

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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PM Modi turns 73; President Murmu, others extend wishes

Upheavals in Xi Jinping's world spread concern about China's diplomacy

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BRIEFLY

DBU admission row: Police book University Chancellor, officials for duping students

SRINAGAR, Sep 17 (Agencies): In a significant development, the Punjab Police on Saturday booked the chancellor and owner of Desh Bhagat University (DBU) for allegedly duping students who had enrolled in the four-year nursing course.

The district police had already come under scrutiny for their forceful handling of protesting students, many of whom hailed from Kashmir. These students had been demanding police intervention against the university for offering nursing courses without the necessary approvals from regulatory bodies, including the Punjab Nursing Council.

According to the First Information Report (FIR), the Punjab Police have named several individuals in connection with this case.

The accused include chancellor Zora Singh, his relative Tejinder Kaur, university vice-president Harshdeep Singh, HK Sidhu, security in-charge Darsan Singh, and seven others who are identified, along with half a dozen unnamed individuals. They have been charged under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, including 406 (criminal breach of trust), 420 (cheating), 354B (assault or use of criminal force on a woman with intent to disrobe), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 341 (wrongful restraint), 427 (mischief causing damage), 506 (criminal intimidation), 148 (rioting), and 149 (unlawful assembly).

As already reported, university authorities instructed hostel boarders, primarily students from Kashmir, to vacate the premises. This decision was made amidst growing uncertainty about the transfer of admissions to another college within the DBU campus. The university had already suspended classwork due to ongoing student protests.

The root of this unfolding crisis can be

Rajya Sabha Chairman hoists National Flag at new Parliament building; Kharge gives a miss

NEW DELHI, Sep 17 (Agencies): Ahead of the special session of Parliament commencing here from Monday, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday hoisted the National Flag at the entrance of the New Parliament House building.

The Vice-President was accompanied by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge was not present. Earlier, in a letter to the Rajya Sabha Chairman, Kharge said he received the invite for the event only on September 15 evening and



could not arrive. Dhankhar described the occasion as the heralding of a new beginning, from one glorious legacy to another in

Bharat's Amrit Kaal, the 25-year journey up to the centenary of India's Independence in 2047. Hoisting the National Flag at the 'Gaja Dwar'

of the New Parliament Building today, Dhankhar said, "This is a historic moment and a milestone

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Anantnag operation enters 5th day, security forces hunt for terrorists in Gadole forest area

SRINAGAR, Sep 17 (Agencies): The operation to flush out terrorists hiding in Gadole forest area in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district entered the fifth day on Sunday as security forces widened the area of operation to neighbouring villages and fired several mortar shells towards the forest, officials said.

Security forces are using drones and helicopters for surveillance of the dense forest area where terrorists are believed to be holed up since Wednesday after killing two Army officers

and a deputy superintendent of police in the initial exchange of fire, the officials said.

As the assault resumed on Sunday morning, the security forces fired several mortar shells towards the forest, they said.

They said there were several cave-like hideouts in the forest area and drones were being used to pinpoint their locations to carry out attacks on them.

Drone footage showed a terrorist running for cover after one such hideout was hit by shells fired by security forces

on Friday.

The security cordon has been extended to neighbouring Posh Kreeri area as a precautionary measure to ensure that terrorists don't slip into civilian habitation, the officials said.

The Northern Army commander on Saturday visited the site of the gunfight to take stock of the operational situation.

Lt Gen Dwivedi was briefed by the ground commanders on the high-intensity operations, in which hi-tech equipment is being

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Ladakh saw unbelievable changes for the better after Article 370 Abrogation: LG Mishra



JAMMU, Sep 17 (Agencies): Ladakh witnessed "unbelievable" changes "for the better" since the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, Lieutenant Governor Brigadier (Retd) B D Mishra has said, exuding confidence that it would be the most developed Union Territory in the country in the next couple of years.

Mishra, who took over as Ladakh L-G in February, said his priorities include ensuring that the coming generations do not face water scarcity and creating

adequate jobs for the locals, besides making Ladakh "corruption-free and delay-free".

Last year, over 5.31 lakh tourists visited the Union Territory which has a population of around 2.75 lakh, he said.

"I have been there (in Ladakh) for seven months now and there is a sea change in terms of development, in people's outlook, in the benefit (being extended) to the people and also to the comfort of living," the Lt Governor told Video in an exclusive interview in

Jammu recently.

The local population has ambitions in agriculture, horticulture, pisciculture, sericulture, and animal husbandry sectors which are making progress, he said.

Mishra said the people of Ladakh are coming forward in setting up startups while infrastructures such as roads, bridges, tunnels, helipads and airports are being developed at a rapid speed.

This has been possible only after the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution in August 2019 when Ladakh was carved out of Jammu and Kashmir and became a Union Territory on October 31 of that year, he said.

Before that, there were agitations with people demanding that Ladakh be declared a Union Territory. It was because "people were

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Chinar Corp Commander LG Ghai reviews Anti-Infiltration grid on LoC

SRINAGAR, Sep 17 (Agencies): A day after a major infiltration bid was foiled, Army's Chinar Corps Commander Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai visited the forward area along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu Kashmir's Baramulla to review the anti-infiltration and counter-terrorist grid on Sunday.

The Corps Commander Lt Gen Ghai visited the forward area in Uri Sector to review the anti-infiltration and Counter



Terrorism grid along the LoC, the Army said. The Corps commander commended troops for maintaining the highest

standards of combat readiness and operational preparedness. He also complimented the

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Three-Member mobile stealing gang arrested in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Sep 17 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police have arrested a three-member mobile stealing gang and recovered mobile phones from them in Srinagar, police said.

The gang was operating in Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) hospital in Srinagar, the police

said on late Saturday. Police said a three-member mobile stealing gang operating in Srinagar's SMHS hospital has been arrested and 11 stolen mobiles were recovered from them.

The accused have been identified as Muneeb Jan a resident of Sekidafar Safakadal, Mohiudin Hakeem of

Chai Dub Safakadal and Mohammad Irfan Pampori of Safakadal.

A case under relevant sections of the law has been registered against the trio in a police station, they said.

"3 members of mobile stealing gang operating in SHMS hospital arrested, 11 stolen mobiles

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1 Jawan killed, another injured in accidental firing in 'Bandipora

SRINAGAR, Sep 19 (Agencies): An Army jawan was killed and another soldier injured when their colleague accidentally discharged his firearm in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district, police said on Sunday. According to a police statement, the accused army personnel has been detained and an investigation launched into the incident.

"There was an accidental discharge of weapon resulting in one fatal casualty and one injury to army personnel. The accused army personnel has been detained. Necessary legal action has been initiated," District Police Bandipora in Jammu and Kashmir posted on the X social media platform. More details are awaited.

Arrangements finalised for IAF's Maiden Air Show in Jammu next week

JAMMU, Sep 17 (Agencies): All necessary arrangements, including a tight security cover, have been finalised for the first-of-its-kind air show by the Indian Air Force here on September 21 and 22, officials said on Sunday.

According to a defence spokesperson, the air show at Air Force Station in Jammu will have the world-renowned IAF Air Warrior Drill Team (AWDT), the Akashganga Daredevil Skydiving team, Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT), Mi-17 helicopters and the IAF band. Sukhoi-30 fighter aircraft is also expected to showcase low-level aerobatics and



manoeuvring during the grand and spectacular event, which is being jointly organised by the IAF and civil administration to mark the 76 years of accession of Jammu and Kashmir into the Indian Union and the diamond jubilee of the Air Force Station Jammu, the spokesper-

son said. Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha will be the chief guest at the event, the official said, adding LED screens would be installed with live footage for the audience. Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, on Saturday,

reviewed the arrangements, including security, parking facilities, and seating arrangements, among others for the smooth conduct of the air show, officials said.

The Traffic Department was instructed to formulate a comprehensive traffic management plan and identify suitable parking areas, the official said.

The department will issue an advisory to avoid inconvenience to commuters, he added.

The Tourism Department has been mandated to carry out extensive publicity of the event as well as printing invitation cards and making

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Awaam Ki Awaaz: We have strict policy of zero tolerance against corruption: LG Sinha

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Sep 17: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha during this month's Awaam Ki Awaaz programme has expressed his gratitude to the citizens and civil society members of the UT for their overwhelming participation in Bhrashtachar-Mukt J&K Campaign.

"J&K Administration has strict policy of zero tolerance against corruption. It is heartening to see collective efforts to get rid of scourge of corruption and integrated approach to strengthen transparency and accountability in the system to build progressive, prosperous Jammu Kashmir," the Lt Governor said.

He said the whole-of-society approach adopted by the UT Administration is instrumental in empowering citizens, mobilising people against corruption and reinforcing trust between the public and the Government.

The Lt Governor highlighted the significant role of Jan Bhagidari in creating a conducive environment for a pro-



gressive society.

"Amrit Kaal gives people a unique and historic opportunity to take a great leap forward and work with one resolve and one goal of building a strong, vibrant Jammu Kashmir," the Lt Governor said.

India has emerged as a leading voice of the world and consensus on New Delhi G20 Summit Declaration is a testimony of its vital role in bringing all the countries together to combat global challenges. With the successful conduct of G20 Summit, UT of J&K has also entered a new era of opportunities to tap its true potential, he added.

The Lt Governor appreciated Mukesh Kumar from Akhnoor and Ramban's Rakesh

Kumar for sharing their valuable suggestions for useful improvements in Bhrashtachar-Mukt J&K Campaign and accountable and responsive governance.

Probity should become a way of life. More such alert citizens should come forward and make their important contribution in the fight against corruption, he said.

The Lt Governor made a special mention of National Award-winning teacher Reyaz Ahmad Sheikh from Anantnag and National Youth Brilliance Awardee Urfee Yousuf, a graduate student at S.P. College Srinagar for their dedicated service and contribution in the field of education.

He lauded the endeavours of Retired School Teacher Reva Raina of

Bhaderwah and Retired Bank employee Uma Sharma of Jammu for creating the right environment of learning for out-of-school children.

The Lt Governor also congratulated the innovative farmers including Baldev Raj, Manzoor Ahmed and Masrat Jan for their unwavering determination and continued pursuit of excellence in agriculture and allied sector.

During this month's edition, the Lt Governor shared the inspirational success stories of the women and young entrepreneurs of the UT.

New-Age women entrepreneurs like Reetika Mahajan from Udhampur are leading the socio-economic growth of J&K UT, the Lt Governor said.

Gulshan Banoo of Hidyul village in Kishtwar has become a beacon of change in her district. Her entrepreneurial venture is a testament to talent, passion, and sheer determination, he added.

The Lt Governor also appreciated the efforts of Aamir Lone of Khadinayer, Baramulla and

Basit Hussain of Srinagar for venturing into developing greenhouse projects and beekeeping and establishing a Spice unit.

Youth have instinctive attraction to big dreams and determination to build a brighter future, the Lt Governor said. He mentioned about Bandipora's Mohammad Hussain who quit his MNC job in the quest for new discovery and dreams and started his own business venture in Sheep Farming.

The Lt Governor voiced the suggestions received from Som Datt Sharma from Jammu, Doda's Rozy Bano, Faizan Ul Shafi regarding promotion of regional languages in the UT, scaling up business units under self-help groups run by Rural Livelihood Mission and promotion of Agri-Tourism for offbeat destinations. He also shared the inputs from Afzal Siddiqui from Srinagar, Jammu's Danish Samotra and Suheeb Ahmed from Shopian on promotion of tourism as a career option for youth.

Dr. Jitendra flags off SMVD Narayana Healthcare TB Mukht Express



TOP NEWS REPORT

UDHAMPUR, Sep 17: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said, Public private partnership (PPP) with integrated strategy is essential to achieve 'TB Mukht Bharat' which is actually inspired

by PM Narendra Modi's commitment of 'TB Mukht Bharat' by 2025.

The event also coincides with the birthday of Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said this while flagging off SMVD Narayana Healthcare TB Mukht Express at Udhampur with the slogan 'Chalo Chale TB Ko Harane'.

Dr. Jitendra Singh mentioned that India's efforts to eradicate TB by 2025 is a role model for the world and urged citizens to work collectively towards TB elimination in the true spirit of Jan Bhagidari.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, considering the deep societal and economic impact caused by Tuberculosis, the Govt. of India has placed a high priority for 'TB Mukht Bharat' by 2025 and Biotechnology is going to play a huge part in

the integrated holistic healthcare approach against elimination of Tuberculosis.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, strategies such as private sector engagement, active case finding, decentralization of services through Health and Wellness Centres, community engagement and Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana have transformed India's TB management efforts and made it patient centric.

During the program, Dr. Jitendra Singh also distributed kits among TB patients adopted by him in his parliamentary constituency to take care of their daily needs to accomplish PM Narendra Modi's vision of TB Free India by 2025.

Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur, Saloni Rai and DDC Chairman, Udhampur, Lal Chand were present during the program.

Rahul appointed as J&K State Spokesperson of IYC

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 17: Rahul Tandon, a prominent leader within the Youth Congress in Jammu and Kashmir, has been appointed as the J&K State Spokesperson by the Indian Youth Congress.

The appointment was officially communicated through a letter issued by Youth Congress President Srinivas Bv. In the letter, Rahul Tandon was entrusted with this responsibility on a probationary basis, effective immediately. The Indian Youth Congress is confident that all appointees will dedicate their full time

and energy to further strengthen the Congress Party under the able and dynamic leadership of Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, and Rahul Gandhi.

Rahul Tandon has been an integral part of the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Youth Congress for several years. Prior to this role, he held the position of General Secretary within the Youth Congress. Rahul Tandon has consistently played a leading role in ensuring that the policies of the Congress Party reach the grassroots level. Additionally, he has been actively addressing the concerns of local residents

and advocating for their issues.

Expressing his gratitude, Rahul Tandon extended thanks to prominent leaders within the party, including Rahul Gandhi, Krishna Allavaru, Srinivas B.V, as well as their mentors, Jagdev Gaga and Amit Pathania. He also acknowledged the contributions of Vikar Rasool Wani, Raman Bhalla, and state youth leaders who have been instrumental in motivating youth to join the Youth Congress and actively engage in serving the people of Jammu and Kashmir, including Satish Sharma and Sandeep Rissam.

NSS SMVDU initiates "Swachhta Hi Sewa" Campaign



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 17: The NSS unit of SMVD University organized a cleanliness drive in Sirah village under the aegis of "Swachhta hi Sewa" campaign. The main motive of the drive was to aware villagers about importance of cleanliness and to collect single use plastic waste. The NSS volunteers started the event with an awareness

rally by chanting slogans. More than 60 NSS volunteers actively participated in the event and collected around 85 kg of plastic waste. Village roads were also swept by volunteers. The NSS coordinator and co-coordinator Dr. Rajiv Kumar and Dr. Kamaldeep, respectively appreciated the efforts of NSS volunteers. The Vice Chancellor Prof. Pragati Kumar congratulated team NSS for the initiative.

BJP busy in celebrations, people of J&K suffering on all counts: Bhalla

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 17: Congress Rajni Bala Corporator Ward -60 today inaugurated bathrooms and sitting arrangements with proper sheds at graveyard in Upper Paloura Ward -60 in presence of JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla, former Ministers Mula Ram, Yogesh Sawhney, former PYC President Uday Bhanu Chib, President DCC Jammu Rural Hari Singh Chib, Som Nath Sharma President BCC Pata Paloura, Uttam Singh former Corporator. The funds for construction of bathrooms was granted by Smt Ambika Soni, MP Rajya Sabha. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Youth President Jammu North Assembly Sunil Singh, Nazir Ahmad, Shahbaj Ahmad Gullu, Barkat Ali, Mumtaz, Parveen Akhtar, Raj Bibi, Veena Devi, Surinder Kumar, Jung Bahadur Singh, Billa, Gulam Ahmad,



Aju, Krishan Kumar, Pummy Manhas, Dayal Singh, Harbans Kumar, Dev Raj, Dr Chander Mohan Sharma, Krishan Chand, Parshotam Singh President BCC Bhalwal besides others.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla said GOI has failed to address the legitimate aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, saying that words alone won't suffice to improve the situation on the ground. He said BJP Govt has failed to live up to the spirit of accommodation and reconciliation towards realization of

the legitimate political aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Today democracy in J&K is facing onslaughts from no other than the ruling party itself.

Mulla Ram slamming the BJP Government for misleading the nation with the claim of normalcy in J&K, expressed concern over the fresh wave of terror attacks across the Union Territory (UT). Expressing concern over the killing of innocent people and security personnel, senior Congress leader criticized the BJP-led

Central government for claiming that terrorism has ended in Jammu and Kashmir.

Yogesh Sawhney speaking on the occasion said that the BJP Government has deeply disappointed the people of Jammu again and again. Every section is under stress and pressure from the various failures of this Government. He said people are protesting for lack of basic facilities. He further claimed that men, women and students, poor and middle class, all sections are not happy.

Hari Singh Chib and Uday Bhanu Chib said that dismantling of Jammu and Kashmir's edifice into two separate Union territories was criticized as a blatantly unilateral decision. They said not even a single drop of 20 lakh crore packages reached to J&K.

Corporator Rajni Bala in her address said that the claims of the Centre on bridging development deficit and creating employment opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir had rung hollow. She said that "good governance" in J&K was "confined to papers only" and that the ground situation belies all the claims of the administration. She said that the J&K administration was indulging in extensive window dressing to hide its failures. "People are suffering on different counts ranging from inflation, development deficit, rising unemployment, and administrative inertia," she said.

G20 NORTHERN RAILWAY
Notice Inviting Tender

Sr.DEE/TRD/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date 10.10.2023 at 15:00 only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.

Tender No. : 508B-TRD-FZR-2023-24, Name of work : Electrification of Washing Lines at Chheharta and Amritsar stations over Firozpur division, App. Cost (Rs.) 2,36,21,985,28P, Cost of Tender form (Rs.) : NIL, Date & Time for submission of tender : Upto 10.10.2023 15:00 Hrs, Earnest Money # (Rs.) : 2,68,100/-, Completion Period : 06 Months, Opening of tender : 10.10.2023 after 15:00 Hrs, Website : www.itrps.gov.in

Note : # Tenderer (s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete & invalid offer and for which contractor shall have no claim on Railway.

No. 508B-TRD-FZR-2023-24 Dated : 15.09.2023
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e-Mail: xenfcdakhnoor@gmail.com
Phone/Fax No: 01924-252255
Office of the Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Akhnoor

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 23 of 2023-24

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, e-tenders (in two cover system) Cover-Ist containing CDR and prequalification and Cover-IInd containing price Bid are invited on percentage basis per specifications in BOQ from approved PWD contractors having upto date GST Clearance certificate.

S. No.	Name of work	Advertised Estimated Cost (In Lacs)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Cost of Tender Document	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor	Position of funds
1	Construction of Grate revetment for the protection work houses/ agricultural land from Kana Nallah Kamdhani at places	11.01	22020.00	1000.00	30 days	A/B/C/D	Available as per Budget Provision
2	Construction of Grate revetment for the protection work near house Sh. Deepak Kumar Verma S/O late Sh. Mangu Ram near Danwal at Jaurian Nallah.	11.49	22980.00	1000.00	30 days	A/B/C/D	Available as per Budget Provision
3	Construction of Grate revetment protection work near prangla at places at jourian nallah for protection of dev sathan	9.40	18800.00	500.00	25 days	A/B/C/D	Available as per Budget Provision
4	Construction of Grate revetment protection work houses from bastan nallah seri palai.	9.40	18800.00	500.00	25 days	A/B/C/D	Available as per Budget Provision

- 1) Date of Publishing of Tender Notice : 15-09-2023 (06:00 pm)
- 2) Document Download Start Date : 16-09-2023 (10:00 am)
- 3) Document Download End Date : 28-09-2023 (04:00 pm)
- 4) Bid submission start date : 16-09-2023 (10:00 am)
- 5) Bid submission end date : 28-09-2023 (04:00 pm)
- 6) Date and time of Bid opening : 30-09-2023 (12:00 pm)

1) The tender shall be received on-line or before 28-09-2023 upto 04:00 PM. The Bids will be opened online on the same website www.jktenders.gov.in at above mentioned time and date at the office of the Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Akhnoor on 30-09-2023 or any other date convenient to the tender opening authority.

Sd/-

No: FCDA/ 1603-16
Dated: 15-09-2023

DIP/J-8319/23

Executive Engineer
Flood Control Division

EDITORIAL

GENETICALLY
MODIFIED FOOD

Genetically-modified Foods have made a big splash in the news lately.

These plants have been modified in the laboratory to enhance desired traits such as increased resistance to herbicides or improved nutritional content. The enhancement of desired traits has traditionally been undertaken through breeding, but conventional plant breeding methods can be very time consuming and are often not very accurate.

Genetic engineering, on the other hand, can create plants with the exact desired trait very rapidly and with great accuracy. For example, plant geneticists can isolate a gene responsible for drought tolerance and insert that gene into a different plant. The new genetically-modified plant will gain drought tolerance as well.

Not only can genes be transferred from one plant to another, but genes from non-plant organisms also can be used. The best known example of this is the use of B.t. genes in corn and other crops. B.t., or *Bacillus thuringiensis*, is a naturally occurring bacterium that produces crystal proteins that are lethal to insect larvae. B.t. crystal protein genes have been transferred into corn, enabling the corn to produce its own pesticides against insects such as the European corn borer.

The world population has topped 6 billion people and is predicted to double in the next 50 years. Ensuring an adequate food supply for this booming population is going to be a major challenge in the years to come. GM foods promise to meet this need in a number of ways like:-

Pest resistance: Crop losses from insect pests can be staggering, resulting in devastating financial loss for farmers and starvation in developing countries. Farmers typically use many tons of chemical pesticides annually. Consumers do not wish to eat food that has been treated with pesticides because of potential health hazards, and run-off of agricultural wastes from excessive use of pesticides and fertilizers can poison the water supply and cause harm to the environment.

Herbicide tolerance: For some crops, it is not cost-effective to remove weeds by physical means such as tilling, so farmers will often spray large quantities of different herbicides (weed-killer) to destroy weeds, a time-consuming and expensive process, which requires care so that the herbicide doesn't harm the crop plant or the environment. Crop plants genetically-engineered to be resistant to one very powerful herbicide could help prevent environmental damage by reducing the amount of herbicides needed.

Disease resistance: There are many viruses, fungi and bacteria that cause plant diseases. Plant biologists are working to create plants with genetically-engineered resistance to these diseases.

Cold tolerance: Unexpected frost can destroy sensitive seedlings. An antifreeze gene from cold water fish has been introduced into plants such as tobacco and potato. With this antifreeze gene, these plants are able to tolerate cold temperatures that normally would kill unmodified seedlings.

Drought tolerance/salinity tolerance: As the world population grows and more land is utilized for housing instead of food production, farmers will need to grow crops in locations previously unsuited for plant cultivation. Creating plants that can withstand long periods of drought or high salt content in soil and groundwater will help people to grow crops in formerly inhospitable places.

Nutrition: Malnutrition is common in third world countries where impoverished peoples rely on a single crop such as rice for the main staple of their diet. However, rice does not contain adequate amounts of all necessary nutrients to prevent malnutrition.

If rice could be genetically-engineered to contain additional vitamins and minerals, nutrient deficiencies could be alleviated. For example, blindness due to vitamin A deficiency is a common problem in third world countries.

By: Krishna Shastri
Devulapalli

As an honorary Tamilian, to fulfill my cultural obligation to Rajinikanth – another honorary, if slightly more famous, Tamilian – I watched Jailer the other day at home. I didn't last long. While I could write a piece listing out the many reasons for my premature exit, I'll stick to the one that's germane to this one: the kid.

One of the characters in the film is a boy of six or so, who plays Rajinikanth's grandson. Due to no fault of his, I found the little guy utterly unbearable. He was obviously written by someone who miraculously attained adulthood by never having gone through childhood himself. In the name of humour and quirkiness, the child is made to say things that don't sound anything like a kid, even a highly precocious one, would or could say in real life without getting his ears boxed. (Go ahead, Society for Prevention of Imagined Cruelty to Fictitious Children, cancel me.)

The kid, we are told, has a YouTube channel of his own, and posts videos on it every day. And his able assistant/cameraman in this endeavour is his indulgent grandfather. The child's mother and grandmother are not just okay with this but are passive

Why don't we get our children?

enablers whose main job seems to be tolerating the boy's patently unfunny quips. And this is all supposed to be terribly cute. If I have to explain why this is so many kinds of wrong, then I guess this piece, too, is going to be as pointless as most of my others.

The show I came to after abandoning Jailer was Who is Erin Carter? What stunned me in this otherwise mediocre show was the performance of the child actor, Indica Watson, who plays Harper, the pre-teen daughter of the protagonist. In this by-the-numbers show, Watson's depiction of trauma induced by her disturbing if hazy past, and uncertainty that stems from being in the care of an unreliable parent, is something to behold. Buddha-like one minute, inexplicably immature the next, an equal-parts mixture of vulnerability, strength and utter believability, she is all things children are. And for this we have to give the writer almost as much credit as young Ms Watson's formidable thespian abilities.

As luck would have it, soon after, I watched a film called Are you there God? It's me, Margaret, based on Judy Blume's landmark 1970 middle-grade novel of the same name. It was filled with flawless performances by a host of child actors playing, can you believe it, very convincing children. In contrast to Indica Watson's moving performance

as a child grappling with trauma, Abby Ryder Fortson plays the eponymous Margaret, a child in a normal-ish family going through normal-ish growing pains, with charm and understanding. One would think the latter is an easier character to essay. It isn't, actually. Both are hard. Because the very act of being a child is hard. Period. And we, who were all once children, seem to have forgotten this if our popular culture is anything to go by.

That a movie in which a primary school student is not just allowed to run his own YouTube channel but encouraged by his caregivers has made hundreds of crores without a single person caring tells us more than a little about our great culture.

Jailer's depiction of children, unfortunately, isn't an anomaly. Has anyone seen a mainstream Indian film or show in which they have believable characters who happen to be children? How often do we get to watch a film in which a child has been written with sensitivity without the sentimentality, with humour without the inappropriateness, with empathy without the patronizing? (You can't say the Apu Trilogy or Malgudi Days. How long can we rest on those wonderful depictions of childhood?) Let's be honest. If we must rack our brains to come up with ten films in a country that makes thousands every year, I

rest my case.

Of late, we've made it a habit to come at the bottom of several indexes. Yes, yes, there isn't a shred of truth in them and they are all the work of vested interests who want to undermine our greatness. But if there was such a thing as an Understanding Children Index, I think we Indians (or is it Bharatvasis?) would come pretty much at the bottom of that one, too. As parents, caretakers and adults, we veer between allowing children to think they are superhuman, and cater to their every whim, or see them as subhuman and send them to Kota knowing full well they could become a statistic.

Why is that we don't seem to get children? In art, literature, popular culture, and, most importantly, in real life, why do I keep getting the feeling we are missing the point? Is it because most of our ancient literature – our current yardstick for everything – was centred around the sacrifice of young ones to maintain the status quo of brittle old men? And how that was seen as noble.

I wonder what it would be like to be a child in our wonderful land today. Are they all desperately searching for that elusive being they have heard of, read about, and referred to every now and then as the one who is going to make sure everything is okay, but never seen: the grown-up?

Why stoop to sterile jokes on successful G-20 summit?

By: Pavan K Varma

A strong Opposition is good for a democracy. It is required to question, interrogate, critique and where necessary, robustly oppose the government. But it must choose issues carefully, and not reflexively criticise anything and everything the government does. This is essential for the Opposition's own credibility. When the Opposition's attack is unwarranted, and lacks democratic generosity, even its valid criticisms get devalued.

I say this in the context of the recent G-20 Summit in New Delhi. Without doubt it was the most successful such summit ever held. The meticulous planning that preceded it, the elaborate architecture leading up to it, including over 200 meetings in all parts of the country, and its culmination in a New Delhi declaration where, in spite of manifest differences within members, a consensus document was accepted without a single reservation, are a tribute to India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and his dedicated team of foreign minister Dr S. Jaishankar, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, sherpa Amitabh Kant, chief coordinator Harsha Sringla, and the brilliant back-up officers from the ministry of external affairs.

Beyond the organisational excellence, there were significant geo-political reasons why the summit was a success. India is today in a unique position where it has good relations with almost every important bloc in the world. Post the Covid pandemic, India's 'Vaccine Maitri' established its credentials with many developing countries. The fact that the very first decision at the summit was to admit the African Union as a permanent

member was a masterstroke, which also finessed China's competitive presence in Africa to contain India's historical, cultural and economic ties with the continent.

The calibrated stand we took on the Russia-Ukraine war has allowed us to have continuing cordial relations with Russia, without alienating the US and the West. The revitalisation of Quad, the grouping of India, America, Australia and Japan, has given a clear signal to China that its aggression against India, and hegemonistic stance in the entire Indo-Pacific region, has been appreciated by Asean and other southeast Asian countries.

Our economy, which is today the fastest growing in the world, has created a vested interest globally in good relations with us. We are major buyers, especially of cutting-edge technology, and our economic and numerical size constitutes a significant market. The India-Middle East-Europe economic corridor, announced at the summit will further contribute to the global integration of our economy.

The absence of Chinese President Xi Jinping turned out to be a blessing in disguise. If he had come it may have diluted some of the limelight on India. Of course, it was expected that Russian President Vladimir Putin would not come, since there is a warrant of arrest against him issued by the International Criminal Court, but foreign minister Sergey Lavrov, an old friend of India, did. The great divide between the US-West and Russia-China over Ukraine was also skillfully overarched through adroit drafting. India's stock in the world is at a new high.

To attack the visible success of the G-20 summit did the Opposition little credit. Pri-

yanka Gandhi Vadera's comment describing the summit as "Inka G-20: their Summit", was unfortunate, since there are some events which belong to the country as a whole, and not just to one party. There were other Opposition leaders who said that the G-20 was a waste of money, and did nothing for the common person. But have such summits not taken place when some of these very parties were in power? I still recall that in 1983, when India's economy was far more fragile, PM Indira Gandhi hosted both the Non-Aligned Summit and the Commonwealth Summit. Both brought prestige and respect for India. Others have accused PM Modi of hogging the limelight and using the summit to primarily project himself and his party. Perhaps yes, but which PM would not? The question is of degree, but the very nature of politics is such that the incumbent PM does get much of the credit. When under Indira Gandhi, India defeated Pakistan in the war of 1971 and successfully contributed in splitting it into two through the creation of Bangladesh, it was her decisive leadership that was rightfully hailed, including by Atal Behari Vajpayee the leader of the Jan Sangh (precursor of the BJP), although it was our brave soldiers on the battlefield who actually fought – and sacrificed their lives – in the war. Even today, the Congress gives the entire credit for this momentous occasion to Indira Gandhi and the Congress Party.

I do agree that more MPs from the Opposition could have been invited for some of the functions and, especially, the absence for lack of an invitation of Mallikarjun Kharge, leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, was conspicuous. The crux of the

problem is the complete breakdown of trust between the ruling party and the Opposition. In this process all that exists is unending acrimony, accusations, and a coarseness of debate, in the proliferation of which the BJP is also guilty. But foreign policy is an arena where all political parties should behave with greater responsibility, and give credit where it is due. Some Opposition chief ministers were invited, but in spite of the INDIA political alliance, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha, publicly criticised a co-member, chief minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee, for attending the banquet hosted by the Hon'ble Rashtrapati.

What the Opposition needs to focus on is a narrative of its own. The elements for this exist. High GDP growth rates camouflage very low per capita incomes, the still very large numbers of the absolutely poor, growing inequality, record unemployment, inflation, authoritarianism and the intolerance to dissent, the institutional targeting of Opposition parties, 'bulldozer' justice, farmer distress, poor health and education infrastructure, inadequate skilling of our youth, growing bigotry and communal tensions. None of these are hidden from global leaders when they look at India as a stable and enduring investment destination.

But when will this narrative appear in a cohesive and impactful manner? The elections are round the corner, and time is critically short, and neither a Common Minimum Programme nor serious talks on seat sharing have emerged. Meanwhile, attacking the G-20 summit is hardly an effective or credible strategy.

PM Vishwakarma' scheme represents perfect blend of India's civilisational ethos & traditional craftsmanship: Dr Jitendra



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 17: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said, 'PM Vishwakarma' scheme represents perfect blend of India's civilisational ethos and traditional craftsmanship.

The scheme offers the option of earning livelihood while at the same time sustaining India's age old Guru-Shishya Parampara, said the Minister.

Dr. Jitendra Singh was speaking here today during the launch of 'PM Vishwakarma' scheme by Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, PM Modi has introduced a culture of combining India's traditional knowledge with modern technology and Chandrayaan is the most striking example of this.

The Union Minister said, by naming Moon Mission as 'Chandrayan', its lander as 'Vikram' and its landing site on Moon's South Pole as 'Shiv Shakti' is the best example of preservation of the civilizational ethos of India. And, inputs from lunar South Pole connects it

with the state of the art technologies and proves that India is ahead of the so-called developed nations who now want to be led by us, Dr. Jitendra Singh added.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, this is a historic day in the development journey of India when the exclusive asset of India, the traditional artisans and craftsmen are being brought into the mainstream with the launch of 'PM Vishwakarma' by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, the traditional artisans and craftsmen are as integral as anything in the society who have kept alive the centuries old traditions and crafts of India but were never taken care of since independence.

It was only possible under PM Narendra Modi that this integral part of the society is supported and skilled now with the launch of 'PM Vishwakarma' scheme today.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, the 10 crore Ujjwala connections, 12 crore toilets under Swachh Bharat Mission, 13 crore connections under Jal Jeevan Mission, 18 crore health cards under Ayushman Bharat, Mudra Loans, PM Kisan Nidhi etc. is a proof that this government is dedicated to those left out from mainstream by the earlier governments.

NC geared up for ULB polls, conduct ward-wise campaigns: Rattan Lal

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 17: Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) Jammu, while urging the party cadre especially the workers and activists to gear up for the upcoming polls, urged the cadre especially the foot soldiers of the party to work in complete synchronization and chart out ward-wise poll campaigns under a meticulously planned result oriented strategy.

Gupta expressed this while addressing a meeting of the workers of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) District Jammu Urban held under the chairmanship of party's District President Chander Mohan Sharma at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan here today. The meeting was convened to discuss the strategy regarding the upcoming (Urban Local Bodies) ULB elections of Jammu Municipal Corporation.

Prominent among others present on the occasion were Babu Rampal former minister and Central Zone President, Pardeep



Bali, Ayub Malik Provincial Secretaries, Corporator Ghar Singh, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, DS Chauhan Chairman Legal Cell, District President Jammu Rural A Raghvir Singh Manhas, Naresh Bittu District President Jammu Rural B, Bimla Luthra, Jugal Mahajan and Advocate Mehrukh Syedan besides a large number of workers and activists of the party.

The senior National Conference leader said that the victory of National Conference is the only solution for bidding farewell to all the problems being faced by the common people.

He said that people are fed up with the BJP's

anti people governance and continue struggling amid miseries thrust upon them by the saffron party's proxy administration in Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory. Gupta lamented that the sufferings of the people are multiplying with each passing day in absence of a popular Govt elected by duly holding elections to the J&K Assembly. The LG administration is totally failed in controlling the shooting prices of essential items, unemployment, problems of daily wagers, scams in Medical department, Jal Shakti department and recruitment agencies.

After holding detailed deliberations and dis-

cussions on the strategy for upcoming elections, he directed the party cadre to hold meetings in all the wards and formulate a programme to carry out poll campaigns in all the 75 wards of Jammu Municipal Corporation.

Babu Rampal in his address on the occasion said that Jammu Municipal Corporation has become a hub of corruption today and there is a dire need to change the representatives at the helm of affairs in JMC. He said that if NC takes over the reins it will develop Jammu on modern lines, providing upto the mark civic services to the people.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmed

Provincial Secretary Jammu Province in his address asked party cadre to remain present among the people to address their issues. Expressing full confidence in the working of the party's foot soldiers, he directed them not to leave any stone unturned in ensuring the unprecedented victory in the upcoming ULB polls.

Chander Mohan Sharma highlighted the utter failure of JMC in providing proper civic amenities to the people of Jammu.

Among those who were present include Ankush Abrol Joint Secretary Jammu Province, Dilshad Malik, Rita Gupta, Ch. Aslam, Waris Gill, Ashok Dogra, Rashida Begum, Shabir Sambyal, Adv. Atul, Som Raj Taroch, Sardar Parminder Singh, Davinder Sharma, Ashwani Charak, Rachpal Singh, Subash Chander, Pinky Khalsa, S. Tejinder Singh, Devi Ditta, Gurdeep Singh, S. Aya Singh, Devinder Singh, Sewak Singh, Narinder Singh Surjeet Singh, Gurbinder Singh, Jasvinder Singh and Kamaljeet Singh.

AJEAK meets LG Sinha

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 17: A Delegation of All Joint Employees Association Kashmir (MINORITY), met Lt Governor in Raj Bhavan at Srinagar. The delegation included Jagmeet Kour Bali President AJEAK, Vipen Kumar Chairman AJBRCEAK, Representative of Non Migrant Employees Daleep Kumar, Sanju Kumar Pandita, Premjit Singh and Yojovinder Singh.

The delegation put forth the genuine Grievances of employees of Minority community, Including safety and security of all Minority Employees, Treatment of absence period as on duty for all Minority Employees equally, issues of safe accommodation for minorities including Sikh /SC/ST/ Non Pm package employees also discussed. Delegation also requested to create Grievances Cell for All Minority Employees in Raj Bhavan as well in District level to redress the issues of employees belonging to Minority. The Delegation also took up the issue of notification of comprehensive Transfer Policy for All Jammu Based Reserved Category Employees, working in Kashmir.

Employees delegation also requested the LG sahib to address issue of post allocation in District Srinagar for drawl of HRA, particularly the employees of education who are adjusted in the district on various grounds.

The Lt Governor heard the visiting delegation patiently and assured that all genuine Grievances shall be addressed on merit.

Go Raksha Samiti expresses concern over relocation of beloved Elephant "Mohini" in Jammu



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 17: A press conference convened in Jammu today by Raj Kumar, President of the Go Raksha Samiti, shed light on the disheartening news of the relocation of Mohini, the sole elephant in Jammu, which holds deep religious significance for the local community. The Forest Department has declared Mohini unwell and unsafe, subsequently sending her back to Gujarat, citing a Supreme Court order prohibiting elephants from roaming on public roads.

Raj Kumar, expressing his dismay during the press conference, emphasized that Mohini was in excellent physical health and posed no threat or danger to anyone. The Go Raksha Samiti had provided a safe and suitable dwelling place for the elephant, where she lived without causing any harm to the public.

Furthermore, Raj Kumar shared that those who came to collect Mohini were captivated by her presence, remarking that they had never encountered such a remarkable elephant before. He recounted that Mohini had been under

their care since 2000 and was brought to Jammu in 2003, where she has been lovingly nurtured. Her annual checkups confirmed her well-being.

Raj Kumar strongly criticized the District Forest Officer (DFO) for issuing an inaccurate report that led to Mohini's relocation. He vowed to take the matter to the Supreme Court to rectify this situation and ensure the return of the beloved elephant to Jammu, no matter the cost.

During the press conference, Mahant Rajesh Bittu, Chairman of the Religious Tourism and Heritage Cultural Trust, expressed unwavering support for Raj Kumar's stance. He voiced his anger over the decision to send Mohini away, stressing that this was a matter of faith deeply rooted in the community's beliefs. Mahant Rajesh Bittu urged everyone to rally behind Raj Kumar's efforts to bring Mohini back home.

The press conference concluded with a plea to preserve the cherished bond between Mohini and the people of Jammu, with hopes that this matter will be resolved in the spirit of reverence and community solidarity.

Voluntary Service for 76th Annual Nirankari Sant Samagam inaugurated by Satguru Mata

TOP NEWS REPORT

SAMALKHA, Sep 17: The inauguration of volunteer service for the 76th Annual Nirankari Sant Samagam was conducted with divine grace by Her Holiness Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj and Nirankari Rajpita Ramit Ji at the sacred Nirankari Adhyatmik Sthal in Samalkha. The Nirankari Annual Samagam is scheduled to take place on the 28th, 29th, and 30th of October 2023. On this auspicious occasion, members of the Working Committee of Sant Nirankari Mandal, members of the Central Planning and Advisory Board, Sewa Dal Adhikaris, volunteers, and devotees from



Delhi and the surrounding regions, as well as from various parts of the country, came together to extend a warm welcome to this divine couple.

Addressing the devotees gathered for this service-oriented occasion, Satguru Mata Ji emphasized the pro-

found significance of selfless service done from the heart, not just from the physical body. She highlighted that the highest level of service is one that is performed with a selfless state of mind. Satguru Mata Ji further elaborated that after attaining God's knowledge (Brahm

Gyan), a deep sense of "Nar Sewa Narayan Pooja" emerges within our hearts, allowing us to perceive the divine image of God Nirankar in every human being.

Satguru Mata Ji emphasized that each devotee of the Nirankari Mission should draw inspiration from the

teachings demonstrated here and actively contribute to the reconstruction of a virtuous society, in line with the principles of selfless service and devotion.

Following the formal inauguration of the sewa, thousands of devotees and sewadars enthusiastically engaged in various forms of service, wholeheartedly dedicating their time, effort, and resources to this noble cause. They understand that selfless service, encompassing the body, mind, and wealth, forms a fundamental pillar of devotion and genuine worship of God. Their unwavering commitment to sewa exemplifies the spirit of "Nar Sewa Narayan Pooja."

Sadhguru Madhuparamhans delights devotees with profound teachings

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 17: In an enchanting spiritual discourse held today at the sacred grounds of Mishriwala, Sadhguru of Sahib Bandgi Shri Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj illuminated the gathering with his insightful teachings. Addressing the Sangat (congregation) with profound wisdom, Sadhguru expounded on the eternal truth that resonates through the teachings of Kabir Sahib and numerous scriptures: God resides within the soul.

Drawing parallels to the inherent qualities concealed within seemingly ordinary elements, Sadhguru likened the presence of God within the soul to oil in sesame seeds and fire in flint stone. Just as a tree lies dormant within a seed, divinity lies within every



individual. However, Sadhguru emphasized that this divine essence must be expressed through a medium, much like how trees provide shade among the forest.

Sadhguru further expounded on the concept of Maya, illustrating how it infiltrates the soul when it takes residence in the physical body, much like sugar dissolves in water, becoming invisible but undeniable in experience. He noted that a genuine Sadguru is essential to unravel these profound

truths, guiding individuals on their spiritual journey.

Expanding on the connection between the sun and its rays, Sadhguru emphasized that just as the sun is the life-giver to the Earth, God resides within every soul, making spirituality an inseparable part of human existence. Drawing attention to the growing utilization of solar energy worldwide, he underlined the importance of acknowledging the omnipresent energy within us.

Sadhguru's teachings

resonated deeply with the gathering, as he urged them not to separate themselves from the divine, which is as inherent as the sun's rays touching every corner of a home. He further connected the vitality of the sun's energy to health and the sustenance of life on Earth, making a compelling case for recognizing the divine energy within.

Addressing the challenges faced during meditation, Sadhguru identified four disturbances: resolutions and desires, the intellect, the wandering mind, and the inability to concentrate. He explained that true meditation, referred to as Surti, involves conquering these distractions. The mind, in particular, was highlighted as the primary culprit in disturbing one's meditation. It often dredges up

old memories, causing frustration and impeding concentration.

Sadhguru enlightened the congregation on the importance of remembrance in Swansa, the breathless state, as a means to control the wandering mind. He stressed that this transformation requires the guidance of a Guru, who imparts the necessary tools to still the mind, cease its resolutions, and unveil the true self within.

In conclusion, Sadhguru emphasized that the path to self-realization is not arduous but rather a journey of continuous remembrance. The Guru's guidance and one's unwavering concentration are pivotal in silencing the mind's disturbances, revealing the self, and experiencing the divine essence within.

Deepika Padukone gives a peck on Shah Rukh Khan's cheek, Ranveer Singh reacts

Actor Deepika Padukone is superstar Shah Rukh Khan's one of the closest friends in the industry. They have been each other's pillar of support since 'Om Shanti Om' days.

The duo attended 'Jawan' success event in Mumbai and they undoubtedly stole the attention with their bond and friendship that reflected on stage in several ways.

From dancing to 'Chaleya' song together to speaking highly of each other, the two served BFF goals during the gala.

After attending the event, Deepika took to Instagram and shared a bunch of photographs. In the first three images, she is seen flaunting her look from the gala.

Dressed in a white saree, Deepika slayed in an ethnic look.

However, it was the fourth photograph that caught everyone's attention after all, it was about SRK.

The image shows Deepika planting a kiss on SRK's cheek.



Needless to say, it is the cutest photo of Deepika and SRK.

"It's the last one for me," Deepika captioned the post.

The post has been flooded with heartfelt comments.

Deepika's husband and actor Ranveer Singh too reacted.

"Ishq Mein Dil Bana Hai Ishq Mein Dil Fanna Hai Hoo000000000000," he com-

mented, using lines from the 'Chaleya' song.

SRK attended the event in a dapper look. He wore a black blazer with a buckle strap closure. He complemented it with matching straight-fitted pants and a crisp white shirt. He made his look more catchy with his hairstyle. He styled his long locks in a distinctive

braided patterns.

Addressing the media during the event, SRK said, "I need to tell you the importance of this day to all of us. Of course, it's a celebration of Jawan, all the artists, all the actors, all of them...Very seldom we get an opportunity to live with a film for years. Jawan has been in the making for four years - because of COVID and time constraints. But there were so many people involved in this film, especially people down from South who came and shifted to Mumbai and have been living in Mumbai for the last four years working day and night for this film, the hardest ever. Bahut log apne ghar bhi nahi gaye, bahut saare log hain jinke bacche yaha par ho gaye, mere director Atlee ke (So many people didn't visit their homes, many people had their kids here like my director Atlee)."

SRK's 'Jawan' hit the theatres on September 7. It features Deepika in a special cameo.

Actress Elisha Mayor to be seen in crime thriller Kaala



Every complex story needs an unabashed spirit and in Disney+ Hotstar's upcoming

crime thriller, Kaala, it is that of Aaloka, played by the talented Elisha Mayor. From under-

standing the twisted nuances and emotions of the story to navigating through plot twists while keeping her character in check, Elisha gives us insight into Aaloka's fiery world in Kaala.

Elisha says, "In a show that digs into the dark world of crime and black money, Aaloka's innocence brings an emotional angle to the fast-paced thriller. Her wild spirit and fearlessness to go after what she thinks is right in any situation is inspiring. Even when her world crumbles, her spirit pushes her to seek answers and fight back."

About collaborating with the filmmaker Bejoy Nambiar, Elisha says, "It was an enjoyable and memorable experience for me. I am extremely grateful for that."

First step of Prachi Bansal in mythology zone

Actress Prachi Bansal, who essays the role of Ganga in Colors' Shiv Shakti - Tap Tyag Tandav believes that her faith in the Goddess has helped her sail through the challenge of stepping aboard the mythological genre for the first time.

Prachi says, "The show marks my first brush with the mythological genre.

Having prayed to Ma Ganga for so many years and then getting to play her in one of the biggest mythological shows is divine. It is surreal that I've often visited the sacred Ganges and now I'm embodying



her. I hope the audience embraces my portrayal

of Goddess Ganga and continues to love the show."

Get ready for Salman Khan, Shah Rukh Khan reunion on big screen as 'Tiger Vs Pathaan' script locked

Bollywood superstars Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan have given their nod to the script of 'Tiger Vs Pathaan'. This comes in contradiction to a media report that claimed that Aditya Chopra was going to host a joint narration of the film for Salman Khan and Shah Rukh Khan.

However, the film has already been narrated to the two superstars in two separate meetings more than a month back and the team of 'Tiger vs Pathaan' will start the preparations in November for the shoot to commence in March next year.



An industry source revealed: "Tiger vs Pathaan' script has

been locked after the two mega-stars of Hindi cinema gave their nod

to the script. This film is a huge milestone because it sees the two giants of Hindi cinema come together for a full-fledged film."

The source further mentioned: "They had to first love the script and get convinced that it has the goods to satisfy the expectations of people about their big on-screen reunion. Aditya Chopra held individual meetings with SRK and Salman respectively and narrated the film to them.

The superstars have loved the story and the film will now go on floors in March."

Directed by Siddharth Anand, 'Tiger vs Pathaan' is a part of the YRF Spy Universe which kicked off with the 'Tiger' franchise, starring Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif, beginning with 'Ek Tha Tiger' and 'Tiger Zinda Hai', continued with 'War', starring Hrithik Roshan and Tiger Shroff, and 'Pathaan' starring Shah Rukh Khan, Deepika Padukone and John Abraham.

The next film from the spy universe is 'Tiger 3' which is set to arrive in cinemas in November, over the Diwali festival holiday, this year.

Adele makes huge change to Las Vegas shows, won't get too close to fans



Singer-songwriter Adele has made a huge change to her Las Vegas residency shows after she admitted to "hanging on for dear f****g life".

The singer, 35, became worried when her friends and crew started "dropping like

flies". She has now decided to ditch mingling with her fans over her fears of catching coronavirus, reports Mirror.co.uk.

Adele gained a reputation for getting up close and personal with the crowd during her shows at Caesars Palace. The

'Someone Live You' hit-maker would stop during her performance to pose with fans for selfies and chat to them.

Yet all has changed now the star is fearful of becoming ill. She has stopped her famous walk throughs during 'When We Were Young', where she would greet and hug the audience.

As per Mirror.co.uk, Adele has vowed to not let Covid stop her shows after she was forced to postpone the start of her Sin City residency last year. Breaking the news to her adoring fans, Adele said: "Normally I would absolutely stop and chat and all of that and hear all about your life and be the nosy person that I am. However, I am hanging on by thread trying not to get Covid-19."

She shared how her backing singer Amanda was forced to miss performances due to having a positive Covid test. "Everyone that I know that I work with has f****g Covid-19, so it's a miracle that I haven't had it yet," she shared. "And I really do love chatting to you, but I don't want to get sick, I'll take selfies from a distance or shoot your vid."

"I might have symptoms and then I can't do my show and I will be damned if I cancel any more of these shows. I refuse to cancel any shows," she added.

Jessica Chastain to receive Golden Icon Award at Zurich Film Festival



Actress Jessica Chastain will be honoured with the Zurich Film Festival's Golden Icon Award. Chastain will present her latest film Memory at the festival, alongside director Michel Franco and co-star Peter Sarsgaard on October 1.

Memory follows Sylvia (Chastain), a social worker who leads a simple and structured life revolving around her daughter and her job. This is disrupted when Saul (Sarsgaard) follows her home from their high school reunion. Their encounter profoundly impacts both of them as they open the door to the past.

Previous recipients of the Golden Icon Award include Glenn Close, Hugh Grant, Diane Keaton, Richard Gere, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sean Penn, Sharon Stone and Ben Kingsley. The Zurich Film Festival will run from September 28 to October 8.

Priyanka Chopra's love for desi Indian food reaches new heights

Priyanka Chopra lives abroad but she definitely can't live without her desi Indian food.

Be it her breakfast, lunch or dinner, she always makes sure to add Indian touch to her meals. On Saturday, she relished her favourite poha while travelling on a flight.

Taking to Instagram Story, Priyanka dropped a picture of a bowl filled with mouthwatering poha prepared with loads of veggies.

"Thank you @hungry-empire for my favourite breakfast.. poha for the win!" she captioned the post.

Priyanka has often expressed her love for poha.

Last year, she gave a glimpse of her morning breakfast in LA that made her remember her days in Mumbai. She posted a picture of poha on her Instagram stories with the caption, "Poha in LA that took me back to Mumbai!" while adding folded hands and heart emojis beside it.

Poha is one of the favourite breakfast foods in many parts of India. It has many health benefits. Being rich in fibre, poha promotes a slow and steady release of sugar into the blood stream, thereby preventing any sudden spikes in blood sugar levels. It is also light on the stomach and can be easily digested.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Priyanka was recently seen in 'Citadel', which is created



by The Russo Brothers. The action-packed show revolves around two elite agents Mason Kane (Richard Madden) and Nadia Sinh (Priyanka) of the global spy agency 'Citadel'.

She will share screen space with John Cena and Idris Elba in 'Heads Of State'. 'Nobody' filmmaker Ilya Naishuller is directing off a script by

Josh Appelbaum and Andre Nemec, with an initial draft by Harrison Query based on Query's original idea.

Priyanka will also be seen sharing screen space with Alia Bhatt and Katrina Kaif in 'Jee Le Zara'.

The film will be directed by Farhan Akhtar. The shoot has not started yet.

PM Modi inaugurates Phase 1 of Convention and Expo Centre 'Yashobhoomi' at Dwarka, takes metro ride

'Yashobhoomi' will find its place among the world's largest MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) facilities

NEW DELHI, Sep 17 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday dedicated to the nation the Rs 5,400-crore Phase 1 of the state-of-the-art India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC) - 'Yashobhoomi' -- at Dwarka, here.

With a total project area of over 8.9 lakh square metres and built-up area of more than 1.8 lakh square metres, 'Yashobhoomi' will find its place among the world's largest MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) facilities.

'Yashobhoomi' boasts of a magnificent convention centre, multiple exhibition halls and other facilities.

The convention centre, built across more than 73,000 square metres, comprises 15 convention rooms, including the main auditorium, the grand ballroom and 13 meeting rooms



with a total capacity of holding 11,000 delegates.

The convention centre has the largest LED media facade in the country. The plenary hall in the convention centre has the seating capacity of around 6,000 guests.

The auditorium has an innovative automated seating system

which converts the flat floor into an auditorium style tiered seating for different seating configurations.

The Grand Ballroom can host around 2,500 guests. It also has an extended open area with seating capacity of up to 500 people.

The 13 meeting rooms that are

spread across eight floors are envisaged to hold a variety of meetings of different scales.

Earlier, PM Modi inaugurated the extension of the Delhi Metro's Airport Line, which terminates at Yashobhoomi Dwarka Sector 25 station.

He unveiled a plaque at the new station marking the nearly two-km extension of the Airport Line. The prime minister also interacted with some metro workers at the station, sources said.

Before the inauguration, Modi took a metro ride from the Dhaula Kuan station to the newly-built Yashobhoomi Dwarka Sector 25 metro station. During the ride, many passengers, young and old, men and women, interacted with the prime minister and snapped selfies with him.

PM Modi turns 73; President Murmu, others extend wishes

BJP takes host of welfare initiatives to mark Modi's birthday



NEW DELHI, Sep 17 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi turned 73 on Sunday, with President Droupadi Murmu and other dignitaries and politicians extending their best wishes to him.

The BJP will also launch "Sewa Pakh-wara" from today till October 2, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, to reach out to different sections of society with a host of welfare initiatives to mark the birthday of its preeminent leader.

Extending best wishes, the President said she wished that Modi with his foresight and strong leadership paves the way for India's development in every field during the 'Amrit Kaal'.

Lauding him as the architect of new India, Home Minister Amit Shah said he has laid a strong foundation of a grand and self-reliant

India on the basis of the country's ancient heritage.

"Be it the party organisation or the government, we always get inspiration of national interest being supreme from Modi ji," he said, adding that he considered it his good fortune to serve the country under such a unique leader.

Wishing him, BJP president J P Nadda said the Prime Minister has given tangible shape to the Indian culture's global prestige, people's multi-dimensional development and the nation's universal progress.

Our goal of "antyo-daya" (uplift of the most downtrodden) has reached every village and every section of society and has become the mantra for the resolve of having a developed India, Nadda said on X.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said Modi has not given merely a new identity to India but also enhanced its prestige in the world.

The Prime Minister has taken India's development to new heights, he said, wishing him a good health and long life.

Modi himself will be part of the launch of several development initiatives on his birthday.

With 'Vishwakarma Jayanti' falling on Sunday as well, Modi will launch his government's ambitious scheme, "PM Vishwakarma", which is aimed at helping artisans and craftsmen and others engaged in traditional skills on the occasion.

As practitioners of these traditional occupations come largely from Other Backward Classes, the scheme with an outlay of Rs 13,000 crore is also being seen as the ruling BJP's outreach to the politically important segment.

He is scheduled to inaugurate the first phase of the India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC), named Yashobhoomi, in Dwarka and also the extension of the Delhi Airport Metro Express line from Dwarka Sector 21 to a new metro station at Dwarka Sector 25 as well on Sunday.

Rs 200-crore wedding in UAE puts Mahadev betting app promoter under ED scanner

At his wedding, Sourabh Chandrakar hired private jets to ferry family members from Nagpur to the UAE and paid celebrities from the film industry to perform

NEW DELHI, Sep 17 (Agencies): A lavish wedding held this February in the United Arab Emirates caught the attention of the Enforcement Directorate as the entire money-around Rs 200 crore- spent on the bash was paid entirely in cash.

At his wedding held in Ras Al-Khaimah, Sourabh Chandrakar, one of the promoters of an online betting platform, hired private jets to ferry family members from Nagpur to the UAE and paid celebrities from the film industry to perform, according to the ED.

The agency recently released details of its investigation into the online money laundering case linked with the Mahadev Online Book Betting app.

Wedding planners, dancers, decorators, etc., were hired from Mumbai and hawala channels were used to make payments in cash. "Sudden and illegal riches are being openly flaunted by them," the ED said in a statement.

Mahadev Online Book Betting app is an umbrella syndicate arranging online platforms for enabling illegal betting websites to enrol new users, create user IDs and the laundering of money through a layered web of benami bank accounts.

The ED said Chandrakar and Ravi Uppal



who hail from Bhillai in Chattisgarh are the two main promoters of the Mahadev betting platform and ran their operations from Dubai. They had created an empire for themselves in that country.

The agency had recently conducted searches at 39 locations across Raipur, Bhopal, Mumbai and Kolkata and seized illegal assets worth Rs 417 crore. ED has also earnestly taken up investigation abroad.

A Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) special court at Raipur has also issued non-bailable warrants against the suspects.

The ED which is investigating money laundering charges in connection with the Mahadev Online Book app had last month conducted searches in Chhattisgarh and arrested four accused including the chief liaisoner of the betting syndicate, which the probe agency alleged was organizing payment of bribes to senior government functionaries as 'pro-

tection money.' "Their Mahadev Online Book is run from a central head office in UAE and operates by franchising 'Panel/Branches' to their known associates on 70 per cent-30 per cent profit ratio. Large-scale hawala operations are done to siphon off the proceeds of betting to off-shore accounts. Large expenditure in cash is also being done in India for advertising of betting websites and self-grandizement necessary to attract new users and franchise (panel) seekers," the ED said.

As per assets seized by the ED, Rs 112 crore was delivered via hawala channel to an event management company -- R-1 Events Pvt Ltd of Yogesh Popat -- and hotel bookings costing to the tune of Rs 42 crore were done by paying in cash in Arab Emirates Dirham.

Searches were conducted by the central agency at the premises of Yogesh Popat, one Mithlesh and other

"linked organizers" and evidence relating to the receipt of Rs 112 crore hawala money is "crystallized". Subsequently, searches were conducted on angadias named by Yogesh Popat.

The searches resulted in the seizure of unaccounted cash of Rs 2.37 crore. It was found that many celebrities have been endorsing these betting entities and performing at their functions in return for hefty fees layered through dubious transactions but ultimately paid from the proceeds of online betting.

ED also conducted searches on Rapid Travels of Dheeraj Ahuja and Vishal Ahuja in Bhopal.

This entity was responsible for the entire ticketing operations of the Mahadev app promoters, family, business associates, and celebrities.

"The illicit cash earnings from the betting panels were cleverly deposited by the Ahuja brothers with main ticket providers, and the wallet balance was used to book domestic and international tickets. Rapid Travels was involved in making travel arrangements for most events of the Mahadev group including the annual star-studded events organized in UAE in the month of September," the ED said.

ED stated that it has

successfully identified other major players involved in the money laundering operations of the Mahadev online booking app.

During the investigations, it was found that one Kolkata-based Vikash Chhaparia was handling all the hawala-related operations for the Mahadev app.

ED conducted searches at his known premises and at his associate Govind Kedia.

It was found that with the help of Govind Kedia, Vikas Chhaparia through his entities - Perfect Plan Investments LLP, Exim General Trading FZCO, and Techpro IT Solutions LLC - was investing heavily in the Indian stock market through the Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) route.

Accordingly, cash derivatives and other security holdings worth Rs 236.3 crore in the name of entities beneficially owned by Vikas Chhaparia have been frozen by ED under PMLA 2002.

Further, assets worth Rs 160 crore in Demat holdings of Govind Kumar Kedia have also been frozen by ED under PMLA 2002.

Searches at the premise of Govind Kumar Kedia also resulted in the seizure of Indian currency of Rs 18 lakhs, gold, and jewellery valued at Rs 13 crore.

5 arrested for raping woman on pretext of removing 'evil spells' in Maharashtra

PALGHAR, Sep 17 (Agencies): Five people were arrested in Thane and Palghar districts in Maharashtra for allegedly raping a 35-year-old woman repeatedly after promising to remove "Vastu mistakes" in her house and other "evil spells" through black magic, a police official said on Sunday.

The five people who have been arrested are the victim's husband's friends and they told her that some evil spell had been cast on her husband and to regain peace she would have to be part of some rituals, the official said.

"The accused started frequenting the house of the victim from April 2018 and would conduct rituals when the victim was alone. They would give her a spiked drink calling it 'panchamrit' and would rape her," he said.

The accused also took gold and money from her claiming it was for various rituals that would ensure peace and prosperity and a stable government job for her husband, he said. "She was raped in 2019 in Yeoor

forest in Thane, then in a mutt of the main accused in Kandivali, in a resort in Lonavala. They took Rs 2.10 lakh as well as gold from her," he said.

After the woman from Talasari, a predominantly tribal area in the district, filed a complaint on September 11, a police team arrested Ravindra Bhate, Dileep Gaikwad, Gaurav Salvi, Mahendra Kumavat and Ganesh Kadam for the crime. "We are finding out if the five accused have used the same modus operandi on others as well," Talasari police station senior inspector Vijay Mutadak said.

Palghar Superintendent of Police Balasaheb Patil, in an official release, said the five have been charged under Indian Penal Code sections 376 (rape) 376(2)(n) (offence of committing rape repeatedly on the same woman) 420 (cheating). The Maharashtra Prevention and Eradication of Human Sacrifice and other Inhuman, Evil and Aghori Practices and Black Magic Act 2013 has also been invoked, he said.

Heavy rain lashes parts of Madhya Pradesh, over 200 people rescued in Indore

BHOPAL, Sep 17 (Agencies): Heavy rain continued to pour in parts of Madhya Pradesh, leading to a flood-like situation especially in two major cities - Indore and Ujjain in the last 24 hours.

More than 200 people, including an eight-day old baby and senior citizen, were rescued jointly by local residents, police and SDRF teams in Indore. The economic city of state witnessed record rainfall at 144 mm.

As per the reports, several roads and residential colonies submerged into water in the city. The



downpour that began on Friday evening, continued till Sunday morning.

Relentless heavy rain prompted Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to monitor the situation with district administration till late on Sunday night and authorities were put on alert to meet

the challenges.

"I have reviewed the situation in Khargone, Khandwa and Barwani districts. District administrations have been put on alert mode to save the life of people in flood affected areas. SDRF teams have been deployed in several

parts and if needed IAF and Army would also be called," Chouhan said.

Water level of all three major dams in Indore-Ujjain division increased to a new high prompting authorities to release water from Omakreshwar and Indira Sagar dam in Khandwa.

The Met department has predicted that heavy rain is likely to continue in districts -- Dhar, Barwani, Alirajpur and Jhabua. Light to moderate rain is predicted in Ratlam, Indore, Khargone, Burhanpur, Neemuch, Dewas, Shajapur, Mandsaur and Ujjain.

According to the India Meteorological Department's regional office Bhopal, Dhar district received maximum rainfall at 302 mm in the last 24 hours, followed by Ratlam at 242 mm and Khandwa 162 mm.

Indore where the district administration has declared holiday on Saturday and life of the people get heavily disturbed, has received 144.7 mm rain in the last 24 hours, while the capital city, where the sky remained cloudy for the last three days, has received 14.6 mm rain during the same period.

Upheavals in Xi Jinping's world spread concern about China's diplomacy

Internal security clampdown trumps international engagement

BEIJING, Sep 17 (Agencies): The disappearance of China's defence minister, the latest in a string of upheavals in the country's top ranks, is stoking uncertainty about President Xi Jinping's rule as an internal security clampdown trumps international engagement.

The growing unpredictability could affect the confidence other countries place in the leadership of the world's second-biggest economy, diplomats and analysts say.

Defence Minister Li Shangfu, who has missed meetings including with at least one foreign counterpart since he was last seen in late August, is under investigation in a corruption probe into military procurement, Reuters reported on Friday.

Newly installed Foreign Minister Qin Gang vanished with scant explanation in July, the same month as an abrupt shake-up of the military's elite Rocket Force, which oversees China's nuclear arsenal.

As Xi, China's commander-in-chief has focused inward, he caused concern among foreign diplomats this month by missing a Group of 20 summit in India, the first time he has skipped the global leaders' gathering in his decade in power.

Faced with the growing uncertainties, some diplomats and analysts are calling for a hard look at the true nature of Xi's regime.

"Clear-eyed assessments are needed - this isn't just a question of whether China is a partner or a competitor, it is a source of economic, political and military risk," said Drew Thompson, a former Pentagon official who is now a scholar at the National University of Singapore.



Due to a lack of transparency surrounding the changes, various explanations were plausible "and this feeds the crisis of confidence that is brewing around China," Thompson said.

China's Foreign Ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Saturday.

PROXIMITY ISN'T PATRONAGE

Regarding Defence Minister Li's disappearance and investigation, a ministry spokeswoman told reporters on Friday she was not aware of the situation. The State Council and Defence Ministry did not respond to requests for comment.

Since his appointment in March, Li has been the public face of China's expanding military diplomacy, expressing concern over US military operations during a high-profile security conference in June and visiting Russia and Belarus in August.

He had been expected to host an international security meeting in Beijing in October and represent the People's Liberation Army (PLA) at a meeting in November of regional defence chiefs in Jakarta.

With corruption long perme-

ating China's military and state institutions, some analysts and diplomats believe Xi's anti-graft crackdowns mark political purges across the Communist Party.

"Regardless of the reason... the sense that this could keep happening could have an impact on foreign actors' confidence in engaging with their Chinese counterparts," said Helena Legarda, lead analyst with the Mercator Institute for China Studies in Berlin.

The Li upheaval is unusual for its speed and its reach into Xi's hand-picked elites.

"This is all so sudden and opaque. One thing we can now see is that proximity does not equate to patronage in Xi's world," said Singapore-based security analyst Alexander Neill, an adjunct fellow with Hawaii's Pacific Forum think-tank.

CONTINUITY RISK

Although not in a direct command position, Li serves on Xi's seven-person Central Military Commission and is one of China's five state councillors, a cabinet position that outranks regular ministers. Some scholars believe he is close to General Zhang Youxia, who sits above

him on the commission and is Xi's closest ally in the PLA.

Li, sanctioned by Washington in 2018 for an arms deal with Russia, shunned a meeting with U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin at Singapore's Shangri-la Dialogue security conference in June, where a handshake marked their closest interaction.

Austin and other US officials are keen to resume high-level talks between the two militaries regional tensions roil. But Beijing counters that it wants Washington to be less assertive in the Asia-Pacific.

Regional envoys say deeper Chinese military diplomacy is vital, particularly with the US but also with other powers, as China increasingly deploys forces around Taiwan -- the democratically governed island it claims -- and across disputed parts of the East and South China Seas.

If Li's fate "reflects Xi's increasingly inward focus, it is not good for those of us who want greater openness and lines of communications with China's military," said one Asian diplomat.

As the PLA has an unprecedented level of military engagements with Southeast Asian forces this year, the recent swift changes back in Beijing "spur speculation and some concern about the continuity of policy," said political scientist Ja Ian Chong at the National University of Singapore.

"A shake-up of the military at this time is likely to draw attention, given the heightened activity of the PLA near Taiwan and the East China Sea, as well as stepped-up paramilitary activity in the South China Sea, since such actions create potential risk of accidents, escalation and crises," Chong said.

Italy: Child, 5, killed as family car gets struck by burning debris from Air Force jet explosion



TURIN, Sep 17 (Agencies): A five-year-old child was killed, and her nine-year-old brother injured with severe burns after their car was struck with burning debris from a huge fireball after a jet from the Italian Air Force's aerobatics squadron crashed during a practice run near the northern city of Turin on Saturday, CNN reported.

The MB-339 jet exploded moments after take-off at around noon local time, officials said, according to the Italian Fire Brigade.

The jet's pilot survived and could be seen ejecting with his parachute just before the jet struck the ground, the fire brigade said.

He is currently being treated for burns at

Giovanni Bosco Hospital in Turin, officials added.

The Frecce Tricolori aerobatic jets, part of the Italian Air Force, were practising a formation ahead of the 100-year celebrations of the Italian Air Force that are set to take place on Sunday. The planes had just taken off from Turin's Caselle airport when one of the jets started to lose altitude, as seen on multiple videos that were shared on social media, as per CNN.

The crash happened inside the airport perimeter. Following the incident, the airport was closed temporarily.

Italian media reported that the jets hit a flock of birds just after takeoff, according to CNN affil-

iate Sky24. The car that held the 5-year-old child and her family had been driving along a country road parallel to the airport, according to local media reports.

Her brother survived and is now being treated for severe burns at the Regina Margherita Children's Hospital in Turin, the hospital confirmed. Their parents have also reportedly suffered burns.

The Italian Air Force said it was "dismayed and astonished" by the jet's crash, according to a statement made by the Italian Chief of Staff of the Air Force and Air Squadron General Luca Goretti, as per CNN.

The Pony 4 aircraft, piloted by Major Oscar Del Do', had lost altitude and crashed to the ground shortly after the formation had taken off, the statement said.

The Italian Air Force has not confirmed the exact cause of the accident but has hypothesized that there was a bird strike during the very first phases of take-off.

Fourteen dead in plane crash in Brazil's Amazonas state

SAO PAULO, Sep 17 (Agencies): Fourteen people on a small jet died when the plane crashed in Brazil's northern Amazonas state on Saturday, the state's governor said.

The accident took place in the Barcelos province, some 400 km (248 miles) from the state capital, Manaus.

"I deeply regret the death of the 12 passengers and two crew members who were victims of the plane crash in Barcelos on Saturday," said Wilson Lima, Governor of Amazonas state on X, formerly known as Twitter.

"Our teams have been working from the outset

to provide the necessary support. My sympathy and prayers go out to their families and friends."

The Manaus Aero-taxi airline issued a statement confirming that there had been an accident and that it was investigating but offering no details about deaths or injuries.

"We count on respect for the privacy of those involved at this difficult time and will be available to provide all necessary information and updates as the investigation progresses," the statement said.

The Brazilian Air Force (FAB) said in a statement that investigators

from the Accident Investigation and Prevention Center (CENIPA) had been called in to begin an investigation into the reasons for the crash of the small aircraft, an Embraer Bandeirante with the registration PT-SOG.

In an interview with O Globo newspaper, Governor Lima said that the bodies had already been removed from the aircraft and that the victims were Brazilian tourists.

Lima also added that the region faces heavy rainfall and the most likely cause of the accident was an error in the route taken at the time of landing.

North Korea's Kim visits a Russian university and aquarium as state media highlight military talks

SEOUL, Sep 17 (Agencies): A day after inspecting Russia's nuclear-capable bombers and other advanced weapons, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was in a lighter mode on Sunday, touring a university and watching a walrus show at a Russian aquarium as he continued a closely watched trip to Russia's Far East.

North Korean state media highlighted the predominant focus of Kim's trip, describing his discussions with Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu to expand "strategic and tactical coordination" between their countries' militaries, as Western concerns grow about an arms alliance that could possibly fuel Russian President Vladimir Putin's war on Ukraine.

Russia's RIA Novosti state news agency released videos of Kim — dressed in a black suit and accompanied by his top officials — talking with Russian officials through translators as he walked through the campus of the Far Eastern Federal University in Russky Island.

Kim met with Oleg Kozhemyako, governor of Russia's Primorye region, which includes the port city of Vladivostok, as well as Russian Natural Resources Minister Alexander Kozlov and the university's president, Boris Korobets, according to Russian state media.

An online video posted by Kozlov showed Kim being shielded from light rain as he was shown around the university campus. Kozlov told Kim there were North Koreans studying there and that the school

would be glad to have North Korean students studying hydropower, according to Russian state media.

Kozhemyako had earlier said he would discuss with Kim exchange programs for schoolchildren to attend summer camps in each other's country.

Kim was later seen at the island's Primorsky Aquarium, Russia's largest aquarium, where he watched performances featuring beluga whales, bottlenose dolphins, fur seals and "Misha" the walrus, which he seemed to particularly enjoy, according to Russian state media.

Kim's trip, highlighted by a summit with Putin on Wednesday, has underscored how their interests are aligning in the face of separate, intensifying confrontations with the West. U.S. and South Korean officials have said North Korea could provide badly needed munitions for Moscow's war on Ukraine in exchange for sophisticated Russian weapons technology that would advance Kim's nuclear ambitions.

A day after visiting an aircraft plant in Komsomolsk-on-Amur that produces Russia's most powerful fighter jets, Kim on Saturday traveled to an airport near Vladivostok, where Shoigu and other senior military officials gave him an up-close look at Russia's strategic bombers and other warplanes.

All the Russian warplanes shown to Kim were among the types that have been active use in the war in Ukraine, including the Tu-160, Tu-95 and Tu-22 bombers that have regularly launched



cruise missiles. During Kim's visit, Shoigu and Lt. Gen. Sergei Kobylash, the commander of the Russian long-range bomber force, confirmed for the first time that the Tu-160 had recently received new cruise missiles with a range of more than 6,500 kilometers (over 4,040 miles).

Shoigu, who had met Kim during a rare visit to North Korea in July, also showed Kim another of Russia's latest missiles, the hypersonic Kinzhal, carried by the MiG-31 fighter jet, that saw its first combat during the war in Ukraine.

Kim and Shoigu later on Saturday traveled to Vladivostok, where they inspected the Admiral Shaposhnikov frigate. Russia's navy commander, Adm. Nikolai Yevmenov, briefed Kim on the ship's capabilities and weapons, which include long-range Kalibr cruise missiles that Russian warships have regularly fired at targets in Ukraine.

KCNA, which reported Kim's activities in Russia a day late while crafting the details to meet government propaganda purposes, said Kim was accompanied on Saturday's visits by his top

military officials, including his defense minister and the top commanders of his air force and navy.

Following a luncheon, Kim and Shoigu talked about the regional security environment and exchanged views on "practical issues arising in further strengthening the strategic and tactical coordination, cooperation and mutual exchange between the armed forces of the two countries," KCNA said.

In their July meeting, Kim gave Shoigu a similar inspection of North Korean weapons systems before inviting him to a massive parade in the capital, Pyongyang, where he rolled out his most powerful intercontinental ballistic missiles designed to target the United States.

Kim's visits to military and technology sites this week possibly hint at what he wants from Russia, perhaps in exchange for supplying munitions to refill Putin's declining reserves as his invasion of Ukraine becomes a drawn-out war of attrition.

Kim's meeting with Putin was held at Russia's main spaceport, a location that pointed to his desire for Russian

assistance in his efforts to acquire space-based reconnaissance assets and missile technologies.

Experts have said potential military cooperation between the countries could include efforts to modernize North Korea's outdated air force, which relies on warplanes sent from the Soviet Union in the 1980s.

Kim in recent months has also refocused on strengthening the country's navy, which analysts say could be driven by ambitions to obtain Russia's sophisticated technologies for ballistic missile submarines and nuclear-propelled submarines as well as to initiate joint naval exercises between Russia and North Korea.

Later Saturday, Kim visited a local theater to watch Pyotr Tchaikovsky's Sleeping Beauty ballet performance. KCNA said Kim received a rousing ovation by people at the theater and expressed "deep thanks to the performers and the theater for their impressive and elegant ballet of high artistic value."

Russian state media said Kim left after the first act.

Taiwan detects 28 Chinese warplanes around island

TAIPEI, Sep 17 (Agencies): China flew 28 warplanes around Taiwan on Sunday, with most crossing the median line of the Taiwan Strait for unspecified "long range" missions, Taipei authorities said.

Taiwan's defence ministry said 20 of the aircraft detected since Sunday morning crossed the median line of the waterway separating Taiwan and mainland China, and entered the self-ruled island's southeast and southwest air defence identification zone.

China was conducting "missions such as long-range exercises and training", the defence ministry said in a statement, adding that it was monitoring the situation with patrol aircraft and ships.

Beijing claims democratic Taiwan as its own territory to be seized one day, by force if necessary. It has stepped up military and diplomatic pressure on the island in recent years as relations have soured.

Last week, Taipei reported an increased number of incursions by



Chinese warplanes and ships, after Beijing said its troops were on "high alert" following two ships belonging to the United States and Canada transiting through the Taiwan Strait this month.

Taiwan's defence ministry said 68 Chinese aircraft and 10 naval vessels were detected around the island between Wednesday morning and Thursday morning.

Some of those planes and warships were heading to an unspecified area of the Western Pacific to "conduct joint sea and air training" with China's Shandong aircraft carrier, the ministry said.

The Shandong, one of two operational aircraft

carriers in the Chinese fleet, was detected Monday around 60 nautical miles (110 kilometres) southeast of Taiwan heading into the Western Pacific, Taipei authorities said.

China has not commented officially on any drills being conducted in the Western Pacific.

In April, Beijing conducted military exercises to simulate the encirclement of the island, after Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen met US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy in California.

At the time, Taiwan detected 71 Chinese warplanes in a 24-hour period, matching the record daily high set in December 2022.

Opposition alliance following disruptive and divisive agenda: Chugh

JAMMU, Sep 17 (Agencies): BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh today said that the divisive and disruptive agenda on "ghamandi" INDIA bloc has started coming into the open.

First, they ran down Sanatan Dharma and gave a disruptive call to finish the age-old culture of the country,



then they announced to boycott senior media persons, Chugh said, in a statement. It was a clear indica-

tion that this bloc wants to muzzle the free voice of the media.

Earlier, the Congress had done the same thing during the Emergency and now the entire "ghamandi" alliance was toeing the same line.

Chugh said it was a matter of shame that the alliance had nothing positive to contribute as

its plans and designs are meant only to capture the chair of the prime minister for which there are over a dozen claimants.

The silence of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi over all such disruptive issues shows that the Congress has given its consent to the policy of appeasement and social disruption.

New unified front formed to advocate for Jammu's Rights & Interests



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 17: In a landmark gathering convened at the Dogra Sadar Sabha Jammu, former MP Sheikh Abdul Rehman presided over a meeting paying heartfelt tributes to the security personnel who recently laid down their lives in acts of terrorism. Following this tribute, representatives from both political and non-political organizations of the Jammu division came together to address the pressing issues confronting the people of Jammu.

Recognizing the urgency of forming a unified front, Dogra Sadar Sabha President Gulchain Singh Charak proposed the creation of an organization dedicated to fighting decisively for the rights and

interests of Jammu. All representatives in the meeting unanimously agreed to this proposal and jointly decided to announce the organization's name in an upcoming meeting.

The distinguished representatives present at the meeting included former MP Sheikh Abdul Rehman, Dogra Sadar Sabha President Gulchain Singh Charak, Internationalist Democratic Platform President ID Khajuria, Shiv Sena (UBT) State President Manish Sahni, former Congress Assembly Council member Ved Mahajan, Sainik Samaj Party President Colonel SS Pathania, Advocate Harichand Jalmeria, Akali Dal (A) State President Narinder Singh Khalsa, Dogra

Pakka Danga Cloth Merchants Association President Balwinder Singh, Anjuman Imamia Jammu President Amanat Ali Shah, CPM Regional President Secretary Hari Singh, CITU Executive President Om Prakash, and Deepak Sharma, among others.

The comprehensive discussions during the meeting revolved around several critical issues, including the removal of tolls and the establishment of a smart meter-free zone in Jammu, restoration of the erstwhile state's status, reinstating the democratic system in the region, local bureaucratic appointments, safeguarding the rights of indigenous people, and protecting the broader interests

of Jammu's population, particularly its farmers and rural administrative systems.

After thorough deliberations on these matters, the representatives collectively agreed to spearhead efforts to address these challenges, asserting the need to exert pressure on the existing administrative structure of the Union Territory to resolve the issues at hand.

The representatives, speaking in unison, called upon the people and organizations of Jammu to unite in defense of Jammu's interests, bolster the newly formed organization, and be the resounding voice that advocates unwaveringly for Jammu and its rightful rights.

Natrang stages 'Do Kalakaar' in Sunday Theatre series

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, SEP 17: Do Kalakaar, a play in Hindi written by Bhagwati Charan Verma and directed by Neeraj Kant was staged here today at Natrang Studio in its weekly Sunday Theatre series. Though coated with a thick layer of comedy, the play had a very relevant message to share with the audience which was revealed very artistically.

In the play, 'Churamani' and 'Martand' are two friends, both are artists (one poet and another painter) they had once aspired to rule the Bollywood with their respective creative strengths. The poet had dreamt of becoming the top Hindi Film lyricist and the painter had set a goal for himself to become the most sought after art director of the tinsel town. But destiny lands them in a situation where both are forced to use their creative energies in creating situations and cooking stories just to escape the harassment of their landlord who has not been paid the rentals of a dingy room for the last



six months. The playwright has beautifully portrayed the tragic fate of the creative people who are expected to create magic and electrifying artistic experience through their unlimited creative energies are shown wasting their creativity just to ensure survival. The play opens at a situation where both the poet and the painter have locked themselves in a room which is being visited by the landlord to collect the rent from them. The landlord forcefully makes his entry despite all-out unsuccessful efforts to hold him back are made by them. When caught at the corner both take

shelter of their creative mind and start cooking highly logical excuses to impress the landlord so he allows them to continue till they are able to realize their unfulfilled dreams.

Both sell him the dreams to the extent that the room rented out to them will once become a museum which once hosted the great genius of the world of poetry and painting. Finding the distance beyond measurement between their dreams and reality, the landlord refuses to buy their arguments and throws them out of the room to face further rejection and dejection of the society. Both the

poet and the painter get this realization at this point of the time that despite having a civilization of thousand years at our back this world is not meant for creative people.

Natrang artists who presented a wonderful performance included Sheryaar Salaria, Amit Brahma, Vishal Bhat, Mehak Chib, Chaitanya Shekhar, Sumit Bandaral, Nikhil Sharma and Sonali Sharma. The lights of the play were executed by Neeraj Kant who also did the sound. The play was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen and the presentations were done by Kushal Bhat.

DPAP's KDP Wing seeks restoration of regular hygienic water supply to Jagti Migrant Camp

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 17: The Leaders of the Kashmiri Displaced People Wing of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), including President Shri Sanjay Dhar, Chairman Shri Piaray Lal Pandita, and General Secretary Sh. Raj Kumar Ticku, have jointly issued an urgent appeal to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, the Worthy Chief Secretary, and the respected Commissioner Secretary of the Jal Shakti Department, regarding the critical issue of irregular water supply to over 25,000 residents of the Jagti Migrant Camp.

The leaders expressed deep concern over the irregular water supply that has been plaguing the Jagti Migrant Camp. They have raised alarm over the substantial financial loss incurred by the government and the undue benefits extended to private contractors who have been granted extensions since 2021. This issue persists despite government orders issued in 2021, directing the handover of the Jagti Water Supply Scheme to the Jal Shakti Department, bringing it in line with other departments such as R&B, Electricity, and sewage

drainage, which have already been taken over by their respective departments from the Relief Organization.

It is apparent that the influence of private contractors has caused reluctance within the Jal Shakti Department to assume control of this scheme. Consequently, the Jal Shakti Department's hesitancy has allowed contractors to earn substantial amounts each month, rather than transferring the scheme to the department, which would save the government from incurring losses while ensuring the provision of regular and hygienic water

supply to the residents of the Jagti Camp. This situation directly contradicts the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister's slogan "Har Ghar Jal," which aims to provide water to every household.

The leaders of the Kashmiri Displaced People Wing urgently request the authorities to restore regular water supply to the Jagti Camp residents, which has been non-operational for the past ten days. They emphasize the immediate need to address this issue to prevent further inconvenience and suffering among the residents of the Jagti Migrant Camp.

FROM PAGE 1

Rajya Sabha Chairman hoists National Flag at new Parliament building; Kharge gives a miss

development. Bharat is witnessing epochal change and the world is in total recognition of the might, power and contribution of Bharat."

The Vice-President added that we are living in times where we are witnessing development and achievements which we never dreamt of.

"Our ground reality today is being reflected globally in the most affirmative manner," Dhankhar said.

Union ministers, Members of Parliament across the political spectrum, Secretary-Generals of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha were also present to witness the moment.

It is learnt that the special session may commence in the old and end in the new Parliament building.

Anantnag operation enters 5th day, security forces hunt for terrorists in Gadole forest area

used for surveillance and delivery of fire-power, along with the high impact of precision fire being used by the forces.

The Northern Army commander inspected the drone which has been used to survey the area and track the terrorists, the officials said.

They said Lt Gen Dwivedi reviewed the operation with senior police and Army officers. He also interacted with troops deployed in the operation, they added.

The police believe two to three terrorists are trapped in the forest area as the forces maintained a tight cordon.

Additional Director General of Police (Kashmir) Vijay Kumar late Friday night said the operation was launched on the basis of specific input and claimed "two to three trapped terrorists will be neutralised."

Colonel Manpreet Singh, Commanding Officer, 19 Rashtriya Rifles, Major Ashish Dhonchak, Deputy Superintendent of Jammu and Kashmir Police Humayun Bhat and a soldier were killed by the terrorists on Wednesday.

Ladakh saw unbelievable changes for the better after Article 370 Abrogation: LG Mishra

neglected and out on a limb", the L-G claimed, adding funds were not available and development was the least of priorities.

The army veteran said he has got his priorities straight.

The first priority is to make sure that the coming generations do not face water problems, Mishra said. "Because we live on hills, water (is available) down below... I want to make sure that Ladakh never faces water problems." He said the next priority is job creation for the people of Ladakh, including startups.

"I have got almost 600 vacancies released in police and civil services and the process is going on, while there is a case pend-

ing in the Supreme Court related to 800 vacancies.

"The way Ladakh is progressing and the way the people are being taken care of... the changes are unbelievable and for the better," the L-G said.

Referring to Ladakh as being part of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir before the abrogation of Article 370, Mishra said earlier the people of the region had no say.

"There was one hill council and that did not have much power. Now we have got two councils (one each in Leh and Kargil districts). These two councils are fully functional. We are empowering them," he said.

Mishra said he had asked the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), which deals with all high-altitude inventions and initiatives, to visit every farmer and share their technology and initiatives with them.

"Many entrepreneurs have come up and they are producing in the field of agriculture and horticulture things which have never happened," he said.

The L-G said the administration has started the apricot blossom festival which is attracting foreign tourists. "Tourism is a very high-edge matter in Ladakh. We have a population of 2.75 lakh and last year we had 5.31 lakh tourists. You can well imagine how fast we are moving forward." The Lt Governor said Ladakh has a very bright future as a Union Territory.

"Given the topography, Leh itself is at 11,500 feet altitude and the other places which are equally high, and given the climate, limited population, dispersion and also the local economy, I think the best thing and the way for Ladakh is to be a union territory.

"The way the progress is happening, Ladakh has a very bright future. I am sure that within the next couple of years, it will be the most developed Union Territory in India. I aim to have a Ladakh that is corruption-free and delay-free and I am working on that," he said.

Chinar Corp Commander LG Ghai reviews Anti-Infiltration grid on LoC

troops for the successful conduct of Operation Khanda in which three terrorists were eliminated on September 16.

In a Joint Operation launched by the Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police and Intelligence agencies an infiltration bid was foiled on Saturday in the morning hours along LoC in Uri Sector during which three militants were eliminated.

Three-Member mobile stealing gang arrested in Srinagar

recovered as well," police said on X.

Arrangements finalised for IAF's Maiden Air Show in Jammu next week

seating arrangements, officials said. However, they clarified that only invitees with passes would have access to the venue, while the general public and audience members could enjoy the air show from designated viewing locations.

The spokesperson said the marquee event will showcase the scintillating and

speculator display of precision flying and performance by nine aircraft teams, flying Hawk Mk-132 and Mi-17 medium-lift helicopters showcasing the slithering and small team insertion and extraction techniques, free fall para jumpers and precision drill movements by AWDT. The display will showcase the operational capability of the IAF with an aim to motivate youth to join the elite service, he said. The spokesperson said the event will also aim to sensitise the general public to the hazards of aviation and how they can assist in aviation safety.

DBU admission row: Police book University Chancellor, officials for duping students

traced back to a dispute that has engulfed DBU. Nursing students who enrolled for the 2020 academic session found themselves in a state of despair. They allege that their registrations were covertly shifted to an unapproved college within the DBU campus, leading to widespread protests and a shocking police lathi charge. Several female students were left injured and unconscious during the incident, with disturbing videos of the police action spreading rapidly on social media platforms.

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti applauded the Punjab Government's actions in this matter, stating, "Relieved that FIRs have finally been registered against officials of Desh Bhagat University & hope that the issues faced by students will be resolved at the earliest. Thank you @BhagwantMann ji for taking this up."

Being 5th largest economy 'impressive,' but per capita income must also rise, says ex-RBI Governor

Former RBI Governor C Rangarajan opined that growth without equity is not sustainable.

HYDERABAD, Sep 17 (Agencies): While India becoming the fifth largest economy in the world is an 'impressive achievement,' there is a need to grow fast to increase the per capita income of the country from the present levels, former Reserve Bank of India Governor C Rangarajan said.

In his address at the 13th Convocation of the ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education, Rangarajan said post-Covid-19 and the Russia-Ukraine war, there is a need to lay down a clear road-map for India's future development and the first and foremost task is to raise the growth rate.

Noting that India was today the fifth largest economy, he said: "This is an impressive achievement."

"However, in relation to per capita income, it is a different story. In 2020, India's rank with



respect to per capita income was 142 out of 197 countries. This only shows the distance we have to travel. All the same, we have no choice but to grow fast, given the present level of per capita income," the former chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council said.

According to calculations, he

said, if the country achieves a seven per cent rate of growth continuously over the next two decades and more, it will make a substantial change to the level of the economy and India may almost touch the status of a developed economy.

India needs to absorb the new technologies that have emerged

and that will emerge and skilled manpower which is consistent with this development though the new technologies may lower the employment elasticity with respect to output, he stressed.

"Employment must come out of increased growth. Employment enhancement without growth is not sustainable. That is why we must aim at least at a sustained growth of 7 per cent," Rangarajan pointed out.

The former RBI Governor underscored that the development strategy must be multi-dimensional and the country needs strong export as well as manufacturing sectors. Growth without equity is not sustainable, he opined.

M Jagadeesh Kumar, Chairman of University Grants Commission was the chief guest of the convocation.

Ashok Leyland to invest Rs 1,000 crore for EV plant in UP



CHENNAI, Sep 17 (Agencies): Ashok Leyland has decided to set up a bus manufacturing plant, focused on electric and alternative fuel vehicles in Uttar Pradesh. Ashok Leyland intends to invest up to Rs 1,000 crore in this new facility over the next few years and

focus on green mobility, said Shenu Agarwal, managing director and chief executive officer of Ashok Leyland, adding that it depends on market adoption and demand of alternative fuel vehicles in the state.

The commercial vehicle manufacturer will predominantly concen-

trate on the production of electric buses and also plans to assemble diesel vehicles, as well as emerging alternative fuels. It has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Uttar Pradesh government for this, according to a company statement.

The manufacturing facility will initially have the capacity to produce 2,500 buses annually and the company aims to expand this capacity to 5,000 vehicles, over the next decade. Once operational, this will be the seventh vehicle plant of Ashok Leyland in the country. However, the company didn't specify the timeline for setting up the factory.

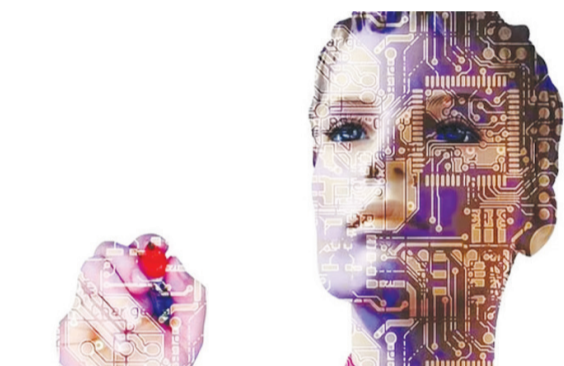
Gen X, Millennials eager to leverage artificial intelligence at work: LinkedIn Report

NEW DELHI, Sep 17 (Agencies): With companies adopting new technologies to enhance productivity, a majority of the Millennials and Gen X professionals are curious and eager to leverage artificial intelligence (AI) at work, according to a report.

Over 75 per cent of Millennials and 74 per cent of Gen X professionals surveyed feel that AI will take boring tasks off their plate giving them the time to focus on tasks that excite them, said a report by LinkedIn India.

Meanwhile, 70 per cent of Gen Z are also eager and curious to adapt to the world of AI, the report added.

People born between 1965 and 1980 are referred as Gen X, while Millennials are those born between 1981 and 1996 and Gen Z includes those born between 1996 and



2010.

"While Gen Z and Millennials have always demonstrated greater tech fluency, it's refreshing to see Gen X professionals embrace AI with similar enthusiasm.

Professionals from these three generations are tapping into AI's potential to enhance productivity, navigate work challenges, and achieve a meaningful work-life balance.

"Amid these progressive use cases, it's promising to note that professionals of all age groups value soft skills and technical skills equally as they prepare

for the future of work," LinkedIn India Editorial Lead and Career Expert Nirajita Banerjee said. The LinkedIn report is based on a research conducted by Censuwide among 2,045 workers in India aged over 18 years during August 23-29.

Even as there is some hesitation among all age groups interviewed, there is also excitement as Indians are optimistic that AI will positively transform their careers, noted the report.

The report further revealed that 84 per cent Millennials, 82 per cent Gen X and 72 per

cent Gen Z professionals interviewed agreed that AI will help them solve problems or overcome an obstacle at work even with a job-related task which is beyond help.

As AI can take away some of the drudgery of their daily jobs, professionals are hoping to have more job satisfaction and lead an improved quality of life, the report added.

According to the report, Millennials (79 per cent) and Gen X (76 per cent) professionals also said that adoption of AI will reduce their workload and will help them achieve greater work-life balance - the highest amongst all generations.

Meanwhile, around 93 per cent Millennials and 89 per cent Gen X professionals also believed that AI will become their invisible teammate in the next five years, said the report.

Gucci, Louis Vuitton to expand in India with new outlets in Reliance's luxury mall



NEW DELHI, Sep 17 (Agencies): Gucci, Cartier and Louis Vuitton are among brands to sign leases for stores in Indian tycoon Mukesh Ambani's new Mumbai mall, as luxury firms and Reliance Industries seek to profit from strong economic growth and a rapid rise in the number of millionaires.

The Jio World Plaza, which an industry source said is likely to open this year, is located inside Reliance's \$1 billion business and cultural hub in Mumbai's business district.

Reliance has yet to disclose details about the tenants, but lease documents provided by real estate analytics firm CRE Matrix showed that Burberry Group as well as several brands owned by LVMH, Kering and Richemont have agreed to rent shops in the mall, and also share between 4% and 12% of their monthly net revenue with Reliance.

Reliance, Burberry, LVMH, Kering and Richemont did not respond to a request for comment. "Luxury brands have

always struggled for quality retail spaces in India and many were forced to open their first outlets in luxury hotels," said Anuj Kejriwal, CEO of India's Anarock Retail. "These brands are now looking for a meaningful presence."

At almost 700 square metres (7,500 square feet), Louis Vuitton's Jio World Plaza store will be the most spacious of its four outlets in India. Cartier's store will be its second in the country and for Dior, it will be the third.

To ensure the mall retains its luxury appeal, some lease agreements like that of Dior include a clause that entitles it to a 25% rent reduction if at least four of 10 luxury brands including Gucci, Cartier, Bulgari and Tiffany don't open their own outlets in the mall within six months.

India's 1.4 billion population, the world's big-

gest, has a per capita income of just \$2,300, but the country is also home to more than 800,000 dollar millionaires who are splashing out on everything from luxury homes to expensive SUVs.

Real estate consultants Knight Frank estimate India will have 1.4 million millionaires by 2026, 77% more than in 2021, as the economy continues to strengthen.

The growth in India, where Euromonitor estimates the personal luxury market to expand almost 12% a year in 2022-2026 to nearly \$5 billion, contrasts with the slowing economy in China, whose appetite for designer goods has driven sales growth in luxury firms for years.

China's personal luxury market will grow an average 11.5% in the four years to 2026 to \$107 billion, Euromonitor data shows.

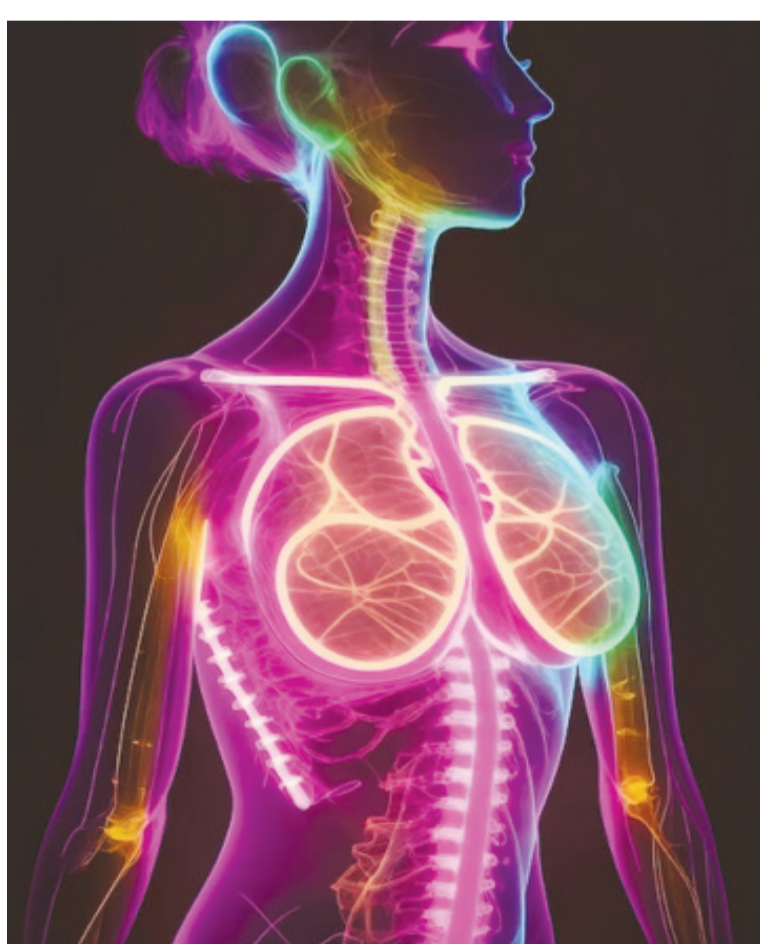
Breast milk may help in early detection of breast cancer

LONDON, Sep 17 (Agencies): In a significant breakthrough, Spanish researchers have shown for the first time that breast milk from breast cancer patients contains tumour DNA, and may help in early detection of the most common type of cancer affecting women worldwide.

The tumour DNA, known as circulating tumour DNA (ctDNA), can be detected through liquid biopsy in breast milk, even before breast cancer can be diagnosed using conventional imaging. It could become a new tool for early diagnosis of breast cancer in the postpartum period, reveals the research published in the journal Cancer Discovery.

The findings were made by researchers at Vall d'Hebron University Hospital in Spain after a breast cancer patient diagnosed while pregnant with her third daughter raised concerns for the potential risk of her tumour being passed through her breast milk to her second daughter.

"The patient brought us a sample of breast milk that she had stored in her freezer. So, thanks to her, that's where our project started, because although we know that breast cancer is not transmitted through breast milk, we decided to analyse the sample in search of markers that could help us in our research," said Dr. Cris-



tina Saura, head of the Breast Cancer Group at the university's Institute of Oncology (VHIO).

"And indeed, when we analysed the patient's breast milk, we found DNA with the same mutation that was present in her tumour. The breast milk had been frozen more than a year before the patient's cancer diagnosis," she added.

Next the researchers col-

lected breast milk and blood samples from 15 breast cancer patients diagnosed during pregnancy or postpartum, as well as from healthy women who were breastfeeding. Using two techniques, Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) and Droplet Digital PCR (ddPCR), two techniques, Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) and Droplet Digital PCR (ddPCR).

"We found that there was free circulating DNA of tumour origin in the breast milk. We were able to detect mutations which were present in the tumours of patients with breast cancer in the samples of breast milk of 13 of the 15 patients analysed. Whereas, in the blood samples collected at the same time, ctDNA was only detected in one of them," said Dr Ana Vivancos, head of VHIO's Genomics laboratory.

Further, the team developed an NGS-based genomic panel as a possible method of early diagnosis in breast cancer. Based on publicly available data, the researchers designed the VHIO-YWBC gene panel to detect the most frequent mutations present in women with breast cancer diagnosed before the age of 45.

The panel has "a sensitivity of more than 70 per cent. This means that, of the samples from our patients tested with this panel, 7 out of 10 cases would have been detected with a specificity of 100 per cent."

"This panel could be used in the future as a method for the early diagnosis of breast cancer in the postpartum period," explains Dr Saura. "In the same way that a heel prick is performed on all newborns, collecting a breast milk sample from all women after birth for breast cancer screening could also be considered."

Scientists track how brain cells die, offers new hope for Alzheimer's cure



LONDON, Sep 17 (Agencies): A team of scientists in the UK has claimed to have found the reason behind brain cell death which leads to Alzheimer's, offering hope for a future new line of drugs which could cure the disease.

Alzheimer's is the most common cause of dementia (decline of brain function, memory and thinking skills).

It has a variety of complex causes, including the build-up of proteins called amyloid and tau in the brain (substances which create small structures called plaques and tangles), hindering brain function.

There is also a loss of neurons -- or brain cells

-- resulting in a breakdown of neural networks resulting in memory loss.

Previously, scientists have never understood how those two processes are connected and therefore how to prevent neuron loss.

Scientists working at University College London and KU Leuven in Belgium found that buildup of abnormal protein is connected to 'necroptosis', a similar type of cellular suicide usually used by our body to get rid of unwanted cells.

The buildup of amyloid plaques between neurons and the formation of tangles of tau form, a molecule called MEG3

is produced by the brain cells resulting in cellular suicide.

While conducting the research, scientist transplanted the human brain cells into genetically modified mice, which produced lots of amyloid and by blocking the production of MEG3, scientists were able to prevent cellular suicide.

"This discovery is important because it points to new mechanisms of cell death in Alzheimer's disease that we didn't previously understand and could pave the way for new treatments to slow, or even stop disease progression in the future," said Dr Susan Kohlihaas from Alzheimer's Research UK.

"The breakthrough shows 'how and why neurons die in Alzheimer's disease' after years of debate in the scientific community. It 'provides really strong evidence' of a 'specific suicide pathway', and believes it could lead to a 'whole new line of drugs development,' added professor Bart De Strooper, a member of the research team.

Asia Cup: India look to snap five-year trophy-less streak in final against Sri Lanka

A glance at India's trophy cabinet will reveal the uncomfortable truth of them not winning any titles in the last five years, and Sunday will be a good opportunity for them to snap that unhappy streak

COLOMBO, Sep 17 (Agencies): Rohit Sharma's Indian team will be firm favourites to end its five-year trophy drought in multi-nation events, when it squares off with a depleted Sri Lanka in the final of the Asia Cup here on Sunday despite a few niggling questions still remaining unanswered.

While Axar Patel is an important component in the Indian set-up and his multiple injuries is a concern, Sri Lanka will in fact miss their premier spinner Maheesh Theekshana way more than the opposition due to his right hamstring injury.

A glance at India's trophy cabinet will reveal the uncomfortable truth of them not winning any titles in the last five years, and Sunday will be a good opportunity for them to snap that unhappy streak.

Not to forget a win before getting into the World Cup mode will be the ideal boost for a side which hasn't yet fully ticked all boxes but is showing more solidity than one would have thought a few months back.

India's last title, across the three formats, came in 2018 when the Rohit's side beat Bangladesh in the Asia Cup by three wickets in Dubai.

Since that victory, India's inability to master crunch matches and occasions has been startling.

India reached semifinals of the 50-over World Cup in 2019 and the T20 World Cup in 2022, besides losing against New Zealand and Australia in the WTC finals in 2019 and 2023



respectively.

The Men in Blue also failed to make their presence felt in last year's Asia Cup, which was won by Sri Lanka.

ALSO READ | Asia Cup final: Washington Sundar called up as cover for injured Axar Patel

That event was played in T20 format. Any whichever one looks at it, this is a seriously underwhelming record for a team that prides in its cricketing tradition and wants to set some new trends under head coach Rahul Dravid and skipper Rohit.

However, India will believe that they have a brilliant chance to add a trophy to their glittering collection come Sunday.

India are certain to recall the five players who were rested for the Super Four match against Bangladesh on Friday, which they eventually lost by six runs.

The return of Virat Kohli and Hardik Pandya for the summit clash will certainly add meat to their batting unit, which struggled against the array of Bangladesh spinners.

Opener Shubman Gill made a

top class hundred, but the rest of the batsmen could not rotate strike effectively in the middle overs, leaving the late order with a tall task.

The match also revealed another area India needed to address — the lack of consistency in bundling out a side after making early inroads.

India had reduced Bangladesh to 59 for 4, but the bowlers gave away too many runs in the death overs, allowing their neighbours to post a healthy 265.

But India will hope that the issue will be solved once pacers Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj and left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav make their comeback for tomorrow's game.

India will keep a watch on Axar's right hand which received multiple beatings in the match against Bangladesh, suffering niggles on his little finger and forearm along with hamstring injury.

Even though the team management informed that they are still monitoring the progress of the left-arm spinner, they have roped in off-spinner Washington

Sundar as cover for him for the final.

Washington was training in Bengaluru with India's Asian Games-bound squad, and is expected to link with the team in Colombo by this evening.

But these are India's immediate concerns pertaining to the Asia Cup final.

But they cannot be unmindful of the larger picture as well.

Apart from the practice games, India have four more ODIs — the Asia Cup final and three matches against Australia — prior to the World Cup to tick the desired boxes.

A victory here in the Asia Cup will boost their confidence ahead of the quadrennial big bash next month, as they also seek to end a 10-year-long ICC trophy drought.

Teams (India): Rohit Sharma (captain), Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Shubman Gill, Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma, Ishan Kishan, Hardik Pandya (vice-captain), Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Prasidh Krishna, Washington Sundar (cover for injured Axar Patel).

Sri Lanka: Dasun Shanaka (captain), Pathum Nissanaka, Dimuth Karunaratne, Kusal Janith Perera, Kusal Mendis (vc), Charith Asalanka, Dhananjaya de Silva, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Maheesh Theekshana, Dunith Wellalage, Matheesha Pathirana, Kasun Rajitha, Dushan Hemantha, Binura Fernando, Pramod Madushan.

Plagued by injury woes, Pakistan Cricket Board puts cap on T20 league participation for centrally contracted players



KARACHI, Sep 17 (Agencies): The Pakistan Cricket Board has decided to put a cap on the number of foreign T20 leagues that the centrally contracted players can appear in during the year, as disagreements between the players and the board over several clauses of the contracts continue to persist.

Injuries to fast bowlers Naseem Shah, Haris Rauf and other pacers like Muhammad Hasnain, Ehsanullah and Hasan Ali before the World Cup have prompted the PCB to take a strong stand, as the new central contracts are yet to be signed by the players.

Zaka Ashraf, who heads the Cricket Management Committee currently running the PCB affairs, told the Pakistani media in Colombo that the players who have the A-Plus and A contracts would only be allowed to play one T20 league besides the Pakistan Super

League.

He said the board would also have the authority to withdraw or cancel any NOC it has issued to a player for a foreign league if it feels it could be detrimental to the interests of Pakistan cricket.

"The players want to be compensated if this situation evolves," he said.

Pakistan have some injury woes in the build-up to the World Cup in India.

Naseem has been virtually ruled out of the World Cup, while the others also struggle with fitness issues.

Hasan Ali fractured his thumb while playing in the Lanka Premier League.

Also, before the Asia Cup this year, PCB surprised everyone by issuing NOCs right and left to players for different leagues, including The Hundred, LPL, Canada Global League, Caribbean Premier League, etc.

Many former players

and experts are now blaming the PCB for not managing the players' workload before the Asia Cup and World Cup.

A reliable source in the PCB also told PTI that in the new central contracts, delayed since the end of June, the board has also added clauses that made it clear that top players would not be issued NOCs two months before any premier tournament or bilateral series.

The contracts' issue remains unresolved since the players' agents have advised them to reject several clauses put in by the PCB.

One clause pertains to it being mandatory for the players to get permission from the board before even submitting their names for any T20 draft.

Secondly, players will have to get clearance before signing any commercial/endorsement deals and are bound to give five to six hours to the official sponsors of the board for commercials, promotions and endorsements.

Zaka told the media that the contracts would be issued soon, and the board had made big enhancements in the monthly retainers, match fees and other areas for players because it wanted the players to focus more on Pakistan cricket.

Ahead of Asian Games, Indian squash team quietly confident of adding to tally of 13 medals

CHENNAI, Sep 17 (Agencies): With the squash event at the upcoming Asian Games set to begin on September 26, the eight-member India team is training in earnest in the High Performance Camp at the Indian Squash Academy, Chennai. The men's team comprises Saurav Ghosal, Abhay Singh, Mahesh Mangonkar and Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu. The women's team includes Joshna Chinappa, Dipika Pallikal Karthik, Anahat Singh and Tanvi Khanna.

The Indian squash team has a good track record at the Asian Games, having bagged a total of 13 medals, including one gold and three silvers. India are fourth on the all-time medal tally at the Asian Games behind Malaysia, Hong Kong and Pakistan. Saurav, Mahesh and Harinder were part of the team that won India's first-ever gold medal in squash at the 2014 Asian Games 2014, along with Kush Kumar as the fourth member.

Saurav trained with Gregory Gaultier for more than 90 minutes on Saturday afternoon. Greg put Saurav through the paces and sparred with him. The India No 1 player and second seed in the Asian Games was made to play the backhand continuously for a while in order to polish his skills. "The team has the right mixture of experience and youth. Last year, I came to train them (team) in preparation for the lead up to



the tournament (Commonwealth Games) so they asked me again to come here this year you know, I really like the group. An old friend of mine James Willstrop is also there, we are here to share our experience, hope the players get the best out of this camp," said Gregory of France and a former World Champion.

Saurav, on his part, was pleased to spar with Greg and believed that the sessions were fruitful in sharpening his skills. He also insisted that the India team was determined to go all out and try for team gold. "Greg worked on a few things to make me sharper. He went about adding a little bit of intensity and sharpness to my game and it was very good to train with him," said Saurav. "Greg has an unbelievable pedigree (records) himself and the hallmark of his game was intensity and so we are trying to incorporate that, how we can pick his brains in different situations, how to deal with different balls at the court and for me, it is how to respond to different situations in the matches," added Saurav.

The 37-year old is working on his fitness and is also keen to

handle pressure and expectations. "I am trying to be physically fit and keep my body fresh for the Games. I believe there is always pressure when you play, in particular for your country. I am not going to put pressure on my mind, just want to enjoy the process. I am very grateful we had the opportunity to try to win a gold medal for India (2014). It would be a relief if we could go on and try to win the men's side team gold and individual gold," said Saurav.

The preparatory camp is being supervised by Cyrus Poncha, secretary general SRFI. Cyrus has made all the arrangements for the smooth training of the players and trainers. All the players seem to bond well at the camp. "It's a good idea to have the camp at the Indian Squash Academy. We have a team event as well at the Asian Games, so it's always good to get everyone together and with a sense of togetherness we can put our best foot forward. It is good to train with everyone and keep pushing each other to give our best every day, execute and win every match, win medals for India," opined Saurav.

Dipika made history

by becoming the first Indian to break into the top 10 in the PSA Women's rankings in 2012. Joshna, on the other hand, achieved a career-high world ranking of World No. 10 in July 2016. Anahat was the youngest player to represent India in the Commonwealth Games at the age of 14. In December 2022, she was ranked first in Asia in the U-15 category. Tanvi currently holds the fourth highest ranking among Indian players and has also won a silver medal in the Asian Games 2018.

Dipika and Harinder defeated the Malaysian pair of Rachel Arnold and Ivan Yuen in the final to win the Asian mixed doubles squash championships in June this year. The duo trained hard at the ISA here on Saturday. Dipika was confident of a good show by the women's team and in particular, the mixed doubles pair. "Asian Games is tough, but we have prepared well so I think we (as a team) have a real good chance to do well. I will be pairing with Harinder and a few months back we won the Asian mixed doubles championship. We would like to carry that form into the Asian Games. There is no pressure as such, as we have worked in earnest for the event in China. Fitness wise, I have really worked hard and we hope to do well. After becoming a mother, I really worked on my fitness to keep in tune to the demands of the game," said Dipika.

'Anyone' can win the World Cup, India need to be 'best at every moment': Rohit Sharma

ODI World Cup has once again returned to India after a gap of 12 years and will start on October 5



NEW DELHI, Sep 17 (Agencies): With just weeks to go before the start of the ICC ODI World Cup, Indian skipper Rohit Sharma has highlighted the unpredictability surrounding the marquee event with the hint that the coveted trophy could be lifted by "anyone" as all teams are strong.

The stylish opener also said the Men in Blue need to be the "best" in the business to leave all "strong" teams behind in the quest for the World Cup trophy. The ODI World Cup has once again returned to India after a gap of 12 years and will start on October 5.

The Indian cricket team is currently playing in the Asia Cup 2023 and will lock horns in the finals of the tournament with Sri Lanka on September 17. Considering their ongoing display of cricket, with the recent form of Virat Kohli and KL Rahul, it seems that the Men in Blue have a good team balance for the upcoming ODI World Cup.

In an exclusive email interaction, organised by Booking.com - the

energy and it's just a lot of fun to be around him, and the records that we set as an opening pair for India.

Most challenging bowler?

Dale Steyn has been one of the toughest bowlers to face. His work ethic and his discipline and his ability with the new ball was always a challenge and I loved to play against him.

One international player you would like to play with - past/present?

I would have loved to play with Ricky Ponting and Adam Gilchrist. I had the opportunity to play under and with Ricky in MI and then be coached by him, but Ricky changed the way you approach captaincy, while Adam changed the role of a wicketkeeper across all formats of cricket.

Today, I think I would enjoy playing with David Warner. He is always busy at the crease and on the field and he brought a different approach to batting.

Do you have any fond travel memories with the cricket team?

A tour in 2006-07. We went to Kenya, Mombasa and we had a team outing and one of the things we wanted to try was the Jet Ski. Usually, the instructor shows you have to ride it. Like a driving test. Pragyan Ojha did not listen to him and pressed the wrong buttons and accelerated so much that the ski skipped on the water so fast that he was not able to control it and he rammed into a

boat that was anchored on the beach and there was a small fire. It was so memorable to see the look on Ojha's face and even now when I go on beach vacations and see Jet Ski, I think of it. It is so memorable.

On the World Cup? The World Cup is anyone's to win. All the teams are strong, everyone will bring their A-game, so we also need to be at our best at every moment and that's what I will aim for.

Favourite Indian ground?

I made my India debut in Eden Gardens (in Test cricket) and scored 177 against West Indies and then the highest ODI score of 264 and my IPL 100 was also there. I also have a Ranji trophy 200 there. Beyond the scores, my first trophy as IPL captain came there and another title as well. I love the stadium.

Your most memorable cricket moment?

My first senior team trophy — the 2007 T20 World Cup and the 2021 Test match in Gabba, but I am looking ahead to create memories that will top these two.

If not a cricketer what would you be?

From reading pitch conditions to reading land rates, I would have become a real estate tycoon.

What is the one thing you take with you, when you travel, to retain memories?

Polaroids of my family and the drawings my daughter does before every tour.

Yudhvir leads bike rally celebrating PM Modi's 73rd birthday in Jammu East Constituency

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 17: Yudhvir Sethi, Vice President of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu and Kashmir, today organized a bike rally to commemorate the 73rd birthday of the Honorable Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi.

The rally, which started in the Jammu East constituency, saw enthusiastic participation from party members, supporters, and residents of the area. During the bike rally, Yudhvir interacted with the public, distributed sweets, and cut cakes symbolizing the joyous occasion of Prime Minister Modi's birthday.

Expressing his elation over the event, Yudhvir Sethi praised Prime Minister Modi's dedicated service to the nation, highlighting the transformative initiatives and developmental projects undertaken during his tenure. He emphasized the satisfaction and contentment of the people, who are overwhelm-



ingly appreciative of the Prime Minister's work.

"Under the dynamic leadership of our esteemed Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, the nation has witnessed remarkable progress and prosperity," he said. "His visionary policies, unwavering determination, and relentless efforts have not only improved the lives of our citizens but have also elevated India's stature on the global stage. The people of Jammu and Kashmir are extremely

pleased with the dedicated work being done by PM Modi, and this bike rally is a small gesture to showcase our support and admiration for his exceptional leadership," he added.

Sethi further highlighted the various developmental initiatives undertaken in Jammu and Kashmir under the guidance of Prime Minister Modi, including infrastructural development, empowerment of women, improved healthcare facilities,

and the focused efforts towards the socio-economic upliftment of the region.

The senior BJP leader urged the people to further strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Modi and support his reelection in the upcoming 2024 elections. Recognizing the need for continued progress and nation-building, he emphasized the importance of electing a leader who can guide India towards greater heights.

"Let us unite, work together, and ensure that Prime Minister Modi returns in 2024 as the leader of our great nation. By doing so, we will pave the way for a prosperous, secure, and inclusive future for all," he added.

Sethi also expressed his gratitude to the participants and supporters who made the bike rally a memorable event. He thanked them for their unwavering faith in the BJP, Prime Minister Modi, and the vision of a New India.

Prominent among those who joined the bike rally include Anju Dogra, Praveen Kerni, Savita Anand, Arun Sethi, Shashi Kant Sapolia, Rajinder sika, Sudhir Anand, Rajesh Dogra, Chakshu Kapoor, Ritika Mahajan, Rashi, Monika Sethi, Sanjay Mahey, Vageesh Gupta Bharti, Chaman Lal Angral, Vineet Gupta, Rahul Gupta, Anuradha Sharma, Ajit Yogi, Pooja Sharma, Preeti Sharma and many Karyakartas.

Youth Congress marks PM Modi's birthday as National Unemployment Day



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 17: In a symbolic gesture, the District Youth Congress Jammu (Urban) commemorated the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi today by designating it as "National Unemployment Day." The event, held at Hari Singh Park in Jammu, was organized by Anirudh Sawhney, State General Secretary of J&K Youth Congress, in collaboration with DYU President Jammu (Urban), Vankul Jamba. The event was led by ex-JKPYC President Uday Bhanu Chib, who serves as IYC Incharge Maharashtra. Other prominent Youth Congress leaders, including Fiaz Diwan, Ranjot Singh, Sahil Dogra, Rishab Kohli, Rohan AYC President Jammu East, Sunil Singh AYC President Jammu North, Anmol Kohli AYC Vice President Jammu West, and several others, actively participated. The occasion provided a platform for Youth Congress members to voice their concerns about the escalating issue of unemployment prevalent across the country.

As a symbolic gesture to register their concerns, Youth Congress members engaged in various activities, including selling juice on the streets and selling pakodas, referring to Prime Minister Modi's comment in Parliament, among other such activi-

ties. Ex-J&K PYC President Uday Bhanu Chib, IYC Incharge Maharashtra, underscored that on the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji's 72nd birthday, the Youth Congress aims to spotlight the critical issue of unemployment, which has adversely affected millions of youth nationwide. He addressed the gathering, emphasizing the soaring unemployment rates across the nation, leading to a prevailing sense of disappointment and disillusionment. Chib noted that addressing unemployment does not seem to be a priority for the BJP government. Competent young individuals are idle and jobless due to the severe lack of employment opportunities, yet there appears to be a lack of concerted efforts or policies aimed at resolving this job crisis.

Fiaz Diwan and Ranjot Singh, both Vice Presidents of PYC, also expressed their strong criticism of the government's leadership, particularly concerning employment and job creation. They firmly stated that the government has failed to meet the expectations and needs of the youth in this regard.

Anirudh Sawhney, State General Secretary of JKPYC, stressed the urgent need to address the escalating unemployment rates, which

have been exacerbated by the policies of the BJP Government. He remarked, "Today, on the Prime Minister's birthday, we are observing National Unemployment Day to draw attention to the alarming unemployment crisis in our country. The youth of our nation are facing immense challenges in finding stable employment opportunities, and it's high time that concrete steps are taken to tackle this issue." Sawhney highlighted that the BJP government has been neglecting various aspects of the unemployment crisis, including its impact on young individuals and the overall economy. He emphasized the importance of implementing skill development programs, promoting entrepreneurship, and creating job opportunities as essential measures to combat this growing problem.

Happy Randhawa, Chairman of the Research Cell at JKPYC, underscored the need for a strategic approach to address the unemployment crisis and called for cooperation from the government in finding effective solutions. Randhawa urged the government to prioritize job creation and invest in the development of the youth, emphasizing that India possesses the young population, yet the nation has not fully capitalized on this potential.

Shiv Sena demands CBI probe into allegations by IAS Officer Parmar

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 17: An IAS officer has exposed the claims of corruption-free and transparency in Jammu and Kashmir. This IAS officer, who has been transferred five times in a year, has also made allegations of harassment along with corruption, which should be investigated by CBI.

This was stated by Manish Shani, State President of Shiv Sena



plaint with the National Scheduled Caste Commission.

He stated that the officer's allegation is that during his tenure as Chief Secretary in the Jal Shakti Department, as soon as he initiated action against ongoing scams in the department, he was immediately transferred.

Shani added that this officer has faced transfers five times from March 2022 to the present day.

Sahni urged Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, to order a CBI investigation into Ashok Parmar's allegations and substantiate the claims of their corruption-free administration.

(UBTI) Jammu and Kashmir Unit while addressing journalists at the party's state headquarters.

Sahni mentioned that the louder the government proclaims to be corruption-free,

the more prominent the issue of corruption becomes. Ashok Parmar, a 1992 IAS batch officer, has accused the administration of corruption along with harassment and has filed a com-

Political Alliance opposing Sanatan Dharma should prepare for Failure in 2024: Chandel

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 17: Hindu nationalist leader Guruji Raju Chandel expressed his heartfelt birthday wishes to the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, on the occasion of his birth anniversary.

During a conversation with journalists, Chandel stated that the ancient Vedic culture and traditions of Sanatan Dharma have been scientifically proven as the most ancient. This fact has even been acknowledged by the American space agency, NASA. NASA has discovered symbols of Sanatan Dharma and the authenticity of Lord Shiva in space, attesting to the existence of the universe's structure and the presence of Hindu Sanatan Dharma's essence.

Over the past 2500 years, followers of the Christian faith have established nearly 70 countries through greed or force, with Christianity being the proclaimed national religion. In a similar manner, Islam was initiated by Muhammad 1400 years ago, while our Sanatan Dharma is eternal and without a beginning. It is through the divine deities of Sanatan Dharma that

the entire universe and all living beings were created.

History bears witness that the creation of 60 countries came at the cost of forcibly killing non-Muslims and followers of Sanatan Dharma, with their proclaimed national religion being Islam, where it is considered obligatory and acceptable to kill non-Muslims.

Chandel emphasized that until 2014, the essence of Sanatan culture and religion seemed to be diminishing worldwide. However, ever since the glorious Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi took charge, the flame of Sanatan Dharma has been spreading across the globe. Even Islamic countries are now walking shoulder to shoulder with Sanatan Dharma, as temples and shrines dedicated to Lord Shiva are being built in their nations. The praises of Sanatan Dharma are being sung even in Christian-majority countries, where people are returning to their roots and embracing the Sanatan way of life. They are even changing their castes to align with Sanatan Dharma, which has now risen to the third position globally.

Pradesh Vishwakarma Shaba honours meritorious students

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 17: On the day of "Vishwakarma Pooja Diwas", Pradesh Vishwakarma Shaba (PVS) J&K organised a function to honour the meritorious Students and others achievers in different fields at its H.O Gurha Bakshi Nagar Jammu today on 17-9-2023 (Sunday) in the chairmanship of Lakhpat Rai (DC Retd), in which Harbans Lal & YP Baurney (both Distt Judges), Rashpal Verma & Kuldeep Raj Verma (both Former VC OBC Board), Labha Ram Gandhi (West Pak Refugees Leader) and, RL Chargoitra. Vice President Akhil Bhartya Vishwakarma Mahasabha were present as guests of honour. Total 77 students were honoured

The program started with lighting of traditional lamp before the portrait of Lord Vishwakarma. The welcome address was given by Jagdish Kargotra. Some of those



who excelled in 10th Class include: Adiya Barna for 90.6%, Akul Verma for 94.6%, komal verma from Khour for 95.8%, Manik Engotra for 91.0%, Nancy verma for 97.8%, Pomit Verma for 93.7%, Prinky Verma from Khour for 96.6%, Saksham Vishwakarma for 94%, Shivam Salaria for 92%, Siya Verma for 98%, Sparsh Verma for 93% and Manisha Verma

from Chouki Choura for 90%.

Some of those who excelled in 12th Class include Jatin Verma for 88.4%, Mannat verma for 86%, Manshu Kataria for 92.3%, Pooja devi for 95%. Raghav Mahotra for 94.6%, Sheetal Verma for 87.4%, Raghav Verma for 85.6%, Nakul Salgotra for 83.4%, Vanshika Verma for 83%, Sayam 84%, Ayush Malhotra

for 82.4%, and Vidisha for 80.8%. Those who cracked JKAS include Pallavi Verma and Varun Verma were also honoured. Other Achievers who were honoured are Priyanshu Verma for admission in IIT Indore, Ritashi Rana and Ritesh Raina for their B.As with distinction. Vanshika Dewan for her Gold Medal in Bushu. Rohini for her 2nd position in dance and sports cham-

pionship, Poonam Kargotra for her B.Tech with distinction.

Each of the honoured was issued a "Certificate of Excellence" along with a Memento. The guests of honour congratulated the honoured students and appreciated their hard work and appealed the community members to support the Sabha by all possible means. A large number of Vishwakarma people

including women and children from all over the Jammu province attended the programme. Balwant Kataria conducted the proceedings of the event.

Organisers team included Joginder Angotra, Jagdish Kargotra, Subhash Chander, Rajinder Kumar Verma, Joginder Paul (Distt Prez), Pawan Kumar (Pummy) & Vinod Jaral. Prominent among others were present included Vijay Kumar (Gen Secy), Satpal from Bhagwati Nagar, Gurmukh Singh Pathania from Digiana, Jitender Salgotra from Akhnoor, Members of Mahila Wing Shakti Nagar, Rakesh Chalotra (President of Shakti Nagar Sabha), Vandana Sagar (Women wing Prez), Master Jasant & Kartar Nath Verma from Kathua, Ramesh Angotra (Convener Vishwakarma Library), Purn Chargoitra, Sham Chargoitra, Hans Raj Chargoitra, RK Chalotra etc.