

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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North Korean leader Kim Jong Un arrives in Russia for rare summit with Vladimir Putin



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BRIEFLY

Encounter breaks out in Rajouri's Narla

SRINAGAR, Sep 12 (Agencies): Encounter broke out between terrorists and security forces in Narla area of Rajouri district on Tuesday evening, police said.

An official said that army and police were on job, while further details will be shared accordingly.

He said that exchange of fire was going on when last reports came in.

Teenage girl found hanging at her home in Budgam village

BUDGAM, Sep 12 (Agencies): A teenage girl was found hanging at her home in Khansahib area of central Kashmir's Budgam district on Tuesday.

An official said that 19-year-old girl was found hanging at her home, following which she was rushed to nearby hospital.

He said that the doctors at Khansahib hospital declared her dead on arrival.

"The body will be handed over to the family for last rites after medico-legal formalities, while further investigation has been started," he said.

Inquiry launched into alleged embezzlement in JK health department

SRINAGAR, Sep 12 (Agencies): In a significant development, Arshid Ahmad Dhobi has filed a complaint alleging fraud and embezzlement within the Directorate of Family Welfare, Maternal and Child Health, and Immunisation in Jammu and Kashmir.

To address these allegations, Dr Shafiqat Khan, the Additional Mission Director of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission in Jammu and Kashmir, has been appointed as the Inquiry Officer. Dr Khan's mandate is to thoroughly investigate the matter in accordance with Dhobi's complaint, which was submitted to the General Administration Department.

The ongoing inquiry revolves around a series of crucial objectives aimed at

Rajnath Singh inaugurates 90 infra projects in Jammu

SAMBA/JAMMU, Sep 12 (Agencies): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday inaugurated 90 infrastructure projects of the Border Roads Organisation, completed at a cost of Rs 2,941 crore, in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Singh, accompanied by Minister of State in the Prime Minister's office Jitendra Singh, was received at the Jammu airport by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and senior Army and Indian Air Force (IAF) officers.

Singh inaugurated the state-of-the-art 422.9 metre Devak bridge on the Bishnah-Kaulpur-Phulpur Road in Samba district besides 89 other projects virtually.

The Devak bridge is of strate-



gic importance to the defence forces and will facilitate speedy induction of troops, heavy equipment and mechanised vehicles to forward areas and will also boost the socio-economic development of the region, a spokes-

person of the BRO said.

The BRO projects include 22 roads, 63 bridges, one tunnel, two airstrips and two helipads across 10 border states and Union Territories of northern and northeastern regions construct-

ed under challenging weather conditions, at most inhospitable terrain locations, he said.

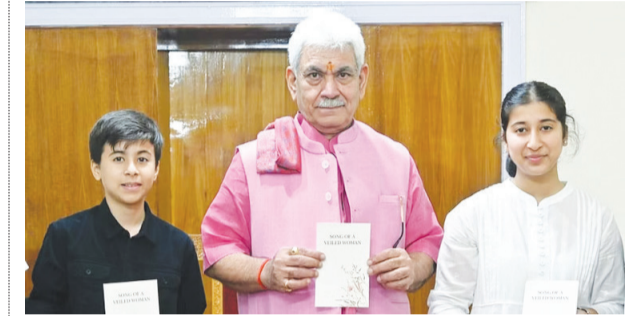
Of the 89 projects inaugurated virtually, 36 are in Arunachal Pradesh, 25 in Ladakh, 11 are in Jammu and Kashmir, five in Mizoram, three in Himachal Pradesh, two each in Sikkim, Uttarakhand and West Bengal and one each in Nagaland, Rajasthan and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the official said.

The BRO completed the critically strategic projects in record time and several of them were constructed in a single working season using state-of-the-art technology, the spokesperson said.

He said the 500-metre

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LG releases book 'Song of a Veiled Women'



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 12: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha released a poetry

collection titled 'Song of a Veiled Woman' written by Ms Sumedha Manhas, at Raj Bhawan

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2 years imprisonment in Cheque bounce case, defaulter to pay Rs 16 lakh to the complainant

SRINAGAR, Sep 12 (Agencies): A Court in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district has sentenced a man to undergo two years' imprisonment in a cheque bounce case and directed the convict to pay Rs 16 lakh compensation to the complainant.

The compensation amount is double the accused had borrowed in 2015 from Abdul Lateef

Khan of Boniyaar Baramulla.

The court said the complainant during the course of trial has proved that the accused identified as Ameer Khan presently a resident of Sheeri Baramulla has borrowed money.

In the judgment, the Sub-Judge Baramulla Iqbal Ahmed Akhoun said the accused had issued the cheques which were

returned unpaid due to insufficiency of funds in the account.

"The complainant has proved his case and the accused is found to be guilty of commission of offence punishable under section N.I. Act and is convicted to undergo simple imprisonment of two years besides that he shall pay double the cheque amount i.e. Rs. 16,00,000. The

fine amount of Rs 16,00,000 imposed on shall be paid to complainant," the order read

A complaint was lodged before the Court on December 21, 2015 on the grounds that the accused Ameer Khan approached the complainant and borrowed Rs 5,28,000 to invest in a business and thereafter he would repay the said amount in two

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Govt appeases US, causes suffering for local apple growers: Farooq Abdullah

SRINAGAR, Sep 12 (Agencies): National Conference President and Member of Parliament Dr Farooq Abdullah accused the Government of appeasing the US at the cost of local growers.

"They want to appease US and finish the local growers," he said while reacting to the govt decision to remove additional duties.

Speaking to reporters,



the senior leader said, "When the concessions were announced

during the G20, it wasn't thought that what impact it would have on our

economy. It would not only impact J&K but Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand also. Apples and walnuts are our major economy," he said.

He appealed to the Govt of India to not take a step that would increase the sufferings already poverty stricken population of J&K.

"If they don't make it easy for the people,

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J&K Court sentences three persons to seven-year RI in culpable homicide case

SRINAGAR, Sep 12(Agencies): A court in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district has sentenced three people to seven years' rigorous imprisonment in a culpable homicide case.

Additional Sessions Judge, Kulgam, Parvaiz Iqbal also imposed a fine of Rs one lakh each on the convicts, Mohammad Amin Bhat, Rauf Ahmed Bhat and Younis Ahmed Bhat.

If they fail to deposit the fine amount, they shall undergo rigorous imprisonment for a further period of six months, the judge said in his order. However, he said, the period of detention already undergone by the accused during the period of trial would be taken into consideration. The three were involved in an altercation with the victim Bashir Ahmad Parray in

Kulgam district on September 9, 2016 which led to the latter's death at a hospital in Srinagar.

The judge convicted the three for culpable homicide while noting that the accused did not have any previous enmity with the deceased.

The judge said the accused have prayed for showing them leniency on the grounds that all of

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Three minor boys go missing, probe on



SRINAGAR, Sep 12 (Agencies): Three school-going minor boys have gone missing from Villgam in Handwara area in north Kashmir's Kupwara district since

Monday. Three school-going minor boys have gone missing from Villgam in Handwara area in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on September 12,

2023

Official sources said that three school-going minor boys have gone missing from the Villgam area in Handwara, located in the northern part of Kupwara district since yesterday.

According to official sources, the trio of minor boys disappeared while they were playing in the vicinity on Monday afternoon. The missing boys have been identified as Nazim Mumtaz, the son of Mumtaz Ahmad Lone, a resident of Phalmarg; Faizan Hameed Mir, the son of Abdul Hameed Mir, hailing from

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Four crushed to death as landslide strikes vehicle on JK National highway

JAMMU, Sep 12(Agencies): Four people were killed the vehicle in which they were travelling in was reportedly hit by a boulder at the strategic Jammu-Srinagar national highway in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Tuesday.

Deputy Commissioner of Ramban said, "One vehicle was reportedly hit by a boulder at

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International Gurjar & Bakarwal Mahasabha frames new body

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 12: International Gurjar & Bakarwal Mahasabha dissolved the previous State Body of the Mahasabha.

Elections were conducted on the spot, and a new body was constituted in a democratic way with the unanimous decision of all the present body members to ensure the smooth functioning of the organization.

The newly appointed body members include Ch. Mohd. Younus, National Vice President; Ch. Mohd Aslam Kohli President, Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh UTs; Ch. Mohd. Anwar Clothier - Vice President, Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh UTs; Ch. Shamima Gurjar - President (Women Wing) Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh UTs; Parwaz Chouhan - Vice President (Women Wing) Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh UTs; Ch. Nazir Ahmad Gurjar Poda, Youth President, Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh UTs; Ch. Abdul Majeed Bajar, Gen-



eral Secretary, Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh UTs; Ch. Saif Ud Din Famda, President Kashmir Province; Haji Nisar Hussain, President Jammu Province; Khursheed Hussain Mukri, Youth President, Jammu Province; Junaid Ahmed, Vice President (Youth), Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh UTs; Ch. Imtiyaz Kataria, Spokesperson, Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh UTs; Ch. Nazir Akbar, General Secretary, Jammu Province; Ch. Ikhtlaq Kalas, Youth President, Kashmir Province; Ch. Abdul Majid Kohli, Chief Organiser, Jammu

Kashmir & Ladakh UTs and others.

National President Col. Dev Anand Gurjar emphasized the importance of unity among the elected members and their responsibility to work for the welfare of Gurjars and Bakarwals, not only in Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh UTs but also throughout India. They were encouraged to address the issues faced by these communities and seek redressal of their grievances. The newly elected body members were also urged to act as liaisons between the administration and the

community to ensure the benefits of government sponsored schemes reached the members of these communities.

Ch. Mohd Aslam Kohli, the newly appointed President for Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh UTs, pledged to work sincerely and dedicatedly for the Mahasabha's goals. He highlighted various areas of focus, including conducting surveys of the population belonging to Gurjars and Bakarwals, providing permanent habitations to nomadic communities, offering scholarships to students, implementing

the Forest Rights Act (FRA) and SC/ST Atrocities Act, and securing reservations for Panchayat Members. He also acknowledged the achievements of the previous body and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve these communities.

Ch. Aslam thanked the outgoing IGM team, including National President IGM Col. Dev Anand, for their efforts in securing ST Reservation, Forest Rights Act, and SC/ST Atrocities Act for the Gurjar Bakarwal community. He stressed the importance of ensuring that the benefits of these achievements reach every member of the community and outlined the need for permanent settlements for Gurjar Bakarwal nomads and overall community upliftment.

These discussions and commitments made during the meeting reflect the organization's dedication to addressing the needs and concerns of the Gurjar and Bakarwal communities in the specified regions and across India.

LG Ladakh Mishra meets LG Manoj Sinha



TOP NEWS REPORT
JAMMU, Sep 12:

Brig. (Dr.) B.D. Mishra (Retd.), Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, met

Lieutenant Governor of J&K, Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan today.

'Gujjar Bakerwal community facing injustice in J&K'

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 12: Gujjar Bakerwal community in Jammu & Kashmir is facing issues related to injustice, discrimination, deprivation, and unfulfilled promises from the government.

The community, represented by the All J&K Gujjar Bakerwals Coordination Committee, has expressed their concerns and demands in a press conference.

"The Gujjar Bakerwal community is frustrated with the government's failure to fulfill promises, particularly related to granting them rights under the Forest Rights Act and political reservation," Adv Anwar Choudhary said in a press conference.



He alleged that they are being ignored in terms of basic facilities such as water, electricity, roads, education, and medical facilities. They also face threats from anti-social elements. Temporary shelters of the community are being demolished, leaving them homeless,

especially during the scorching heat, he said adding that the community demanded the establishment of two Gujjar Bakerwals Colonies in Jammu and Srinagar, providing at least three kanals of land to each family. This land is intended for housing and for keeping their

cattle. The community criticized the inadequate reservation for Scheduled Tribes in recent Corporation elections, where wards that should have been reserved for STs were allegedly reserved for other categories like SCs. The community

accused officers of the Scheduled Tribe department of not addressing their problems and of being more interested in political promotions and favoritism.

He alleged that development funds meant for the betterment of STs are concentrated in certain districts, while others are neglected.

The Gujjar Bakerwals are seeking support from prominent Gujjar leaders and advocates from other parts of the country who are already advocating for their cause.

The community plans to hold Maha Panchayats in Srinagar and Jammu in September and October 2023 to garner support for their demands.

Movement continue until smart meters are removed: Amit Kapoor



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 12: Senior social worker Amit Kapoor led a protest against smart meters in Purana Nagar Ward No 31

Amit Kapoor and the protesters are strongly against the installation of smart meters and consider them a scam. They demanded a high-level investigation into the smart meter installation, suggesting that there may be fraudulent activities involved.

Kapoor expressed concern about the practice of changing meters every two years, which he views as part of the alleged scam.

Amit Kapoor asserted his determination to continue the agitation until smart meters are withdrawn. He is willing to put his life on the line to expose what he believes is the truth.

Kapoor highlighted that they will not allow smart meters to be installed in Jammu and Kashmir

until they are installed across the entire country.

He mentioned the substantial support his movement has received from the people and emphasizes that this is not about politics but about the people's concerns.

Kapoor argued that the people of Jammu and Kashmir should be provided with free electricity, as other states like Punjab and Delhi allegedly purchase electric-

ity from the region and provide it for free to their residents.

Kapoor criticized the actions of the Electricity Department and questioned the role of certain political leaders in the matter.

He gave an ultimatum to the government, stating that if the order to withdraw smart meters is not issued within a week, he will start a mass movement against it.

Kapoor challenged

the government to explain why smart meters are necessary when common people in Jammu are against them.

Kapoor firmly stated that they will not accept what they perceive as a dictatorial government decision to impose smart meters.

He called on everyone to support the movement, emphasizing that it is an issue that concerns the people.

Machhal Cultural Festival celebrated with gaiety



TOP NEWS REPORT

KUPWARA, Sep 12: Machhal Cultural Festival was celebrated with great fanfare and enthusiasm at Machhal Sports Ground. All the events of the Machhal Cultural Festival were organised and conducted by the villagers with the support of Indian Army. Machhal valley with its lush green meadows, numerous water streams and pristine beauty is a developing tourist destination for people from all over the country.

The annual Machhal Cultural Festival is celebrated to promote tourism in this

border area and also to promote local talent. Army organised "Machhal Cultural Festival" on 12 September 2023 with great fanfare comprising of large number of sports & cultural activities, i.e Bare Foot Mini Marathon, Pony Race, Cricket League, Volleyball League, Athletics and Trekking. The event promoted sports, tourism and local talent along with message of peace, harmony and development.

During the event, music and dance performance of school children and local youth was also organised.

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 CDR/FDR/TDR & 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 indicating the name of work duly credited to 0059-PWD (Revenue) and uploading a copy of treasury challan / receipt on e-tendering portal. OR The bidder may deposit tender fee in the shape of e-Challan through Account No. 009701010002163 in the name of Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospital Division Jammu Name of Bank: J&K Bank Town Hall Jammu Branch Code:0097 IFSC code: JAKA0THNALL MICR CODE: 180051025	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.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospital Division
Jammu

DIP/J-8012/23

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir
Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical and Hospital Division Udhampur
(E-mail: xenmdudh@gmail.com)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, of Jammu & Kashmir (UT) e-tenders are invited in two cover system, from reputed and registered firms for the job mentioned below:-

S.No	Description of work	N.I.T. No.	Earnest Money	Cost of tender document	Time of completion	Position of Funds	Position of AA/ Tech. Sanction	Tender R Auth
01	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of DG - Set 62.5 KVA at the office of Chief Medical Officer Udhampur.	e-NIT No. 35 of 2023-24 Dt. 09.09.2023 Due on 29.09.2023	3% of the contract value shall be submitted by the lowest Bidder before the allotment of work order in the shape of CDR/FDR/TDR/BG/	Rs. 200/- (Two Amount) in the shape of challan through J&K Govt. Treasury indicating the name of work duly credited to MHC/0059/PWD) Misc. Revenue and uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt on e-tendering portal. OR The bidder may deposit tender fee in shape of e-challan through Account No. 0020102000009, J&K Bank, Udhampur, of Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Udhampur)	30 days	Available	Accorded	Exec Engg Mech Hospital Udh

(Tender ID: 2023.PWDJK.229201.1)

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, terms & conditions, Bill of Quantities can be seen / downloaded from the J Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in.

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EDITORIAL

CLEAN INDIA
GREEN INDIA

Ever since the Industrial Revolution took place in our country, there has been a huge increase in carbon in our environment. Our environment is becoming polluted due to smoke emitted from vehicles and harmful gases emitted from industrial areas. For this, the most important thing is that we plant maximum number of trees and save our environment.

Whatever harmful gas is released, it also traps the heat of our sun, due to which there is a green house effect.

Green house is a natural phenomenon, which is very essential for life. Due to this incident our earth will lose heat one day and the entire earth will freeze. If the amount of these harmful gases continues to increase in this manner, the world's temperature will increase. The polar ice caps will start melting, the consequences of this will be bad for our environment and very bad for all humans.

Thus, due to the change in our climate, the Green India Clean India campaign was launched by our Prime Minister. The objective of this scheme is to plant trees in large quantities and also to greatly improve the quality of the forest areas. Due to the excess of carbon dioxide gas being released into our atmosphere through all the factories, people's lives can be saved from the forest area.

Carbon dioxide gas is absorbed by trees. In return we get oxygen. The main objective of the mission is to improve the biodiversity of the environment. Under this scheme, greenhouse gases in our atmosphere will be reduced.

There was a small campaign launched by our Prime Minister under the Swachh Bharat Mission, which was named Green India. Today people are becoming very careless towards the environment. Due to indiscriminate deforestation our environment is being harmed a lot.

There was a small campaign launched by our Prime Minister under the Swachh Bharat Mission, which was named Green India. Today people are becoming very careless towards the environment. Due to indiscriminate deforestation our environment is being harmed a lot.

It is for this that this scheme was launched by the Prime Minister. Under this scheme, we will protect our forest areas and motivate people to plant more trees. So that our environment as well as our environment remains clean, people do not have to face problems due to this.

Swachh Bharat Green Bharat scheme by our Prime Minister of India helped us a lot during the Corona epidemic. Therefore, we should be very grateful to them for running this campaign because only under Green India, Clean India, we have been able to save ourselves a little from this disease. This scheme was run under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, hence it was named Swachh Bharat, Green India.

Through this campaign, we have to make people aware about our environment and nature. Today people are becoming very careless towards our environment and trees are being cut without any reason, just for their own selfishness. Under this scheme, a message has been given to connect the people of all those countries and also to save our environment. Apart from this, water pollution, inadequate drinking water and lack of sanitation, deforestation, all these have been important issues of this scheme.

What will special session take up? No one knows, not even the Cabinet...

By: Aakar Patel

A report was published on Saturday, September 9, with the headline "Joint sitting of both Houses to bid farewell to old Parliament building?" The question mark is normal, because few know what the agenda of the special session is. The report reads: "Just ahead of the five-day special session, there is considerable speculation over whether a joint meeting of the two Houses will be convened on September 19 in the iconic Central Hall to say goodbye to the existing Parliament building."

Why would one need five days to say goodbye to a building? And why is there the need for "considerable speculation" in a democracy when laws and changes should be discussed openly and transparently? On this, the report did not offer any enlightenment to readers.

When this special session was first announced on August 31, there began a guessing game on why it was being called so shortly after one session had just ended on August 11. The Winter Session will begin in November, so it is not as if there is no other time for Parliament to meet. Why again this month?

Some said it was to change the name of the country from India to Bharat. Two days of media focus went into that. Ministers defended the move, saying that there was nothing

wrong with it, but were unable to confirm whether or not this change in the nation's name was what the session was for. Another guess was that it had to do with the passing of the Women's Reservation Bill. This was originally passed by the Rajya Sabha in 2008, but since then it has stalled because of a lack of support and demands of sub-reservations within this category for marginalised sections. If this is on the agenda and it goes through, it will set aside one-third of all seats in the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies for women. This is a considerable reform, and if it is indeed this law that is being taken up, one hopes that it passes. But of course, one doesn't know.

Another guess in the media was that the government, for whatever reason, was calling the general election early. They Lok Sabha polls are due in April-May next year, meaning in another seven-eight months, but they might be advanced just as the Atal Behari Vajpayee government had done in 2004. This theory has not found many takers, but again, who knows? Vajpayee's gambit to call elections early did not succeed and the government fell, so there will likely be caution on this front.

The most fervent speculation was around something called "one nation, one election", a system whereby all states and the Centre will go into elections every five years together and citizens will vote

for the Assembly and the Lok Sabha at the same time. Will corporation elections also be included? One doesn't know.

What about bye-elections? And how will the EVMs be set up for multiple elections? One does not know that either, but perhaps wiser minds have already sorted all such things out. A committee has been set up under a former President to look into the idea, but how this committee will meet and give its findings all in time for the special session is unclear.

One more story floated in the media was that the session was about a commission set up in 2017 to look at sub-categorisation of OBCs so that reservations could be made more equitable.

The parliamentary form of government carries with it something called collective responsibility, meaning that decisions are jointly owned. But here the Union Cabinet is as much in the dark about decisions as the rest of us are. Two instances from the past will suffice to demonstrate this.

The first was a report from November 10, 2016, headlined: "Don't bring your phones: Modi's Cabinet meet that took everyone by surprise". The report said Union ministers found out about demonetisation the same day as the rest of us, meaning that it was neither discussed nor debated. Another instance is the BBC's filing of over 240 Right to Information queries

with the government about the national lockdown of 2020. It asked the Union government's departments of health, finance, disaster management and the rest about what they knew regarding the lockdown and how they prepared. The answer was that they did not know and did not prepare.

This form of government, where secrets and major decisions are kept from the Cabinet itself, appears to be continuing, which is why the speculation around this special session. There will be no Question Hour either in this session, and while this is expected, it is not necessary. Even questions asked are not answered in the Lok Sabha, so what is the point of stopping them from being asked?

The Opposition has sent a list of things they would like discussed in the session. These include inflation, joblessness, MSP for farmers, the continuing violence in Manipur, the Adani scandal, communal tensions across India, the Chinese actions in Ladakh and elsewhere, the need for a caste census (or any census, given that the primary one has been inexplicably delayed), the strains on federalism and impact of natural disasters and climate change. It is unlikely that, assuming these are not already on the agenda, they will be taken up by the government.

When even the Cabinet itself has such little say in what should be discussed and passed, why should the Opposition be listened to?

The PLA's weaknesses are now evident on all fronts

By: Claude Arpi

After a four-month gap, the 19th round of talks between the Indian and Chinese generals at the corps commander level was held at the usual Chushul-Moldo border meeting point. Interestingly, for the first time, it was spread over two days (August 13 and 14). Though no breakthrough was made for the Depsang and Demchok sectors, the contentious issues were discussed in some depth.

A joint press statement (which was an achievement in itself) said: "The two sides had a positive, constructive and in-depth discussion on the resolution of the remaining issues along the Line of Actual Control in the western sector. In line with the guidance provided by the leadership, they exchanged views in an open and forward-looking manner."

As usual, it was agreed to resolve "the remaining issues in an expeditious manner and maintain the momentum of dialogue and negotiations through military and diplomatic channels".

The last sentence does not, however, mean that a solution is forthcoming soon, as the formula has been used in most of the statements.

In the meantime, it is interesting to analyse the present state of preparedness of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), which has been repeatedly told by President Xi Jinping, who is also the chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), to be "ready for war". The "war" usually refers to the "liberation" of Taiwan, an old Chinese dream. In this context, the visit of three former Indian service chiefs to Taipei has to be noted. Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhardwaj, Adm. Karambir Singh, and Gen. M.M. Naravane had travelled

to Taipei on an invitation by Taiwan's ministry of foreign affairs for the Ketagalan Forum. It probably means that New Delhi has started positioning itself in case of a war scenario.

Though it is difficult to predict the future, a careful analysis of the PLA's preparedness shows several weaknesses for a professional modern army.

We shall list a few.

First and foremost, the PLA is the army of the Communist Party of China (CPC). Chairman Xi, as he is called by the PLA, recently published his "Eleven Absolutes" (a sort of Eleven Commandments). The First Absolute is: "The absolute leadership of the People's Party (CPC) is the foundation of the People's Army and the soul of a strong Army. It is necessary to comprehensively strengthen the Party's leadership and leadership in the Army and implement a series of fundamental principles and systems for the Party to lead the Army, and ensure that the troops are absolutely loyal, absolutely pure, and absolutely reliable."

Loyalty to the Party comes before merit or competence; this cannot translate into professionalism. Mr Xi's first commandment wants "to build a People's Army that obeys the Party's command, can win battles, and has a good style of work".

What recently happened to the PLA Rocket Force (PLARF) is an indicator that the Party line is supreme. The Chinese (and Taiwanese) social media announced that the commander and deputy commanders of the PLARF were in deep trouble.

When Xi Jinping undertook reforms in the PLA at the end of 2015, the Second Artillery Force, looking after China's strategic missile force, was renamed PLARF, and it was made responsible for China's

tactical and strategic missile force, including nuclear missiles.

On July 6, Lt. Gen. Wu Guohua, the deputy commander of the force, allegedly died; as reports said that he was purged by Xi Jinping and was suspected to have committed suicide; though the official information just mentioned a "brain haemorrhage".

Lt. Gen. Wu passed away at a time President Xi Jinping (also chairman of the Central Military Commission) was on a visit to the Eastern Theatre Command, lecturing the troops to be ready for war.

Then, Gen. Wu's boss, Gen. Li Yuchao, the PLARF commander, was taken away by the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) for investigation.

Further, Lt. Gen. Zhang Zhenzhong, a former deputy commander of the PLARF and current deputy chief of staff of the CMC's Joint Staff Department, was also sacked.

To add to the list, Wei Fenghe, former commander of Rocket Force, and former minister of national defence, was said to be under the scanner.

As it is always good to know the limitations of your purported enemy, let us look at the other weaknesses of the PLA.

China's one-child policy has greatly weakened the PLA as parents are less and less keen to send their one child to war and eventually lose their only offspring. It also means that the soldiers are no longer used to hardship, having been cocooned for twenty years or so by their family; there is certainly less motivation today than during the Long March or Chairman Mao Zedong's times.

The present Chinese recruitment mode is also a problem; among other issues, a conscripted Army takes more time to accustom to difficult terrains such as on the Indian

borders.

Further, the PLA has not fully assimilated the radical reforms introduced in 2016 by Xi Jinping, in particular the combined armed integration.

While Beijing likes to brag about new equipment developed for the PLA (such as laser canons, quantum communication, hypersonic missiles, etc), the personnel manning this weaponry are not fully trained to use the latest technology.

Corruption is a serious issue; we have seen it with the recent beheading of the PLARF. It is a big problem — 100 or so generals were sacked in the past few years — and it is unthinkable in any other Army; corruption in promotion, in businesses, in recruitment, and so on.

Further, hiding the casualties of soldiers, like in the Galwan Valley in June 2020, certainly has a demoralising effect.

In the PLA, the centralised chain of command is cumbersome, officers on the Indian border always have to refer to the higher authorities in Chengdu or Beijing for orders.

The hierarchical difference in the field restricts the analytical process. Orders from senior officers need to be strictly implemented on the ground and if the leadership is targeted during the course of a confrontation, then the force can be in disarray. Too much brainwashing about the Party ideology does not help for the professionalism of the PLA, but what is worrying is that President Xi Jinping seems obsessed by it; in 2022 he started expressing concern about the potential collapse of the Communist Party of China (CPC), with millions renouncing their affiliation to the Party.

And lastly, the recent confrontations in Eastern Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh have shown that the Indian soldier is a far better fighter than his Chinese opponent.

Hilly, rural areas confronting development deficit under J&K Govt: Rattan Lal

TOP NEWS REPORT

BATOTE, Sep 12: The hilly, rural and far off areas are being discriminated badly by the present government, which is busy in developing unproductive projects and wasting public exchequer.

This was stated by Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President, Jammu, J&K National Conference, while addressing party workers meeting at Batote in district Ramban. He was accompanied by several party functionaries during his visit to district Ramban including Sheikh Bashir Ahmed and Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretaries.

The senior NC leader observed that the ground situation in context with the development in the rural and hilly belts is pathetic as people are craving for basic amenities. He said that people are confronting development deficit but the government is busy in spreading false narrative of colossal development in far off belts of J&K, which is a white lie as on ground people are facing multiple problems



with no solution in sight. He said that neglect of hilly terrains is visible on ground but the government is trumpeting development, development and development day in and day out.

The meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Sajjad Shaheen, District President Ramban, during which he shed light on the unfair treatment faced by the people of Batote. He apprised the senior functionaries of the Party that the people are facing shortage of drinking water and electricity. He mentioned that despite the Sher-e-Kashmir Emergency Hospital having a capacity for 13 doctors; only 2 doctors are presently serving. Furthermore, the youth in the district of Ramban are being overlooked

for employment opportunities in national projects presently running in district Ramban. He also pointed out that the Patnitop Development Authority is working against the interests of the people as they are unable to freely construct their residential houses.

Rattan Lal criticised the present government for its failure to stand on the expectations of people of Jammu and Kashmir. He expressed great disappointment against the LG's administration for their alleged failure to develop tourist spots in the Ramban district. He also raised serious concern over the incompetence of the local Municipal Committee Batote which has miserably failed to provide basic amenities to the local residents.

The senior NC leader asked the government to prioritize local youth in the ongoing national projects within District Ramban to address the problems being faced by youth due to highest ever employment in J&K. He further asked government to construct a tunnel from Tringula to Kud for smooth functioning of traffic of local populace.

The Provincial President emphasized that only National Conference can bail out people from this misery as castles of development made by J&K Government in air are distant apart from reality. He called upon party workers to gear up for the upcoming polls. He stressed upon the need of unity and dedication to overcome obstacles

and ensure the success of the party.

Dr. Shamshad Shan, DDC Chairperson of Ramban, voiced her disappointment with the lack of support from the government. She criticized the administration's delaying tactics, which have resulted in hindrances to various developmental projects in the district.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretaries, Shamim Akther DDC Member, Abid Magrey District Vice President Ramban and Arif Mir District Secretary Ramban said that wrong decisions of government have made the lives of people a virtual hell therefore people should support NC to ensure public welfare and a meaningful life. They said National Conference is a secular party and only it will fulfill the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Among those who were present include Nafid Mir, Raja Arshad Ali, Amar Chand, Ravinder Singh, Babar Malik, Adil Mir, Zatuan Akther, Pooja Jaggi and other functionaries of District, Blocks and Halqa.

Cyber Jagrookta Divas organised by Kishtwar Police



TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Sep 12: The evolving digital landscape demands constant vigilance, and SSP Kishtwar Khalil Poswal-JKPS took a proactive step towards fostering cyber awareness in the community. The event, known as "Cyber Awareness Day," was hosted at Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School Kishtwar.

SSP Kishtwar Khalil Poswal spearheaded a comprehensive cyber awareness session. The program aimed to educate attendees about cybercrimes and instill an understanding of safeguarding Internet-connected systems, including hardware, software, and data, against cyber-attacks.

In a remarkable display of digital inclusivity, 25 schools from various locations were connected through virtual platforms, allowing students to participate in this crucial initiative.

SSP Kishtwar Poswal addressed various types of cybercrimes, such as cyberbullying, child pornography, cyber grooming, online sextortion, and phishing. A detailed presentation was delivered by SSP Kishtwar, providing valuable insights into the complexities of cybersecurity.

SSP Kishtwar Khalil Poswal-JKPS also shared critical advice with the student community, emphasizing the need for caution while navigating the internet

and avoiding falling victim to cybercriminals. He encouraged students to become ambassadors of cyber awareness, spreading knowledge about the risks associated with digital transactions and social media applications. The institute's principal and staff expressed their gratitude to Kishtwar Police for organizing such a vital program for the students and staff of Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School Kishtwar.

In an age where digital literacy is paramount to personal and collective security, the Cyber Awareness Day organized by Kishtwar Police represents a commendable effort to strengthen digital resilience within the community.

Abdul Rahman of Doda receives education dynamo award by AICPE

TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Sep 12: In a heartwarming recognition of unwavering dedication and innovation in the realm of computer education, Abdul Rahman, a 30-year-old educator hailing from a remote village in the Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir, was bestowed with the prestigious Education Dynamo Award by the All India Council for Professional Excellence (AICPE).

Rahman, affectionately known as Abid Rahman, operates the Al-Rahman Institute of Computer Education in the scenic Kahara area of Doda.

His journey from a common data entry operator to a dynamic educator has not only transformed his life but



has also left an indelible mark on the educational landscape of his region.

The AICPE, an organization dedicated to creating career-oriented programs for aspiring professionals, entrepreneurs, and freelancers, recognized Rahman's remarkable contributions to computer education.

The certificate presented to Rahman reads: "EDUCATION DYNAMO - This award is presented to ABDUL RAHMAN, AL-RAHMAN INSTI-

TUTE OF COMPUTER EDUCATION, KAHARA | DODA, in celebration of incredible dynamism and innovation in the field of education. Your boundless energy and creative approaches have transformed the learning experience for countless students. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition for your exceptional contributions to the world of teaching."

AICPE's foundational belief that every willing learner can succeed in the professional world, irrespective of formal education, aligns seamlessly with Rahman's journey. He embodies the idea that with the right platform and determination, individuals can carve their own paths to success.

Rahman's institute offers computer courses

to students from diverse backgrounds, paving the way for them to find career opportunities in India and beyond. The institute's commitment to short-duration certification programs designed to meet academic, employment, and vocational requirements has created a reputation for excellence in the region.

Moreover, the AICPE certificate awarded to Rahman is recognized by the Employment Exchange, Government of Maharashtra, for student registration as educated unemployed individuals, providing students with a valuable foothold in the job market.

DYSS District Level Inter-School Tournament enters day 6

TOP NEWS REPORT

UDHAMPUR, Sep 12: District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Udhampur, continued to ignite the spirit of competition and sportsmanship as reach the sixth day of the District Level Inter-School Tournament.

This sporting event, held under the patronage of Subash Chander Chibber, Director of Youth Services and Sports, has been a testament to the exceptional talent and dedication of the youth of Udhampur.

The sixth day of the tournament brought forth a series of thrilling competitions in Tug of War, Judo, Handball, and Wrestling. These events have showcased



the unwavering commitment and competitive spirit of the young athletes.

Judo Winners: Below 45 kg: Abhi Sadotra of GHSS Boys Udhampur; 55kg: Pardeep Singh of GHSS Garhi; 60 kg: Naresh Singh of GHSS Garhi; 66 kg: Sudesh Singh of GHSS Garhi; 73 kg: Navjot Singh Jamwal of GHSS Garhi.

Tug of War Winner: BBSVP Udhampur emerged victorious by

defeating GHSS Garhi in a straight set of 2-0, displaying exceptional teamwork and determination.

Trials cum selection of players for the Inter-District School Level Handball competition were conducted at the Mini Stadium Udhampur, providing a platform for young talents to showcase their skills.

Wrestling Winners: Below 57 kg: Ankit Singh of APS Udhampur;

61 kg: Azad Ahmed of GHSS Boys Udhampur; 65 kg: Sudesh of GHSS Garhi; 79 kg: Nayn Gotam of BBSVP; 86 kg: Amit Thakur of BBSVP.

District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Udhampur, Romesh Chander Mishra, addressed all participants and emphasized the importance of fair play, sportsmanship, and healthy competition in shaping the future of these young athletes.

Chandel demands withdrawal of security arrangements for those betraying BJP in Kashmir

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sept 12: Hindu nationalist BJP leader Shri Raju Chandel, while speaking to journalists today in Jammu, praised the action taken by BJP high command against the traitorous leaders in Kashmir, who were involved in anti-party activities. He stated that this action should have been taken long ago by our senior BJP leaders, but it was taken late.

He welcomed the party's action against the hidden traitors and rebels within the party. Shri Chandel told journalists that those who are making conspiracies against the party and causing disruptions within are all these Jai Chands, referring to the PDP, NC, Congress,



and all their leaders who are working against the BJP and the central government. He said that such traitors are not needed in the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Shri Chandel said that he is having discussions with the senior and old leaders of Kashmir Valley and the action being taken against the hidden traitors in all parties is being well-received by

all district presidents and senior leaders of the BJP.

Chandel demanded from the senior BJP leaders that all the hidden traitors of Kashmir within the BJP like Gaddar Mauka Parast and the true patriot brother Ravindra Raina who are trying to discredit them and engage in treachery with the BJP, should be exposed as soon as possible. He stated that there is absolutely no need for such leaders in the Bharatiya Janata Party and they should be shown the way out as soon as possible. Otherwise, these Jai Chands will cause significant damage to the Bharatiya Janata Party in the upcoming assembly elections.

Now spent forces can't befool people of Chenab Region: MPEJ

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 12: Apropos to the news item published in a section of press, the statement issued by the NC Provincial President, Rattan Lal Gupta, titled "NC castigates Govt for neglecting Bhardarwah on tourism front", the Members of Movement for Peace, Equality & Justice (MPEJ), while reacting to it, have strongly ridiculed the statement maintaining that NC & Congress have ruled the state for about 67 years is squarely responsible for all evils, neglect, under development, corruption, nepotism & discrimination with Jammu & Ladhak regions in general & the rural areas of Kashmir Division in particular & they are primarily answerable not exploiting huge potential of Tourism, Hydro-electric projects, huge mineral wealth like world famous sapphire, gypsum, ruthless cutting & wasting forest wealth, huge scenic spots in the entire Chenab Region ignored particularly after "NOORI" film success & same is the case of Pir Panjal area & the rural areas of Kashmir Division as well as the remaining Jammu Division & they (NC & Congress) always remained against decentralization of powers as a result far off hilly & remote areas of the entire J&K state remained neglected & under development & in 2 year's coalition government of BJP- PDP they also followed the same path.

The MPEJ members decried over step motherly treatment in all walks of life, with the poor public of Chenab Region in general & Sub-Division Thathri in particular, at the hands of successive state & central governments till date. It is irony of fact that erstwhile District Doda which has now been bifurcated to Three Districts has sent several Cabinet

Ministers in the state as well as central council of Ministers but sadly the socio, economic, Health system & educational conditions did not change, however changing the conditions of our said leaders & Ministers significantly.

The MPEJ, members said that Jai, Padri, Chattergalla, Nalthi-Basti, Sarthal, Chinta Valley, Jantron Dhar, Bhal Padri, Lal Draman, & Machail, Barnaz valley in Sub-Division Paddar have vast potential to attract films & tourism pilgrimage, the members said & demanded that the list prepared by the government in connection with Film policy announced in 2022 to include some spots for tourism pilgrimage must include the above noted spots of, Bhardarwah, Sub-Division Thathri, Sub-Division Gandoh, Sub-Division Paddar & other natural scenic tourism spots of Chenab Region in the larger interest of poor people of the area, for their all round development.

They have expressed great dismay & sadness over the functioning of administration under Lt. Governor, Sh. Manoj Sinha, as there appears no accountability on the Bureaucracy as none seems serious and responsible in Tourism. The members said that whole Chenab Region is having abundant mesmerizing attractive tourist spots which can go a long way in the development of the areas and boosting the economy of the poor people.

The members further said that the Sub-Division of Paddar alone is attracting lakhs of pilgrims in summer season every year during nationwide famous Machail Yatra in District Kishtwar. Besides, there are many places with lush green meadows, waterfalls, snow clad hillocks and beautiful pastures which can attract lakhs of tourists

for pilgrimage tourism. Meanwhile, most attractive spots of Sub-Division Thathri like JANTRON DHAR, Lamhote Dhar, Mata Reshwari Temple, (Lambi Jai hardly 9 kms from Jaura Kalan Panchyat of Kahara Tehsil, Sub-Division Thathri) need special attention as these spots, can attract several thousand tourists every year to give a fillip to the tourism in the area if exploited fully. They have expressed great shock & anguish over the neglect of LAMBI JAI - of Bhardarwah Constituency in District Doda, a most mesmerizing natural scenic spot which, if explored, can become a most attractive spot for the Tourists. He said that in 'JAI Valley', some huts have been constructed by the Government Agency within a radius of around 100 sq. mts leaving / ignoring a vast adjoining area of LAMBI- JAI having potential of so many scenic tourists structures/ huts and a beautiful lake within an area of more than 2.5 kms.

They have urged upon the Lt. Governor to look into the matter personally and deeply & direct the concerned to visit on spot and make a detailed Project Report-DPR for the development of the LAMBI-JAI, having a great potential of vast lake having source of natural stream & its surrounding spots so that tourists flow is ensured & development of the area ushers in giving fillip to the economic conditions of all the surrounding villages of Tehsils Kahara, Chiralla, Phagsoo, Thathri, Gandoh & Bhardarwah. They further demanded that many more tourist Development Authorities need be sanctioned at Sub-Division Thathri as also Gulab Garh Paddar and other attractive places to be identified in consultation with the local representatives of Districts Ramban, Doda & Kishtwar.

'Scoop', Karishma Tanna nominated for top honours at Asia Contents Awards & Global OTT Awards

Netflix show 'Scoop' and its lead star Karishma Tanna are nominated for the Asia Contents Awards & Global OTT Awards 2023, the organisers announced on Tuesday.

According to its official website, Asia Contents Awards & Global OTT Awards is an annual event to celebrate the achievements of excellent content made for TV, OTT, and online across Asia. It is organised by Busan International Film Festival and Korea Radio Promotion Association.

While 'Scoop' has secured a nomination in the Best Asian TV Series, Tanna is vying for the Best Lead Actress trophy at the awards.

'Scoop' follows Jagruti Pathak (Tanna), a star crime reporter at a Mumbai newspaper, who makes headlines after she is accused of her rival Jaideb Sen's murder.

The critically-acclaimed Hindi language series, created by Hansal Mehta and Mrunmayee Lagoo Waikul, premiered on



Netflix in June.

Mehta, also director of the series, congratulated the team for this "great honour". Backed by Indian production banner Matchbox Shots, the show is inspired by Jigna Vora's biographical book 'Behind the Bars In Byculla: My Days in Prison'.

"#Scoop on @NetflixIndia nominated for ACA and Global OTT Awards. - Best Asian Series - Best Actress @KARISHMAK_TANNA... A great honour for the entire team. This is all because of them. Congratulations partner in crime @mrunmayeelagoo @MatchboxShots," Mehta said in

a post on X.

In the Best Asian TV Series category, 'Scoop' will compete with 'The Black Yard' (Kazakhstan), 'Not Others' (South Korea), 'Delete' (Thailand), and 'Taiwan Crime Stories' (Taiwan).

Besides Tanna, other Best Lead Actress nominees are South Korean star Song Hye-kyo ('The Glory'), Hollywood star Zoe Saldana ('Special Ops: Lioness'), Singaporean star Rebecca Lim ('Third Rail'), and Malaysian actor Emily Chan ('The Patient').

The Asia Contents Awards & Global OTT Awards 2023 will be held on October 8 at the BIFF Theater, Busan Cinema Center, during the course of the Busan International Film Festival, which runs through October 4 and October 13.

Indian films also will have a strong presence at the 28th edition of the upcoming film gala, which will see premieres of several titles such as 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahani', 'Joram', 'Agra', and 'Against The Tide'.

Shehnaaz Gill announces release date of 'Ranna Ch Dhanna' starring Diljit Dosanjh and Sonam Bajwa



Actor Shehnaaz Gill took to Instagram and X to share an exciting update about her upcoming film, 'Ranna Ch Dhanna'.

The actor announced that the film, starring her, along with singer-actor Diljit Dosanjh and actor Sonam Bajwa, would release on October 2, 2024.

Taking to her social media handles, the actor shared the poster of the film and wrote, "Ishq ne ghalib nikamma kar diya warna cheez toh hum thay kaam ki, #RannaChDhanna movie releasing in cinemas worldwide 2nd Oct, 2024!!!"

Written and directed by Amarjit Singh Saron, the film's poster shows Diljit, Sonam and Shehnaaz and other women, in animation style.

Reacting to the announcement, fans shared their excitement about the film. An X user wrote, "Wowww THANKYOU FOR BIG SURPRISE >> AFTER HONSLA RAKH THIS WILL BE BIG HIT YEAHHHHH."

Another wrote, "SHEHNAAZ ND DILJIT MY FAV DUO BACK AGAIN >>>."

Tarak Mehta fame Neha SK Mehta to be seen in Dil Abhi Bhara Nahi

Neha SK Mehta, who started her acting journey with Gujarati theatre, is back on stage after 12 years and this time around with a Hindi play. She will portray Vaidehi in Sanjay Jha's Dil Abhi Bhara Nahi.

Best remembered as Anjali Taarak Mehta in Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah, the actress tells us, "I feel blessed to be offered an author-backed role in the play just like my TV shows Dollar Bahu, Chando She Shamdo, Pannal Patel, and Chand Ko Kaho Chhup Jaye.

This has made my journey all the more worth it."

Talking about dabbling in theatre after a long gap, she says, "Any form of theatre is a blessing for an



artiste. I come from a traditional family where values matter more than

money and we cannot sell our art beyond a limit."

Drew Barrymore announces Season 4 of her talk show amid strikes

The Drew Barrymore Show will reportedly return to TV screens sooner than planned due to the writers' and actors' strikes, despite the WGA's threat to picket the show's studios on Monday and Tuesday.

Drew Barrymore revealed in a lengthy Instagram post that her daytime chat show will begin its fourth season shortly, in compliance with the conditions of the Writers Guild of America and SAG-AFTRA (Screen Actors Guild and American Federation of Television and Radio Artists) strikes.

However, a Writers Guild official said that Drew is a struck show, and union members are



planning to picket outside of Barrymore's studios in New York City on Monday and Tuesday.

According to reports, Drew plans to premiere its fourth season on September 18. Drew is a signatory to WGA and that the show will be produced without literary material, similar to ABC's The View.

Barrymore began her Instagram post by referring to her decision to walk away from hosting the MTV Film and TV Awards in May, in solidarity with the writers who had just gone on strike.

It had a direct conflict with what the strike was dealing with which was studios, streamers, film, and television, she wrote in the post and caption. "It was also in the first week of the strike and so I did what I thought was the appropriate thing at the

time to stand in solidarity with the writers."

According to a report, the next season will introduce a new face, celebrity hairstylist Chris Appleton, who will join the show's team of lifestyle specialists, which also includes news co-anchor Ross Mathews, interior designer Mikel Welch, chef Pilar Valdes, and sustainable living expert Danny Seo.

The show will also introduce a new segment, Take Care Everywhere, with The Menopause Bootcamp founder Dr Suzanne Gilbert-Lenz, as well as bring back previous segments such as Drew-Gooders, Design by Drew, and Cookbook Club.

Actress, anchor and pageant mentor Supreet Bedi comes out with her book, titled Be Ready For The World



Actress, anchor and pageant mentor

Supreet Bedi says that her journey has been

eventful. She adds that her first book on communication strategies, titled Be Ready For The World, which will help her reach a wider audience and promises to enhance one's communication skills — be it an interview, a corporate presentation, a social conversation or even a pageant!

"I started as a ZoomTV presenter in 2006. From Shah Rukh Khan to Tom Cruise, I interviewed many Bollywood and Hollywood celebrities and was admired for my unique and confident style of talking. This led me to become a communication skills coach and pageant mentor. I've also been an actor alongside and was recently seen in the film Neeyat with Vidya Balan.

Now, through my book on communication strategies, I aim to reach a wider audience and share a detailed plan for confident representation," she says.

She adds, "This book aims to bring about a much-needed change in our look, outlook and speech. There is a huge difference between just saying the words and delivering them powerfully."

Pooja Bhatt reveals Shah Rukh Khan's insight on her father's kiss controversy



Pooja Bhatt recently addressed the controversial lip kiss she shared with her father, Mahesh Bhatt, in a candid interview. This kiss had caused quite a stir in the industry.

During her chat with Siddharth Kanan, Pooja revealed that she has no regrets about the kiss and discussed her father's decision to remarry, emphasizing her lack of insecurity about it.

Pooja expressed her absence of remorse for the kiss and shared that Shah Rukh Khan had told her that children often seek kisses from their parents. She likened herself to a forever youthful child in her father's eyes.

She summed it up, "I see it simply, and a frozen moment can be interpreted both accurately and inaccurately."

She described it as an innocent moment and stated that she couldn't spend her life defending it, cautioning against misinterpreting a father-daughter bond.

It's noteworthy that Mahesh Bhatt addressed the controversy surrounding the lip kiss in an interview, stating that if Pooja hadn't been his daughter, he would have married her, which had caused quite a commotion.

Mahesh Bhatt was formerly married to Kiran Bhatt and has two children with her, Pooja and Rahul. He later found love with Soni Razdan, with whom he has Shaheen and Alia Bhatt.

Janhvi Kapoor wraps 'Ulajh'

Produced by Jungle Pictures, the movie is billed as a patriotic thriller set in the world of Indian Foreign Services

Actor Janhvi Kapoor has completed shooting for "Ulajh" and said her biggest learning while working on the upcoming film has been "to allow yourself to love what you do".

Directed by National Award winner Sudhanshu Saria and produced by Jungle Pictures, the movie is billed as a patriotic thriller set in the world of Indian Foreign Services (IFS).

Kapoor, who plays an IFS officer in "Ulajh", shared the update on the film's wrap on Instagram Sunday night.

"It's a wrap still having dreams of the world we tried to create. Each film has been a lesson, and its story deeply and coincidentally intertwined with things happening in my life.

"And through Suhana's journey, and the journey of making this film- my biggest learning has been to allow yourself to love what you do, to identify if you're doing it for the right reasons, to let go of baggage and external pressures and opinions..." the actor wrote in her post alongside pictures from the wrap party. She also thanked Saria for making her believe in herself.

"You made me feel



heard, and seen and made me want to fight battles that I never knew I had a right to even be a part of. To see you smile in the face of each obstacle and embrace

each challenge with enthusiasm is beyond inspiring," she added.

The 26-year-old actor said working on the film was a "healing" experience thanks to the team.

Kashmir's saffron, Darjeeling tea to Kannauj ittar and Sunderbans honey: PM's gifts slices of Indian heritage to G20 leaders

NEW DELHI, Sep 12 (Agencies): Kashmiri saffron and pashmina to Kannauj ittar and honey from the Sunderbans, Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted slices of Indian heritage from all over the country to the G20 leaders.

The presents featured a gift hamper of the following products—Kashmiri saffron and pashmina; Araku coffee from Andhra Pradesh, special honey from the Sunderbans, Darjeeling and Nilgiris teas and Zighrana ittar tastefully packed into sheesham treasure chests.

The curated compilation of handcrafted artefacts and products were meant to reflect Bharat's rich cultural traditions, government sources said.

Some of the products are the product of centuries of tradition and cherished across the world for their unparalleled workmanship and quality.

These were meticulously created by the hands of master craftsmen. Some other products are the result of the unique bio-diversity of our country. The hamper's hallmark was the sheeshamwood sandook with brass lining. The treasure chest holds a special place in Indian cultural and folk legends, besides being an epitome of exquisite workmanship.

The chest was handcrafted using sheesham (Indian rosewood), which is valued for its strength, durability, distinctive grain patterns and rich colour. The brass patti (strip) is delicately etched and embedded on to the wood, transforming the piece into a masterpiece of visual delight and tactile splendour.

The chest contained Red Gold saffron from Kashmir, which is the most exotic and expensive spice in the world.

Across cultures and civilisations, saffron has been valued for its unparalleled culinary and medicinal value.

It is a treasure of nature, both



rare and enticing. Each strand of it comprises the stigma of 'Saffron Crocus'. The stigma's crimson hue holds the concentrated essence of sun-soaked days and cool nights. Cultivating saffron is a very labour-intensive process. It requires the delicate hand-harvesting of thousands of flowers (each flower contains three crimson stigmas) to yield a mere ounce of the spice.

The Champagne of Teas — Pekoe Darjeeling and Nilgiri Tea is also part of the hamper.

Pekoe Darjeeling and Nilgiri Tea are two illustrious gems from Bharat's tea tapestry, epitomising the delicate art of tea cultivation and infusion.

Darjeeling tea is the most valued tea in the world. Only tender shoots are handpicked from shrubs, located on the misty hills of West Bengal at altitudes of 3,000-5,000 feet. These nuances, along with the soil's unique character, get reflected in the highly aromatic and invigorating cup that comes to your table. Nilgiri Tea comes from the most spectacular mountain range in South India cultivated amidst the mountains' lush terrain at an elevation of 1,000-3,000 feet.

The tea is relatively mild. At the same time, it is renowned for its clean flavour. It is a preferred choice for lemon iced tea.

Araku coffee is the world's first terroir mapped coffee, grown on organic plantations in the Araku Valley of Andhra Pradesh. These coffee beans bear the

essence of the valley's rich soil and temperate climate.

The coffee plants are cultivated by the valley's farmers who farm the land in complete harmony with nature. They work by hand in small farms and grow the coffee naturally, without the use of machines or chemicals. This ensures that the coffee is organic and the cultivation is sustainable. What the end user gets is traditional coffee powder/beans directly from a farmer's house. Pure Arabica with a rare aromatic profile, Araku coffee is known for its unique texture and a symphony of flavours that makes for a smooth, well-balanced cup.

The Sunderbans is the largest mangrove forest in the world, located on the delta formed by the confluence of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers in the Bay of Bengal. It is home to wild colonies of honeybees. Before the culture of beehive farming, people used to hunt the honeycombs from the wilderness. This tradition of beehive hunting is still practised among the people of Sunderbans.

The distinct and rich flavour profile of Sunderbans honey mirrors the bio-diversity of the area. It blends the nectar of various mangrove flowers like Khalisha, Bani and Garan ... to create a harmony of sweet and earthy notes. It is less viscous than other types of honey.

Besides being 100% natural and pure, Sundarban honey is also high in flavonoids and pro-

vides valuable health benefits.

Kashmiri Pashmina shawl has many enchanting stories woven into its fabric. 'Pashm' means wool in Persian. But in Kashmiri, it refers to the raw unspun wool of the Changthangi goat (the world's most unique Cashmere goat) found only at a height of 14,000 feet above sea level. The wool is collected by combing (and not shearing) the undercoat of this goat. Skilled artisans hand-spin, weave, and embroider their delicate fibres using age-old processes. The result is a light, warm and intricate shawl that embodies timeless elegance and craftsmanship.

In ancient courts, Pashmina was used as an indicator of rank and nobility. The fabric was an integral part of the rituals of bestowing honour upon anyone.

Zighrana Ittar is a masterpiece of fragrance hailing from Kannauj, a city in Uttar Pradesh. 'Ittar' (meaning 'perfume') is an essential oil derived from botanical sources. It showcases a centuries-old tradition of exquisite perfume crafting. Skilfully distilled using a method passed down through generations, Ittar is an ode to precision and patience. Master artisans delicately gather rare blossoms like jasmine and roses at dawn, when their fragrance is most potent.

Through the meticulous process of hydro-distillation, the essential oils are extracted and then matured over time, allowing the notes to harmonise and deepen. This alchemical journey culminates in Zighrana Ittar - a fragrant symphony that resonates with the rich heritage of Kannauj. Some niche and artisanal perfumes also incorporate ittar into their creations, for its unique and natural scent profile.

Zighrana ittar transcends time, conjuring up images of ancient bazaars and royal courts, where once its scent graced the air.

23 Manipur MLAs sign resolution to protect territorial integrity of state

Chief Minister N Biren Singh not among the signatories



IMPHAL, Sep 12 (Agencies): Twenty-three MLAs of the BJP-led government in Manipur have signed a resolution, pledging to protect the territorial integrity of the strife-torn state.

The MLAs also resolved that they would soon proceed to Delhi to persuade the central leadership to bring a solution to the present crisis at the earliest. Interestingly, Chief

Minister N Biren Singh was not among the signatories.

The signatories, after a meeting with members of newly formed civil society organisation Youth of Manipur at the CM's secretariat on Monday night said the Kuki Zo community's demand for a separate administration was not acceptable to them.

"It is unanimously resolved by all the undersigned members

of the legislative assembly that we would stand for the territorial integrity of the state of Manipur and no form of separate administration will be agreed to by us," the resolution read.

On Monday night, thousands of members of Youth of Manipur marched towards the CM's bungalow to meet him, but security forces allowed only some of them past the barricades.

During their meeting with the CM, the YOM members demanded that legal action be taken against the 10 Kuki MLAs who demanded separate administration for the community in Manipur.

They also demanded the convening of a special assembly session to discuss the matter, and the National Register of Citizens exercise in the state.

Three killed in fresh violence in Manipur

IMPHAL, Sep 12 (Agencies): At least three people were gunned down by unidentified men in Manipur's Kangpokpi district on Tuesday morning, an official said.

He said the ambush took place between Ireng and Karam Vaiphei villages in Kangpokpi area.

"We do not have much details now. All we know is that the incident took place around 8.20 am

when unidentified men gunned down three civilians in an area between Ireng and Karam Vaiphei," the official said.

The incident comes close on the heels of the violence that broke out at Pallel in Tengnoupal district in which three persons were killed and over 50 injured on September 8.

More than 160 people have been killed and several hundred injured since ethnic violence

broke out in Manipur on May 3, when a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the majority Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status.

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

Soon, Pakistan-occupied Kashmir will merge with India on its own: VK Singh

DAUSA, Sep 12 (Agencies): Union Minister and former Army chief Gen VK Singh (ret) has claimed that Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) would merge with India soon "on its own".

"PoK will merge with India on its own, wait for some time," the Union minister for State said while responding to a query at a press conference here regarding demands of Shia Muslims in PoK seeking opening of border with India.

The minister was addressing a press conference in Dausa during a Parivartan Sankalp Yatra programme of the BJP.

The Union minister also spoke about the success of the recently concluded G20 Summit under India's presidency. He said that that the grandeur of the



summit had given India a unique identity on the world stage and the country had proved its mettle in the world.

On the question about the BJP's chief minister's face in the state for the upcoming assembly elections, VK Singh said that the BJP does not declare the chief minister's face whenever elections are held.

Men On Bikes Loot Cash Van In UP's Mirzapur, Shoot At 4, Guard Dead

Mirzapur robbery: Police said that the men attempted to rob the van, and it is still being ascertained how much cash has been looted.

LUCKNOW, Sep 12 (Agencies): In a shocking incident of day-light crime in Uttar Pradesh's Mirzapur today, at least four men on motorcycles shot one guard, two cashiers, and another person in front of a bank, and fled with a cash box they snatched from a vehicle. The cashier who was in the van carrying the cash said the box had 39 lakh.

The guard died during treatment, and the other three are still under medical care.



The entire incident was captured by security cameras.

A CCTV clip showed a man wearing a helmet sauntering around the van, which was parked on the side of the road

and shot the guard in the back at close range. Others scrambled, the man standing in wait pulled out a gun and snatched a backpack from one of the men in the van, as another man pulled out a big box from the back of the van, and all of them fled the spot.

The guard could be seen lying on the road and trying to get up. He is later helped to his feet by onlookers who ferry the injured to a hospital in battery-powered rickshaws.

Top police officers, including the Deputy Inspector General (DIG), Superintendent of Police, and Additional SP, reached the spot with heavy police force to investigate the scene of the crime.

The SP said that the men attempted to rob the van, and it is still being ascertained how much cash has been looted.

The Incident occurred in front of the Axis Bank located in Beltar of Katra Kotwali area.

Maharashtra man kills live-in partner after she files rape case against him

PALGHAR, Sep 12 (Agencies): A 43-year-old man from Maharashtra's Palghar district allegedly killed his live-in partner after she filed a rape complaint against him, police said on Tuesday.

The incident took place between August 9 and 12 and the body of the 28-year-old victim is yet to be found, they said.

The accused, a resident of Vasai area in Palghar, was arrested on Tuesday, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Vasai, Padmaja Bade said.

The victim's family filed a missing person's complaint with the Naigaon police on August 14, an official from Naigaon police station said, adding they suspect the accused disposed of the body in neighbouring Vapi town of Gujarat.

A preliminary probe revealed the accused was angry as the victim had filed a rape complaint based on which a criminal case was registered against him, Bade said.

The woman had refused to withdraw the complaint, hence the man allegedly killed her, the official said.

The Naigaon police registered an FIR against the accused on Monday under Indian Penal Code Sections 302 (murder) and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence) following a complaint by the victim's sister, she said.

The accused is also facing a case of abetment of suicide lodged against him at another police station in Mira Bhayander-Vasai Virar police limits, the official said without elaborating.

Probe agency ED raids 40 locations in Tamil Nadu in crackdown on sand mafia

NEW DELHI, Sep 12 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday launched a major crackdown on sand mafia in Tamil Nadu, carrying out raids at over 40 locations across the state.

The raids took place at sand mining sites, sales depots and the offices and residences of sand mining contractors at several locations, including Vellore, Chennai, Dindigul, Tiruchi, Karur and Pudukottai, among others.

The ED's investigation into the sand mining scam was triggered by allegations of money laundering and substantial tax evasion within the sand mining industry. It is alleged that while sand was officially sold online with an e-receipt provided at the sand mining depots, there were significant offline sales of sand that weren't consistently recorded.

The probe agency was investigating whether appropriate taxes were deposited into government accounts based on the e-bills issued.

Among those targeted in the raids were industrialists S Ramachandran and Dindigul Rathinam, who hold sand mining licenses, as well as a chartered accountant and a sand mining contractor named Rathinam. These individuals were under the radar of the ED.

Nearly 80 Students Hospitalised Due To Suspected Food Poisoning In Telangana



HYDERABAD, Sep 12 (Agencies): As many as 78 students of a residential girls school in Nizamabad district in the state took ill after having their meals and were hospitalised, an official said on Tuesday.

Several students of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) in Bheemgal town of the district complained of

vomiting and stomach pain after having dinner on Monday, due to suspected food poisoning.

A total of 78 students have been admitted to hospitals in Bheemgal and Nizamabad, the official said, adding it to be a case of mild food poisoning.

All are now stable and undergoing treatment, the official added.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un arrives in Russia for rare summit with Vladimir Putin

It has sparked Western concerns about a potential arms deal for Moscow's war in Ukraine

SEOUL, Sep 12 (Agencies): Joined by his top military officials handling his nuclear-capable weapons and munitions factories, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un arrived in Russia on Tuesday, where he is expected to hold a rare meeting with President Vladimir Putin that has sparked Western concerns about a potential arms deal for Moscow's war in Ukraine.

North Korea's official news agency said Kim boarded his personal train from the capital, Pyongyang, on Sunday afternoon, and that he was accompanied by unspecified members of the country's ruling party, government and military. Jeon Ha Gyu, spokesperson of South Korea's Defence Min-



istry, said in a briefing that the South's military assesses that Kim's train crossed into Russia sometime early ON Tuesday. He didn't elaborate how the military obtained the information.

North Korean state media showed photographs of Kim walking past honour guards and crowds of civilians holding the national flag and flowers, and also of him waving from

his green-and-yellow armoured train before it left the station.

Kim's delegation likely includes his foreign minister, Choe Sun Hui, and his top military officials, including Korean People's Army Marshals Ri Pyong Chol and Pak Jong Chon.

Citing unidentified Russian regional officials, Japanese broadcaster TBS reported that Kim's train crossed the border and arrived in the border town of Khasan.

A brief statement on the Kremlin's website on Monday said the visit is at Putin's invitation and would take place "in the coming days." KCNA said the leaders would meet — without specifying when and where.

Death toll in Morocco earthquake surpasses 2,600



AMIZMIZ (MOROCCO), Sep 12 (Agencies): The death toll in the devastating earthquake in Morocco has

risen to 2,681, and the injuries to 2,501, according to the latest statement released by the Moroccan govern-

ment.

The rescue teams dispatched by Spain and the UK have arrived in the village of Amizmiz near the epicentre. Helicopters are seen shuttling back and forth between the tremor-hit old city of Marrakesh and other quake-affected areas, Xinhua news agency reported.

Rescue and relief efforts are also continuing to access the hardest-hit mountainous regions.

There is still a shortage in the supply of gasoline and covers.

The 6.8-magnitude earthquake hit the North African country on Friday.

River of red wine flows through Portuguese town after distillery accident

LISBON, Sep 12 (Agencies): Following an accident at a distillery in the small Portuguese town of Sao Lourenco do Bairro, a river of red wine was seen flowing through the streets there, the New York Post reported.

The incident happened when barrels carrying 600,000 gallons of liquor unexpectedly collapsed.

Soon the incident went viral and the videos posted on social media showed the red liquid running down a steep hill in Sao Lourenco do Bairro on Sunday, which has a population of about 2,000, according to New York Post.

The leak was so large that the wine that spilled might have filled an Olympic-sized swimming pool, causing an environmental alert.

Officials immediately sprang into action, trying to halt the wine before it turned the Certima river into wine. The Anadia Fire Department shut off the flood and moved it away from the river, where it ran into a nearby field,



New York Post reported citing the local media.

According to firefighters, the wine flooded a basement at a residence near the distillery as well.

Taiwan says it spotted 22 Chinese warplanes and 20 warships near the island

Taiwanese military to continue the monitor the movements of Chinese warplanes and warships

TAIPEI (TAIWAN), Sep 12 (Agencies): Taiwan said on Tuesday it spotted 22 Chinese military aircraft and 20 vessels near the island over the previous 24 hours, as Beijing steps up its military activities in the area.

Over the weekend, the United States and Canada sailed warships through the Taiwan Strait in a challenge to China's sweeping territorial claims. On Monday, China sailed a naval formation led by its aircraft carrier Shandong, about 70 miles (110 kilometres) to Taiwan's southeast. The vessel was expected to conduct drills simulating aircraft, submarine, warship and land attacks, according to Chinese state media.

Thirteen of the Chinese military aircraft reported on Tuesday had crossed the median line



of the Taiwan Strait, an unofficial demarcation zone between China and Taiwan, according to Taiwan's defence ministry.

China claims Taiwan, a self-ruled democracy, as part of its territory to be reunited by force if necessary. Over the past year, Beijing has stepped up military activities around the island,

including by sending warships and warplanes on a near-daily basis.

"The period from July to September this year was the peak period for the Chinese Communist Party's exercises," Maj. Gen. Huang Wen-Chi, the assistant deputy chief with the General Staff for Intelligence of

Taiwan's Defence Ministry, said during a press conference.

"There are a lot of warship activities in the waters surrounding the Taiwan Strait. There was also a large number of warships operating in different areas in the South China Sea and East China Sea," he said.

Huang said the Taiwanese military would continue the monitor the movements of Chinese warplanes and warships.

On Saturday, the USS Ralph Johnson and the Royal Canadian Navy's Halifax-class frigate HMCS Ottawa sailed through the Taiwan Strait. The timing coincided with a Group of 20 leaders' summit in New Delhi.

The US routinely sails through the strait in what it calls "freedom of navigation" operations, which China sees as provocative actions.

Putin calls Trump legal cases 'politically motivated persecution'

MOSCOW, Sep 12 (Agencies): Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday described legal proceedings against former US president Donald Trump as "politically motivated persecution."

The Kremlin, seen as having friendly relations with Trump, has repeatedly spoken out in defence of the former president, who is facing a series of charges linked to election interference.

"As for the persecution of Trump, for us, in the current environment, it's good because it

shows the rottenness of the American system," Putin said at an economic forum in the Far East.

"It is a politically motivated persecution of one's competitor."

Putin, who served in the Soviet security services, added: "And this shows who we are fighting ... As they said in Soviet times: 'the bestial face of American capitalism.'"

Relations between Washington and Moscow, strained by a litany of issues under Putin, have hit new



lows since the Kremlin launched large-scale hostilities in Ukraine.

Putin said he did not expect any change in the US foreign policy stance towards Russia regardless of "whoever will be elected president" next year.

He accused Washington of stoking anti-

Russian feelings among ordinary Americans.

"Current authorities have directed American society in an anti-Russian spirit," the Russian leader said.

"They've done it and now somehow turning this ship in the other direction will be very difficult."

Rescue teams retrieve hundreds of bodies in Derna, one of the Libyan cities devastated by floods

CAIRO, Sep 12 (Agencies): Rescue teams in eastern Libya have retrieved hundreds of bodies from the rubble in a coastal city that has been inundated by devastating floods, a humanitarian agency said Tuesday. Authorities estimated that as many as 2,000 people are believed dead in the city of Derna.

Mediterranean Storm Daniel caused devastating floods in many towns in eastern Libya. But the worst destruction was in Derna, where heavy rainfall and floods broke dams and washed away entire neighbourhoods, authorities said.

Ossama Hamad, prime minister of the east Libya government, said that several thousand people were missing in the city and many were believed to have been carried away after two upstream dams burst.

After more than a decade of chaos, Libya remains divided between two rival administrations: one in the east and one in the west, each backed by militias and foreign governments. The conflict has left the oil-rich country with crumbling and inadequate infrastructure.

The Libyan Red Crescent said early Tuesday that its teams counted more than 300 people dead in Derna. The government in east Libya declared the city



a disaster zone.

More bodies were still under the rubble in the city's neighbourhoods, or washed away to the sea, according to east Libya's health minister, Othman Abduljaleel.

Derna residents posted videos online showing major devastation. Entire residential blocks were erased along Wadi Derna, a river that runs down from the mountains through the city centre. Multi-story apartment buildings that once stood well back from the river were partially collapsed into mud.

Abdul Jaleel said the city was inaccessible and bodies were scattered across it, according to Libya's state-run news agency. He said there wasn't an exact death toll as of Monday night in Derna, but the tally is expected to exceed 2,000 as teams combed through the rubble.

"The situation was more significant and worse than we expected. ... An international intervention is needed," he was quoted as saying.

Emergency responders, including troops, government workers, volunteers and residents were digging through the rubble to recover the dead. They also used inflatable boats to retrieve bodies from the water. Excavators and other equipment have yet to arrive in the city.

Residents described scenes of chaos when floods hit the centre. They heard loud explosions at night and realized that dams outside the city collapsed, sending a wall of water that "erased everything in its way," said Ahmed Abdalla, a Derna resident.

Workers said they buried more than 200 bodies in one cemetery on Monday. Footage overnight showed dozens of more bodies lying on the ground in a hospital yard in Derna.

The storm hit other areas in eastern Libya, including the town of Bayda, where about 50 people were reported dead. The Medical Center of Bayda, the main hospital, was flooded and patients had to be evacuated,

according to footage shared by the centre on Facebook.

Other towns that suffered included Susa, Marj and Shahatt, according to the government. Hundreds of families were displaced and took shelter in schools and other government buildings in Benghazi and other towns in eastern Libya.

Authorities in east and west Libya rushed to help residents of Derna. Foreign governments also sent messages of support to Libya. Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates were among those that said they would send humanitarian assistance and teams to help with search and rescue efforts.

Derna is about 900 kilometres (560 miles) east of the capital Tripoli. It is controlled by the forces of powerful military commander Khalifa Hifter, who is allied with the east Libya government. West Libya, including Tripoli, is controlled by armed groups allied with another government.

Much of Derna was built by Italy when Libya was under Italian occupation in the first half of the 20th century. The city was once a hub for extremist groups in the yearslong chaos that followed the NATO-backed uprising that toppled and killed longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi in 2011.

Rain in south China causes over 100 landslides, residents trapped in floodwaters



BEIJING, Sep 12 (Agencies): Days of relentless rain from the remnants of former Typhoon Haikui have caused more than 100 landslides, trapped about 1,360 residents in floodwaters and killed at least seven people in China's south, said state media.

Typhoon Haikui hit southern China eight days ago and has since been downgraded to a tropical storm, but unrelenting rain continues to deluge southwestern Guangxi.

Incessant storms in the last three days in most areas of Yulin city caused 115 landslides that destroyed roads, uprooting trees, inducing floods and leading authorities to issue a warning of emergencies on national and provincial trunk highways, state media said.

Three people remain missing and rescue operations were ongoing.

Further south near the coast, Beihai city was inundated from widespread downpour. Rescuers were seen

treading thigh-deep in waterlogged areas evacuating residents in boats. About 1,360 people were trapped on Tuesday, state media said.

The city's observatory raised its storm warning to the highest in a four-tier alert system after more than 101mm (4 inches) rain poured in a three-hour period on Tuesday morning, and flagged risks of flash floods, geological disasters and waterlogging in urban and rural areas.

Haikui, which weakened to a tropical storm after making landfall in southeastern Fujian province on Sept. 5, had last week wrecked havoc in the populous city of Shenzhen dumping historic rainfall since records began in 1952. Neighbouring Hong Kong was also pelted by the worst storm in 140 years.

Scientists warn that typhoons hitting China are becoming more intense and their paths growing more complex, escalating risk of disaster, even in coastal cities such as Shenzhen that already have strong flood defence capabilities.

China Meteorological Administration forecast heavy rains in the south and southeast parts of Guangxi on Tuesday and Wednesday, with storms in the southwest. Localised hourly precipitation could hit 70mm (2.76 inches) in some areas, it said.

The national forecaster also warned relevant departments and people in Guangdong and Guangxi to be alert to any delayed effects of disasters from frequent rainfall in recent days.

Why elections to ULBs not under State Election Commission, asks Congress

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 12: Congress has questioned why the Jurisdiction of state election Commission is not extended to ULB elections, without which the entire exercise of elections including preparation of Electoral rolls, is violative of the constitution and unconstitutional, more particularly after abrogation of special status & J&K made UT, whereby entire constitution is applicable to J&K.

Taking strong exception to the fact that the exercise for the upcoming elections to the ULBs is being conducted by the Chief Electoral Officer and not by the state election Commission which has jurisdiction over Panchayats only, so far, as per 73rd amendment

whereas it is the same Commission which is supposed to conduct election to ULBs in view of 74th amendment, said JKPC Chief Spokesperson. How is it justified that the elections to the rural PRIs - panchayats, BDCs, DDCs etc are conducted under superintendence & control of state election Commission, while as Urban PRIs- ULB elections are being conducted by another election authority- office of CEO, he asked.

It is totally illegal, unconstitutional and against the provisions of 74th amendment, which is directly & fully extended to the J & K but not implemented in this regard by the dispensation claiming one nation, one constitution. The state election Commission was incorporated in the state Panchayat Raj Law by amendment on the insistence Congress in coalition with NC, after the elections to BDCs, were aborted over the issue of full implementation/ incorporation of all relevant provisions of 73rd amendment. It was later done in March 2014 by amendment in the state legislature whereby entire jurisdiction over the electoral exercise including delimitation of wards was given to the commission. After the coming into power, the BJP always tried to weaken & dilute the 73rd by incorporating indirect elections to Sarpanchs, which was later undone by then Governor N N Vohra during Governor rule.

Referring to the process of delimitation and rotation etc, he

said that 73rd 74th amendment provided the same to be done under supervision of independent institution of election Commission in the absence which it is illegal and violative of the provisions of 74th amendment. Congress in coalition with NC had incorporated all good provisions of 73rd including state election Commission but same was not extended to ULBs by BJP controlled government since 2015, till date.

Terming the exercise of elections to ULBs and all related matters as illegal and unconstitutional, particularly after the whole constitution is directly extended and applicable to J&K, post 5th Aug 2019, for quick understanding of BJP, the UT administration and the general public,

Congress questioned the exercise already initiated, as without jurisdiction and demanded immediate extension of the jurisdiction of election Commission over the whole exercise of elections & related matters, to the Commission, as provided by Article 243ZA of the Constitution of India which reads as under " Art 243ZA - Elections to the Municipalities - (1) - The Superintendence, direction & Control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of all elections to the municipalities shall vest in the state election Commission as referred in the art, 243K."

Since constitution is supreme, any provisions of law to the contrary, is violative the constitution and cannot sustain, he added.

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Since constitution is supreme, any provisions of law to the contrary, is violative the constitution and cannot sustain, he added.

Youth facing mental stress due to delay in recruitment process: Vijay Sharma

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, SEP 12: Congress Seva Dal President Vijay Sharma Babbi has said that despite making tall claims of bringing transparency in the recruitment process of government jobs, the Jammu and Kashmir government is bent on ruining the future of the youth. Finance Account Assistant, Police Sub Inspector and many other recruitments were canceled after corruption allegations.

All those youth who were preparing for the examination with full honesty were punished for the dark deeds of



some corrupt people. The recruitment which was started 3 years ago has still not been completed.

Still students are in a state of confusion as to when the examination will start, if it starts, will it be completed and its result will also come. Today the youth are disappointed due to the

delay in the recruitment process.

There were many youths who were on the verge of becoming government job seekers who were working hard for government jobs.

Due to delay in the recruitment process, his dream of getting a government job has been shattered and he is looking at his future in darkness. Vijay Sharma said that the government should start all the pending recruitments as soon as possible so that the youth come out of despair and can take the examination with full enthusiasm.

GDC Neeli Nallah organized workshop on "Role of Yoga in Management of Substance-Use Disorders"



TOP NEWS REPORT

UDHAMPUR, Sep 12: NSS Unit, Sewak, Government Degree College Neeli Nallah, Udhampur organized one day workshop on the theme "Role of Yoga in Management of Substance-Use Disorders" under the banner Nasha Mukta Bharat.

The programme started with lighting of ceremonial lamp by the Principal, Yoga experts, staff members and followed by welcome address by the NSS PO, Dr. Radha Rani. The session started with Dhavni "OM" by Shreekrishna Sharma.

Then the second expert K.C Gupta introduced participants about different Yoga

Aasans like presence of mind, scientific meditation, will power, How to listen a lecture, clapping therapy, nostril control, self examination, precautions, a sound mind in a sound body, self motivation, personality improvement etc.

They encouraged all the students to involve themselves in various type of Aasans and meditations.

While addressing the students, Principal of the College, Prof. Hans Raj stated that the objective of the workshop is to raise awareness about the ancient practices of yoga and its positive impact on physical and mental well being and he urged the participants to adopt yoga as a part of their

daily routine life.

Students performed various Yoga asan for management of substance. The participants felt very relax and positive after performing yoga and meditation session, as they shared it during the interactive session.

The workshop is being organized under the guidance of Prof. Hans Raj, Principal of the College. Dr. Radha Rani, NSS PO was the convener of the programme and Dr. Swati Dutt was the organizer of the event.

Others present in the workshop were Pardheep Kumar, Kumari Mahima Bhagat, Dr. Akhter Hussain, Zahoor Ahmed Mir and Neha Devi.

Dimple stages protest against BJP leaders at Maharaja Hari Singh Statue

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 12: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, spearheaded a spirited demonstration at the Maharaja Hari Singh Statue on the Tawi Bridge to voice strong objections against the actions of BJP leaders in Jammu and Kashmir. During this demonstration, Dimple demanded that prominent BJP leaders, including Kavinder Gupta and LG Sinha, issue an apology to the Dogra community and the people of Jammu and Kashmir for impugning their patriotism and challenging the integrity of Jammu and Kashmir as an integral part of India.

Addressing the gathering, Sunil Dimple emphasized the need for BJP leaders to come forward and seek an apology from the Dogra community regarding the allegations that they were paid participants



in the Sarore Toll Plaza agitation. Dimple also raised concerns about the establishment of the Thandi Khooi Toll Plaza, asserting its illegality due to the absence of toll plazas in Union Territories and its proximity, just 60 kilometers away. Furthermore, Sunil Dimple pressed the BJP to reevaluate their stance on the status of Jammu and Kashmir, urging them to adhere to the principles laid out in the Instrument of Accession signed by Maharaja Hari Singh. He

called upon LG Sinha to retract his statements that have cast doubt on the nationality of the Dogra community and have alleged that the Sarore Toll Plaza, smart meters, property tax, and the Darbar Move were all sponsored agitation campaigns orchestrated by Dogra workers. Dimple reiterated the demand for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood with special status, emphasizing its historical significance and cultural importance.

Sunil Dimple pointed out that Jammu and Kashmir became an integral part of India on October 26, 1947, based on the conditions outlined in the Instrument of Accession, which are enshrined in the Indian Constitution. He stressed that their legal battle in the Supreme Court is centered around Articles 370, 35-A, and the Instrument of Accession conditions, which are integral to preserving the history, identity, culture, demography, land, jobs, and rights of the youth in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sunil Dimple reminded LG Manoj Sinha that Maharaja Hari Singh made Jammu and Kashmir an integral part of India on October 26, 1947, through the Instrument of Accession and its accompanying conditions. Dimple also announced plans to

celebrate Maharaja Hari Singh's birthday on September 23 and the Ascension Day on October 26 throughout Jammu and Kashmir, including in POK, Gilgit, and Baltistan, as these regions are an integral part of Jammu and Kashmir and India. Dimple expressed confidence in the strength of their case in the Supreme Court and their determination to reclaim the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir with the Instrument of Accession conditions, along with POK, Gilgit, and Baltistan as part of Jammu and Kashmir and India.

Other prominent leaders present at the demonstration included Rajinder Singh Pinki, Shami Salthia, Swarn Singh, Vijay Virdi, Arun Verma, Daleep Kumar, Vikas, Mohan Lal, S Kala Singh, Ballu Kumar, Lahori Shah, and many others.

FROM PAGE 1

Rajnath Singh inaugurates 90 infra projects in Jammu

Nechiphu Tunnel on Balipara-Charduar-Tawang Road in Arunachal Pradesh, along with the under-construction Sela Tunnel, will provide all-weather connectivity to the strategic Tawang region and will be beneficial to both the armed forces deployed in the region and the tourists visiting pristine Tawang.

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu joined the ceremony virtually. Reconstructed and revamped Bagdogra and Barrackpore Airfields in West Bengal will not only improve the defensive and offensive architecture of the Indian Air Force along the borders but will also facilitate commercial flight operations in the region, the spokesperson said.

The defence minister also laid the e-foundation of Nyoma airfield in eastern Ladakh which will be developed at a cost of Rs 218 crore for wide-ranging strategic air assets, the spokesperson said.

The construction of this airfield will tremendously boost the air infrastructure in Ladakh and augment the IAF capability along the northern borders, he said.

He said the surge in road and bridge construction by the BRO in the last three years has led to the completion of several critical and strategic projects which has bolstered the defence preparedness.

The BRO has also connected the farthest and most remote villages of the country like Huri in Arunachal Pradesh to the mainland. This connectivity has triggered reverse migration along the border villages.

In the last two years, the BRO has dedicated a record 205 infrastructure projects

to the nation at a cost of Rs 5,100 crore. Last year, 103 BRO infrastructure projects were completed at a cost of Rs 2,897 crore while in 2021, 102 BRO infrastructure projects were dedicated to the nation at a cost of Rs 2,229 crore.

The defence minister will also attend the ongoing North Tech Symposium at IIT Jammu's Jagti campus which was inaugurated by Vice Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen M V Suchindra Kumar on Monday.

LG releases book 'Song of a Veiled Women'

today. The Lt Governor complimented Sixteen-year-old Sumedha Manhas and wished her success in all future endeavours.

Delegation of Federation of All India Vyapar Mandal calls on LG Manoj Sinha

Consultant expressed their gratitude to the Lt Governor for the many initiatives taken by UT administration to promote Industries and Business activities in J&K UT.

They also apprised the Lt Governor of various issues of the business community.

The Lt Governor assured the members of the delegation of redressal of their genuine demands and safeguarding the interests of the MSMEs.

2 years imprisonment in Cheque bounce case, defaulter to pay Rs 16

lakh to the complainant

installments and share the profit of the business. The complainant informed the court the accused failed to repay. The accused issued five cheques which were presented before the banks and all these cheques were returned unpaid as "funds not sufficient".

The complainant later issued a legal notice to which Ameer did not respond. The court later took cognizance against the accused for commission of offences punishable under section 138 Negotiable Instruments (N.I.)Act, which provides for criminal provision regarding a cheque bounced due to insufficiency of funds.

Govt appeases US, causes suffering for local apple growers: Farooq Abdullah

we will take to the street and protest." **J&K Court sentences three persons to seven-year RI in culpable homicide case**

them were from one family and due to their incarceration in jail, they as well as their family has suffered immensely. The accused also prayed that two of them were students and as a result of the jail term, their whole career has doomed irreparably. However, the prosecution strongly objected to the plea for leniency.

The prosecution, led by additional public prosecutor Zia ur Rehman Khan, said it will be a mockery of justice to permit the accused to escape the extreme penalty of law when faced with such evidence. The common man will lose faith in the courts, Khan added.

He said it is the duty of every court to award proper sentence and that undue sympathy would do more harm to the justice system.

Three minor boys go missing, probe on

Kalmoona; and Uzair Ahmad Dar, the son of Mohammad Shafi Dar from Champpora. Sources stated, "The parents of the missing boys have filed a missing report at the Villgam Police Station."

Upon reaching out to SHO Villgam, Jaan Mohammad, it was confirmed that a missing report had been received. He stated, "We have initiated efforts to locate the trio," further urging local residents to come forward with any information or clues about the missing boys.

Four crushed to death as landslide strikes vehicle on JK National highway

Wagan Banihal on NH 44. Four bodies were recovered. All shifted to SDH Banihal."

"Victims of Wagan accident: M Afzal Garoo (driver), S/o Aziz Garoo, R/o Redwani, 42; M. Altaf Garoo, S/o Aziz Garoo, brother of driver, 36; Irfan Ahmed, S/o Ab Hamid Bhat, R/o Trail, Srifugara Anatnag, 33; Showkat Ahmed, S/o Ab Hamid, R/o

Trail Srifugara Anantnag, 29," Deputy Commissioner, Ramban posted on X. Meanwhile, the national highway is blocked following landslides at Kishitwari Pather in Banihal, and the traffic movement has been stopped from both ends.

The traffic police of the union territory issued an advisory stating that confirmation from the Traffic Control Unit (TCU) is advisable before movement on the highway.

J-K Traffic Police posted on X, "Traffic update @ 0700 hrs. Jammu Srinagar NHW blocked because of landslide at Kishitwari Pather Banihal. Traffic stopped from both ends. People r advised not to travel on NH-44 without confirmation from TCUs."

Earlier in August, the annual pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine of Shri Amarnath from Jammu to Srinagar was suspended on due to a landslide on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in Ramban district. The Jammu-Srinagar national highway connects Kashmir to the rest of the country.

Inquiry launched into alleged embezzlement in JK health department

uncovering the truth regarding the allegations made by Dhobi. Firstly, the inquiry seeks to determine the precise designation held by Arshid Ahmad Dhobi at the time of his initial appointment, shedding light on his official role within the organisation.

Secondly, a thorough investigation is underway to delve into the circumstances surrounding the loss of Arshid Ahmad Dhobi's service book, a critical document in his employment history.

Sensex extends rally to 8th day; Nifty falls marginally after hitting record level

Sensex climbed 94.05 points or 0.14 per cent to settle at 67,221.13

MUMBAI, Sep 12 (Agencies): The BSE Sensex extended its rally for the eighth day running on Tuesday, while Nifty ended marginally lower after scaling its fresh all-time high level amid mixed global market trends.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 94.05 points or 0.14 per cent to settle at 67,221.13. During the day, it jumped 412.02 points or 0.61 per cent to 67,539.10.

The Nifty, however, pared all its gains and ended marginally lower by 3.15 points or 0.02 per cent at 19,993.20 in a volatile trade. During the day, it climbed 114 points or 0.57 per cent to hit its all-time high of 20,110.35. Among the Sensex firms, Tata Consultancy Services, Larsen & Toubro, Infosys, UltraTech Cement, ICICI Bank, Nestle, ITC



and Sun Pharma were the major gainers.

Power Grid, NTPC, Tata Motors, Tata Steel, Mahindra & Mahindra and Reliance Industries were among the laggards.

In Asian markets, Tokyo settled in the green while Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower.

European markets were trading on a mixed note. The US stocks ended in positive territory on Monday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned buyers on Monday as they bought equities

worth Rs 1,473.09 crore, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.74 per cent to USD 91.31 a barrel.

The 30-share BSE benchmark regained the 67,000 level on Monday. The benchmark jumped 528.17 points or 0.79 per cent to settle at 67,127.08. The Nifty ended at 19,996.35, reflecting a gain of 176.40 points or 0.89 per cent. The Nifty scaled the record 20,000 mark for the first time ever in intra-day trade.

Paint industry growth to soften this year, say analysts from CareEdge Ratings

NEW DELHI, Sep 12 (Agencies): The Indian paint industry is likely to see slower growth in the current financial year after two years of scorching performance in FY22 and FY23, indicated an analysis by CareEdge Ratings.

Meanwhile, after growing at nearly 20% a year in the last two years, revenue growth is likely to moderate to 9-10% this year, even as operating margins are likely to improve by 1 to 2% due to lower raw material prices.

"The price hike of 15-20% in FY23 and around 2.5% in Q1FY24 undertaken by major players in the paint industry also contributes to the anticipated increase," noted the analysts from CareEdge Ratings.

The prices of raw materials which account for nearly 50-60% of total sales have remained high during FY22 and FY23 due to the supply disruptions during the Covid-19 pandemic followed by the Ukraine-Russia war impacting

the crude oil prices. However, the prices of raw materials have started cooling from the second half of FY 2023.

Prices of titanium dioxide, which contributes around 55-60% of the total cost of raw materials, declined by 30% year-on-year in the March-June quarter in 2023.

Further, with the decrease in the crude oil prices the raw material prices too softened.

"With the prices of paints staying firm and input costs softening, the industry is expected to witness an expansion in profit margins in FY24 in the range of 1-2%," said analysts from CareEdge.

The Indian paint industry is dominated by organised players, constituting approximately 70% of the total market share. As of the end of FY23, the organised market is valued at Rs 62,000 crore, the report noted.

Asian Paints, Berger Paints, Kansai Nerolac Paints, Akzo Nobel, and Indigo Paints, com-

mand a substantial 90% market share within the paint industry.

The top five industry players have demonstrated remarkable growth, registering a robust Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 14-15% over the past five years (FY19-FY23).

This growth trajectory notably accelerated during FY22 and FY23 aided by recovery in demand from key user industries, which rebounded after the initial pandemic induced setback.

Increase in competition The paint industry has seen the entry of several new business conglomerates, including Grasim Industries, Pidilite, and the JSW Group, who have joined the competitive landscape, challenging the established players.

"Even as the newcomers are equipped with robust financial and industrial footing, it is still anticipated that they will require a significant period, estimated at five to seven years, to

establish their presence in the market and secure a meaningful market share from the established industry leaders," the report said.

The top five industry players possess a substantial dealer network spanning the entire country in terms of distribution and market outreach. For example, prominent players like Nippon and JSW Paints, Indigo Paints, allocate nearly 15-20% of their sales budget towards advertising.

Meanwhile, Asian Paints allocate approximately 5% of their sales budget.

Achieving parity will demand substantial time and investment from the new entrants.

"Housing sector growth and demand for repainting amid growing aspirations among people will be the major growth drivers for decorative paints.

On the supply side, the industry is expected to augment capacity by 20% in the next three to four years, driven by the capex undertaken by the new and exist-

ing players. Hence, the competitive intensity is poised to escalate in the long haul," said Yogesh Shah, Senior Director, CareEdge Ratings.

Increase in demand The paint industry is expected to post a significant growth with the increase in demand from real estate.

"The real estate sector accounts for about 70% of the total paint demand. The demand from real estate is expected to be robust in FY24 on expectation of significant project completion, and increased government spending on affordable housing and infrastructure," said CareEdge Ratings.

Residential housing sales are expected to increase by 10% in the top fifteen cities during 2024.

Demand from repainting, which accounts for 80% of total decorative paint demand, is expected to pick up due to factors such as a growing population, an increase in rental homes and growth in the income levels of consumers.

IT hardware companies may get relaxation on imports this year: Report

NEW DELHI, Sep 12 (Agencies): The government has informed IT hardware manufacturers about its contemplation of implementing a registration mechanism for imports throughout the current fiscal year.

This proposed system would not include quotas or licensing requirements, potentially providing respite for prominent tech giants such as HP, Dell, Apple, Samsung, Lenovo, Asus, Acer, and others operating in the sector, reported The Economic Times.

As per sources quoted in the report, during the ongoing fiscal year, the government intends to solely monitor the origin and value of imported devices as part of an import management system. Companies are expected to be permitted to import the necessary quantities to fulfill market demand.

Quotas and additional compliance measures are anticipated to be introduced in subsequent stages or at the commencement of the next financial year, as per



officials.

This pivotal development was conveyed to industry stakeholders during a meeting held on September 8, which was chaired by Rajeev Chandrasekhar, the Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology.

The meeting witnessed the participation of prominent representatives from industry leaders such as Apple, Dell, Samsung, HP, HPE, Acer, Asus, Cisco, and Intel, alongside industry associations, including the India Cellular & Electronics Association

(ICEA) and the Manufacturers' Association for Information Technology (MAIT).

An executive who attended the meeting told the business daily that the government wants that the PLI for IT hardware 2.0 scheme to succeed. "Since the majority of the companies will commence manufacturing under the scheme from April 1 next year, there will be a gap in supplies, which can be met only through imports," the executive said.

This development follows an

August 3 notification by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), which, citing security concerns, initially categorized the import of specific IT hardware products like laptops, tablets, PCs, and servers as restricted, necessitating a license for imports with immediate effect.

However, due to strong industry pushback, the government extended the implementation deadline to November 1, 2023.

Furthermore, the government has assured companies that it will provide necessary support to bolster local manufacturing under the PLI scheme. Industry executives have expressed concerns that the implementation of import restrictions on November 1 could lead to supply constraints and price hikes.

They also pointed out that the demand for IT hardware has not yet fully recovered to normal levels this fiscal year, given that it experienced a more than 25 per cent decline in the preceding fiscal year.

Razorpay acquires digital invoicing startup BillMe



NEW DELHI, Sep 12 (Agencies): Fintech platform Razorpay on Tuesday said it has acquired Mumbai-based digital invoicing and customer engagement startup BillMe.

The partnership aims at empowering businesses with a hybrid model to engage better with end consumers, according to a release.

The company did not disclose the deal value. "Now with Razorpay's merchant relations and strong understanding of the market, we will

together enable a large base of offline retail brands to enjoy the best of both worlds, grow faster, and get seamless access to omnichannel payment solutions," Razorpay Managing Director and Co-founder Shashank Kumar said.

Founded in 2018 by Kuber Pritmani, Jai Hemrajani and Rupam Jain, BillMe has served over 4,000 businesses and 15,000 retail Points Of Sale (POS).

"Given the synergies between our cultures, values, and our visions,

we look forward to co-transforming the cycle of customer engagement alongside Razorpay, and thereby bring about a greater impact and experience for end-consumers," BillMe Co-founder Kuber Pritmani said.

This is the Bengaluru-based fintech's eighth acquisition, and first since its foray into omnichannel payments with the acquisition of end-to-end digital payments company Ezetap in August 2022.

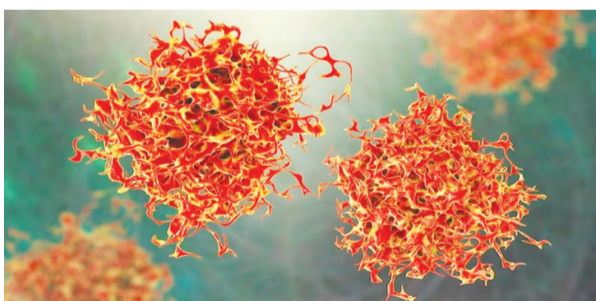
Indian scientists develop unique way to detect and kill cancer cells

NEW DELHI, Sep 12 (Agencies): Scientists at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have made a significant breakthrough in cancer research by developing a new method to detect and kill cancer cells.

The team has created hybrid nanoparticles, composed of gold and copper sulphide, which can destroy cancer cells through heat generation and enable their detection using sound waves. This innovative approach was detailed in a study published in ACS Applied Nano Materials.

The hybrid nanoparticles exhibit photothermal, oxidative stress, and photoacoustic properties.

When exposed to light, these particles absorb it and generate heat, effectively killing cancer cells. Additionally, they produce toxic singlet oxygen atoms that further contribute to the destruction of cancer cells.



Beyond their therapeutic potential, these nanoparticles also offer diagnostic capabilities. They can absorb light and generate ultrasound waves, enabling the detection of cancer cells with high contrast.

This property could enhance the accuracy of cancer diagnosis as sound waves scatter less than light when passing through tissues, providing clearer images and more precise measurements of oxygen saturation in tumors.

The IISc team's innovation addresses a key limitation of previously developed nanoparticles - their large size. By employing a unique

reduction method, the researchers were able to deposit tiny seeds of gold onto the copper sulphide surface, creating hybrid nanoparticles less than 8 nm in size.

These minuscule particles can potentially navigate through tissues easily and reach tumors, while also being small enough to leave the human body naturally without accumulating.

So far, the nanoparticles have been tested on lung and cervical cancer cell lines in laboratory settings.

The next step for the IISc team is to advance these promising results towards clinical development, marking a significant stride in the fight against cancer.

World Heart Day: How AI is helping cardiologists improve diagnosis, treatment

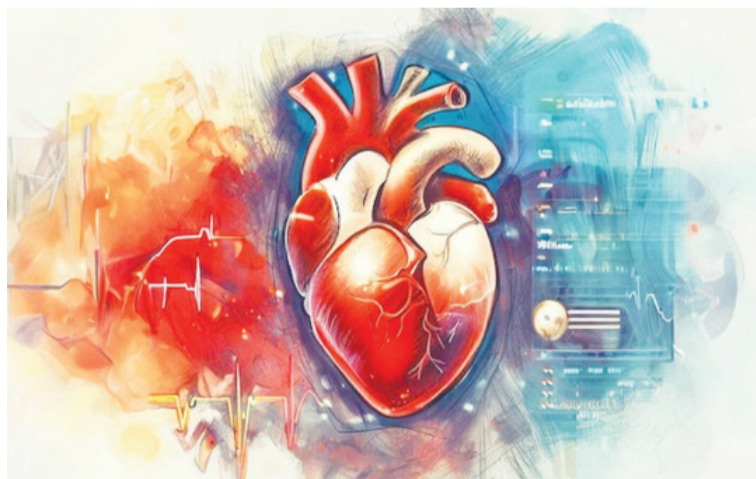
NEW DELHI, Sep 12 (Agencies): Artificial Intelligence (AI) has revolutionised the field of cardiology, particularly in coronary intervention.

It has brought about significant improvements in early detection, risk stratification, personalised treatment plans, real-time decision support and post-procedure monitoring.

Dr Manjinder Sandhu, Cardiologist at Max Healthcare, said that AI-based technologies are helping support coronary intervention and transforming heart health.

"This makes it possible for medical professionals to take action sooner, halting the advancement of the disease and possibly averting potentially fatal complications," said Dr Manjinder Sandhu. Early Detection

AI's ability to process vast amounts of data quickly and accurately allows for early detection of cardiovascular diseases. Machine learning algorithms can analyse medical images such as angiograms, CT scans, and MRIs, identifying early signs of cardiac abnormalities and arterial blockages.



This enables healthcare professionals to intervene promptly, preventing disease progression and potentially fatal complications.

Risk stratification is another area where AI shines.

"AI may also evaluate patient data, such as medical histories, lifestyle decisions, genetic data, and more, to determine a person's risk factors. Healthcare professionals can more efficiently manage resources by grouping patients into risk categories, ensuring that high-risk patients receive quick attention, and improving the delivery of healthcare overall," said Dr

Sandhu.

Personalised treatment plans In terms of personalised treatment plans, AI's ability to predict outcomes based on past patient data is invaluable.

"Using AI, cardiologists use cutting-edge machine learning algorithms to anticipate the results of various interventions based on prior patient data, helping them make choices about the best course of action for a given patient," said Dr Sandhu.

By doing this, it is made sure that treatments like angioplasty or stent placements are carried out with a higher possibility of

success and fewer chances of complications.

Real-time decision support AI also provides real-time decision support during coronary interventions. By collating and analysing data from various sources, AI algorithms can offer real-time insights and recommendations to the medical team, enhancing the safety and effectiveness of the procedure.

Effective monitoring post-procedure

Post-procedure monitoring and predictive analytics are other areas where AI plays a crucial role. The diagnosis, treatment, and management of heart problems have been completely transformed by using AI in coronary intervention.

"A patient's long-term recovery and potential hazards are predicted using AI's predictive analytics skills based on a variety of characteristics. With this, medical practitioners can design individualised post-intervention care plans that will guarantee patients get the assistance and further care they need," underscored Dr Sandhu.

GDC Kathua launches campaign on Mission Indradhanush 5.0



TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Sep 12: NCC Cadets of 4 J&K Bn of GDC Kathua Launches Campaign on 2nd round of Intensified Mission Indradhanush 5.0 on 12/09/2023. Under the intensified Mission Indradhanush 5.0, the Government of India is going to digitalize it and it will be named U-Win (win over vaccination).

The Intensified Mission Indradhanush 5.0 held in three phases: from August 7 -12, September 11 - 16 and October 9 - 14, in all districts of J&K UT. In this campaign, children between the age group of 0 to 5 years and pregnant women who have been left out in vaccination are to be vaccinated. The cadets launch their campaign by conducting an awareness

rally in Kathua on the importance of immunization.

The rally aimed to overcome barriers including hesitancy, myths and taboos related to vaccination among the general public. They raised the slogan in support of importance of immunization.

Cadets also conduct door to door rally in the slum area of migrant labourer where they

conducted an awareness drive among the female about the need of immunization to the pregnant women and children below 5 years.

During their campaign they elaborate to the masses that the Vaccination is being provided against eight vaccine-preventable diseases nationally, i.e. Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Polio, Measles, severe form of Childhood Tuberculosis and Hepatitis B and meningitis & pneumonia caused by Haemophilus influenzae type B and against Rotavirus Diarrhoea.

A total number of 30 cadets were present on the occasion. The whole activity was conducted under the supervision of ANO of the NCC unit Dr. Verinder Singh and under the able Guidance of Principal of the College Prof. Seema Mir.

Sahil Mahajan releases devotional Dogri Song 'Mela Chandi Maa Da'

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 12: Sahil Mahajan (JK UT Co-Convenor Sanskriti, Art & Culture Cell), Urvashi Gupta (State Mahila Morcha Vice President), Anil Kapda (Singer & Composer), Sanjay Kumar, Sonu Sagaram released Devotional Song "Mela Chandi Maa Da".

Speaking on the occasion, Sahil Mahajan complimented the singer making such a beautiful devotional song besides musicians and Composer on the release.

Observing that music knows no boundaries, the senior BJP leader said it binds the people in a unique cord and generates harmony in the society. "And, when music relates to spirituality, it directly touches souls and creates an aura free of tension and hatred.



Sahil Mahajan said while releasing devotional musical Song Sung by Prince lucky, Music Ashh K, Lyrics Munish Jammu, Video Director Shubham Bogal, Producer Mom Dad, Project by Sonu Sagaram and released under Banner Mahamaya Production.

Sahil Mahajan lauded the efforts of Prince lucky, saying his quest for devotional songs

holds a promise to be a leading artist in the near future, "Devotional music quenches the spiritual thirst of devotees", he said, wishing the young singer a bright future. He said music plays a pivotal role in preserving culture and taking it beyond boundaries.

The Senior BJP leader said that the Union Territory has no dearth of talent but the only need

is to identify and polish it by expert hands. He also hoped that the album will inspire young artists of the UT to explore their hidden talent and make their niche in the society. He hoped this would go a long way to promote local talent and said that youth should be educated about our traditional values which are the foundations of our age old heritage.

Accountability, transparency lacking in LG administration: Rajesh

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 12: The Jammu Warriors Front (JWF) Chief Rajesh Gupta today took a dig at J&K UT Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in his remarks in which he said, "The system, which functioned based on corruption, was demolished. Now the common man feels empowered with transparency in the system." "We have taken multipronged action against corruption, stringent action against offenders, and implementation of digital governance for accountability to usher in clean and transparent governance."

Rajesh Gupta said LG Sinha only gives attractive speech but never implements his own words. Gupta said



I challenge the LG to prove the transparency and accountability in his administration. People are facing many difficulties in every department of J&K UT. Gupta said corruption is at its peak and no officer is ready to listen to the common man's plea. "There is no accountability in the administration as a result of which the people are suffering on all fronts," he said. Gupta said the bureau-

cratic connection with the people is at an all-time low.

In the current spell of LG's rule, the people have no access to the top echelons of the administration, especially at a time when the entire Jammu region is reeling under acute power and drinking water crisis apart from unprecedented inflation, he said.

JWF leader further added that what to talk about officers of various departments even Raj Bhavan staff never respond to the common people's calls. LG Sinha is the favourite of BJP leaders and attends only them. Rest are his stepbrothers. He said, Jammu is ruined under the administration of LG Sinha. Everywhere there is a hue and cry.

Not a single citizen of Jammu is satisfied with the dictatorial attitude of the LG and his administration. They have multiple miseries through their anti-people decisions and measures despite brewing resentment among the people.

The JWF leader alleged that J&K has witnessed huge setbacks due to the revocation of statehood by the BJP government including the seizing of jobs, land, and the suppression of political and civil rights. He also castigated the Centre for remaining busy in rhetoric rather than doing work on the ground. He said that the situation on ground zero in J&K is contrary to the claims of the BJP leadership over colossal development and lasting peace.

Vinay rolls out the door-to-door campaign in Ward 22 under Meri Mati Mera Desh

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 12: Continuing the 'Meri Mati, Mera Desh' campaign in ward no.22, Shastri Nagar, Bharatiya Janata Party, BJP Senior leader and Seh Prabhari Jammu North District Vinay Gupta along with Ved Sharma Co incharge BJP all Cells today rolls out the door-to-door campaign in ward no 22, Shastri Nagar in Bahu Constituency collected the 'Mitti' soil from various households under its national campaign titled "Meri Mati, Mera Desh" program. In the meantime, the meeting was held regarding karykarm "Meri Mati Mera Desh" in the residence of Ved Sharma along with prominent persons of the area. Vinay Gupta appealed to all to collect fistfuls of rice or tulsai leaves from households where the soil is unavailable.



Speaking on the occasion Vinay Gupta said, "Under the 'Meri Mati, Mera Desh' campaign we honour India's land and bravery. The campaign is essentially a mission to reproduce a blend of scents from different cultures across the nation, an elated feeling of patriotism in the heart of the nation. It will essentially give rise to a feeling of belongingness to every Indian, whenever he/she visits the 'Amrit Vatika'." Vinay

said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi spearheads the campaign in which 'Mitti' collected from the houses and the ground near the statues/memorials of the martyrs will be transported to the National capital where it will contribute to the making of 'Amrit Vatika' in front of 'Rashtra Pati Bhawan' on 'Kartavya Path'. "The response has been good and Vinay accompanied by party workers also took out padyatra in ward no

22, Shastri Nagar, and also held an interactive session with the general public."

During the campaign under Meri Mati Mera Desh, Vinay highlighted the achievements of the Modi-led government and asked the general populace to avail the multiple schemes of the central government. While interacting with the public Vinay Gupta asserted that it's my moral duty to stay amid the general populace.

PTTI Vijaypur organizes demonstration on Multi-storey Room Intervention techniques for trainees

TOP NEWS REPORT

VIJAYPUR, Sep 12: Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur organized Practical Training cum Demonstration on Multi-storey Room Intervention techniques for trainees of ongoing SOG Refresher Course.

A Team of Technical Experts from SDRF, headed by SI S.S. Saini performed live demonstrations of Mountaineering viz. Rappelling, Ascending, descending, slithering etc and displayed multi-story room intervention techniques.

While speaking on the occasion, Kuldeep Raj, Dy.SP Indoor PTTI Vijaypur said that the aim of organizing such demonstrations and practical training for trainees is to enhance their skills and ability to



deal with terrorism more efficiently. He further said that techniques demonstrated by SDRF team would definitely help these Police personnel in performing their field duties more effectively.

Dushyant Sharma, SSP, officiating Principal PTTI Vijaypur expressed his gratitude to higher

authorities of SDRF for deputing their team to PTTI Vijaypur for demonstration. Among others, Zia-Ul-Haq, Dy.SP (Outdoor) PTTI Vijaypur, Inspr. Ram Lal Bhagat, Inspr. Javed Hussain, SI Kapil Raina, ASI Naresh Sharma, HC Narinder Kumar, HC Gopal Singh were present on the occasion.

GDC Chatroo takes a stand against corruption with "Bharashtchar Mukat Bharat" Program

TOP NEWS REPORT

CHATROO, Sep 12: In a remarkable effort to combat corruption and promote ethical values, GDC Chatroo on Tuesday organized a thought-provoking program titled "Bharashtchar Mukat Bharat."

The event, which was presided over by Dr. Ved Kumar, the Principal of the College, witnessed an enthusiastic turnout of students and faculty.

Distinguished speakers, Dr. Ashaq Hussain and Prof. Waseem Rasheed, delivered insightful lectures on the critical issue of corruption.

Dr. Ashaq Hussain and Prof. Waseem Rasheed shared their profound wisdom and expertise during their addresses, leaving a lasting impact on the audience.

Dr. Ashaq Hussain further added that the "Bharashtchar Mukat Bharat" campaign is not just a government initiative; it's a collective responsibility. Students and teachers, as the building blocks of our society, have a crucial role to play. By imparting moral education, raising awareness, leading by example, and actively participating in the fight against corruption, we can pave the way for a brighter, more honest, and prosperous India. He underlined the fact



that a corruption-free society begins with the collective efforts of its members and urged everyone to take an active part in this vital mission.

Prof. Chandar Parkash, NSS Program Officer of the College who oversaw the proceedings of the program, emphasized that corruption goes beyond financial transactions, encompassing any immoral activity that undermines the integrity of society. His words resonated with the audience, prompting reflection on the broader scope of corruption-related challenges. In his concluding remarks, Dr. Ved Kumar, the Principal of the College, passionately encouraged both students and faculty to join hands and actively participate in the "Bharashtchar Mukat Bharat"

campaign. He emphasized that making Bharat corruption-free is not just a responsibility but a collective commitment that requires the dedication of every citizen.

The event served as a call to action, inspiring individuals to come together and be the change they wish to see in their nation. The program ended with a formal vote of thanks.

He further added that, the program, "Bharashtchar Mukat Bharat," hosted by College, stands as a testament to the institution's commitment to nurturing ethical values and promoting a corruption-free society.