of Star Bharat's Saubhagyavati Bhava. She says, "I portray the character of Siya, who exudes vibrancy and strength while harbouring a profound vulnerability. She stands for righteousness and steadfastly opposes wrongdoing. My primary aim is to embody Siya convincingly and forge a deep connection with viewers. Also this marks my first collaboration with Dheeraj Dhoopar, and I am optimistic that the audience will embrace our pairing. I am hopeful that our show will receive the same adoration as it did in its inaugural season. "As the audience eagerly anticipates the new season off of their beloved show, Amandeep's portrayal of Siya promises to bring a fresh perspective to the series. Her character's strength and vulnerability make for a compelling storyline that viewers won't want to miss."

Meanwhile, Dheeraj Dhoopar, who was recently in the news for making his OTT debut, took to social media to make it official that he will be seen in Saubhagyavati Bhava. Dheeraj has already started shooting for the show and is all set to entertain his fans.

"After completing the shoot for my OTT debut, I got this show and was absolutely certain of doing this. Right



from the team that I am working with to the character that I am playing made me take the decision to do this show. I play a character with grey shades and it is something that I have been waiting for a long time. I had to work hard to get into the skin of the character. It will be something completely different for my fans and followers, and they will be surprised to see me in this avatar. I have played multiple roles in my career, but this is something very challenging." Dheeraj is known for working in several TV shows, such as Sasural Simar Ka, Sherdil Shergill, Kundali Bhagya, among others.

Madhuri Dixit was asked to remove blouse, shoot in bra for Amitabh Bachchan film

Actor-director Tinu Anand had already given hit films with Amitabh Bachchan, including 'Kaalia' and 'Shahenshah'. In 1989, he had signed Big B and Madhuri Dixit for a film titled 'Shanakht'.

Narrating an incident from the film, Tinu, in a recent interaction, said he had an argument with Madhuri over her costume on the very first day of the shoot. Things got so heated up that he almost fired her from the film.

In an interview with Radio Nasha, Tinu explained the scene where Amitabh was tied up in chains by the villain. "He is trying to protect Madhuri but gets overpowered by the goons. So Madhuri's character says why are you attacking a man in chains when a woman is standing in front of you," Tinu recalls.

Tinu then claimed that he had narrated the



entire scene to Madhuri before she signed the movie. He recounts telling her that she would have to unbutton her blouse and stand in a bra while Amitabh would be chained to a carriage. "I told her that you have to remove your blouse and for the first time, we should see you in your bra. And I am not going to hide anything behind a haystack or anything. Because you are offering yourself to help a man who is trying to help you. So it is a very important situation and I want to shoot it on the first day. She said okay," the actor-director recounts.

Tinu said he asked Madhuri to design her own bra for the scene, but it had to be a bra and no other clothing.

Talking about the day of shoot, Tinu said he waited for Madhuri Dixit to come on the set and when even after 45 minutes she did not come

out of her room, he went in to check if everything was fine. Madhuri, on the other hand, hadn't even started getting ready for the scene.

At the time for the shoot, Tinu said Madhuri refused to do the scene. "I asked what happened. She said, 'Tinu, I don't want to do this particular scene.' I said, 'I'm sorry, you have to do this scene.' She said, 'No, I don't want to.' I said, 'Okay, pack up, say good bye to the film. I'll cancel my shoot.'"

Later, Amitabh intervened to pacify the situation. Tinu recalls what Big B said, "He said, 'Let it be, why are you arguing with her? If she has an objection...' I said, 'If she had to object, she should have done it earlier, before signing the film,'" he said.

However, Madhuri's secretary came in and assured Tinu that she would do the scene.

Jessica Chastain says she was 'very nervous' about promoting Memory at Venice Film Festival amid SAG-AFTRA strike

Memory, directed and written by Michel Franco, is about Sylvia (Jessica Chastain), a "social worker who leads a simple and structured life".

Actor Jessica Chastain made an impassioned plea to American actors at the Venice Film Festival press conference for Michel Franco's drama Memory, imploring them to encourage indie films, reported Variety. "I was very nervous about coming," said Jessica—who was wearing a black SAG-AFTRA (Screen Actors Guild and American Federation of Television and Radio Artists) on Strike T-Shirt, revealing that "there were actually some people on my team who advised me against it".

Jessica then said that actors are, "often made to keep quiet in order to protect future working opportunities, and we are often told and reminded how grateful we should be. And that is the environment that I think has allowed work to be abused, to go unchecked for many decades. And is also the environment that has saddled members of our union with unfair contracts".



As per Variety, since Memory obtained an interim agreement from SAG-AFTRA, Jessica and co-star Peter Sarsgaard were present at the press conference. "I am here because SAG-AFTRA has been explicitly clear that the way to support the strike is to post on social media, walk the picket line and to work and support interim agreement projects," she said. "It's what our national board, negotiating committee

and our elected leadership has asked us to do." Jessica continued, "The independent producers, like the ones here, are letting the AMPTP know that actors deserve fair compensation, that AI protection should be implemented, and there should be sharing of streaming revenues. I hope my being here today encourages other independent producers, and encourages actors to show up [at festivals] and support our union

members. Hopefully we will see an end to the strike soon and hopefully AMPTP will go back to the table."

Memory, directed and written by Michel, is about Sylvia (Jessica), a "social worker who leads a simple and structured life," according to the film's synopsis. "This is shattered when Peter (Sarsgaard) follows her home from their high school reunion. Their unexpected encounter will have a tremendous influence on each of them as they open the door to the past."

In an interview with Variety, Michel said of casting Jessica in the film: "Jessica is possibly the best actress in the states right now, it's not an exaggeration to say she's the best actress in the world." Mexican auteur Michel's last two films, New Order (2020) and Sundown (2021), both premiered at Venice. Art thriller New Order was awarded the festival's grand jury prize. Jessica, who won best actress at the Oscars last year for The Eyes of Tammy Faye, last had a film premiere at Venice in 2011 with Texas Killing Fields, reported Variety.

Raveena Tandon gets nostalgic, shares how she danced barefoot to 'Tip Tip Barsa Paani' at construction site full of nails

Actress Raveena Tandon, who graces the dance reality show 'India's Best Dancer 3', will be seen walking down the memory lane as she reminisced about shooting barefoot for the iconic song 'Tip Tip Barsa Paani' at a construction site which was full of nails.

During the episode, contestant Shivanshu Soni and choreographer Vivek Chachere's performance on 'Tip Tip Barsa Paani', leaves everyone at the edge of their seats.

Raveena Tandon lauded Shivanshu's unique style saying: "For me, this is a unique style; it was so different that I didn't know what to expect. It's a sensual song and performing it in this robotic style left me stunned. The act was so captivating that I couldn't take my gaze off you. You are a classical dancer but when you transitioned into this robotic dance, it was as if you had transformed into a completely different artist. Our Indian classical dance forms lay such a solid foundation that when you explore other styles, you execute them with the finesse of a sea-



soned professional. After witnessing this, I feel no one should ever attempt this song again, and even I would not consider performing it after seeing your beautiful rendition."

Talking about the song, she got nostalgic as she said: "We were shooting at a construction site, and I was barefoot, surrounded by nails that were caus-

ing discomfort. I was dressed in a saree, and the movements that Rekha Ji and Chinni Ji were executing, as well as the assistance they provided while wearing knee pads, left me with knee cuts when I returned home. I had to take tetanus injections, and two days later, I fell ill due to the exposure to rain."

She further mentioned:

"The glamour you see on screen conceals the untold stories behind the scenes. During rehearsals, injuries are commonplace, yet we all endure them. But the show must go on, whether on screen or stage; one's expressions and smile should never waver, regardless of the pain endured. These are the struggles that all artists and choreographers endure behind the scenes."

Praising Shivanshu's performance, judge Terence Lewis stated: "I'm witnessing the journey of a person and an artist who has consistently delivered outstanding performances week after week. While different dance styles have claimed victory on this show before, none have showcased such a remarkable performance in classical dancing. Please don't overlook this dancing gem. If he wins, our country wins. Dancers of his caliber are a rarity, and such skills are the result of years of dedication and practice."

'India's Best Dancer 3' airs Saturday and Sunday on Sony Entertainment Television.

'Swati Astu Vishwa': PM wraps up G20 meet with prayer for peace amid Ukraine war

Prime Minister Narendra Modi concluded the G20 Summit on Sunday, handing over the presidency to Brazil. He also called for a virtual session of G20 in November this year.

NEW DELHI, Sep 10 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday wrapped up the G20 Summit with 'Swati Astu Vishwa' -- a prayer for peace -- as he handed over the gavel of G20 presidency to the President of Brazil Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

"I declare the end of G20 summit. Hoping the roadmap of One Earth One family and One future be joyful. Thank you," the Prime Minister said in his closing remarks.

Noting that India holds the responsibility of the G20 presidency till November 2023, PM Modi proposed a virtual session to review the issues discussed during the Summit.

"In last two days, all of you came up with a lot of suggestions and put forth proposals. It is our duty to review the suggestions we have received so as to see how their progress can be sped up. I propose a virtual session at the end of November to review the topics discussed in the Summit," he said, urging everyone to connect during the



virtual session.

PM Modi congratulated the Brazilian President on his nation's upcoming presidency in 2024. The Brazilian President, after taking over the G20 presidency, also congratulated PM Modi for "efficiently leading G20 bloc and the excellent work in this Summit". He emphasized the importance of establishing global equality.

"We will only be able to face the global problems if we address the issue of inequality - inequality of income, of access

to healthcare, education, food, gender and race and also of representation is at the origin of these anomalies," Lula said, emphasizing that the UN Security Council needs new developing countries as permanent, non-permanent members to regain political strength.

In a symbolic ceremony earlier, Indonesian President Joko Widodo and Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva -- representing the G20 presidencies of last year and the next year -- respectively handed over a

sapling each to current chair on Sunday. The ceremony took place at the start of the third session, 'One Future', of the G20 Summit.

On the second day of the summit, PM Narendra Modi received the G20 leaders and delegation heads at New Delhi's Rajghat. They paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi, followed by a tree-plantation ceremony at the G20 venue, Bharat Mandapam.

On the first day of the historic G20 Summit, India pulled off a big diplomatic win after the G20 summit adopted a consensus declaration overcoming major differences on the Russia-Ukraine war, as Prime Minister Modi called for ending "global trust deficit".

PM Modi also announced that the African Union was admitted as G20's permanent member. India, which holds the G20 presidency, has highlighted 'One Earth, One Family, One Future' as the theme of this year's summit.

India will be renamed as Bharat; statues of foreigners in Kolkata will be removed: Bengal BJP leader



KOLKATA, Sep 10 (Agencies): Senior BJP leader from West Bengal Dilip Ghosh on Sunday said that India will be renamed as Bharat and statues of foreigners in Kolkata will be removed.

The Medinipur MP said that those against the change of name can leave the country.

Speaking at 'Chai pe Charcha' programme in Kharagpur city, which falls under his constituency, the former BJP national vice president said, "When our party comes to power in West Bengal, we will remove all statues of foreigners in Kolkata."

"India will be renamed as Bharat. Those not

liking it are free to leave the country," he said.

Rahul Sinha, another senior BJP leader from the state, said a country cannot have two names and this is the correct time to change the name as world leaders are present in New Delhi to attend the G20 summit.

Trinamool Congress spokesperson Santanu Sen alleged that the BJP was trying to "divert attention from real issues as it is afraid of the opposition INDIA alliance".

Opposition parties led by the Congress have formed the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) to take on the BJP in Lok Sabha polls due next year.

G20 leaders pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat



NEW DELHI, Sep 10 (Agencies): G20 leaders, including US President Joe Biden, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and UN Secretary General António Guterres, paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at his memorial Rajghat here on Sunday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the leaders at the rain-

drenched Rajghat.

Modi welcomed the dignitaries with an 'angavastam' or stole with an image of Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram in Gujarat, which was his home from 1917 to 1930 and served as one of the main centres of India's freedom struggle, in the backdrop.

The prime minister was seen explaining to

the leaders the significance of the ashram.

The G20 leaders paid tributes to Gandhi by laying wreaths at his samadhi.

While some leaders, including Modi and Sunak, walked barefoot, others were seen wearing white footwear provided to the visitors at Rajghat.

"Eventful, Impactful": Union Minister On India's G20 Presidency

NEW DELHI, Sep 10 (Agencies): Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Sunday praised India's G20 presidency and called it "eventful and impactful". Speaking on NDTV, the senior BJP leader said that India's G20 presidency will leave an "indelible impression" on the way the world sees the future.

"There is absolutely no doubt in anybody's mind that this has been one of the most eventful and impactful presidencies of the G20," Mr Chan-

drasekhar, Minister of State for Electronics and IT, said.

"Yesterday, I was with an ambassador of one of the countries that attended the G20 Summit and he said that he has seen many G20s but this is certainly one of the largest, most expansive and the most impactful," he added.

Mr Chandrasekhar said that one of the greatest achievements of the two-day G20 Summit in New Delhi is the fact that there was a consensus under the



leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the "Delhi Declaration".

The minister also spoke on how the "technology can enable rapid transformations for bridging the exist-

ing digital divides and accelerate progress for inclusive and sustainable development," which has also been mentioned in the Delhi Declaration.

"The technology can

bring the real transformation in the lives of average citizens," he said.

Speaking about the crypto-assets mentioned in the Delhi Declaration, Mr Chandrasekhar said that India has always maintained for several years that there needs to be a global framework on these type of innovations.

"Countries need to cooperate further and evolve a joint framework that will allow the functioning of crypto," he said.

Tanker drags elderly, crushes him to death after hitting his car in Thane

THANE, Sep 10 (Agencies): A 60-year-old man was killed after a tanker allegedly hit his car and then dragged him to some distance in Navi Mumbai, police said on Sunday.

The incident took place at around 2 pm on Saturday at a bridge in Tara village on the Mumbai-Goa highway in Navi Mumbai, an official from Panvel taluka police station said.

The victim, identified as Srikant More, from Khalapur in neighbouring Raigad district, was going with his wife in their car when the tanker rammed into their vehicle from behind, he said, quoting the woman's complaint.



When the man got down from his car to find out what happened and was talking to the tanker driver, the latter moved his vehicle, dragging the victim along with it to some distance.

The tanker driver then allegedly pushed the man on the road and the victim got crushed to death under the vehicle, he said.

The tanker driver fled

from the spot, he said.

Based on the complaint by the victim's wife, the Panvel taluka police on Saturday registered an FIR against the tanker driver under relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Motor Vehicles Act, the official said.

The accused, who has been identified, is yet to be arrested, the police said.

Rajasthan Woman Faked Rape Story, Was Afraid Husband Would Leave Her: Cops

JAIPUR, Sep 10 (Agencies): The alleged abduction and gangrape of a married woman in Rajasthan's Bhilwara has turned out to be fake with the police saying that she willingly went with two men for consensual physical relations.

The 25-year-old woman had earlier claimed that she was kidnapped by the duo who took her to an abandoned house where she was raped and thrashed on Saturday night. She also claimed that the men took away her clothes.

Police on Sunday said the woman willingly went with two men but a dispute arose after they insisted on her spending the night with them.

The woman wanted to return to her house but the men forced her to stay. So, she took off her clothes, came out of the house and sought help from a passerby claiming she was gangraped, police said.

"She narrated a concocted story as she was afraid that her husband would abandon her if he came to know about the facts," a police officer said.

The accused were detained and questioned and the call recordings of their mobile phones revealed that the woman had talked to them on Saturday evening and agreed to meet for money.

She met Chhotu Sargara and Girdhari at the abandoned house on Amli Road and had consensual physical relations with them, police said.

Hailing from Odisha, the woman was married to a 50-year-old differently-abled man from Bhilwara six years ago, police said.

Caught on camera: Scooter breaks into pieces as car rams it, woman rider injured

FATEHABAD, Sep 10 (Agencies): A woman riding a scooter was hit by a car in Haryana's Fatehabad, and the entire episode was captured on CCTV.

The car's driver, after hitting the woman, fled the scene, leaving the victim in a serious condition.

Local bystanders rushed the injured woman to the hospital for immediate medical attention.

The harrowing incident unfolded as the woman on the scooter was crossing the road, while

a car with its headlights on, collided with the scooter, throwing her off the vehicle.

The accident was promptly reported to the police, and they have launched a manhunt to locate and apprehend the driver of the fleeing car. The victim is currently undergoing treatment at a nearby hospital. Her condition remains critical.

The police are actively seeking any information from witnesses and are determined to bring the hit-and-run driver to justice.

Northeast Frontier Railway working on device that can detect if a driver is drowsy based on blinking of eyes

NEW DELHI, Sep 10 (Agencies): The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) is developing an artificial intelligence-based device that would be able to read the blinking eyes of drivers and alert them or stop the train in case they are feeling sleepy, according to sources.

In June, the Railway Board had asked the NFR to develop a device that could detect the alertness of train drivers on the basis of blinking of eyes.

The device -- Railway Driver Assistance System (RDAS) -- will not only sound an alert but also apply emergency brakes in case a driver loses alertness for a certain period of time.

RDAS will be interfaced with a vigilance control device to apply emergency brakes, the sources said.

"The device is still in the development stage and trials are on to ensure its proper functioning.

The technical team of the NFR is working on it.



We hope that it will be ready in another few weeks," a railway source told agency.

On August 2, the Railway Board wrote to the NFR and asked it to expedite the in-house development of RDAS.

It also said that once the device is ready, it will be fitted in 20 goods train engines (WAG9) and passenger train engines (WAP7) as a pilot project.

All the zones have also been asked to provide their feedback on the working of the system after using it so that further improvements can be made to it if needed.

The Indian Railway Loco Runningmen Organisation (IRLRO), however, dubbed the device a "futile exercise", saying that all fast-

moving trains already have mechanisms to keep drivers alert.

"Every high-speed train engine comes with a foot-operated lever (pedal) which a driver needs to hit once every 60 seconds.

In case, the driver fails to do so, emergency brakes are applied automatically and the train comes to a halt.

The present system is good enough to ensure that the driver is alert," said IRLRO working president Sanjay Pandhi.

"I believe RDAS is a futile exercise.

If the railways is really serious about the safety of train operations, it should, among other things, conduct studies on aspects such as fatigue, running hours, facilities and rest hours of train drivers.

"In many cases, drivers, including women, do not get any breaks for having food or answering nature's calls during their over 11-hour duty.

If these things are well taken care of, there is no need to have any RADS in engines," Pandhi said.

Man serving death sentence in Kopardi rape and murder case found dead in Pune jail

PUNE, Sep 10 (Agencies): A convict serving death sentence in a 2016 case of rape and murder of a minor girl at Kopardi in Maharashtra was found hanging in his cell at the Yerwada Central Jail in Pune on Sunday morning, police said.

Initial findings suggest it to be a case of death by suicide, they said, adding the convict, identified as Jitendra Babulal Shinde (32), was undergoing psychiatric treatment. According to the

police, a prison guard found Shinde hanging in his cell and alerted the other guards.

The prisoner was taken for a medical examination where he was declared dead, an official from Yerwada police station said.

In 2017, a sessions court in Ahmednagar district sentenced three men, including Shinde, to death for the rape and murder of a 15-year-old girl in Kopardi village of the district in 2016.

The victim, who belonged to the Maratha

community, was found murdered after being raped on July 13, 2016 in Kopardi village.

The accused had inflicted injuries all over her body and broken her limbs before throttling her, police earlier said.

The incident had triggered widespread protests from the Maratha community, who took out marches across the state over it.

The other two convicts in the case are Santosh Gorakh Bhawal and Nitin Gopinath Bhailume.

Morocco earthquake death toll crosses 2000, rescuers search for survivors

More than 3,00,000 people affected in quake zone: WHO

AMIZMIZ, (MOROCCO) Sep 10 (Agencies): Moroccan earthquake survivors huddled for a night in the open on the High Atlas Mountains on Saturday, a day after the country's deadliest quake in more than six decades killed more than 2,000 people and laid waste to villages.

Neighbours were still searching for survivors buried on the slopes, where houses of mud brick, stone and rough wood were cracked open and mosque minarets toppled by the quake that struck late on Friday. The historic old city of Marrakech also suffered extensive damage.

The Interior Ministry said 2,012 people had been killed and 2,059 injured, including 1,404 in critical condition. The US Geological Survey said the quake had a magnitude of 6.8 with an epicentre some 72 km (45 miles) southwest of Marrakech.

In the village of Amizmiz near the epicentre, rescue workers picked through rubble with their bare hands. Fallen masonry blocked narrow streets. Outside a hospital, around 10 bodies lay covered in blankets as grieving relatives stood nearby.

"When I felt the earth shaking beneath my feet and the house leaning, I rushed to get my kids out. But my neighbours couldn't," said Mohamed Azaw. "Unfortunately no one was found alive in that family. The father and son were found dead and they are still looking for the mother and the daughter." Rescuers stood atop the pancaked floors of one building in Amizmiz, bits of carpet and furniture protruding from the rubble. A long queue formed outside the only open shop as people sought supplies. Underlining the challenges facing res-



cuers, fallen boulders blocked a road from Amizmiz to a nearby village.

Nearly all the houses in the area of Asni, some 40 km south of Marrakech, were damaged, and villagers were preparing to spend the night outside. Food was in short supply as roofs had collapsed on kitchens, said villager Mohamed Ouhammo.

Montasir Itri, a resident of Asni, said the search was on for survivors.

"Our neighbours are under the rubble and people are working hard to rescue them using available means in the village," he said.

The village of Tansghart in the Ansi area, on the side of a valley where the road from Marrakech rises up into the High Atlas, was the worst hit of any Reuters saw. Its once-pretty houses, clinging to a steep hillside, were cracked open by the shaking ground. Those still standing were missing chunks of wall or plaster. Two mosque minarets had fallen.

Abdellatif Ait Bella, a labourer, lay on the ground, barely able to move or speak, his head bandaged from wounds caused by falling debris.

"We have no house to take

him to and have had no food since yesterday," said his wife Saida Bodchich, fearing for the future of their family of six with their sole breadwinner so badly hurt. "We can rely on nobody but God."

The village is already mourning ten deaths including two teenage girls, an inhabitant said.

Tremors were felt as far away as Huelva and Jaen in southern Spain. The World Health Organization said more than 300,000 people were affected in Marrakech and surrounding areas.

RUNNING FOR SHELTER
Street camera footage in Marrakech showed the moment the earth began to shake, as men suddenly looked around and jumped up, and others ran for shelter into an alleyway and then fled as dust and debris tumbled around them.

In the heart of the old city, a UNESCO World Heritage site, a mosque minaret had fallen in Jemaa al-Fna Square. Some houses in the tightly packed old city collapsed and people used their hands to remove debris while they waited for heavy equipment, said resident Id Waaziz Hassan.

Morocco declared three days of national mourning, during which the national flag will be flown at half staff throughout the country, the royal court said on Saturday.

The Moroccan armed forces will deploy rescue teams to provide affected areas with clean drinking water, food supplies, tents and blankets, it added.

Turkey, where powerful earthquakes in February killed more than 50,000 people, was among nations expressing solidarity and offering to provide support.

Algeria, which broke off ties with Morocco in 2021 after escalating tensions between the countries focused on the Western Sahara conflict, said it would open airspace for humanitarian and medical flights.

The quake was recorded at a depth of 18.5 km, typically more destructive than deeper quakes of the same magnitude. It was Morocco's deadliest earthquake since 1960 when a quake was estimated to have killed at least 12,000 people, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Mohammad Kashani, associate professor of structural and earthquake engineering at the University of Southampton, compared scenes of the aftermath to images from Turkey in February: "The area is full of old and historical buildings, which are mainly masonry. The collapsed reinforced concrete structures that I saw ... were either old or substandard." Marrakech is due to host the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank from Oct. 9.

An IMF spokesperson, asked about the planned meetings, said: "Our sole focus at this time is on the people of Morocco and the authorities who are dealing with this tragedy."

No report of any Indian national getting affected in Morocco earthquake



RABAT, Sep 10 (Agencies): There is no report till now of any Indian national getting affected due to the earthquake in Morocco that has killed over 2,000 people, the Embassy of India here has said, advising all its citizens in the country to stay calm and adhere to guidelines issued by the local authorities.

The powerful 6.8-magnitude earthquake shook Morocco late on Friday.

The Interior Ministry of Morocco said late on Saturday that 2,012 people were killed in the

temblor. At least 2,059 people were injured, including 1,404 critically.

The Embassy of India in Rabat issued an advisory on Saturday in the aftermath of the quake and said it was in touch with the community members.

"Till now, there is no report of any Indian national getting affected due to the earthquake," the mission said.

It urged all Indian nationals currently in Morocco to stay calm and adhere to the advisory/guidelines issued by the local authorities from time to time.

"The Embassy of India in Rabat would like to advise all Indian citizens residing in the Kingdom of Morocco that they can call our 24x7 helpline number +212 661 297 491 for any assistance they may require in the aftermath of the earthquake," the advisory said.

Earlier, the Indian embassy in Morocco expressed its deep sympathy to the victims of the earthquake in the country.

"India stands ready to extend assistance to Morocco in this difficult time," it said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday also expressed grief at the loss of lives in an earthquake in Morocco.

"In this difficult hour the entire world community is with Morocco and we are ready to offer them all possible assistance," he said in his opening remarks at the G20 summit in New Delhi.

Russia attacks Ukraine with 32 drones, 25 downed: Kyiv



KYIV, Sep 10 (Agencies): Russia attacked Ukraine with 32 drones overnight into Sunday, Kyiv military chiefs said, most of them aimed around the capital.

Air defences shot down 25 of them, they added, without accounting for the other seven.

The aerial assault comes at a time when national leaders are ramping up calls for extra Western support to repel the Russian invasion.

The military's general staff said, "The occupiers attacked Ukraine with 32 kamikaze drones... of which 25 were destroyed by Ukrainian air defence forces".

"The Russian occupiers directed most of the attack UAVs to the Kyiv region," they said.

"Drones entered the capital in groups and from different directions," Sergiy Popko, head of the Kyiv City Military Administration, wrote on Telegram.

Debris fell in several districts, damaging an apartment in a multi-storey building, as well as road surfaces and power lines, he added, saying one person was injured.

Russia systematically targeted Ukrainian cities early in the invasion launched last year, but massive strikes have become less frequent as Moscow's stockpiles dwindle and Ukraine bolsters its air defences.

Last month, Kyiv destroyed more than 20 drones and missiles in what it called the "most powerful strike" on the capital since spring.

Speeches by several senior Ukrainian officials released Saturday drew a picture of a country at war held back by allies who had failed to grasp the scale and urgency of the crisis.

Newly appointed Defence Minister Rustem Umerov called for more military equipment.

"We are grateful for all the support provided... We need more heavy weapons," Umerov said in his speech.

But he added: "We need them today. We need them now."

President Volodymyr Zelensky said the slow delivery of Western weapons was hampering the counteroffensive against Russian positions in the east and south of the country.

Deputy Intelligence Chief Vadym Skibitsky estimated Saturday that Russia has more than 420,000 soldiers in the east and south of Ukraine, including Crimea.

Skibitsky also said Russia had for a month been actively launching attacks from Crimea, which it annexed in 2014.

"Drones deployed in Crimea are used against our ports of Izmail and Reni" used as alternative export hubs, particularly since the expiry of the deal allowing grain exports on the Black Sea. Ukraine launched a counteroffensive in the east and south of the country in June but has come up against fierce resistance from entrenched Russian forces.

Intelligence chief Kyrylo Budanov said Ukrainian strikes on Russian territory were mainly aimed at military targets.

"All (the targets) are enterprises of the military-industrial complex," said Budanov. "This is the difference that distinguishes us from Russians."

Attacks on Russian territory, which were rare at the beginning of the offensive, have intensified in recent months, with Kyiv increasingly claiming responsibility for them.

Russian authorities have reported civilian casualties from some Ukrainian attacks.

Ukrainian leaders also deplored the lack of progress on setting up an international tribunal to try Russia's leaders and on the transfer of frozen Russian assets.

"Unfortunately, we are in a kind of deadlock on both," Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said.

He said the G7 group favoured a hybrid tribunal based on Ukrainian legislation.

A lack of will
But this would not allow for the immunity of Russian President Vladimir Putin, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin or Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov to be stripped -- an unacceptable option for Kyiv.

Ukrainian officials are arguing for an international court resembling the post-World War II Nuremberg tribunal.

There has been insufficient progress too, on the transfer of frozen Russian assets to Ukraine for use in the country's reconstruction, Kuleba added.

"After a year and a half, I'm still hearing from Europe and America: we are working on it," said Kuleba, who addressed a conference in Kyiv Friday, but whose comments were only released on Saturday.

"There is a lack of will to come to a conclusion. So we have to change that."

Since Moscow's invasion in February 2022, Western sanctions have led to the freezing of some 300 billion euros (USD 320 billion) of Central Bank of Russia's foreign exchange reserves around the world.

Pakistan unveils new visa policy to attract foreign investors

ISLAMABAD, Sep 10 (Agencies): Pakistan, in a bid to revive its ailing economy, has introduced a new visa policy to attract business communities from across the world to invest in the cash-strapped country.

The decision was taken in the two-day consultation meeting held under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), a civil-military hybrid body set up by the previous Shehbaz Sharif government to tackle the country's economic woes.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, who chaired the fifth apex committee meeting of SIFC, announced in a recorded message that a new easy visa regime has been approved for foreign businessmen desir-

ing to visit Pakistan.

He said foreign businessmen who want to visit Pakistan would be issued easy visas on the basis of a single document from their country or international business organisations.

"If Pakistan's chambers of business or business organisations issue a document to a foreign businessman, easy visas will also be issued to them," the statement quoted caretaker Prime Minister Kakar as saying.

He expressed hope that under this new visa regime, Pakistan would enter a new phase of business and economy.

Later, addressing a press conference with other ministers, caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani said that the SIFC was briefed

on Pakistan's relations with China, the United States and other Middle East countries.

He said the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries had shown interest in the investment council.

The GCC countries include Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Meanwhile, in an interview with the Dawn newspaper, Law Minister Ahmad Irfan Aslam said that in contrast to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that has garnered significant funds from China, Western countries haven't made definitive commitments to the SIFC yet.

However, he insisted that the SIFC and CPEC



had different scopes and sectors for Chinese investment.

While CPEC focuses on roads, infrastructure and energy projects, the SIFC allows China to invest in minerals and other areas not part of the corridor project.

Aslam said that agreements had reached an advanced level with GCC countries, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.

"We will first sign the agreement with Saudi Arabia," Aslam said, adding that the signing of the agreement was expected by the year's end.

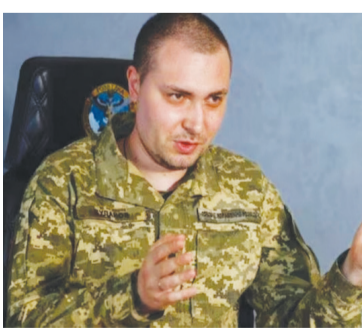
In response to a question, the law minister admitted that he was only aware of Indonesia's interest in investing under the SIFC, while Western and other non-GCC countries have not made any firm pledges yet.

Ukraine's counteroffensive to continue through onset of bad weather: Official

KYIV, Sep 10 (Agencies): Ukraine's counteroffensive against Russian forces will continue through the onset of cold and wet weather later this year, even though it would become harder to fight, Kyiv's intelligence chief Kyrylo Budanov said.

Ukraine launched a much-vaunted counteroffensive this summer that has retaken more than a dozen villages in the south and east over three months, but has been complicated by vast minefields and heavily entrenched Russian forces.

"Combat actions will continue in one way or another. In the cold, wet and mud, it is more difficult to fight. Fighting will con-



tinue. The counteroffensive will continue," Budanov said.

The comments, made at a conference in Kyiv hosted by the Victor Pinchuk Foundation, offer the strongest indication to date that Ukraine does not plan to halt its push when the weather turns later this year.

The West supplied billions of dollars of military equipment and

trained up thousands of Ukrainian fighters for the counteroffensive to help Kyiv try to regain territory.

But the slow progress of the counteroffensive has sparked concerns among Kyiv's supporters that the West could struggle to maintain the scale of military aid to keep Ukraine battling on at the same intensity.

Vadym Skibitsky, an official from Ukraine's military spy agency, said earlier on Saturday that Russia currently had 420,000 servicemen inside Ukraine.

The push in the southeastern Zaporizhzhia region, now centred around the villages of Robotyne and Verbove, is seen as a crucial part of an opera-

tion that seeks to split Russia's occupying forces in half in the south, but remains far from that goal.

"Our counteroffensive is happening in several directions," Budanov said, acknowledging that progress had been slower than he had wanted and describing the situation as difficult.

Apart from the huge concentration of Russian mines, he identified the large number of small Russian "kamikadze" drones as a key factor that had slowed Ukraine's progress so far.

Russia, which launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, has said that the Ukrainian counteroffensive has failed.

Drugs-a gateway to destruction: Swami Shri Rajeshwaranand

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 10: Jai Deva Mission Founder Swami Shri Rajeshwaranand Ji Maharaj and Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir Unit President Manish Sahni expressed deep concern over the increasing drug trade and growing number of youth getting trapped in drug addiction in the city of temples, Jammu. They sent a message to the youth to stay away from drugs and demanded the enforcement of prohibition in Jammu and Kashmir.

During a program organized at the Shiv Sena state office in Jammu today, Swami Rajeshwaranand Ji Maharaj and Manish Sahni jointly addressed the media and expressed their deep concern over the rising activities of drug traffickers in the city of temples and the growing addiction among the youth.

Swami Rajeshwa-



ranand addressed the youth, stating that "Nasha Naash ka Dvara Hai" (Drugs are the gateway to destruction). He emphasized that the more drugs penetrate into their lives, the more they get immersed in the clutches of destruction.

Similarly, Sahni mentioned that there is an abundance of liquor shops in the city of temples, which is the first step towards addiction. Along with that, the activity of trafficking drugs like charas,

bhukki, and heroin is also increasing day by day. The future and lives of the youth, who are addicted to drugs, are in danger.

Sahni highlighted the growing attraction of youth towards Western culture and hookah, which is proving to be the cause of the destruction of our cultural identity. Out of the total population of 13 million in Jammu and Kashmir, approximately 10 lakhs people have fallen prey to the addiction to drugs. Saints,

sages, holy men, and even the heavens on earth known as Jammu and Kashmir are being rapidly captured by the drug trade, he added.

Swami Rajeshwaranand Ji Maharaj and Manish Sahni have requested the youth to stay away from drugs and urged the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha to enforce strict prohibition of drugs in Jammu and Kashmir and take stern action against the elements involved in the drug trafficking.

BJP Govt has set poor man's Kitchen on fire in J&K: Malik

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 10: Several prominent persons today joined Lok Janshakti Party (Ramvilas) in presence of Rafiq Malik State President JKUT, RP Singh State General Secretary, Subash Chander Sharma Jammu Province General Secretary, Mahraj Krishan Bhat State President Migrant Cell, Mulkh Raj State President SC Cell. The newly joined were given assignments as officer bearers including Davinder Pal Singh State President Minority Cell JKUT, Harjeet Singh, State General Secretary Minority Cell JKUT, Jangbahadur Singh State Secretary JKUT. Among others who joined Congress today include Jagjeet Singh, V.S Risam, S. Daleep Singh, S. Chanchal Singh, Simardeep Singh, Arvinder Pal Singh, Tarsem Parvinder Singh, Karan Singh, Davinder Singh



besides others.

Speaking on the occasion, Malik voiced the frustration of many by stating, "People of Jammu have been diligently paying their electricity bills, but now being gifted smart meters. They are not financially capable of paying the tariffs based on meter readings. We are not against the idea, but shouldn't the authorities consider the people's ability to pay?" He claimed that people from the unprivileged section wouldn't be able to make their both ends meet if they spend their earnings on power bills.

Malik said BJP Govt

has set the poor man's Kitchen on fire with prices of wheat flour, edible oil, pulses, vegetables and fruits are skyrocketing. While the common people are in acute distress, the Govt is in ecstasy after pushing the prices of essential commodities from tomato to petrol beyond reach," Bhalla said. Castigating the sycophants of the Govt for not telling the truth about savagely rising prices and peaking unemployment, Malik said "while the budgets of middle-class households have derailed, the poor cannot afford the basic food for sustenance.

Malik pointed out, the government has continuously implemented anti-people measures, as if seeking revenge from the people. "Instead of providing relief to the people, the government keeps imposing unjust measures one after another," he lamented. He further warned that the government's actions were testing the patience of the people in J&K, and that continued such measures would be met with strong resistance. "They are already suffering from previous anti-people measures, and they will not accept this new measure as it directly impacts the survival of their families," Malik said. He said after installation of smart meters, people are getting bills in thousands of rupees. He asserted that they were against the current approach to installing prepaid smart meters due to the burden of hefty bills on households where these meters had been implemented.

Natrang presents Hindi play 'Parda Uthne Se Pehle'

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 10: Natrang presented a new Hindi play 'Parda Uthne Se Pehle' in its weekly theatre series, Sunday Theatre today at its Studio Theatre here in Kachi Chawni, Jammu. The play has been written by Rajinder Kumar Sharma and was directed by Neeraj Kant.

"Parda Uthne Se Pehle" is the story of a man who is very fond of acting, but his wife does not like his acting. When the play starts, Anil's wife Sheela is seen cursing her husband and says that no one's husband should get addicted to drama. Meanwhile, Anil enters the house and Sheela gets angry at Anil and says that if he wants



drama in his life then send her to her parents' house. Later, Anil praises Sheela and says that now the heroine of his play is not Veena but she. Because the heroine of his play has gone somewhere without informing him and his play is going to be performed the day after tomorrow. Now Anil starts getting Sheela to rehearse when a man comes to take entry

passes of the play. After that Anil starts the rehearsal again when Anil's talkative neighbour Makhan Lal enters and starts wasting his time in idle talks. Anil barely gets rid of him when his son Munnu comes to disturb him. They send Munnu out with an excuse and start rehearsing the last scene in which Anil points Munnu's toy pistol towards Sheela

and starts speaking dialogues. Meanwhile, Anil's neighbours Pindidas and Subramaniam enter after hearing the noise and mistakenly understand that Anil is shooting Sheela. With great difficulty he explains to both of them that they were rehearsing for the play.

Natrang young artists who performed in the play included Chirag Anand, Abhimanyu Choudhary, Sumit Bandaral, Mehak Singh, Palshin Dutta, Harsh Dogra, Nikhil Sharma, Chaitanya Shekhar and Sonali Sharma. Lights and Music of the play were operated by Neeraj Kant. The presentations were done by Mahikshit Singh and the show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

Apni Party gears up membership drive

TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Sep 10: Apni Party has geared up its membership drive in Doda with a motive to strengthen the party cadre at grass root level in the hilly district.

As per a press release, a meeting was organized by the district committee members in Doda at their office in Doda City. The meeting was chaired by Provincial Secretary, and In-charge membership, Dr Rohit Gupta alongwith State Secretary, Mohinder Parihar and District President Doda, Saleem Magrey. The meeting was also attended by Sheikh Mohammed Shafi, Adil sahab, and other leaders of the party. During the meeting, the par-



ticipants discussed the policy and agenda of the party that is being implemented and people are being educated about the developmental policies of the Apni Party. In this meeting, the district committee informed about their membership drive, and door to door campaign that has been

launched across the Doda District.

Dr Rohit Gupta reviewed the party's working alongwith Mohinder Parihar and District President Doda, Saleem Magrey during a threadbare discussion.

In his address, Dr Gupta stressed on strengthening the party

by educating the people about the policy and programmes of the party. "The party is committed for upliftment of the people of all regions equally," he added.

Similarly, Mohinder Parihar also asked about the strengthening and streamlining of the party in the district.

JKBS members emphasize importance of unity to preserve community culture



TOP NEWS REPORT

R.S PURA, Sep 10: In a significant meeting of the Batwal community convened in R.S.Pura, community leaders came together to reaffirm the age-old adage, "United we stand, divided we fall." The gathering witnessed leaders, including Dr. Ramesh Kumar Kaith, R.L. Kaith, Havildar Des Raj Kaith, Hans Raj Loria, and several

others, setting aside their differences and committing to working in unison for the unity and integrity of the Batwal Community. Their shared goal is to prevent any divisions within the community.

Members of the Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Samaj (JKBS) stressed the transformative power of unity, encouraging all community members to join hands and foster a sense of togeth-

ness. Prominent figures present at the meeting included Municipal Councillor Krishan Lal, Captain Girdhari Lal, Master Naresh Kumar, Ram Lal, Bishan Dass, Gopal Dass, Krishan Lal, and Bawa Ram. This collective pledge to maintain a culture of unity within the Batwal community reflects a commendable commitment to preserving their rich cultural heritage.

7-Day Personality Development Workshop for Women concludes

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 10: The 7-day, first-ever Personality Development Workshop for women, specifically homemakers, organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL), reached its successful conclusion today at Abhinav Theatre, Jammu.

Bharat Singh, Secretary of JKAACL, warmly welcomed all the attendees and extended his congratulations to the participants who completed this unique workshop. The event saw the active participation of women from both urban and rural areas. Mr. Singh also expressed his appreciation for the experts from various performing arts disciplines, including Music, Dance, Theatre, Yoga, and Meditation, who contributed their expertise to the workshop.

In his address, Bharat Singh emphasized the



importance of personality development, stating that "Personality refers to the enduring characteristics and behavior that comprise a person's unique adjustment to life, including major traits, interests, drives, values, self-concept, abilities, and emotional patterns."

During the event, the participating women delivered captivating performances in music, Dogri dance, short

plays, and showcased various yogic asanas, demonstrating their newfound skills.

The workshop featured prominent experts who delivered lectures and provided training, including Dr. Jasmeet Kour, Dr. Kamal Sharma, MS Sushma Gupta, MS Saba, Advocate Supriya Chouhan, Dr. Sumita Bhat, and Dr. Sudhir Mahajan from JKAACL, who served as the internal expert. Advocate MS

Supriya Chouhan, the guest of honor, commended the exceptional performances by the women participants and applauded the initiatives of JKAACL.

Dr. Sudhir Mahajan, SDI and incharge Divisional office, Jammu, extended the vote of thanks at the event.

The women who participated in the workshop included Ms. Ujala Sultan, Rashpreet Kour, Urja Singh, Rabia

Sharma, Atinder Kour, Aarti Samyal, Aradhana Jamwal, Kuljit Kour, Sandeep Kour, Lalita Sharma, Sunita Manhas, Kulveer Kour, Sharishta Devi, Manju Devi, Kiran Kachroo, Ruchi Gupta, Preya Devi, Suksham Guleria, Diksha Vaid, and others. These participants were recognized and honored with certificates of appreciation for their outstanding performances during the 7-day workshop.