

TOP NEWS OF J&K



JAMMU, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-14 Issue-256 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

Three detained in Kishtwar for alleged terror links

JAMMU, Sep 18 (Agencies): Three over-ground workers (OGWs) of the banned Hizbul Mujahideen terror outfit were detained under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Monday, officials said.

Touseef-ul-Nabi, Zahoor-ul-Hassan and Reyaz Ahmad were taken into custody under the law that allows detention without charge or trial for up to two years in some cases on the recommendations of the police, the officials said.

They said a dossier was prepared by police against the trio and submitted to the deputy commissioner of Kishtwar who approved their detention under PSA.

CoBRA Commandos enter JK, First batch deployed in Kupwara

SRINAGAR, Sep 18 (Agencies): After extensive training in the forests of Jammu and Kashmir, the first batch of CoBRA commandos, a unit within the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), has been deployed in Kupwara district of the Union Territory, India TV reported.

It's the first time since their inception in 2009 to combat Maoists that the Commando Battalions' for Resolute Action (CoBRA) have been relocated from central and eastern India to Jammu and Kashmir.

According to a Hindustan Times report, an official said, "Some companies of CoBRA were partially relocated from Bihar and Jharkhand due to reduced instances of Naxal violence in those regions. Their training commenced six months ago in the jungles of J&K." "Their training is now complete, and they have been stationed in Kupwara but have yet to be engaged in any operations."

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LG Sinha inaugurates 44th PSPB Inter-Unit Golf Tournament at Royal Springs Golf Course

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Sep 18: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the 44th PSPB Inter-Unit Golf Tournament at Royal Springs Golf Course in Srinagar, on Monday.

The tournament is being organized by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC).

The Lt Governor welcomed the Golfers to the UT of J&K and asked them to carry the message of new Jammu Kashmir across the country and beyond.

At the inaugural ceremony, the Lt Governor



shared the transformational journey of J&K over the past few years. Since ages, J&K UT is known as a seat of learning, paradise on

earth and home to all spiritual streams. For several decades, J&K and its people had to suffer due to secessionism, terrorism and nepo-

tism. But, those days of despair are gone now. The bright ray of hope has arrived in people's lives. In many sectors,

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Want to 'tighten up' self-regulatory mechanism for TV news channels, says SC

NEW DELHI, Sep 18 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Monday said it wanted to "tighten up" the self-regulatory mechanism of monitoring TV news channels and granted four more weeks to News Broadcasters and Digital Association (NBDA) to come up with fresh guidelines.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra took note of submissions that the

NBDA was in consultation with its present and former chairpersons, Justice (retd) A K Sikri and R V Raveendran, respectively, for framing fresh guidelines.

Senior advocate Arvind Datar, appearing for NBDA, sought four weeks to come up with fresh guidelines.

Appearing for the Centre, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said the Union government has already formulated a three-tier mechanism, the first of which is self-

regulation.

Senior advocate Mahesh Jethmalani, appearing for the News Broadcaster Federation of India (NBFI), said it was the only regulatory body registered with the Centre as per the 2022 rules, unlike NBDA. He said that NBFI be also permitted to file its own self-regulations.

"We want the self-regulatory mechanism to be tightened up," the CJ said, adding that suggestions and guidelines

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Army, Police resume operations against terrorists in Anantnag

SRINAGAR, Sep 18 (Agencies): A search operation is underway in the forest area of Koker-nag in Anantnag district where an encounter broke out between security forces and terrorists on September 13. The Indian Army along with Jammu and Kashmir Police resumed operations on the sixth consecutive day against terrorists "holed up" in the forest area of the Gadole in the Koker-nag area of Anantnag district.

Earlier on Saturday (September 16), a terror-



ist was killed by security forces in an encounter in the Uri town of Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district on Saturday, police said. In a post on the social media

handle X, Kashmir Zone Police said, "One terrorist killed. Search going on. Further details shall follow."

The encounter broke out in the Hathlanga

forward area of Uri. As per officials, 2-3 terrorists are believed to be engaging security forces in the hilly terrain of Anantnag district.

Sharing the statement of Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Kashmir Vijay Kumar, Kashmir Zone Police posted on micro-blogging site X a day ago, "Rtd Police/Army officers should avoid the "Ambush Hypothesis". It is a specific input based ops. Ops are in progress, and all 2-3

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Lt Governor visits family members of Martyr DySP Humayun Bhat in Humhama



Top News Report

BUDGAM, Sep 18: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday visited the family members of Braveheart martyr DySP Humayun Bhat at their residence in Humhama, Budgam.

The Lt Governor expressed his condolences to the family members of the martyr and assured the family of all assistance and support from the UT

administration.

"The entire nation stands in solidarity with the family of our braveheart," the Lt Governor said.

DySP Humayun Bhat laid down his life during an anti-terror operation in Anantnag.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and Sujit Kumar Singh, DIG CKR Srinagar were also present.

CBI FIR against Mumbai-Based developer for defrauding SBI and 15 lenders of Rs 3,800 Crore

MUMBAI, Sep 18 (Agencies): The CBI has registered an FIR against Mumbai-based Unity InfraProjects Limited (UIL), its chief managing director (CMD), three directors and unknown public servants for allegedly defrauding State Bank of India and a consortium of 15 lenders of more than Rs 3,800 crore.

The FIR (First Information Report) was registered on Thursday based on a complaint filed by the Deputy General Manager, SBI, Stressed Assets Management Branch I.

According to the complaint, credit/loan facilities, fund-based as well as non-fund based, of

approximately Rs 3,800 crore were sanctioned to Unity InfraProjects Limited by SBI and other consortium member banks.

"The said company by way of fictitious transactions undertaken by it through fraudulent LC trade model, improper adjustment entries by fudging data, diversion of funds through non-consortium accounts, diversion of funds through related parties and unexplained excess payouts, siphoned off the funds of SBI and other consortium banks and thereby cheated these banks," the FIR stated.

The FIR names UIL, its CMD Kishore Avarsekar, vice chairman and promoter guarantor Abhijit Avarsekar, executive director Ashish Avarsekar, whole-time director promoter Pushpa Avarsekar, unknown public servants, and private persons.

Prima facie, the complaint discloses the commission of offences of criminal conspiracy, cheating and criminal misconduct under sections 120 B and 420 of the Indian Penal Code, and sections 13 (2), 13 (1) (d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, it added.

For marrying again, lecturer placed under suspension

SRINAGAR, Sep 18 (Agencies): In a recent development, Showkat Ahmad Rather, Senior Lecturer in Persian at Government Higher Secondary School Wagar Khansahib Budgam, has been suspended from his position. This action comes as a result of a violation of Rule 22(i) of the Jammu and Kashmir Government Employees (Conduct) Rules, 1971.

According to the

rule, "No Government employee who has a wife living shall contract another marriage without first obtaining the permission of the Government, notwithstanding that such subsequent marriage is permissible under the personal law for the time being applicable to him."

The suspension, dated September 13, 2023, is pending an inquiry into Rather's conduct.

With immediate effect, Rather has been placed under suspension and will be attached to the office of the Chief Education Officer in Ganderbal during this period.

To ensure a thorough investigation into the matter, Rouf Rehman (JKAS), Joint Director Education (Central), Kashmir, has been tasked with conducting an in-depth inquiry into

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Man dies in Kashmir Road accident

SRINAGAR, Sep 18 (Agencies): A scooter rider was killed after being hit by a bus in Tapper area of Pattan in North Kashmir's Baramulla district on Monday.

An official said that a young man, Faizan Ahmad Wani, son of Ghulam Mohammad Wani from Nehalpora Pattan, sustained critical injuries when a bus

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Sarpanch among 4 held in youth's murder

JAMMU, Sep 18 (Agencies): Four persons including a sarpanch were arrested in connection with the murder of a youth last week here, police said on Monday.

Sunny Saansiya was killed inside his house in the Bishnah area on September 14 by unidentified assailants, who were armed with a pistol and sharp edged weapons.

Police have recovered two sharp edged weapons and a pistol, and also a motorcycle, which was used in the commission of the crime, from a canal, an officer said.

The accused have been identified as Sukhdev Singh alias 'Makhan' and his associates Sarpanch Yuvraj Singh, Dushant Kumar,

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Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar 9419143503

OBITUARY

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh Mohan Lal Bhat** S/o Lt Sh Maheshwar Nath Bhat, originally resident of Gairoo (Noorpora) Tral who left for heavenly abode on 11-09-2023.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 19-09-2023 (Tuesday) at Muthi Ghat, near Director School Education Deptt.

GRIEF STRICKEN :

Smt Shanta Devi (Wife)
Smt Sheela Devi (Sister)

Bhabi's

Smt Shama Bhat W/o Lt Sh Sham Lal Bhat
Smt Vijaya Bhat W/o Lt Sh Shiban Lal Bhat

Sons & Daughters in law

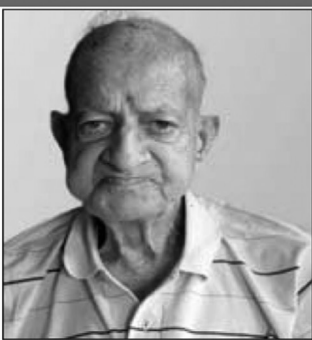
Dalip Bhat & Reeta Koul
Sunil Bhat & Archana Bhat

Daughters & Sons in law

Dolly Bhat & Ravinder Bhat
Rainu Trisal & Manesh Trisal
Princy Malla & Sunil Malla
Sunita Bhat & Samir Koul
Anupurna Pandita & Ankur Verma

Present Address :

H No. 70, Lane No. 7, Manorama Vihar,
Bohri, Jammu
Contact No. 9906215597, 9086008533,
9419211052, 9906001826



Sh Mohan Lal Bhat

10TH DAY/13TH DAY
KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Rattani Devi** W/o Late Sh. Milkhi Ram Gandral (Smallpur Wale) R/o H.No. 34, Sector-4, Pamposh Colony, Janipur, Jammu.

The **10th Day** will be performed at our residence (Pamposh Colony, Janipur) at 10.30 am on 16th Sept., 2023.

The **13th Day Kriya** will be performed at our residence (Pamposh Colony, Janipur) at 12.00 Noon on 19th Sept., 2023.

The **Uthala /Rasam Pagri** will be performed at our residence at 3.00 to 4.00 pm on 20th Sept., 2023.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Vijay Kumar Gandral and Suman Lata Gandral - Son & Daughter-in-law
Smt. Veena Abrol and Sh. Tilak Raj Abrol - Daughter & Son-in-law

Grand Children :

Latil Abrol & Mayanka Abrol
Deepti Abrol
Mareesha Gandral & Sahil Koul
Ajatya Gandral

Contact : 9419102427, 9682160774, 9419272711, 9419649702



Smt. Rattani Devi

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Mohan Lal Bhat** S/o Lt Sh Maheshwar Nath Bhat, originally resident of Gairoo (Noorpora) Tral who left for heavenly abode on 11-09-2023.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 19-09-2023 (Tuesday) at 8:30 AM at Muthi Ghat, near Director School Education Deptt.

Grief Stricken :

Smt Shanta Devi (Wife)

Smt Sheela Devi (Sister)

Bhabi's

Smt. Shama Bhat W/o Lt Sh Sham Lal Bhat
Smt Vijaya Bhat W/o Lt Sh Shiban Lal Bhat

Sons & Daughters in law

Dalip Bhat & Reeta Koul
Sunil Bhat & Archana Bhat

Daughters & Sons in law

Dolly Bhat & Ravinder Bhat
Rainu Trisal & Manesh Trisal
Princy Malla & Sunil Malla
Sunita Bhat & Samir Koul
Anupurna Pandita & Ankur Verma

PRESENT ADDRESS :

H NO. 70, LANE NO. 7, MANORAMA VIHAR,
BOHRI, JAMMU
CONTACT NO. 9906215597,
9086008533, 9419211052,
9906001816



Sh Mohan Lal Bhat

TENTH DAY/KARAM KRIYA

"When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure"

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that our beloved **Smt Kamla Devi**, W/o Sh. Thoru Ram Chalotra, left for heavenly abode on 09/09/2023.

Tenth Day will be held on 18/09/2023 Monday, at 12 noon, at our residence Salehar (Teh. Bishnah).

Karam Kriya will be performed at our residence, at 12 noon on 19/09/2023 Tuesday.

Grief Stricken :

Sh. Thoru Ram Chalotra - Husband

Sh. Om Prakash & Rani- Devar & Devrani

Daughter & Son in law

Sh. Ayodhya & Sh. Romesh Chander Bhatti

Sons & Daughters in law

Mr. Pardeep Chalotra & Radha

Mr. Rashpal Chalotra & Rajni

Mr. Ajay Chalotra & Pinki

Mr. Shubh Chalotra & Ranju

Mrs. Rani Chalotra & Sudesh

Grand Children : Awadesh, Rajneesh & Vaishali, Geetika & Lakshaya

Bharti & Vivek, Mona, Meenu, Vipul, Goutam, Lakshay, Yuvika, Garima, Abhay, Hanika, Aru.

Contact Nos : 9419126252, 9419165025, 9419786111, 9796815781, 9149887902



Smt Kamla Devi

OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad, shocking and untimely demise of our beloved **Usha Kumari Raina** W/o Santosh Kumar erstwhile resident of Darai, Sangrama Sopore at present Lane No. 11, Gurha Keran, Barnai, Bantalab on 12th September, 2023 at Ludhiana. Her mortal remains were consigned to flames on 13th September, 2023 at Shanti Ghat Bantalab, Jammu.

10th Day Kriya will be held on 21st September, 2023 at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education Jammu and Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat on 21/9/2023 at 9.00 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Santosh Kumar - Husband # 9796222648, 9906022264

Miss Sushita - Daughter

Sunita & Satish Kumar - Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law # 9876193188

Sahil - Son

Miss Surbhi - Daughter

Anjali & Shiban Ji Pandita - Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law

Miss Alka - Daughter



Usha Kumari Raina

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Somawati (Bhabi)** W/o Late Shri Arjan Nath Pandit of Gasran, Kulgam A/P Qtr No. 14 & 15, Block No. 123, Lane No. 21, Jagti Colony, Jammu on 12-09-2023(Tuesday).

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 21-09-2023(Tuesday) at 08.30 am at Muthi Ghat near Director School Education.

GRIEF STRICKEN BY:-

Daughter & Son-in-Law

Smt Nirmala Khar & Pran Nath Khar

Smt Pinki Koul & Shadi Lal Koul

Smt Rajni Bhan & Ashok Kumar Bhan

Grand Children

Anju Koul W/O Ajay Koul

Pooja Pandita W/O Umang Pandita

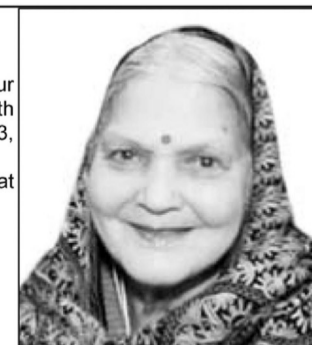
Diksha Bhat W/O Rakesh Bhat

Sanjay Bhan

Shivani Koul & Sakshi Koul

Deeply Missed by: Khar's /Koul's/Bhan's/Bhat's

Cell No. 7006868045, 9622174836



Smt Somawati (Bhabi)

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform you about the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Satya Paul Khajuria** (Retd. Lecturer) S/o Lt. Sh. Mansa Ram Khajuria H.No. 76 Sec 1 Sanjay Nagar Jammu.

Tenth Day will be performed at 11:00 AM on Monday 18.09.2023 at our residence.

Kriya will be performed at 12:00 Noon on Tuesday 19.09.2023 at our residence.

Uthala shall be performed at 4 PM-5 PM on Wednesday 20.09.2023 at Ram Mandir, Shastri Nagar.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Pushpa Devi - Wife

Sisters-in-law & Brothers

Smt. Krishna Devi & Mahesh Chander Khajuria

Smt. Rani Devi & Lt. Sh. Khem Raj Khajuria

Smt. Kanchan & Sh. Ashok Khajuria

Smt. Guddo & Sh. Sudesh Khajuria

Sisters & Brothers-in-law

Smt. Kusum & Sh. R.P. Badyal

Smt. Geeta & Sh. Shiv Mehta

Daughters-in-law & Sons

Sunita & Sanjay Khajuria

Rekha & Ajay Khajuria

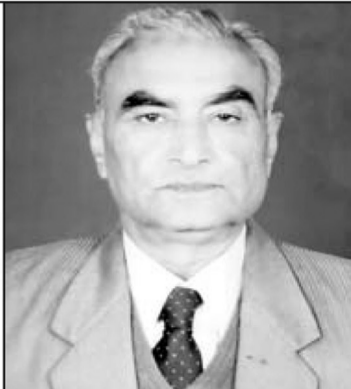
Arti & Rakesh Khajuria

Sons & Daughters : Ram, Sham, Tinku, Rinku, Abhi, Meenu, Ankush

Grand Children : Surbhi, Ansh, Atharva, Agamya, Sahil, Shubam

Contact Nos.: 9469500003, 9419116985

Our Residence: 76, Sector-1, Sanjay Nagar, Jammu



Sh. Satya Paul Khajuria (Retd. Lecturer)

10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Krishan Lal Bakshi** S/o Late Sh Chuni Lal Bakshi left for heavenly abode on Saturday 9th of Sept. 2023.

10th Day will be performed at our residence W No. 3 Hiranagar on 18th Sept 2023 at 10.00 AM.

Kriya will be performed at our residence on 19th Sept Tuesday 2023

Uthala /Rasam Pagri will be performed at our residence at 3 PM to 4 PM on 20th Sept (Wednesday) 2023.

Grief Stricken :

Smt Santosh Bakshi (Wife)

Smt Rekha & Sh Vipin Bakshi (Bhabi & Brother)

BAKSHI FAMILY

M No. 9906080787, 9697579623



Sh Krishan Lal Bakshi

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER **SMT SHEELA DEVI** W/O LATE SH AMAR NATH BHAT R/O KOIL PULWAMA, KASHMIR, WHO LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 14TH OF SEPTEMBER, 2023.

TENTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON SATURDAY I.E 23RD OF SEPTEMBER, 2023 AT VILLAGE KOIL, PULWAMA AT 8:30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN :

SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW

SH SHUBAN KRISHAN BHAT & SMT DOLLY BHAT

DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAWS

SMT. TOSHA KOUL & SH. NATH JI KOUL

LT. SARLA PANDITA

LT. VIJAY SAPROO & SH. RAMESH SAPROO

SMT. BABY RAINA & SH. RATTAN LAL RAINA

GRAND CHILDREN'S: DEEPU, SUNITA, SHEETU, SANDEEP, VICKEY, MEGA, VIJAY, VARSHA, ASHWANI, ROZY, VINNY, NEHA, MONIKA, BHAVISH, ANU, BINNY, KAJAL & RANJAN

CONTACT NO. 7889588921, 6006073967, 9906603710, 7889536984



SMT SHEELA DEVI

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Dura Gigoo** w/o Late Sh Somnath Gigoo of Karapora Rainawari on 11th Sept. 23 at Pune.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 20th Sept.23 at Bhagwan Tatyasaheb Kawade Road Ghorpadi, Pune from 7 am onwards.

Gigoo, Raina, Bhat, Dhar, Bakaya & Wanganoo's.

Mob No.9822058424, 8850092389, 9419113284



SMT DURA GIGOO

TENTH DAY/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh Manohar Lal Gupta** S/o Late Kaka Ram Gupta R/o H No. 294 Str No. 11 Shakti Nagar.

Tenth Day will be performed on 19-9-2023 (Tuesday) Timing 10.00 AM to 11.00 AM at our residence .

Uthala will be performed at Mahajan Hall Shalamar road 4 PM to 5 PM on 22-9-2023 (Friday).

Grief Stricken :

Smt Shashi Prabha Gupta (Wife)

Smt Bimla Devi W/o Late Sh Kasturi Lal Gupta (Brother)

Smt Kamlesh & Sh Rakesh Gupta

Smt Aarti & Sh Panjaj Gupta

Smt Sheetal & Sh Vishal Gupta (Son)

Smt Nanchan & Sh Amit Gupta (Son)

Daughter & Son in law

Smt Ritu Mahajan & Sh Ashwani Abrol

Kids : Sharun, Simran, Gautam, Lavanya, Surbhi, Mrityunjay



Sh Manohar Lal Gupta

Contact No:

7006462941,

9906063825

TENTH DAY/KARAM KRIYA

"When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure"

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that our beloved **Smt Kamla Devi**, W/o Sh. Thoru Ram Chalotra, left for heavenly abode on 09/09/2023.

Tenth Day will be held on 18/09/2023 Monday, at 12 noon, at our residence Salehar (Teh. Bishnah).

Karam Kriya will be performed at our residence, at 12 noon on 19/09/2023 Tuesday.

Grief Stricken :

Sh. Thoru Ram Chalotra - Husband

Sh. Om Prakash & Rani- Devar & Devrani

Daughter & Son in law

Sh. Ayodhya & Sh. Romesh Chander Bhatti

Sons & Daughters in law

Mr. Pardeep Chalotra & Radha

Mr. Rashpal Chalotra & Rajni

Mr. Ajay Chalotra & Pinki

Mr. Shubh Chalotra & Ranju

Mrs. Romi Chalotra & Sudesh

Grand Children : Awadesh, Rajneesh & Vaishali, Geetika & Lakshaya

Bharti & Vivek, Mona, Meenu, Vipul, Goutam, Lakshay, Yuvika, Garima, Abhay, Hanika, Aru.

Contact Nos : 9419126252, 9419165025, 9419786111, 9796815781, 9149887902



Smt Kamla Devi

OBITUARY/ TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Mata Ji Smt. Soomawati (Drupati)** W/o Late Sh. Scom Nath Pandit of Sagam Anantnag (Kmr) (Daughter of Late Smt. Shobhawati and Keshav Nath Koul of Mir Danter Anantnag) presently at H.No.16, Vinayak Vihar behind Power Receiving Station Toph Sherkhania Jammu on 12-09-2023.

The **Tenth Day** will be performed on 21-09-2023 (Thursday) 9.00 AM at Muthi Ghat (Near Director of School Education Office).

GRIEF STRICKEN

Daughters-in-laws & Sons

Girja & Maharaj Krishan - 9419166223

Kundan & Piaray Lal - 9419183316

Mohini & Suresh Ji - 7006892569

Asha & Kuldeep Ji - 7006590638

Grand Children: Rachna & Harish, Kirti, Rohit, Ankush & Reshiwar

Grand Son-in-law & Daughter

Rohit Ji & Sandha, Suraj Ji & Priya

Great Grand Child: Vidant



SMT. SOOMAWATI (DRUPATI)

10th DAY/13th DAY 'KRIYA'

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Vasudev Kumar Anand** S/o Late Sh Jagdish Chander Anand who left for heavenly abode on 09/09/2023.

Tenth Day will be performed on Monday 18/09/2023 at Gorkha Mandir, Sector 4, near Shivaji Chowk, Nanak Nagar, Jammu at 11.00 am.

Thirteenth Day 'KRIYA' will be performed on Thursday 21/09/2023 at our residence 60-B, Sector 4, Nanak Nagar, Jammu at 12.00 pm.

Grief stricken :-

Smt Sandhya Anand (Wife)

Chotta Manimahesh Yatra to start on Sept 20

TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Sept 18: The Chotta Manimahesh Yatra to start on 20th September 2023. That traditional/religious festival is celebrated every year. This place is located at the district border of Doda/Udhampur (J&K).

The Dal Yatra is also known by the name of "Chotta Manimahesh". It is located about 50-60 kilometers away from District head-quarter Doda Tehsil Marmat Panchayat upper Behota. That said yatra by foot base camp of Village Behota about 15-16 kilometer away Chotta Manimahesh. In this year "Yatra Chota Manimahesh" Ram Rachna is commencing on 20th Sept. 2023. to 23rd Sept. 2023. All the devotees of different part of J&K state are informed that the Nowalla (Jag-Ratta) is performing on 20th of September 2023 at Mool



whereas Mathi Ratrii Jagran Bhajan Sandhia is organizing on the same night at Behota base camp.

While Chairman Suresh Sharma said that the Langer / basic facility where provided by the different Langer committees at every stop in during the Yatra pilgrims of Chotta Manimahesh. All the yatris are advised that the yatra control committee (Trust of Chotta Man-

imahesh (Ram Rachna) has completely banned consumption of any kind of liquor or lottery playing card etc.

Lekh Raj Gen Secretary said, the history of the place also touches the Ramyana times & Lord Shiva. This place is also known as Ram Rachna the story of one of the rocks at the Chotta Manimahesh has the , statue of Ram, Sita Hanuman, Lasham & Murti, footprint

inside the place of Ram Rachna There is small mountain said to have been used by the Ram, Sita, Lakshman, during Vanvass time of Fourteen year. In the east side large/huge mountain Lord Shiva/Mata Rani people also worshiped mountain east side. One of the water ponds inside of Shiva Murti, description of the mark of many lords on the stones. These stones also look like statues

Army organizes lecture on career options for youth from border areas



TOP NEWS REPORT

BARAMULLA, Sep 18: Indian army organised a lecture on Career options for Youth from Border Areas at Government Degree College.

A total of 400 students attended this lecture. The lecture was taken by Brig Jeevan Rajpurohit (Retd).

The endeavour of this

lecture was to educate the students and youth about various options at their disposal and streamline their thoughts in accordance with their aspirations. They were also apprised about the availability of various other opportunities due to the advent of technologies and the integrated world economy.

The students were

exhorted to complete their graduation, which shall empower them to live a dignified life.

The aim of the lecture was to expose them to various avenues. It is a small and significant step undertaken by Indian Army to turn the young manpower into a vital Human Resource and helping in Nation Building.

CB charge-sheeted four persons in fake employment fraud

TPO NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 18: The Economic Offences Wing-Crime Branch Jammu has charged four individuals in connection with operating a fake employment racket and defrauding unemployed youth of their money in the amount of Rs 41.90 lakh.

The accused had promised to arrange government jobs for these individuals across various districts of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The case was registered under FIR No. 09/2014, and the accused have been charged under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) including 420 (cheating), 465 (forgery), 467 (forgery of valuable security), 468 (forgery for purpose of cheating), 471 (using forged documents as



genuine), and 120-B (criminal conspiracy).

The accused persons charged in this case include Abdul Rashid Pandit, son of Habib Ullah, resident of Handipora, Rafiabab, Baramulla; Zahoor Ahmed Bhat, son of Mohammad Maqbool Bhatt, resident of Fatehpura, Baramulla; Mohd. Ayub Mellu, son of Azam Mellu, resident of Sangla, Tehsil Surankote, District Poonch; and Mohd Azam Mellu, son of Sain Mellu, resident of Sangla, Tehsil Surankote, District Poonch (currently at Gujjar Nagar, Jammu).

The case originated

from a written complaint filed by Mohammad Ayub Mellu, who is now one of the accused. He alleged that the accused individuals, who posed as respectable and influential figures, had enticed him and others from District Poonch with promises of arranging Class-IV government jobs in various departments in exchange for monetary considerations.

However, after making the payments, it became evident that the accused were fraudsters who had cheated the complainant and others out of their hard-earned money.

The investigation

process involved preliminary verification, the recording of statements of witnesses under Section 161 of the Criminal Procedure Code (Cr. PC), and statements under Section 164 of the Cr.PC.

Additionally, scientific, circumstantial, and other material evidence was gathered. The investigation established the offenses of cheating and duping, involving 53 unemployed youth and a sum of Rs. 41.90 lakhs.

The investigation is ongoing to uncover more leads and thoroughly dismantle this employment racket.

BJP consistently works for common masses: Dr. Nirmal Singh

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 18: Dr. Nirmal Singh, former Dy. Chief Minister, accompanied by BJP Vice-President Anuradha Charak and Secretary Arvind Gupta listened to the public grievances at BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

A large number of people, individually as well in the form of deputations, visited the BJP office to discuss their respective issues with the senior party leaders. Various issues represented contained matters of individual concerns as well as development oriented related to their respective areas.

Besides various personal issues, other main issues presented related to PHE, PDD, roads, lanes, drains etc.

Dr. Nirmal Singh listened to all the individuals and the deputations patiently and immediately took up the matters with the concerned departmental officials telephonically as well as issued letters for the others. Talking to the concerned



authorities, they pressed for the prompt redressal of the issues.

"BJP remains connected to the people through 365 days in a year. BJP has consistently worked for common masses at every moment and it's every activist feels duty-bound to listen to, to understand and then to provide best possible solution to the affected person", said Dr. Nirmal Singh.

Anuradha Charak stressed on

the party's commitment to address the issues of the public by opening various channels like public darbar.

Arvind Gupta said that verbal and written communications were made with the concerned departments during the public darbar.

Anuradha Charak and Arvind Gupta diarized all the issues and conducted the proceedings of the grievance camp.

Home Guards hold protest in front of Governor's House, project demands



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 18: Jammu and Kashmir Home Guards Employees Association led by its President Kamla Sharma held a strong protest in front of Governor's house here on Monday pressing demands and issues affecting the Home Guards employees.

The association demanded that Home Guards employees be granted either Government of India (GOI) status or Union Territory (UT) status.

This change in status may come with certain benefits and recognition,

Kamla said and raised concerns about the possibility of the government demolishing old rules, possibly related to Home Guards, during the inaugural function of the new Parliament House. The association sought clarification on whether the Home Guards rules would be affected by these changes. The association highlighted disparities in the salaries of Home Guards employees compared to their counterparts in other Union Territories like Delhi, Pondicherry, Lakshadweep, and Chandigarh.

They demanded a

salary increase to bring them in line with these other regions.

It was mentioned that Home Guards employees in Jammu and Kashmir were only engaged for 150 days (90 days of duty and 60 days of training) per year, and the association demanded an increase to 365 days, implying year-round employment.

The association mentioned that they had approached the Supreme Court of India with certain grievances, but the remedies they sought had not been implemented yet.

The association

expressed frustration over the cancellation of meetings by the state administration, which was tasked with reviewing their cases. These cancellations occurred repeatedly without specific reasons.

The association felt that Home Guards employees were often neglected and sidelined despite their dedicated service during natural calamities and disasters. They believed that some individuals with influence were working against their interests.

Some Home Guards employees had been forcibly ousted from their positions without clear reasons, and the association demanded their reinstatement within 15 days, citing severe financial hardships faced by these individuals.

Kamla Sharma noted that the Prime Minister had promised to address the issues faced by Home Guards employees during a rally in Udhampur in 2014. However, these promises had not been fulfilled, and grievances remained unresolved, she said.

Ajaz Kazmi demands regularization of the daily wagers in J&K



TOP NEWS REPORT

UDHAMPUR, Sep 18: Apni Trade Union, J&K President, Ajaz Kazmi has demanded regularization of the daily wagers who have been serving in different Govt Departments for the last more than two decades.

Addressing a meeting cum joining programme in Udhampur; Kazmi said that it was a matter of great concern for the daily wagers who served in departments during the difficult times, were retired without benefits of the Govt schemes as an employee. The meeting cum programme was organized by District President Apni Trade

Union, Udhampur Vijay Sharma.

"Their constitutional rights were violated by the Govt on the behest of some of the bureaucrats who do not want the regularization of the daily wagers. Over 62000 daily wagers have been working in Govt Departments and they kept the system running even during covid19," he said.

He also referred to the issues of transporters, businessmen, and unemployed youth in Jammu and Kashmir during the meeting that informed him that the unemployment and underdevelopment has

increased in Udhampur.

"The claims of development in Udhampur and its villages seem false as ground reality is opposite to what is being projected. As far as employment is concerned, the educated youth are compelled to do labour work to earn their livelihood," he said.

He further highlighted the issues of the business men and traders while asking the Govt to address the concerns of the concerned people.

He also demanded that the formalities for the old age pension should be eased so that the left out old age pensioners can be given the benefit of

the scheme.

"These old age pensioners have to stand in queue at the age when they are supposed to take rest. Many of them have multiple serious illnesses. Therefore, the adamant attitude of the authorities should change formalities and ease the system in favour of old age pensioners in J&K," he added.

On this occasion, Sat Pal Chalotra, and Vijay Sharma also addressed the meeting and highlighted various issues in Udhampur. District President, Udhampur Youth Wing of Apni Party, Ajit Sharma was also present on the occasion.

Raghav Sharma, Abishak Anthal, Anil Sharma, Rohit Rajput, Kishore Singh, Surab Kumar, Jagdish Kumar, Askar Ali, Pawan Sharma, Ravi Kumar, Fayaz Ali, and others joined Apni Trade Union, while expressing their faith in the party leadership.

Ajaz Kazmi welcomed them into the party fold, and hoped that their joining would strengthen the party at the grass root level.

EDITORIAL

GANESH
CHATURTHI

Ganesh Chaturthi is one of the biggest festivals of India. Ganesh Chaturthi is also known by the names Ganesh Utsav or Vinayak Chaturthi etc. This festival is celebrated with great devotion and happiness. It is believed that Lord Ganesha was born on this day. Ganesha is the son of Lord Shiva and Parvati. Ganesh Chaturthi is an Indian festival, which is celebrated with great enthusiasm all over India. But in Maharashtra Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated with more pomp and show.

In Shivpuran, the date of Ganesha is mentioned as Chaturthi of Krishna Paksha of Bhadrapada month and according to Ganesh Puran, Ganesha was born on Bhadrapada Shukla Chaturthi. Ganesh Utsav: This festival lasts for 11 days. His idol is kept at home for 10 days and immersed on the 11th day.

There are many stories related to his birth and it is most believed that Ganapati was created by Goddess Parvati. One day, before taking bath, Goddess Parvati made an effigy of a boy using the dirt from her body and asked him to be the gatekeeper and she said that until she comes after taking bath, no man will be allowed to enter. Don't give.

After some time, when Lord Shiva was about to enter inside, the boy stopped him from going inside. At last Lord Shiva got angry and in anger he cut off Ganesha's head from his body with his trident. After some time, when Parvati ji came to know about this, she became very angry and made a firm decision to commit holocaust.

At that time all the gods were very scared and finally Lord Shiva ordered to cut off the face of any child found in the north direction and bring him back. The first thing Lord Shiva found was a baby elephant, so he cut off its head and by attaching the head of that elephant to the body of Lord Ganesha, he was revived.

From that day onwards all the Gods together blessed Lord Ganesha to be the head of the server. Lord Shiva also blessed him to become worshiped by everyone because Lord Ganesha was created on Krishna Paksha Chaturthi of Bhadrapada month. Shankar ji blessed whoever observes the fast, all his obstacles will end.

In Hindu religion, Lord Ganesha is worshipped first to ensure smooth completion of any religious festival or Yagya, worship etc. or any marriage or any other work. Ganesh ji is called the worshipable god of Hindus. On this day, sesame laddus are offered to Lord Ganesha. Although it is especially celebrated in Maharashtra, India, but Ganesh Utsav of Pune is world famous.

While buying the idol of Lord Ganesha, keep in mind that the trunk of Lord Ganesha is turned towards the left, in such a situation, all the wishes are fulfilled by bringing that idol of Lord Ganesha and the trunk of Lord Ganesha is turned towards the right. So by bringing that Lord Ganesha, it takes some time for our wishes to be fulfilled.

Ganesh ji should be holding a tusk and modak in his hands and should be seen giving a boon in one hand and his vehicle Mushak should be with him because the invocation of Ganesh ji remains in this form.

Keep in mind that whenever Lord Ganesha is brought, the idol of Lord Ganesha should not already be present at the place where Lord Ganesha is to be installed in the house. Because if this happens, it can cause a lot of harm to you and while installing Ganesh ji, only take the advice of the Pandit ji and install the idol in the right direction.

After Look West, Modi govt now Acts West too

By: Sanjaya Baru

In a curious departure from standard practice the Government of India agreed to sign on to what has been called the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). The external affairs ministry's long-standing term for the region west of India has been West Asia. The reference to the "Middle East" suggests that the initiative was American. It need not have been. The regional signatories to this agreement, namely India, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, have not just adequate resources among themselves, but long-standing historical trading links for them to have implemented this sea-land connectivity project, along with the European Union, on their own.

The United States did not even exist when Indians, Arabs and Europeans were busily trading among themselves across this space, from the ports of the Indian peninsula through the deserts of Arabia and on to the ports of southern Europe. By placing its stamp on the corridor project, the United States has merely asserted its geopolitical interest. The geo-economic roots of this sea-land link run deep into history.

Historians have long reminded us of the Indian sub-continent's trade links with West Asia and Europe, spanning all the way from the ports of the Konkan to the markets of Venice. Every time I hosted a visitor to Hyderabad who would want to buy pearls, I would ask if the person ever wondered why landlocked Hyderabad is famous for pearls. Few ask themselves this question as they head to the city's pearl shops. The answer lies in the trading links between

the Deccan and the Gulf, from where Bahraini and Iraqi pearls, and the famous Basra pearls, were shipped for sale in the markets of opulent Hyderabad.

The trade ebbed and flowed with time but declined rapidly after Independence when India chose to pursue a more inward-oriented development model that neglected trade opportunities. The opening up of the Indian economy in 1991 by Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao was initially followed up by what has come to be known as the "Look East" policy.

Within a decade after India chose to "Look East", India's trade with the countries of East and Southeast Asia more than doubled. By 2001, the trade with this region, including the countries of the Asean bloc, China, Japan and South Korea, exceeded India's trade with the European Union.

Having observed the success of the Look East policy, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announced in July 2005 a "Look West" policy, with a focus on West Asia, including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain. A meeting of what was called the Trade and Economic Relations Committee (TERC), chaired by the Prime Minister, and including the Cabinet ministers for external affairs, commerce, industry, finance, agriculture and the deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, authorised the launch of free trade negotiations between India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

The Prime Minister noted at the time that the India-West Asia relationship was built not just on the more recent post-war and post-Cold War relationships, but on ancient economic and cultural links, on the one hand, and a

new forward-looking equation with the region, on the other. The launch of negotiations for an India-GCC free trade agreement would only be a starting point. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told members of the TERC: "The Gulf region, like Southeast Asia and South Asia, is part of our natural economic hinterland. We must pursue closer economic relations with all our neighbours in our wider Asian neighbourhood. India has successfully pursued a 'Look East' policy to come closer to the countries of Southeast Asia. We must, similarly, come closer to our western neighbours in the Gulf."

This trade policy initiative was followed up with Prime Minister Singh inviting King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia as chief guest at the 2006 Republic Day parade. In the months that followed, the Indian Navy launched its own "Look West Policy" of increased maritime engagement of the Gulf states, recalling the longstanding maritime links that the subcontinent had with the Gulf. Defence relations were established between India, Oman and Saudi Arabia, with then defence minister A.K. Antony becoming the first Indian defence minister to travel to Riyadh in 2012.

After the East Asian and Southeast Asian economies emerged as India's biggest trade partners, overtaking Europe and the United States, the GCC countries followed suit, with the UAE and Saudi Arabia emerging as major trade partners. Apart from the economic dimension to both these outreach efforts, there has always been a strategic dimension which has now become the focus of Prime Minister Narendra

Modi's new and important initiative, IMEC. Prime Minister Modi deserves compliments for his vigorous follow-up of P.V. Narasimha Rao's "Look East", with his own "Act East" initiatives, and now this follow-through of Dr Manmohan Singh's "Look West" with very robust "Act West" initiatives.

However, while India has always taken pride in having its own equation with its wider Asian neighbourhood, an impression has now gained ground that in many regional foreign policy initiatives taken by India, the United States somehow manages to cast its shadow. If India's relations with East Asia are being shaped by US-led frameworks such as the "Quad", relations with West Asia are being placed within initiatives like the U2I2 (United States, UAE, India and Israel) and IMEC. It is not clear why India should appear as if the United States is chaperoning it around its own neighbourhood.

I had many opportunities to interact with the representatives of the Gulf states during my tenure at the International Institute of Strategic Affairs, having an office located in Bahrain. Every so often I would be told by my Arab interlocutors how they preferred their region to be referred to as West Asia rather than the Middle East. Some dismiss this sentiment as an obsession with terminology. It is not. India has a view of the world from where it is located.

Its economic and cultural links in all four directions go long back into history. One does not expect a government of the Bharatiya Janata Party to so easily replace West Asia with Middle East in what is clearly an important strategic outreach.

Top bizmen felled by hubris & lust...

By: Kishwar Desai

It may still be summer but things are not as sunny as we would like.

What has surprised many in recent months is that some corporate bosses in the UK are not behaving with the propriety they should be. Harassment at the workplace has been in focus with three high profile cases coming to light regarding behaviour of corporate bosses towards their colleagues — and yes, some of these allegations do appear to be sexual in nature.

How can this happen one may ask — especially these days when so much has been written and said about the "me too" movement? If good behaviour is not possible — then surely certain exposure on social media should be a deterrent? And what about the rules at the work place?

Bernard Looney, the chief executive at BP (British Petroleum) is the latest to resign over an investigation launched into alleged relationships he may have had with colleagues. This follows closely after Tony Danker, the head of CBI (possibly the largest business lobbying group in the UK) being fired over his behaviour at work, and then Crispin Odey, a Tory donor and hedge fund founder facing allegations from 13 women. He has been forced

to quit from his own hedge fund.

All of this seems to belong more to the last century than this one. Today even little kids know there will be consequences if anyone (male or female) oversteps the line at the work place. But people at the top may imagine that they are immune. It is a sad moment indeed to think that some British institutions still do require basic freedom from bullying and harassment.

Meanwhile, yes, it does seem the rate of inflation has come down but just a smidgen.

At least, the Bank of England is not increasing interest rates. Enough damage has been done to house prices (falling) and mortgage rates (rising). But that has been the story much of this year.

So as expected mental health issues are coming to light more and more and Generalised Anxiety Disorder (GAD) has many in its grip with over 6,35,000 young people, men and women, being in psychiatric care of some kind.

While money is tight — the job market has also been tight for some time. Students are particularly impacted as there have also been strikes by college lecturers who have refused to grade exams. This has further delayed results, and so there is more uncer-

tainty.

Things are particularly tough right now for the young — and one can only hope that Christmas round the corner will bring its usual cheer.

Well, it's good to know that the "youth icon", Prince William, the Prince of Wales is off to the US. He is publicising his environmental prize, Earthshot. He raises money from eager and helpful donors (who no doubt enjoy the royal connection), but he has been dedicated to this task. After all, his grandfather, the Duke of Edinburgh, was and his father King Charles continues to be also active in promoting charitable causes.

William is popular across the pond. But the question journalists are asking is whether he will encounter his brother Harry, who is disaffected with the family. Of course, Kate, the Princess of Wales, is even more disaffected with Meghan. Hence what people are looking forward to is not publicity for a good cause, i.e., the environment, but another fight in the family. If it does not happen, no doubt some cold vibes between the erstwhile "Fab Four" will be conjured up by our inventive media. It will provide a diversion from all the problems we are facing. We shall wait with interest!

Cricket may be the religion in India but it is no longer

here. It is football or soccer (to distinguish it from rugby), which is the mania. Back in the Sixties, professional clubs were locally owned and players were modestly paid. Fans were fanatical about their teams. Now football is a massive business. Clubs are rich, players come from around the world and get paid thousands of pounds per week. Fans are, of course, there but, with social media, they constantly review their team's success and shout when they fail.

One of the great football clubs of all time, Manchester United (ManU) illustrates this story. It was for many years the best club, not just in England but in Europe. It has an immensely loyal fan base. Once upon a time in the Fifties, it was bought by the local butcher. Now it is owned by an American family who bought it in 2005 for £790 million. Now they want to sell. Their fans deride them as the Club has not won any prizes for some years. Yet the name ManU is valuable. A Qatar family has offered £5 billion. The fans are impatient to get rid of the Glazer family but there is a lot more haggling going on.

Just note however that whatever trouble the country may be in, there is a corner of England where the value of a club has gone up more than six times in 18 years. Not bad going!

JKGPA delegation meets with Drug Controller, discusses online registration issue

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 18: Jammu Kashmir Govt Pharmacists Association (JKGPA) under the Presidentship of Bharat Bhushan Bhagat and under the guidance of Sushil Sudan Member PCI and President JKMEF met with Drug Controller and discussed the problems faced for registration on online Portal after amendment from the Gol Pharmacy Act 1948 (section 32©). The Drug Controller listened to the problem of Pharmacist and Pass instructions for rectification. The Deputy Director Drug Control Tickoo listened to deputation and assured that process of registration should be made more friendly and unnecessary formalities should be curtailed.



He also assured that in service Pharmacist and who got training from the JK Govt Institute needn't to get mandatory registration from Para medical Council. Those who participated in the deputation include Jarnail Singh, R.P Singh, Madan Lal Sharma,

Rattan Lal Badan, Vishal Sabharwal, Bahadur Singh, Sanjay Choudhary, Ashok Behl, Rajesh Sharma Bhollu, Bansil Lal Chandan, Gurmeet Singh Member Coordination Committee AIOCD JK, Suresh Abrol General Secretary JK Pharmacist.

Documentary on life of Mahatama Gandhi screened at GDC Vijaypur

TOP NEWS REPORT

VIJAYPUR, Sep 18: GDC Vijaypur organized a program on the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi by showing documentary to the students about the life of the nation's father. The event was inaugurated by a speech from Dr. Vandana Gupta, the college principal. In her lecture to the students, she talked about how Mahatma's ideas are still relevant today. She said that Gandhiji was not an ordinary person. He overcome



personal inhibitions and prejudices throughout his life and bravely challenged injustice and discrimination through non-violent methods. Equity, brotherhood, justice, and tolerance were

values he supported. Students of the college were present during the screening and were later involved in interactive session on the said theme. The programme

was coordinated by Dr. Sheetal Sharma and Prof. Poonam Kundan and co-coordinated by Radhika Rasyal and Dr. Gunjeet Mahiwal. Vote of thanks was presented by Poonam Kundan.

GDC Mahanpur students visit Dr. S. Radhakrishnan College Library

TOP NEWS REPORT

MAHANPUR, Sep 18: In continuation with the series of activities under the celebration of "Gandhi Jayanti", today students of semester 3rd and semester 5th of Government Degree College (GDC) Mahanpur visited Dr. S. Radhakrishnan College Library under the guidance of Principal Dr. Sangeeta Sudan. Students of Sem 3rd and semester 5th visited the niche corner



on Gandhi where various books on father of nation were displayed by college library. On the occasion college librarian Saurabh Dutta reminded about the various aspects of life and teaching of Gandhi and impressed

upon to follow the path of truth, non-violence and peace. A video clip was also played on the biography of Mahatma Gandhi ji on digital wall. The whole activity was organized by Prof. Meena Devi NSS PO

and Prof. Suman HOD Education. Other staff members, Dr. Balbinder Singh, Prof. Arvind Kumar, Dr. Sapna Devi, Dr. Parshotam Dass, Dr. Hiral Bhat, Dr. Mohd. Sardar Bhatti were also present on the occasion.

DPS Jammu students bag gold medals in district level table tennis tournament

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 18: The Students of Delhi Public School (DPS) Jammu brought laurels to the school and their parents by winning gold and silver medals in Inter-School District level Table Tennis Tournament organized by District Youth Services and Sports held at M.A Stadium, Jammu from 12-15 September, 2023. Gold medal in U-14 & 17 boys: Satyam Nischal (VIII-F), Gourav Singh (IX-B), Pranit Mahajan (VII-B), Aarav Mahajan (VII-B), Rudraksh Sharma (X-i), Samarth Nischal (IX-E), Ayaan Gupta (IX-D).



Silver medal in U-19 boys: Chetanya Khajuria (IX-E), Rakshan Arora (XII-F), Rohan Sharma (XI-F). Gold medal in U-14, 17 & 19 girls: Gunjan Kargotra (VII-G), Avika Sharma (VI-G), Yasha Shree (VII-D), Aradhya Rajput (VI-G), Tuhina

Kargotra (IX-C), Mishthi Aggarwal (XI-F), Ragini Gupta (X-B), Chitrani Razdan (IX-A), Iknorkour (XII-F), Arya Giri (XI-B). The management of DPS Jammu including President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC-Dr. Ritu Singh, Director-S.S

Sodhi along with Principal- Ruchi Chabra congratulated all the winners, their parents and coach, Meenu Ragesh for her support. They also extended their best wishes for all their future endeavours. Headmistress, Meenu Gupta also lauded them.

GDC Darhal organizes slogan writing competition on 'Truth & Non-Violence'

TOP NEWS REPORT

DARHAL, Sep 18: In commemoration of Gandhi Jayanti, NSS unit (IMDAD) of GDC Darhal organized a spirited Slogan Writing Competition centered on the theme of "Truth and Non-violence." Gandhi's profound belief in the inseparability of truth and non-violence was eloquently emphasized during the competition. Truth is my god and Non-violence is the means of realizing him," Gandhi once stated. He ardently believed that peace and harmony could be achieved through love, non-

violence, truthfulness, friendliness, compromise, and cooperation. Truth and non-violence, he believed, bound humanity together and connected individuals to a higher spiritual plane. The Slogan Writing Competition aimed to provide a platform for participants to express their thoughts, ideas, and creativity through compelling slogans that resonated with the principles of truth and non-violence. Students enthusiastically participated in the competition and crafted thought-provoking slogans that celebrated the ideals of sincerity, non-violence,

righteousness and truthfulness. In slogan writing competition the first position was shared by Aleena Anjum and Sayra Jabeen of Sem V, second position was secured by Hasena Kossar of Sem III, while the third position was shared by Waqar Ahmed and Mahboob Sadeeq of Sem-V. The event was organized under the guidance of the College's Principal, Prof. Musaraf Hussain Shah. While speaking on the event he said that this event aimed to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi's enduring legacy and his pro-

found philosophy of Ahimsa (non-violence) and truth. He further emphasized that non-violence was a weapon of the strong and both truth and non-violence were intrinsically linked. While achieving complete non-violence in thought, word, and deed may be challenging, he stressed the importance of making continuous progress toward this noble goal. The event was coordinated by the NSS PO, Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch and adjudicated by Dr. Imtiaz H. Shah and Prof. Tahir Mahmood. Certificates were awarded to all the winners.

JU's Hindi Deptt organises Kavi Sammelan

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 18: An impressive Kavi sammelan has been organised by the Department of Hindi, University of Jammu and Yuva Hindi Lekhak Sangh, Jammu in connection with Hindidivas pakhwada. The programme was presided over by Dr. Ashok Kumar. In his address, he said, "It is imperative for a writer to take a side with a philosophy, but he or she has to see the direction in which things are going." The senior writer, Rajiv Sharma spoke at length on the programme. He eulogised the creative



process of the poets included in the program. Dr. Rajkumar, Ashok Kumar, Sheikh Mohammad Kalyan, Pawan Khajuria, Sanjeev Bhasin, Dr. Parshotam Kumar, Rajiv Sharma, Devendra Kumar, Bhagwati Devi, Amita Mehta, Maharaj

Krishn Santoshi, Bindiya Tickoo, Arun Bajaj, Hina Mahajan, Dr. Vikram Sahi, Soniya Upadhyay, Mehnaz Begum, Swardeep, Anila Singh, Tanuj Syal, Iqbal Khullar and Dimple Verma regaled the audience with their poems on dif-

ferent social issues. The programme was directed by Sheikh Mohammad Kalyan. Dr. Vandana Thakur presented a formal vote of thanks. Earlier, Dr. Parshotam Kumar presented the welcome address.

RTI Pend empowers Kupwara with insights on Right to Information Act

TOP NEWS REPORT

KUPWARA, Sep 18: RTI Pend, the grassroots initiative aimed at democratizing access to information, hosted its 2nd event in Kupwara. On the request of the Civil Rights Movement Kupwara, this event was tailored to enlighten the people of Kupwara with the intricacies of the Right to Information Act, presented in their local language and dialects. The event successfully bridged both offline and online participation, addressing queries on the spot and offering applicants practical solutions. During this informative event, a comprehensive discussion unfolded, focusing on various facets of the Right to Information (RTI) Act. Special attention was

given to sub-section j of section 8 of the Central RTI Act 2005, which pertains to personal information and its potential misuse by Public Authorities. The event took place at Batargam, Kupwara, at the behest of Akhtar Ali, a prominent activist and District Coordinator of the J&K RTI Foundation and the Founder of the Civil Rights Movement. The primary goal was to sensitize the community, particularly the youth, and equip them with the knowledge and tools to harness the power of the RTI Act for personal and communal welfare. RTI Pend, a weekly initiative hosted every Sunday from 10 AM to 11 AM, is spearheaded by Irfan Banka, an Anthropologist and the Founder of J&K RTI

Foundation. The journey commenced with the inaugural RTI Pend event in Magam, District Budgam, on September 10, 2023. The core objective of RTI Pend is to conduct informal events in the local language to educate and assist individuals in filing RTI applications, ultimately contributing to the betterment of society. Akhtar Ali passionately urged the youth of Kupwara to join hands with the Civil Rights Movement and J&K RTI Foundation, empowering themselves to claim their rights. Furthermore, it was observed that among the districts of Jammu and Kashmir, Kupwara has the least utilization of the RTI Act. This emphasizes the need for intensified efforts to

disseminate information regarding the application of the RTI Act, along with other pivotal acts such as PSGA, and to enhance awareness about individual rights under MGNREGA. Irfan Banka, the event host, extended his heartfelt appreciation to all participants and the technical team, which included the contributions of Journalist Ishfaq Majeed and Er. Aqib Bashir of RTI Pend. He reiterated the commitment of RTI Pend to focus initially on RTI Act awareness and events across every district, ensuring that every common citizen comprehends the significance of the RTI Act and maximizes its potential for the greater good.

Aryans Pharmacy student secure 3rd Position in National Conference

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 18: A National conference on "Current Trends on Pharmacoeconomics and Advanced Drug Delivery Systems" was organized at Minerva College of Pharmacy, Indora, and Himachal Pradesh. Hundreds of students from various states participated in this conference. The students of Aryans College of Pharmacy, Rajpura, near Chandigarh secured 3rd position. Aryans Pharmacy students including Abhay Kumar, Shazid Hussain, Vikash Kumar Sharma, Ashish Ranjan, Imran Hussain participated in poster presentation on the topics tackling issue of illiteracy of menstrual hygiene and period poverty and menstruation related myths and taboos in India and raise the awareness on menstrual health and hygiene. Dr. Anshu Kataria,



Chairman, Aryans Group congratulated the pharma students and faculty for their hard work. Kataria further said that Aryans students are performing well in every field including academics, sports, cultural, innovations etc. Such conferences always help the students to know about the latest advancements made in the area of pharmaceutical research as well as the current trends prevalent in the pharma industry, added Kataria.

A panel of Judges including Dr. Jashanjit Singh, Associate Professor, Gurukul Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Khamanon; Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Professor, Laureate Institute of Pharmacy Kathoh Jawalaji; Dr. Naresh Kumar, Associate Professor, ISF College of Pharmacy Moga; Dr. Darsh Gautam, Associate Professor, Hyper Nadaun; Dr. Vishal Verma, Associate Professor, DRD College of Pharmacy Kathua; Dr

Professor, Aman Bhalla college of Pharmacy, Pathankot; Dr Suraj Pal Verma, Assistant Professor, DPSRO; Dr Gitanjali Saini, Professor, TMU Moradabad, Dr. Devesh, Assistant Professor, DPSRU gave the final judgement of all competition. A series of discussions and plenary lectures delivered by experts with paper, oral and poster presentations by participating delegates were the key activities undertaken as a part of this conference.

Paris-based Ugandan hip hop artiste Awori tries to blur the dividing lines like language, race and cultures through her music

Ugandan singer Awori landed in Chandigarh for her first-ever India tour in collaboration with Alliance Française India. She performed at The Backroom, Sector 34 on Saturday in association with Alliance Française de Chandigarh, which was jam-packed with electronic and hip hop music lovers.

On her early influences in music, Awori recalls, "I started writing songs when I was about nine years old. And then performing at school functions made me realise that I wanted to pursue it for life." Awori, who has a decade long career in music, says, "While earlier I wanted to win a Grammy and make my mark in the mainstream music world but now I find solace in independent music as it gives me the freedom to experiment. I feel today music is not just about having talent but more about becoming an overall performer with an attitude to reinvent yourself."

Awori, who is currently studying Jazz at the Paris College of Music, tries to incorporate her culture, politics and everything under the sun into her music. She says, "My motive is to adapt to the ever-changing environments with subjects ranging



from vulnerability, self-image, heart-break, love to migration and protest. As I do this, I also try to blur the dividing lines like language, race and cultures."

Awori is fluent in English and explains, "Speaking my mother-tongue in public was prohibited in my native country when I was growing up."

Awori, who started her India

tour with Chandigarh, is in awe of the city's architectural brilliance. She will be performing in Mumbai, Pune and Delhi. She says, "While growing up, I was into traditional Percussion instruments and the tabla fascinated me. I also love this Indian clothing brand called NorBlack NorWhite, which has stores in Mumbai and Delhi. I am looking

forward to visit as it celebrates the old ways of craftsmanship."

All for sustainable fashion, Awori shares her grievances as Africa has become the dumping ground of fast fashion of global brands.

On hip hop completing 50 years, she says it has been a great journey for the genre but feels the real voices of protest that hip hop is known for is getting lost. "While there are artistes who are carrying forward the true legacy of hip hop, but they aren't among the ones that are globally popular and most heard singers. But thanks to streaming platforms, independent artistes have found the much-needed exposure."

One of Awori's latest projects, Ranavalona, is about the last Queen of Madagascar. Queen Ranavalona resisted the colonial forces. "I can be anywhere in the world but I do not forget where I come from and carry my identity not as burden but pride on my shoulders. At the same time I learn from my experiences while staying in different countries. It adds to my identity which helps in keeping my individuality in my music alive."

Cindy Crawford's father thought modelling was 'another name for prostitution'



Supermodel Cindy Crawford said that her father thought modelling was a euphemism for prostitution. The 57-year-old, who became one of the world's most popular pin-ups in the 1980s and '90s, has also admitted that she initially struggled to convince her mum and dad she was on the path to a lucrative and respectable career. "My dad really didn't understand that modelling was a real career. He thought modelling was, like, another name for prostitution," she said in a preview for a new

documentary show The Super Models about her dad John's reaction to her going into modelling. Crawford's father and her mother Jennifer Sue Crawford-Moluf were eventually supportive and went with her to her first modelling appointment.

The model added in the preview she "never even thought about modelling" before she ended up in the business. She said, "I didn't even know it was a real job. I didn't know how I would get from DeKalb, Illinois, to a magazine." In 2016, Cindy told

Vanity Fair about how she did her first modelling job aged 16 when she was still living with her parents. She said, "When I was 16, Roger Legel, a local photographer in my small town of DeKalb, Illinois, asked to photograph me for the college newspaper."

"I agreed, and he shot this picture at the backyard pool of my high school boyfriend. I was still a teenager and dreamed of becoming something big — a nuclear physicist or the first woman president, the two biggest jobs I could think of."

"Doing this first shoot changed my life. The photographer encouraged me to go to Chicago to try to find an agent. I went to Chicago, ended up signing with Elite, and from there started doing catalogue shoots as well as working with Victor Skrebneski — the most important photographer in Chicago. This one photograph opened my eyes to a whole new world and started me down the path of modelling."

Deepa Mehta's film about transgender woman creates buzz at Toronto fest

Deepa Mehta's documentary I Am Sirat, which unravels the inner life of a Delhi-based transgender woman, has created a big buzz after its premiere at the ongoing Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) here.

Shot on smartphones, I Am Sirat explores the troubling and complex duality of her life. Sirat has to suppress her inner urge to live like a woman so that her mother, and a married sister and extended relatives are not scandalised.



Rapper Cardi B says she pays no attention to trolls on social media

Rapper Cardi B says she is being a "grown-up" by not biting back as much on social media. The WAP hit-maker added she is "getting better" at not biting back whenever she is criticised online because she feels like a proper adult now she is in her thirties.

The mother-of-two was asked if she cares less about the hate she gets on apps like X and Instagram and Cardi replied, "Way less now. I am getting better. It doesn't really affect me."

The rapper said, "But you know what, I have



to grow up, I just can't react anymore. Because I could go all day long as I am good at cracking jokes and hitting back. Earlier I was like let me go through your photos and give you the taste of your own medicine... but no... I'm a grown-up now." The Bongos star, who has kids, Kulture, five, and Wave, two, with husband Offset, previously insisted she won't bite her lip on social media and will continue to speak her mind online. In 2021, whilst bemoaning criticism of US President Joe Biden, she wrote

on X: "How they trying to impeach Biden already? This just shows me how delusional and dumb people can be."

Cardi was subsequently told to "stay in (her) lane" and avoid speaking about politics on social media. In response, the outspoken star explained, "This is my lane. I'm an American that pays taxes right? Are you a politician?... No! Sooo how is this your land more than mine?" Prior to that, Cardi hit out at Donald Trump, Biden's predecessor as the US President.

20 years on, Mona Singh is over the moon

HER glass is full to the brim. As Mona Singh clocks 20 years in the industry, she has much to raise a toast to. If 'Jassi Jaissi Koi Nahin' made her a household name, 'Made in Heaven Season 2' has catapulted her to the seventh heaven. From Jassi to Bulbul, it may have been a roller-coaster journey, but the indefatigable Punjabi only remembers the highs in what she calls a "beautiful self-discovery". With her "social media on fire" since 'MIH2' dropped, Mona is exulting in all the love coming her way.

Naysayers might wonder if ageism led to the 40-year-old actress playing mother to a much older superstar, Aamir Khan, in 'Laal Singh Chaddha', but she is mighty proud of her choice as well as the film. "Indeed, ageism does exist and actors have spoken about their ordeals. But I took it as a challenge to play the complete arc of this character — from a young mother to an old one, while her son is ageing too. If I am looking myself and my age, how am I challenging myself as an actor?" she asks.

The role is even more special for this actor, for she got to speak in her mother-tongue, Punjabi, on screen. Incidentally, working in Punjabi cinema is on her wish-list. So is much else, like being part of projects by Raj and DK and even Rajkumar Hirani, who directed her in '3 Idiots'. Mona says big banners mean that the reach of the film widens, which is why no role is small or big for her. "In '3 Idiots', I mostly feature in the climax. So, whether it is two killer scenes or 10, what value am I bringing to the table is what matters to me," she says.

Picky about the projects she wants to be a part of, when Mona reads the script, she asks herself: "Is this a character I have never done? Is the story really exciting?" Indeed, OTT has spoiled her with the vast array of choices that it offers. However, she does not look down upon television, the medium that "made me who I am".

Daughter of an Army officer, the family moved places often. But after junior school and graduation from Pune, where she lived for 10 years, she would commute to Mumbai



for auditions. If watching Juhi Chawla and Kajol's films firmed up the desire to be like them, Tony and Deeya Singh's show 'Banegi Apni Baat' manifested yet another dream, "I want to work with these makers." Presto, 'Jassi' happened. Today, she is a tad sceptical about the content veering toward the regressive on television, but does not undermine its reach. "All the big superstars choose television to promote their movies," asserts Mona.

Her film career may have been a bit of a late start, but, she insists, "I was not focusing upon movies per se, only seeking content-driven projects." On OTT, the medium where makers are telling "the kind of stories which would otherwise not see the light of the day", she is open to unorthodox roles. Nudity and profanity too are fine, but with a rider, "If it's changing the narrative of the show."

Unconventional parts have always been her

wont. Back in time, she took a big risk when she said 'yes' to playing Jassi. "Nobody was willing to look like her on screen or in real life, for that matter." But, be it plain Jane Jassi or chirpy Bulbul or an inspirational mom, she manages to shine. How does she make an emotional connect each time? She answers, "I take every role very personally. I feel that if the makers have put their faith in me, I must give it my 200 per cent." As for holding her own among the bevy of talented actors, including Mr Perfectionist Aamir Khan and Vijay Raaz, there is indeed much to learn from co-actors. Shares Mona, "Acting is action and reaction. Their reaction, how they add something impromptu or bring in a new element, changes everything. It keeps you on the edge and you have to keep your ears and eyes open." And she is like a sponge soaking it all.

In the beginning of her career, Mona might have faced rejections as she hopped from one audition to another, but today, when casting has become a more professional enterprise, she is more than okay with the audition process. "The best of Hollywood actors do it all the time," she says.

Shooting round the clock for a clutch of web shows, she will soon be seen in Netflix survival thriller 'Kaala Paani', which also stars renowned filmmaker Ashutosh Gowariker. "Working with him has been fabulous. I would keep teasing him: 'Sir, aap kisi scene mein action mat bol dena'," she laughs. Do we see her in any of his films? She winks, "Let's put out a subtle message to him through this interview."

Mona's tingling sense of humour is as alive as her deep understanding of her craft and the complexity of the parts she plays. Thus, her web show 'Kafas' might be seen as one that explores sexual harassment in the entertainment world. She, however, views it "as a conversation starter around sexual assault and mental health".

Clearly, behind her chilled out, boisterous and vocal persona lurks an intelligent actor who knows much more than just how to reinvent the wheel.

Isha Sharma elated to essay the role of Pashminna



A first-of-its-kind show on television, Sony SAB's Pashminna — Dhaage Mohobbat Ke presents a mesmerising love story shot in the beautiful valley of Kashmir.

Born in Kashmir, Pashminna is filled with enthusiasm and positivity. Always donning a warm smile, she helps her mother rent their houseboat to tourists visiting Kashmir. Pashminna's life takes an exciting turn when she crosses paths with Raghav, a successful businessman from Mumbai with contrasting beliefs about love, setting the stage for a clash of ideologies.

Isha Sharma, who will be essaying the role of Pashminna Suri in the show, said, "I feel extremely connected with the character of Pashminna, who believes love is magic and everything feels magical when you experience its bloom. Shooting in Kashmir has been a surreal experience. Being a part of a show that's pushing the boundaries of storytelling on television is a real honour and I am hopeful that the audience will embrace the show with the same passion."

PM Modi recalls Nehru's vision, his 'stroke of midnight hour' speech on last day in Old Parliament

Modi said it is also an occasion to hail everyone who have led this House and shared their vision for India, ranging from Pandit Nehru to Vajpayee.

NEW DELHI, Sep 18 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday lauded the vision of first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru and subsequent leaders, including Lal Bahadur Shastri, P V Narasimha Rao and Atal Bihari Vajpayee, but also reminded the Lok Sabha of the 'cash-for-vote' scam during the Manmohan Singh government.

Initiating the discussion in the Lok Sabha on "Parliamentary Journey of 75 years starting from Samvidhan Sabha -- Achievements, Experiences, Memories and Learnings", Modi also said there were celebrations everywhere when three new states of Uttarakhand, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh were created during Vajpayee's time but lamented that Telangana being carved out of Andhra Pradesh led to only bitterness and bloodshed in both the states.

It is this Parliament where Pandit Nehru spoke at the 'stroke of midnight hour' and his words continue to inspire everyone, he said.

The biggest achievement of these 75 years is that the common person's trust in Parliament continues to grow, Modi said, as he wished that when Parliament shifts to its new building on Tuesday that should be a dawn of new hope and con-



confidence.

Modi said it is also an occasion to hail everyone who have led this House and shared their vision for India, ranging from Pandit Nehru to Vajpayee. He also remembered Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Chandrashekar and Lal Krishna Advani for enriching the House.

The prime minister also lauded the contribution of B R Ambedkar, saying his vision for industrialisation, which was aimed at bringing social justice in the country during the first government of independent India, continues to remain at the heart of every industrial policy even today.

At the same time, there have been sad and emotive moments when Parliament witnessed the loss of three serving prime

ministers -- Nehru, Shastri and Indira Gandhi -- and they were paid rich tributes, he noted.

"This House also supported the liberation of Bangladesh under the leadership of Indira Gandhi," he said.

At the same time, this House also witnessed an attack on democracy during the Emergency and through this House, the people also asserted their power as we saw the return of democracy, Modi added.

Modi also paid tributes to "every brick" of the old Parliament building and said the MPs would enter the new building with "new hope and confidence."

In his over an hour-long speech in Lok Sabha, Modi remembered the journey of India's democracy and said the last day in this heritage build-

ing should be dedicated to the over 7,500 parliamentarians who served in this building since Independence.

Parliament will shift to the new building on the auspicious occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi on Tuesday.

"Today we have an opportunity to connect with the past. We are leaving this building with hope for the future. I am confident that as we enter the new Parliament building, we will go there with new hope and confidence," the prime minister said.

"Today is the day for remembering the 7,500 MPs who have served here...I salute every brick of this building," he said.

Stressing on the historical importance of the old Parliament Building, PM Modi recalled that while the construction of the old Parliament Building was given by foreign rulers, it was constructed through the sweat, hard work and money of Indians.

"Today, we are taking leave from this historic building. Before Independence, this was the Imperial Legislative Council and after Independence, it became the Parliament building," he said.

"We may go to the new building, but the old building will also inspire generations to come. This is an important chapter of India's journey," Modi said.

FSSAI begins pan-India milk and milk products' survey, to submit report by December



KOLKATA, Sep 18 (Agencies): The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has started a nationwide surveillance study on milk and milk products this month, in a bid to curb adulteration of such items, an official of the country's apex food regulator said on Monday.

The exercise will continue till October, and the regulator is expected to submit its report to the health ministry by December, FSSAI Advisor (Quality Assurance) Satyen K Panda said.

"The surveillance survey will cover 766 districts across the country and over 10,000 samples will be collected during the exercise. Two agencies have been engaged for the purpose," he told

agency. Quality Council of India, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and the National Dairy Development Board will conduct the survey for FSSAI, Panda said.

"The scope for the survey includes milk, khoya, chenna, paneer, ghee, butter, curd, and ice cream. The test parameters are adulterants, normal quality and compositional parameters, contaminants, antibiotic residues and microbiological indicators," he said.

The rationale behind choosing milk is its indispensable role in food culture either as a fresh fluid or as a processed dairy product, he said.

"We are hopeful of submitting a report on the findings of the survey to the health ministry by December," Panda said.

One of the objectives of the study is to devise corrective action strategies, the official said.

The regulator has conducted five surveys on milk and milk items since 2011.

FSSAI had, in 2022, conducted a milk survey in 12 states, including 10 where the Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) was prevalent.

It also undertook the Pan-India Milk Products Survey, 2020, to understand the true picture of the safety and quality of milk products being sold in the market during festivals.

In all, 2,801 milk product samples from organised and unorganised sectors were collected from 542 districts across the country for the 2020 study.

These products were tested for all the quality and safety parameters, including pesticide residues, heavy metals, crop contaminants, melamine and microbiological parameters.

'Ready for early election', says Bihar CM Nitish Kumar on possibility of LS polls being advanced

PATNA, Sep 18 (Agencies): Claiming the ruling BJP at the Centre was planning to bring forward Lok Sabha elections, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday said, "Humlog har samay taiyyar hain (We are ever ready)".

The JD (U) leader, who had snapped ties with the BJP a year ago and has been instrumental in bringing various opposition parties together in forming the INDIA bloc, asserted that the multi-party alliance was 'intact', dispelling apprehensions of internal rift.

"I have been saying that the NDA government at the Centre is planning to hold early Lok Sabha polls. Humlog har samay taiyyar hain (We are always ready)...Let them hold it early," Kumar told reporters here.

The CM made the remark here in reply to questions from journalists who sought his views on the possibility of advancing Lok Sabha polls by the Centre. Kumar said, "We are united and intact. We have been working for



the people and will continue to serve people. We have done a lot of development work in Bihar. From constructing good roads, bridges, electricity, and drinking water facilities to several other infrastructural projects, we have done a lot of work in the state. The electorate will make the final decision".

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, who was also present there, told reporters, "We are intact and will unitedly fight the coming polls".

Three women sucked into crater following land subsidence in Jharkhand's Dhanbad

RANCHI, Sep 18 (Agencies): Three women in Jharkhand's Dhanbad were buried alive after a land sunk when they were walking on a makeshift road, built for coal transportation.

The three women, who are trapped in the crater have been identified as Parla Devi (55), Thandi Devi (55) and Mandwa Devi (60), all residents of nearby Chhotki Bouwa Basti.

One of the women was caught in the subsidence first, two others who had accompanied her tried to help but were buried too.

The area has unstable old underground workings and is fire and subsidence affected. The



Gondudih Khas Kusunda Colliery is operated by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL), a subsidiary of Coal India Limited.

Dhanbad's Jharia has been affected by underground fire for the last 100 years leading to land subsidence claiming several lives.

Jharia coal mine is

spread across an area of 450 sq km with nearly 5 lakh lives depending on the region. Fire continues to devour the underground in 67 different areas at Jharia and nearby regions. In many places, coal continues to burn at temperatures up to 700 degrees centigrade, a few meters below the earth's sur-

face, defying all human efforts to extinguish it.

According to BCCL officials, the incident occurred around 12 noon. The women were reportedly walking on a makeshift road, built for coal transportation, when a portion of it suddenly caved in, they said.

When asked about the

delayed rescue operation, Jha informed that it took some time as the angered locals launched an attack on the colliery manager Dilip Kumar and assistant manager Rajesh Kumar. After pacifying them rescue operations began, the officer added. However, the locals alleged that the police and mine rescue teams of BCCL arrived hours later even when they were informed immediately.

"Apparently the land subsided due to the heavy rains. An outsourcing company is operating in the Gondudih project and has made a kuccha road for transporting purposes," said a local requesting anonymity.

Activist Girish Babu who filed plea against Kerala CM's daughter found dead, cardiac arrest suspected

KOCHI, Sep 18 (Agencies): Activist Girish Babu (47) was found dead in his home in Kalamassery on Monday morning.

According to the police, the preliminary investigation behind the death suggests he died after a cardiac arrest. Girish was undergoing treatment for health-related issues, which he also published through a Facebook post last month.

The police reached Girish's house and

started the inquest proceedings.

Girish has been living with his family in Kalamassery and it was his wife who found him dead in the bedroom this morning, police said. "It seems like a case of cardiac arrest. However, we can reach a final conclusion only based on the autopsy report," said a police officer.

Several public interest petitions filed by Girish have created a political stir in Kerala. The cases,

including the Palarivat-tom flyover scam and the 'monthly payments' allegations against Veena Vijayan, daughter of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, hogged headlines recently.

He moved to the Vigilance Court in Muvattupuzha, seeking an investigation into the alleged bribe paid by Cochin Minerals and Rutile Ltd. (CMRL) to Veena Vijayan. However, the court rejected the petition recently. Following this, he moved



the High Court to hear the case. Girish's death came while the court was about to consider his petition today.

Girish, who sought the probe citing revelations by the Income Tax Interim Board of

Settlement (ITIBS), New Delhi, named the CM, and UDF leaders Ramesh Chennithala, P K Kunhalikutty, and V K Ebrahimkunju in the petition, claiming they, too, received bribes from CMRL. Veena's company, Exalogic Solutions, CMRL, its MD S N Sasidharan Kartha, chief financial officer K S Suresh Kumar, chief general manager P Suresh Kumar, and cashier K M Vasudevan were also been named in the plea.

Kerala man divorces wife through WhatsApp, complaint filed

MANGALURU, Sep 18 (Agencies): A woman from Dakshina Kannada district has lodged a complaint at the Sullia police station against her husband who allegedly gave her triple talaq over WhatsApp, police said on Monday.

The woman's husband is employed overseas and the couple has two daughters, they said.

The accused, Abdul Rasheed, hails from Thrissur in Kerala. He had married a woman hailing from Jayanagar in Dakshina Kannada



district seven years ago. Abdul had taken his wife abroad two years ago but had later left her in Sullia during her second delivery.

Police said though the couple reportedly had some discord of late,

the issue was settled with the intervention of elderly people.

However, the man has now sought divorce through triple talaq over WhatsApp.

Sullia police are investigating the case.

Navi Mumbai man loses more than Rs 43 lakh in online 'task fraud'

THANE, Sep 18 (Agencies): A 33-year-old man from Navi Mumbai has become the latest victim of the "online task" fraud and lost more than Rs 43 lakh to fraudsters who lured him under the pretext of earning big returns, police said on Monday.

The fraudsters contacted the man, a resident of Koparkhairane area, on Whatsapp and told him that he could earn good money if he completed a part-time job involving online tasks, an official said.

"Hoping to earn good returns, the victim paid Rs 43.45 lakh in different

bank accounts but never received any remuneration," he said quoting the First Information Report.

A case was registered under section 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) of the IPC.

No arrest has been made so far.

The "online task fraud" typically involves trapping victims by making them perform tasks like liking videos, etc, and making small payments initially to win their trust.

The victims were later lured into investing money to earn big returns.

Delhi man strangles wife to death over suspected infidelity

NEW DELHI, Sep 18 (Agencies): A 35-year-old woman was allegedly strangled to death by her husband in north-east Delhi over suspicion of an illicit relationship, an official said on Monday.

Sharing the details, police said that on Sunday at 8.10 pm a call was received regarding the murder of a woman at her house in the Khajuri Khas area following which a police team was

dispatched for the spot.

Upon arriving at the scene, a woman's body was discovered beneath the bed, lying face down. The deceased was identified as Draupadi by her 15-year-old daughter. Bloodstains were visible in the room.

"The deceased's daughter said her step-father, Sunil, had been missing since Saturday, after locking the door to their room. A local inquiry revealed that Sunil

and Draupadi engaged in frequent altercations," said the Deputy Commissioner of Police (northeast) Joy Tirkey.

Draupadi was last seen alive at around 12.30 pm on Saturday by her daughter. "The locked room was subsequently opened in the presence of the landlord, revealing the lifeless body," said the DCP.

"The deceased had an injury on her fore-

head, and a scarf was wrapped around her neck," said the DCP.

During the initial probe, it was discovered that Draupadi's initial marriage was to Jyotish Yadav, with whom she had four children. The other three children reside with Jyotish Yadav in Madhepura, Bihar.

"Draupadi retained custody of one daughter and had been living with

her second husband, Sunil, for the past seven years. They did not have any children together," said the DCP.

"Recently, Sunil suspected her of having an illicit relationship with another man, leading to frequent arguments between the couple," said the DCP, adding that efforts are under way to locate Sunil, who is the primary suspect and on the run.

Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy dies after being shot in his patrol car by assailant

PALMDALE (US), Sep 18 (Agencies): A Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department deputy died after he was shot in his patrol car by an assailant, and an investigation is under way that the sheriff said would press all of the department's resources into action.

Deputy Ryan Clinkunbroomer, 30, died after being taken to a hospital, Sheriff Robert Luna said during a news conference.

The preliminary investigation showed Clinkunbroomer was driving while on duty and fired upon around 6pm, Luna said.

Clinkunbroomer was unconscious in the vehicle when he was found near the intersection of Sierra Highway and Avenue Q in Palmdale by a person, Luna, identified as a "good Samaritan", who alerted personnel at the Palmdale station of the sheriff's department.

The deputy was taken to Antelope Valley Medical Centre in Lancaster, where he was treated for a gunshot wound.

"Despite the medical staff's best efforts to save our deputy's



life, regrettably he succumbed to his injuries," Luna said.

Homicide investigators are aware of video from a surveillance camera that may have captured the shooting, Luna said.

Luna said he believed the shooting was a "targeted attack". But the motive, and whether the deputy or the department in general was the target, was not yet known.

"We're going to catch the person who did this," Luna said.

"Because every resource that the Los Angeles County Sher-

iff's Department has to bear is going after you." California Governor Gavin Newsom called the killing "horrific, unconscionable, and shocking". He ordered flags at the state capitol flown at half-staff in honour of Clinkunbroomer.

Clinkunbroomer, who transferred to the Palmdale station in July 2018, was a third-generation officer who followed his grandfather and father into the sheriff's department, Luna said.

"In this time of mourning, we honour this legacy and send our

deepest sympathies to Deputy Clinkunbroomer's fiancée, his loved ones, and the men and women of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department," Newsom said in a statement on Sunday.

"Deputy Clinkunbroomer's devotion to community and country will never be forgotten." The sheriff said his department was working closely with representatives from the city of Palmdale, about 98 kilometres northeast of Los Angeles.

"Palmdale loves the sheriff's deputies, and the deputies take very good care of Palmdale and love our community back," Mayor Laura Bettencourt said at the news conference.

"The person that did this is a coward, and he will be caught." "It is sickening, heartbreaking news," Republican state Senator Scott Wilk, who represents Palmdale, posted on Saturday evening on X.

A vigil for Clinkunbroomer was scheduled for Sunday evening outside the Palmdale sheriff's station.

China flies 103 military planes toward Taiwan, island calls it 'harassment'

TAIPEI, Sep 18 (Agencies): China's military sent 103 warplanes toward Taiwan in a 24-hour period in what the island's defence ministry said on Monday was a daily record in recent times.

The planes were detected between 6 am on Sunday and 6 am on Monday, the ministry said.

As is customary, they turned back before reaching Taiwan.

China, which claims Taiwan as part of its territory, has conducted increasingly large military drills in the air and waters around Taiwan as tensions have grown between the two and with the United States.

The US is Taiwan's main supplier of arms and opposes any attempt to change Taiwan's status by force.

Taiwan's Defence Ministry said that 40 of the planes crossed the symbolic halfway point between mainland China and the island.

It also reported nine naval vessels in the previous 24 hours.

The ministry called the Chinese military action "harassment" that it warned could escalate in the current tense atmosphere. "We urge the Beijing authorities to bear responsibility and immediately stop such kind of destructive military activities," it said in a state-

ment. China last week sent a flotilla of ships including the aircraft carrier Shandong into waters near Taiwan.

The drills came shortly after the US and Canada sailed warships through the Taiwan Strait, the waters that separate the island from the mainland.

China also unveiled a plan for an integrated development demonstration zone with Taiwan in China's nearby Fujian province, trying to entice Taiwan while also warning it in what experts say is China's long-running carrot and stick approach. The recent actions may be an attempt to sway Taiwan's presidential election in January.

The ruling Democratic Progressive Party, which leans toward formal independence for the island, is anathema to the Chinese government.

China favours opposition candidates who advocate working with the mainland. Taiwan and China split in 1949 when the communists took control of China during a civil war. The losing Nationalists fled to Taiwan and set up their own government on the island.

The island is self-governing, though only a few foreign nations give it official diplomatic recognition.

The US among others has formal ties with China while maintaining a representative office in Taiwan.

Chinese diplomat Wang Yi visits Russia ahead of possible Xi-Putin meeting

BEIJING, Sep 18 (Agencies): China's top diplomat, Wang Yi, begins on Monday a four-day trip to Russia during which both nations are expected to pledge deeper mutual political trust, readying for a possible landmark visit by President Vladimir Putin to Beijing in October.

Wang, who heads the foreign ministry as well as the ruling Communist Party's foreign affairs office, will meet Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev for annual security talks, the Chinese foreign ministry said in a statement.

The veteran diplomat's talks with counterpart Sergei Lavrov will cover a "wide range of issues" including "contacts at higher and the highest levels," the Russian foreign ministry said last week.

Wang is expected to lay the groundwork for Putin's visit to the Chinese capital for the third Belt and Road Forum after an invitation by President Xi Jinping during a high-profile visit to Moscow in March.

Putin attended China's first two Belt and Road Forums in 2017 and



2019.

But he is not known to have travelled abroad since the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant against him on grounds of illegally deporting hundreds of children from Ukraine.

On Sept. 1, Putin said he expected to meet Xi soon, but did not explicitly confirm that he would travel to China again.

The warrant, issued just days before Xi visited Russia, obligates the court's 123 member states to arrest Putin and transfer him to the Hague for trial if he enters their territory.

However, China is not a party to the Rome Statute that led to the establishment of the ICC in 2002.

The visit will also see a detailed exchange of views on issues includ-

ing Ukraine, ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said last week.

Wang last visited Russia in February on the eve of the one-year anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, alarming the United States, which accused the two nations at the time of sharing a vision in which "borders could be redrawn by force".

Ahead of this week's visit, Wang travelled to Malta for hours of "constructive" talks with White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan.

The weekend talks were the latest in a series of high-level meetings between US and Chinese officials that could lay the foundation for a meeting this year between Xi and US President Joe Biden.

Australia tells dating apps to improve safety standards to protect users from sexual violence

CANBERRA, Sep 18 (Agencies): Australia's government said on Monday the online dating industry must improve safety standards or be forced to make changes through legislation, responding to research that says three-in-four Australian users suffer some form of sexual violence through the platforms.

Communications Minister Michelle Rowland said popular dating companies such as Tinder, Bumble and Hinge have until June 30 to develop a voluntary code of conduct that addresses user safety concerns.

The code could include improving engagement with law enforcement, supporting at-risk users, improving safety policies



and practices, and providing greater transparency about harms, she said.

But, Rowland added, if the safety standards are not sufficiently improved, the government will use regulation and legislation to force change.

"What we want to do in this sector is not stifle innovation, but balance the harms," she told reporters.

The government is

responding to Australian Institute of Criminology research published last year that found three-in-four users of dating apps or websites had experienced some form of sexual violence through these platforms in the five years through 2021.

"Online dating is actually the most popular way for Australians to meet new people and to form new relationships," Rowland said.

"The government is

concerned about rates of sexual harassment, abusive and threatening language, unsolicited sexual images and violence facilitated by these platforms," she added.

The Australian Information Industry Association, which represents the information and communications technology industry in Australia but not the online dating sector, welcomed the government's approach as "very measured".

"That's the way the government should regulate technology," the association's chief executive, Simon Bush, said. "Point out where there's an issue, get the industry together and get the industry to look to see if they can resolve these issues first before pulling the regu-

latory trigger." Bumble declined to comment. Tinder and Hinge did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Kath Albury, an online dating researcher at Melbourne's Swinburne University of Technology, said safety improvements could include a clearer sense of how quickly a user could expect feedback after reporting an unwanted or threatening contact.

"One of the things that dating app users are concerned about is the sense that complaints go into the void or there's a response that feels automated or not personal responsive in a time when they're feeling quite unsafe or distressed," Albury told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

'War would erupt again': fears of new conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh

AZERBAIJAN, Sep 18 (Agencies): Standing on an overcast morning on a street in Stepanakert, the main city in breakaway Nagorno-Karabakh, Olga Grigoryan says locals fear another war with Azerbaijani forces could be imminent.

Three years after an Azerbaijani-Armenian war for control of the mountainous territory ended with a fragile Russian-brokered truce, the situation remains volatile.

The summer of near-daily clashes with Baku's military in Nagorno-Karabakh has turned to autumn and fears of a fresh all-out conflict.

"We are in a permanent fear that a war would erupt again," Grigoryan told agency.

"The situation is escalating more and more, day by day. People are simply afraid that they will wake up tomorrow to the sound of bombings, just as in 2020," she said.

"We don't know how to live in such a situation, how to raise children when we live under constant stress, and nobody wants to help us."

Internationally-mediated peace talks have failed to bring about

a breakthrough and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said recently that large-scale hostilities could reignite, accusing Baku of massing troops near Nagorno-Karabakh and along the two countries' frontier.

'Serious provocation' In what was praised as a first step towards a lasting peace, Pashinyan said in May that Armenia was recognising Nagorno-Karabakh as part of Azerbaijan.

But Baku accuses him of acting contrary to the statement as Yerevan continues to fund ethnic-Armenian separatist forces from its state budget.

"Some recent actions of the Armenian leadership have caused serious damage to the peace process," Hikmet Hajiyev, an influential foreign policy adviser to Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, told agency.

He referred particularly to Pashinyan's congratulatory letter on Nagorno-Karabakh's independence day on September 2, which sparked Baku's anger.

"The holding of so-called 'presidential elections' (in Nagorno-Karabakh) on September 9 was yet another serious



provocation," he added, accusing Yerevan of "torpedoing attempts of dialogue" between the central government in Baku and separatists in Stepanakert.

The European Union and United States -- who mediate peace talks between the Caucasus arch-foes -- have said the vote was illegitimate.

Yerevan, on its part, accused Baku of spurring a humanitarian crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh by blocking the sole road linking the region with Armenia, the Lachin corridor, which is policed by Russian peacekeepers.

'Big regional war' Analysts have said the lack of progress at peace talks fuels tensions and raises the

spectre of a new war. "The probability of a new armed conflict is undoubtedly very high as Azerbaijan is intensively concentrating troops at the border with Armenia and near Karabakh, and is increasing its units' cohesion there," independent Armenian analyst Benjamin Matevosyan told agency.

Azerbaijani political expert Farhad Mammadov said "The risk of a renewed large-scale fighting will always remain high as long as the peace treaty is not signed."

He said Baku is likely to "attack the territory of Armenia proper in case Yerevan intervenes militarily in Karabakh."

Hakob Balayan, an Armenian analyst, said

"An Azerbaijani attack on Armenian soil would lead to a big regional war" that would involve Baku's ally Turkey as well as Ankara's historical rival Iran, which is wary of the growing Turkish influence in the strategic Caucasus region.

Nagorno-Karabakh was at the centre of two wars between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

In the 1990s, Armenia defeated Azerbaijan and took control of the region, along with seven adjacent districts of Azerbaijan.

Thirty years later, energy-rich Turkic-speaking Azerbaijan, which built a strong military and secured the backing from Ankara, took revenge.

In autumn 2020, Russia brokered a ceasefire to end six-weeks of fighting and deployed 2,000 peacekeepers to the Lachin corridor, which connects Armenia to Nagorno-Karabakh.

Under the deal, Yerevan ceded swathes of territory it had controlled for decades, in what was seen as a national humiliation in Armenia where public opinion is largely in favour of retaking Nagorno-Karabakh.

Will end H-1B visa programme if elected: Ramaswamy

WASHINGTON, Sep 18 (Agencies): Describing the H-1B visa programme as a form of "indentured servitude", Indian-American Republican presidential aspirant Vivek Ramaswamy has vowed to gut the lottery-based system and replace it with meritocratic admission if he wins the race to the White House in 2024.

The H-1B visa, much sought-after among Indian IT professionals, is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. Technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China. Ramaswamy himself has used the H-1B visa programme 29 times.

From 2018 through 2023, US Citizenship and Immigration Services approved 29 applications for Ramaswamy's former company, Roivant Sciences, to hire employees under H-1B visas, the Politico reported. Yet, the H-1B system is "bad for everyone involved," the 38-year-old biotech entrepreneur was quoted as saying by Politico.

"The lottery system needs to be replaced by actual meritocratic admis-



sion. It's a form of indentured servitude that only accrues to the benefit of the company that sponsored an H-1B immigrant. I'll gut it," Ramaswamy said in a statement, adding that the United States needs to eliminate chain-based migration.

"The people who come as family members are not the meritocratic immigrants who make skills-based contributions to this country," Ramaswamy stepped down as chief executive officer of Roivant in February 2021 but remained the chair of the company's board of directors until February this year when he announced his presidential campaign.

Bakaya demands basic amenities for resettled families at Ward 71 in Majeen

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 18: Apni Party Youth Wing State General Secretary, and Spokesperson, Abhay Bakaya today demanded basic amenities for families which were evicted and resettled at ward number 71, Mohalla Majeen in Sidhra, Jammu District.

A meeting was organized at the above said area in which the residents and the Apni Party leaders consisting of State General Secretary and Spokesperson of the Party, Abhay Bakaya; Apni Trade Union's Provincial President Jammu, Raj Sharma, District President Apni Trade Union, Anirudh Vasist and others were also present.

In this meeting, a threadbare discussion was held with regard to the poor developmental conditions and poor basic amenities for the people who were evicted from the state land from another ward and settled here at ward number 71 on 2 marla



plots for each family by the authorities concerned.

Addressing the meeting, Abhay said that these families were resettled by the authorities, but they were not provided the basic amenities that were important for the survival of the people in a residential colony like proper roads, lanes, drains, electricity and clean drinking water.

He demanded that these people should

be provided the basic amenities and they shall not be forced to suffer in absence of any kind of development in their locality.

Meanwhile, the Apni Trade Union Provincial President Jammu, Raj Sharma also spoke on the occasion, and referred to the inflated electricity bills following the installation of smart meters.

He appealed to the Govt to roll back the decision as the people

from all sections of society have collectively opposed the installation of smart meters.

Besides, District President Apni Trade Union, Anirudh Vasist highlighted the concerns of the people of Sidhra. "There is no proper development, proper sanitization and garbage collection because of which the people are suffering," he said, criticizing the Jammu Municipal Corporation.

While celebrating Chandrayaan, Space technology also used in development projects: Dr Jitendra

TOP NEWS REPORT

NEW DELHI, Sep 18: While celebrating Chandrayaan success, India is at the same time also using Space Technology and its applications in various sectoral development projects, said Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Space and Atomic Energy, Dr Jitendra Singh while addressing a special session "Emulating Chandrayaan-3 Success in Biomedical Sciences".

Space Technology today has virtually entered every Indian household, he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said Space Applications is being utilised in almost all sectors such as Weather Forecasting and Disaster Management, Smart City project, Infrastructure Development, Railway Tracks & management of unmanned Railway Crossings, Roads & Buildings, Telemedicine, Governance, and most importantly, the 'Svmitva' GPS land-mapping.

"It is in these last 7 to 8 years that we have shown the world how Space Technology &



its scientific applications could be used for sectoral development... (We have to) make our boys and girls understand the huge enormous, collateral positives coming out of this. Now suddenly this technology has become available all across the country," he said, addressing the International Association of Pancreatology in New Delhi.

Dr Jitendra Singh said the landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the virgin South Polar region of the Moon demonstrated before the world India's technological capability and talent through cost effective means. The evidence of Mineral Elements like Sulphur, Cobalt, Hydrogen and Water Molecules by Chandrayaan-1 mission is being looked up

by the entire scientific community across the globe because they expect some new inferences.

Dr Jitendra Singh said today India is laying down the targets such as on Climate Change, we have set the Net Zero target by 2070, and tomorrow we will be one of the major exporters of Hydrogen.

"We have actually proved to the world we can meet you on your platform," he said, adding, "We are now no longer taking lead from others, we are in a position to give lead to the rest of the countries. So India is now ready to lead, the world is ready to be led. Now it's up to us, how much capacity do we have to lead. And that is why it is giving esteem to each and every citizen."

Dr Jitendra Singh further said, India's quantum leap in the Space sector has only been possible after Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi took the courageous decision to "unlock" this sector from the "veil of secrecy".

With the unlocking of Space Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the common masses of the country have been able to witness the launch of the mega space events like Chandrayaan-3 or Aditya, some 10,000 students and common people came to see the Aditya launch and some 1,000 media persons were there during the Chandrayaan-3 landing on the moon.

"We had everything, but we were possibly waiting for an enabling milieu to happen. And that enabling milieu had to come from the level of the policy makers, from the level of the political leadership and that happened after Prime Minister Modi came in," he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh, who is also a known Diabetologist and Professor of Medicine, said the 'Anusandhan National Research Foundation' (NRF) will have 70-80% of its funding from non-government sources.

Mission Statehood organizes anti-Pakistan rally

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU Sep 18: President of Mission Statehood, Sunil Dimple, organized a massive anti-Pakistan rally at the Press Club in Jammu on the first day of a special parliament session.

The rally involved people from various religious backgrounds, including Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs, who gathered to protest and seek clarification on the Indian government's policy regarding Pakistan.

Dimple called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss the Jammu and Kashmir issue during the special Parliament session, emphasizing that the region has faced numerous challenges since the abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A on August 5, 2019.

Dimple urged the central government to reveal a roadmap for achieving peace and normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir.

He questioned the high number of security



forces and officers who had lost their lives in the region and expressed concern about the lack of peace.

He accused Pakistan of waging a proxy war, but criticized the Indian government for what he perceived as a passive response.

Dimple demanded that PM Modi provide directions in Parliament for the Indian army to initiate surgical strikes on Pakistan, signaling a more aggressive approach.

Dimple highlighted various issues in

Jammu and Kashmir, such as problems faced by traders and transporters, poverty, unemployment, lack of development, the issue of smart meters, and the existence of illegal toll plazas.

He emphasized that after the abrogation of Article 370, the transport sector had collapsed, leading to increased unemployment among educated youths, resulting in growing poverty in the region.

Dimple expressed confidence in receiving justice from the

Supreme Court and appealed to the Chief Justice of India (CJI) to intervene and instruct the BJP government to disclose its policies for achieving peace and normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir.

Several prominent leaders, including Sanjay Sethi, Hanef Chodary, Ajiet Singh, Amar Jeet Singh, Pawan Kumar, Vikram Singh, Ranjet Singh, Taran Singh, Ramesh Kumar, Madan Lal, Harnam Singh, Ashok Kumar, and others were also present.

Contractual system of appointments in Education Deptt marred career of thousands of educated youths: AAP

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 18: Strongly assailing the contractual system of appointment in Higher Secondary Schools in Education Department during the year 2019 when thousands of highly educated youth's opted for adjustments getting frustrated and dejected remaining unemployed and feeling themselves as a burden on the parents, the AAP Senior leaders, Ram Singh Chauhan, Kuldeep Kumar Rao & Amit Langer in a press release issued here have termed it as a clear bankruptcy of mind of those at the helm of affairs responsible for framing contractual policy of employment of Hr. Secondary School Lecturers as also in Colleges

as contractual Assistant Professors and worst of it the policy was abandoned when thousands of them attained upper age of limit prescribed by the government.

The AAP leaders further expressed great surprise and dismay that has now again revived the policy remaining mum over those who attained upper age limit in the previous spell to the annoyance thousands of affected families across J&K, thanks to the non-seriousness of the policy makers.

They further observed that if the contractual policy is being revived keeping an eye on elections in 2024, then ruling dispensation is badly mistaken because first bleeding the wounds of thousands of needy & deserving families

who have been rendered hopeless attaining upper age of limit terming the attempt as putting the cart a head of horse.

The AAP leaders further said that the promise of providing 2 crore jobs annually to the youths of the country in 2014 and 50,000 jobs to the youths of J&K after abrogation of Art 370 still haunts the minds of young people here, which never saw the light of the day.

Adding fuel to the fire, several thousands of youths engaged on contractual basis, ad-hoc basis, daily wagers or need based arrangements in all departments be it Home guard, Education, PDD, PHE, Health, Food & civil supplies and so on so forth has compounded

the miseries of frustrated youths with every passing day as scores of them are crossing age limit or nearing the same without any hope of Achhe Din, the AAP leaders maintained and said that previous leaders of successive state governments are squarely responsible for the present mess who, without any planning & application of mind, adjusted the youths simply to create vote banks & appease their kith & kins, has put thousands of youths in great dilemma & worst confusion, they claimed & maintained that Educational Institutions were opened with political considerations without proper infrastructure in place, Health Institutions sanctioned without availability of staff & Buildings.

FROM PAGE 1

LG Sinha inaugurates 44th PSPB Inter-Unit Golf Tournament at Royal Springs Golf Course

we are performing better than many states and UTs, he said.

The success of the G20 Summit, the record tourist influx and the unprecedented increase in the foreign tourists visiting the UT itself speaks about the prevailing peace and changed scenario in Jammu Kashmir, he added.

He also appreciated the ONGC for its contribution and support to the UT Government in various endeavours.

Eight teams of petroleum and oil companies comprising of various national and international golfers are participating in the tournament.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Ranjan Prakash Thakur, CVO ONGC; Manish Patil Director HR ONGC; Lalit Watts, Advisor, Petroleum Sports Promotion Board, members of PSPB, Golfers and senior officers were present.

Want to 'tighten up' self-regulatory

mechanism for TV news channels, says SC

are welcome. "We cannot sort out your ideological differences (NBDA and NBF) here. We do not want this plea to get lost in the cacophony of rival organisations. We will see their regulations and then see yours as well," the CJI said and fixed the plea for hearing after four weeks.

Earlier, the top court had found fault with the existing self-regulatory mechanism to monitor TV news channels and sought the Centre's response, saying it wanted to make it "more effective". The bench had made clear it did not want to impose any censorship on media.

The top court, however, had stressed on the need for having an effective self-regulatory mechanism and said some channels went "berserk" during the coverage of actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death case.

It had then asked the NBDA to take inputs from its present chairperson Justice Sikri (retd) and his predecessor Justice Raveendran (retd), both former Supreme Court judges. The apex court had noted the maximum penalty which can be imposed on a TV news channel for violation of the self-regulatory mechanism is just Rs 1 lakh, which was fixed way back in 2008.

It was hearing a plea filed by the NBDA against the January 2021 observations by the Bombay High Court.

The high court had said media trials amounted to contempt of court and urged the press not to cross the proverbial "Lakshman Rekha", as it found the coverage of actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death case by some news channels as "contemptuous".

It had observed that existing self-regulatory mechanisms could not take the character of a statutory mechanism.

As per information available on the NBDA's website, it represents private television news, current affairs and digital broadcasters and is the collective voice of news, current affairs and digital broadcasters in India. It says the NBDA currently has 27 leading news and current affairs broadcasters (comprising 125 news and current affairs channels) as its members.

The apex court issued a notice to the Centre and others seeking their responses on the association's plea.

"We are of the considered view that it would be necessary for this court to consider as to whether steps, which have already been taken for constituting a self-regulatory mechanism, are to be strengthened," the bench said.

Army, Police resume

operations against terrorists in Anantnag

trapped terrorists will be neutralised." The Army has maintained a tight cordon-off in the area, they said.

Meanwhile, a soldier who had been reported missing on Thursday lost his life in the ongoing encounter, officials said on Friday. "One more soldier has lost his life in the Anantnag operations. He had been reported missing since yesterday (Thursday)," Security officials said.

Sarpanch among 4 held in youth's murder

and Nasir Khan, police said. More arrests are likely as the investigation of the case progresses.

According to police, Saansiya himself was a notorious drug peddler and was twice detained under the Public Safety Act (PSA).

He was an accused in over a dozen cases filed under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act at different police stations.

For marrying again, lecturer placed under

suspension

the conduct of the suspended officer.

Man dies in Kashmir Road accident

struck him. Following the incident, he was promptly transported to a nearby health center, where he was pronounced dead upon arrival.

More details awaited.

CoBRA Commandos enter JK, First batch deployed in Kupwara

strategy to utilise this specialized force in regions where the Armed Forces Special Power Act has been revoked, according to officials.

"CoBRA was established during a time when India's internal security faced threats from Naxal violence. Over the years, CoBRA teams have successfully neutralized top Naxal leaders, resulting in a decrease in Naxal violence. They possess expertise in dealing with militants in jungle and hilly terrain. The terrain in the northeast and Jammu and Kashmir is quite similar. In the upcoming years, they will be deployed in such areas," officials said.

Sensex, Nifty open lower after hitting record highs

As of 9:20 am, the Nifty 50 fell by approximately 0.3 per cent to 20,140 points, while the S&P BSE Sensex lost nearly 0.4 per cent, standing at 67,600 points.

NEW DELHI, Sep 18 (Agencies): Benchmark stock market indexes experienced a decline on Monday, primarily driven by losses in the IT sector. This dip comes as investors exercised caution ahead of a significant US Federal Reserve policy meeting scheduled later in the week.

As of 9:20 am, the Nifty 50 fell by approximately 0.3 per cent to 20,140 points, while the S&P BSE Sensex lost nearly 0.4 per cent, standing at 67,600 points. The broader markets also exhibited early losses as investors remained cautious leading up to the pivotal Fed meeting.

Within sectoral indices, Nifty PSU Bank posted



a gain of over 2.3 per cent, followed by Nifty Auto, Nifty FMCG, and Nifty Pharma.

The top performers on the Nifty 50 included M&M, HDFC Life, Cipla, SBI, and Titan. Conversely, the major laggards were Hindalco, Infosys, Coal India, HDFC Bank, and LTIM.

In terms of individual stocks, Dhanlaxmi Bank witnessed a significant 9% drop following the

resignation of one of its independent directors.

Deven Mehata,

a research analyst at Choice Broking, expressed his perspective on the situation, noting, "Indian markets are showing strength despite global uncertainties. Nifty has strong support near the 19,950 levels. Traders can consider adopting a buy-on-dips strategy with a stop loss at 19,950 levels."

Erdogan, Elon Musk discuss establishing Tesla car factory in Turkiye



ISTANBUL, Sep 18 (Agencies): Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called on Elon Musk, the head of electric carmaker Tesla, to establish a factory in Turkiye during a meeting in New York, Erdogan's office said on Monday.

Erdogan, who is in the US to attend the

UN General Assembly, also discussed potential cooperation between Musk's space exploration firm SpaceX and Turkiye's space programme, the Turkish president's office said.

The statement said Erdogan told Musk that Turkiye would welcome cooperation on artificial intelligence and Star-

link, SpaceX's satellite internet service.

Musk said SpaceX wanted to secure the necessary license to offer Starlink in Turkiye.

Images of the meeting showed Musk holding one of his sons as he talked to Erdogan.

Turkish Industry and Technology Minister Mehmet Fatih Kacir, who attended the meeting, said Musk described Turkiye as "among the most important candidates for Tesla investment".

He added that Musk and Erdogan also discussed Turkiye's armed aerial drone programme.

Expert shares ideal morning routine to boost health, long life

An expert shared four important wellness tips that should be part of a person's morning routine to boost longevity and a healthier life.

NEW DELHI, Sep 18 (Agencies): Did you know that your morning routine predicts precisely how your day goes? While checking your phone could be the first thing you do when you wake up, an expert has revealed that this habit might be the reason why most people will not live a long life.

In a report by Well and Good, Dr Reuben Chen, sports medicine physician and pain management expert, shared four important wellness tips that should be part of a person's morning routine to boost longevity and a healthier life.

Get your body and mind in sync before tackling your to-do list. No more mindlessly scrolling through emails and drowning in notifications. Dr Chen recommended starting your day with meditation, 10 to 15 minutes, as it will bring calmness and focus to your busy mind.

And after that, engage in some self-improvement time, whether it's learning a new language or journal writing. It's time to nourish your soul before anything else. After this, at least 30 minutes of exercise, he suggested. Either



cardio or weightlifting with a few minutes of stretching.

Don't skip breakfast. Dr Chen insisted on a hearty meal to fuel your body for the day ahead. Think protein-packed eggs, creamy avocado, and a dollop of peanut butter on whole wheat toast. This combination will provide you with steady energy and the nutrition you need. Just make sure to steer clear of sugar and simple carbohydrates that can wreak havoc on your blood sugar levels.

Before you reach for that cup of coffee, prioritise hydration.

The expert emphasised the importance of replenishing your body with water first thing in the morning. After all, we lose hydration as

we age, and we need to stay on top of it. Mix in some electrolytes to keep yourself hydrated throughout the day. Don't forget to munch on water-rich foods like juicy berries, refreshing cucumbers and hydrating melons.

Embrace the power of routine.

One must swear by consistency. Dr Chen stated that he sticks to his morning routine like glue. He believes that a predictable start to the day reduces stress and sets a positive tone. "Too many people wake up every day with a barrage of chores and responsibilities that end up dictating the flow of their mornings. So, it's better to ease into your day and take a little time for yourself," he said.

Both India and UK are looking at ambitious trade deals: Government official

NEW DELHI, Sep 18 (Agencies): Both India and the UK are not in a hurry to complete the free trade talks as both countries are bargaining hard to ensure each gets the best deal, sources in the government said. "In UK FTA (free trade agreement), both the countries are looking at an ambitious deal, which is beneficial to both the countries and we are not binding ourselves to any timelines as such," says a government source who is closely associated with the trade talks.

"What we are saying is that the deal should be fruitful to both the countries and good for the stakeholders of



both the countries," he added. According to the sources, the progress in talks is good, and both countries had a very high-level meeting on the sidelines of the Jaipur trade and investment ministers meeting. Both governments are trying to close some prickly issues early.

These issues include rules of origin, bilateral investment treaties, and business mobility.

The Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) talks are being led by the Department of Economic Affairs, and Ministry of Finance, separately, and it is expected that the BIT talks will be closed

along with the FTA negotiations.

Business mobility is an issue concerning visa liberalisation, and the issue has been a major bone of contention between the two countries during their FTA talks. UK Business and Trade Secretary Kemi Badenoch last month

said that visas and visa liberalisation don't come within free trade agreement, but business mobility comes into the trade framework. She said that both countries are actively talking on business mobility and the Bilateral Investment Treaty.

"Towards the end of the deal, it is the difficult issues which have to be closed," said a government source.

The UK-India FTA negotiations began in January 2022, and they cover 26 policy areas/chapters. So far, 12 rounds of talks have been completed and 19 chapters have been closed.

Stay vigilant against illegal loan apps that lure borrower

MUMBAI, Sep 18 (Agencies): If you think the threat of illegal digital lending apps is a thing of the past, recent incidents will change your perception. A 26-year-old woman in Mumbai lodged a complaint with the Bandra police in June about her morphed photos.

In the image, her face had been morphed over someone else's naked body and photos were sent to some of her friends.

This came after she received calls from representatives of an illegal digital lending app through which she had taken the loan. The calls started coming from unknown numbers after she could not fully repay the loans taken from the Chinese app. The callers would use abusive language and threaten to circulate these morphed images to her contacts.

In a similar case, the Delhi police busted a call centre in April, which was functioning as a finance company, and nabbed 18 persons for extorting money from people through a Chinese loan app. They lured people by offering short-term loans at very low interest rates. After disbursing the loans, they would raise the interest rates sharply. Even after the

repayment, the call centre executive would demand more money and threaten them to circulate their morphed images to their friends.

These are not some isolated incidents related to illegal online apps in the country. The number of complaints against illegal digital lending apps has risen to 1,062 in 2022-23, according to the finance ministry data.

The trap to lure customers

Illegal online lending apps target financially stressed individuals who are in need of money. They promise low interest rates and that too in a very short time. "Especially in the low-income segment, several factors lure customers to these illegal lending apps. These customers are often desperate due to a lack of structured sources of funding. These apps exploit the vulnerabilities of individuals facing financial difficulties. Other factors like ease of access, quick approval processes, and minimal documentation, make them appealing for urgent financial needs," Rishi Anand, MD & CEO, Aadhar Housing Finance told TNIE.

"Additionally, people with limited access to traditional banking services may turn to these apps. Illegal digital lend-

ing apps pose a significant threat to consumers and the financial industry," Anand added. While banks and non-banking financial companies take time to approve a loan request as they do the background check of borrowers, illegal online apps do not care about such legal requirements.

"Illegal apps often require very little documentation and approve a loan quickly. Also, such apps often offer low interest rates, which can be very tempting for customers struggling to get a loan from a traditional bank," Shruti Jain, Chief Strategy Officer, Arihant Capital Market Ltd told this newspaper. "However, it is essential to remember that illegal digital lending apps are often predatory and can charge exorbitant interest rates and fees. They may also use abusive collection practices," she added.

How to spot illegal apps

In the digital age, access to credit through digital lending apps can be a boon, but it also comes with risks. To protect yourself from illegal digital lending apps, it is essential to be vigilant and thorough in your research.

"Being vigilant is key to spot illegal digital lending apps. These apps

often lack transparency in terms of regulatory approvals and charge exorbitant fees. Customers should be wary of any lending app with unclear terms, excessive data requests, or an unprofessional design. You will often find these apps through malicious links via SMS or email, but they will not be available on app stores," said Rishi Anand.

"Responsible lending and financial literacy also help customers identify such apps. Customers can also do a comparison with other legal app offerings to help ascertain the authenticity of these apps," he added. User reviews and ratings on app stores can provide valuable insights into the app's legitimacy. Borrowers should read through the comments and ratings to see if other users have reported any suspicious behaviour or unethical practices. Illegal lending apps frequently use high-pressure tactics to coerce borrowers into taking out loans or repaying them. If you receive constant calls, messages, or threats from the app's representatives, it is a clear sign of an illegal operation.

"Borrowers should be cautious of undisclosed fees, like processing or late payment charges,

which can signal an illegal app. Excessive messages or calls should ring alarm as aggressive marketing may indicate an untrustworthy lending app. It is recommended to choose a reputable lender and consider financial advice when opting for digital loans," said Shruti Jain.

Look for legal digital lending apps

Customers can identify legal digital lending apps through several key indicators. Start by verifying regulatory approvals and licenses, as legitimate apps prominently display this information, says Anand.

"Check for reasonable interest rates and fees compared to established lenders. Ensure transparent and clear terms and conditions without confusing language," he added. Legal apps request only necessary permissions and prioritize customer data protection. Borrowers should look for robust customer support and contact information, including a physical address.

"Legitimate lenders do not ask for upfront payments or processing fees. Choosing regulated and reputable financial institutions ensures ethical lending and also safeguards your financial interests," added Anand.

Unhealthy snacks raise risk of strokes and cardiovascular disease: Study

Research has shown that snacking after 9 p.m. was linked to blood indicators that were worse than at any other time. Snacks at this time typically consisted of calorie-dense, high-fat and sugar items.

WASHINGTON, Sep 18 (Agencies): The researchers discovered that just half of the people matched the nutritional value of their meals and snacks. This disparity has a detrimental impact on health indicators like blood sugar and fat levels, and addressing it may be as simple as changing one's diet.

With unhealthy snacks, 25 per cent of people nullify the positive effects of healthy meals, increasing their risk of stroke and cardiovascular disease.

Researchers from the School of Life Course & Population Sciences and ZOE outline the snacking behaviours of 854 participants from the ZOE PREDICT project in their findings, which were published today in the European Journal of



Nutrition. Dr Sarah Berry from King's College London and chief scientist at ZOE said, "Considering 95 per cent of us snack, and that nearly a quarter of our calories come from snacks, swapping unhealthy snacks such as cookies, crisps and cakes to healthy snacks like fruit and nuts is a really simple way to improve your health."

Contrary to what is often believed, the

analysis demonstrated that snacking is not harmful as long as the snacks are nutritious. Compared to those who don't snack at all or who nibble on harmful foods, people who frequently eat high-quality snacks like nuts and fresh fruits are more likely to have a healthy weight. Analysis revealed that high-quality snacks can help improve metabolic health and reduce appetite.

However, a quarter of the individuals claimed to consume unhealthy snacks in addition to healthy main meals.

Poor-quality snacks, such as heavily processed foods and sweets, made people feel hungry and were linked to worse health markers.

snacks have been connected to higher BMI, visceral fat mass, and postprandial triglyceride concentrations,

all of which are linked to metabolic diseases like obesity, stroke, and cardiovascular disease. Your health may also depend on when you eat your snacks.

Research has shown that snacking after 9 p.m. was linked to blood indicators that were worse than at any other time. Snacks at this time typically consisted of calorie-dense, high-fat and sugar items.

Dr Kate Bermingham from King's College London and senior scientist at ZOE said, "This study contributes to the existing literature that food quality is the driving factor in positive health outcomes from food. Making sure we eat a balanced diet of fruit, vegetables, protein and legumes is the best way to improve your health."

Veteran off-spinner Ashwin still in mix for India's World Cup squad, says Rohit Sharma

Kuldeep Yadav picked as lone specialist spinner in India's 15-member squad for World Cup on home soil

NEW DELHI, Sep 18 (Agencies): Veteran off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin is still very much in the running to be part of India's World Cup campaign despite being left out of the provisional squad, skipper Rohit Sharma said.

Kuldeep Yadav was picked as the lone specialist spinner in India's initial 15-member squad for the World Cup on home soil, along with spin-bowling all-rounders Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel.

When Patel suffered an injury ahead of Sunday's Asia Cup final in Colombo India turned to Washington Sundar as a replacement, not 37-year-old Ashwin.

In the end, off-spinner Sundar did not get the chance to bowl as India bundled out Sri Lanka in 15.2 overs en route to a 10-wicket romp.

Rohit said Sundar's selection was in no way further proof that



Ashwin, who played the last of his 113 one-day internationals in January 2022, had slipped down the pecking order.

"As a spinner all-rounder, Ashwin is in line. I have been talking to him on the phone," Rohit told reporters after India

lifted the Asia Cup for the eighth time.

"The injury happened to Axar at the last minute. Washington was available, so he had to come and perform the role for us.

"He (Washington) was cricket-

fit because he was part of the Asian Games camp.

"I have been very clear with players about their roles. Everyone is in the loop." Teams can make changes to their squads until September 28.

While the victory was a timely boost ahead of the World Cup, batter Shreyas Iyer missed much of the Asia Cup, including the final, with a back spasm.

"Shreyas was not available for (the final) because certain parameters were kept for him to tick off," Rohit explained.

"I should say he is alright 99% as of now.

"He looks good, he batted and fielded for long hours (in the nets), and he was on the ground long before we came to the ground. I don't think it is a worry for us." India host Australia in a three-match ODI series later this month and the teams clash again on Oct. 8 in their World Cup opener in Chennai.

South African pacers Nortje, Magala uncertain for ODI World Cup, to undergo fitness test this week



JOHANNESBURG, Sep 18 (Agencies): South African fast bowlers Anrich Nortje and Sisanda Magala's availability for the upcoming ODI World Cup in India will be determined this week following a fitness test.

The duo was named in South Africa's initial 15-member squad for the World Cup, but played only one game each in the just-concluded five-match ODI series against Australia.

While Nortje has sustained a lower-back injury, Magala is nursing a left-knee problem.

South Africa is set to leave for India on September 23 and final call on the duo's availability will be taken before the journey.

But going by early indication, both

quicks are likely to miss the bus.

"We are continually taking stock as to where both of those players are," South Africa's white-ball coach Rob Walter was quoted as saying by 'ESPNCricinfo' after the 3-2 series win over Australia.

"The fact that they weren't playing today with a week to go before we board the plane for the World Cup is obviously a cause for concern. We would have wanted them out there. There are complications around taking players that are injured into a World Cup because then you have to provide a medical reason to be swapped out."

In case both Nortje and Magala are ruled out, South Africa is likely to call up Andile Phehlukwayo in the World Cup-bound squad.

"Andile is one of a couple of guys who are part of a broader squad and today he showed us, especially with the bat, what we have seen in terms of his capability," Walter said.

"That knock, you can look at it, and say it was match influencing. A total of 270 looks different to a total of 315 and he was a massive role-player in that. He took an important wicket with the ball as well. I am very happy that Andile was able to deliver that performance today."

Asia cup: Fast and Furious

COLOMBO, Sep 18 (Agencies): India lifted the Asia Cup after routing defending champions Sri Lanka by 10 wickets in the final with Mohammed Siraj claiming a career-best 6/21, including four wickets in one over, here.

Electing to bat, Sri Lanka were bundled out for a paltry 50 in 15.2 overs with five batters getting ducks in their sorry-looking scorecard with Siraj the wrecker-in-chief.

Siraj's fiery display of pace bowling was best illustrated in his second over when the right-arm quick dismissed Pathum Nissanka, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Charith Asalanka and Dhananjaya de Silva. Hardik Pandya bagged three wickets while Jasprit Bumrah claimed one as Sri Lanka registered their second-lowest total in ODIs, lasting only 92 balls. India needed 6.1 overs to achieve the target for a timely boost before their home World Cup beginning next month.

"It's like a dream," Siraj, who became only the fourth bowler to take four wickets in an over in ODIs, said. "I got four early wickets last time I played Sri Lanka (earlier this year) but unfortunately I could not register a five-wicket haul. I realised you get whatever is in your destiny. I just tried to bowl my line and length, and wickets kept coming. The ball did not swing much in the early matches here but today it swung a lot.

My effort was to draw the batters forward and make them play the ball," he added.

Bumrah removed Kusal Perera in the first over to trigger a collapse and the Sri Lanka batters looked helpless as Siraj breathed fire with the new ball.

Only Kusal Mendis (17) and Dushan Hemanta, who made 13 not out, managed double digits for the home side.

India skipper Rohit Sharma held himself back and sent out Ishan Kishan to open the innings with Shubman Gill, opting for a left-right opening stand.

The openers scored freely to ensure there was no drama and Kishan, who made 23 not out, scored the winning run of the summit clash, which lasted only 21.3 overs. Gill, the tournament's leading scorer, remained unbeaten on 27.

Sri Lanka coach Chris Silverwood bemoaned his team's "below-par" performance with the bat.

"The way we got dismissed is very disappointing. I think there's a lot of reflection to be done in the dressing room," he said. "I thought Siraj was superb ... the Indian bowlers made our life difficult but, at the same time, I think we made our own life difficult as well."

India host Australia in a three-match ODI series later this month and the teams will clash

again on October 8 in their World Cup opener in Chennai.

Brief scores: Sri Lanka: 50 all out in 15.2 overs (Siraj 6/21, Pandya 3/3); India: 51/0 in 6.1 overs (Gill 27*, Kishan 23*).

101 It the lowest match aggregate involving India and Sri Lanka in ODIs

129 It is the third-shortest ODI in terms of deliveries bowled. The top-2 are Nepal-United States (104 balls) and Sri Lanka-Zimbabwe (120)

4Mohammed Siraj became only the fourth bowler to take four wickets in an over in ODIs

Injuries making life tough for Dravid

India coach Rahul Dravid today hinted that injuries to the likes of Shreyas Iyer and Axar Patel could cost his team going into the ODI World Cup. Iyer could only play the first two games of the Asia Cup due to a back spasm and this was after a six-month injury lay-off. Left-arm spinner Axar was ruled out of the Asia Cup final due to a quadriceps strain. Both the players are in India's World Cup squad. "All teams are in a similar position, injuries so close to the World Cup could really cost you. We just need to keep our fingers crossed, trust our processes. We are in a tricky situation where some guys need to be rested, while some guys need some cricket. It is a tricky balance to achieve," said Dravid.

"Certain Elements...": India Football Coach Igor Stimac's Veiled Dig At ISL Organisers

NEW DELHI, Sep 18 (Agencies): India football team head coach Igor Stimac, on Sunday, lashed out at the Indian Super League (ISL) organisers FSDL and clubs for not releasing players for the Asian Games as the national federation was forced to stitch an under-strength ragtag side at the last moment after hectic parleys.

While Stimac did not take names while addressing a virtual press conference ahead of team departure but dropped enough hints about who all scuppered his and AIFF's plan to field a strong squad, comprising players from current senior national side.

"If I knew that certain elements will stop us from going with the best possible team, I would have rather picked all the players from the I-League and request to train with them for two months and prepare with them for the Asian Games," a fuming Stimac said during media interaction.

"It would not have been much different," he added, making clear what he thinks about the third-string players that ISL clubs have released.

As the squad was stitched at the eleventh hour after the ISL clubs refused to release their players and organis-



ers Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL) did not entertain a request to delay the start of the league by a few days, Stimac informed that the team will play its first match on Tuesday against China without a single session.

"Players are arriving at Delhi airport at 5-6pm today. We are going to meet there and we have a flight at 10 pm to Hong Kong. We will wait (at Hong Kong airport) for another 5-6 hours for another flight which will take us to Hangzhou," Stimac's caustic comment wasn't lost on anyone.

Such has been Indian team's plight that it faces a formidable Chinese team on Tuesday after reaching Games Village on Monday.

"We will reach there (Hangzhou) at 5pm (on Monday) and there will be no single training session prior to the game (next day). We

have to do tactical preparation with the players at the airport and during flight so that they take rest as soon as possible after reaching there and have some good sleep prior to the match." It has been a complete mess, not seen often in Indian sports. And certainly not expected after the sports ministry gave a special exemption to field the team in the Asian Games despite not fulfilling the eligibility criteria.

The AIFF named a 22-member squad, which was more or less the near full strength senior national team with the likes of Sunil Chhetri, Sandesh Jhingan and Gurpreet Singh Sandhu in it.

Thirteen players were not released by their respective ISL clubs, including Jhingan and first-choice goalkeeper Gurpreet. A 17-member team with Chhetri as the only notable face was named initially.

On Friday, the AIFF announced a revised squad of 22 after hectic parleys with Jhingan in it, besides two more senior players in Chinglensana Singh and Lalchungnunga.

Stimac is not sure of the results from the team but remained optimistic and said there is a possibility to make it to the knock-out round.

"There is a question mark on how much we can do with this team without spending one single day together to prepare. Five-six of these players are not involved in the ISL matches and most of them never worked with me.

"We will look at the tournament as a hope and yes there is a possibility to qualify from the group but to do that some luck need to be there in our side. Also, the boys need to produce the best performance of their lives." After the match against China on September 19, India face Bangladesh (September 21) and Myanmar (September 24) in their group matches. The top two teams from the six groups will make it to the pre-quarterfinals, with four best-ranked third-placed sides also qualifying.

"I am not thinking about results and the reasons are well known.

We are hoping to give a good fight, because I can't expect more in such a situation," he said.

Stimac said he would think more about Bangladesh and Myanmar and would keep Chhetri and Jhingan out of the China game to make them fresh for the remaining matches.

"I will have to take wise decisions on how much I have to use the senior players (in view of the upcoming World Cup qualifiers in November). I have to see no one gets down or injured.

"Sunil missed the whole of pre-season for his club (Bengaluru FC) because of the birth of baby and spending time with family and he has been involved in training in just last couple of weeks. We cannot put the country in danger of losing Sunil for the World Cup qualifiers." The final squad was assembled without taking into account the position of the players because the ISL clubs were not willing to release those wanted by Stimac or the AIFF.

"We have no full backs but three are centre backs in the squad. There are only to central midfielders. That is all we got from defenders. I will probably need to fulfil the missing puzzles of the team with the wingers."

Travis Head To Miss First Half Of World Cup, Marnus Labuschagne Back in Australia's Plans

SYDNEY, Sep 18 (Agencies): A fracture in the left hand has ruled out Australia batter Travis Head from the first half of the World Cup in India with his participation in the rest of the tournament also uncertain, leaving the door open for the inclusion of in-form Marnus Labuschagne. The opener was struck on the left glove by a short delivery from Proteas seamer Gerald Coetzee in the fourth ODI against South Africa last week. Head coach Andrew McDonald revealed that Head, who will miss the

three-match ODI series against India beginning on Friday, doesn't require surgery but the Australian selectors need to deliberate on the risk of "carrying" him in the World Cup squad.

"The timeframe is still a bit loose at the moment but the good news is he doesn't require surgery as it sits at the moment. There will be an extended period of time out and we've just got to weigh up whether that time (out) falls with an option to carry him through the front half of the World Cup," McDonald said.

"There's no doubt he won't be available for the front half, so that's a decision we'll have to make for the final 15. But I can't give you an exact time frame." The World Cup starts on October 5 with the final scheduled for November 19.

Head's injury leaves the door ajar for Labuschagne, who did not make Australia's 15-member provisional squad. However, the Test star put up tremendous display in the ODIs against South Africa, finishing as the leading run-scorer.

"I can't talk on behalf

of the selection panel and lock him away in the World Cup 15 but it's no doubt looking likely," McDonald said.

"He's made a significant shift in his intent at the crease and putting the bowlers under pressure (more) than he was potentially 12 months ago. He's struck at around 100 strike-rate in this series.

"We know Marnus is a quality player and he probably didn't have the 12-18 months in one-day cricket that he would have liked.

"But he's no doubt

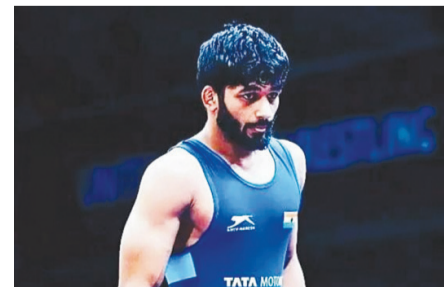
taken that opportunity with both hands and there's no doubt he'll be front and centre when it comes to that 15-man squad down the track," he added.

In Head's absence, Mitchell Marsh is likely to be elevated to the opening position.

Australia take on India in Chennai on October 8 in their World Cup opener.

The last date to make changes to the squad is September 28, post which any changes would need approval from the ICC.

Wrestling worlds: Abhimanyu to fight for bronze



BELGRADE, Sep 18 (Agencies): Abhimanyu entered the bronze medal playoff but India's other freestyle wrestlers had a disappointing day at the World Championships here.

Abhimanyu entered the medal round in the non-Olympics 70kg weight class through the repechage route. Abhimanyu had lost in the quarterfinals to USA's Zain Allen Retherford, who made it to the final. In the repechage round, Abhimanyu defeated Tajikistan's Mustafo Akhmedov 3-1.

Pruthviraj Patil (92kg) lost 0-3 to Georgia's Miriani Maisuradze in the quarterfinals in the non-Olympics category. Pruthviraj had defeated Moldova's Ion Demian 6-4 before edging past eighth-seeded Ermak Kardanov of Slovakia 6-1 in the pre-quarterfinals. Maisuradze later lost 1-8 to Kazakhstan's Rizabek Aitmukhan in the semifinals.

In the 79kg non-Olympics category, Sachin Mor beat Mexico's Raul Israel Dominguez 8-3 before going down to lower-ranked Akhmed Usmanov, who won by technical superiority.

In the 57kg class, Aman Sehrawat earned an 11-0 victory against Moldova's Igor Chichioi before losing 0-11 to world No. 22 Zelimkhan Abakarov of Albania. In 74kg, Naveen got the better of Tobias Portmann of Switzerland 12-6 but lost the next match to the lower-ranked Arsalan Budazhapov of Kyrgyzstan 4-6.

Hari Krishen Langoo conferred with Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Award



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 18: Hari Krishen Langoo, Chief Secretary and founder Member of Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS) Jammu conferred with one-time Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Award at New Delhi.

The Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Award is a prestigious honor and Langoo's dedication to reviving and sustaining traditional folk art and culture in India is commendable.

Jagdeep Dhankhar, Vice-President of India

conferred the Amrit Awards on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in presence of Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister for Law and Justice (Independent Charge), and Minister of State for Culture and Parliamentary Affairs, Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for Culture and External Affairs, Govt. of India, Dr Sandhya Purecha, Chairman, Sangeet Natak Akademi and Uma Nanduri, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Govt of India.

Langoo's multifaceted contributions as a folk theatre director, versa-

tile artist, writer, and promoter of Duggar culture have not only earned him awards and recognition but have also played a significant role in preserving India's rich cultural heritage.

His involvement in various programs, both nationally and internationally, showcases his commitment to promoting and preserving the diverse forms of Indian performing arts.

Langoo has been actively engaged in encouraging children to explore the world of music, dance, and drama, helping them

develop their creative abilities and self-expression. Folk theatre, with its roots in native culture and local identity, plays a crucial role in connecting with audiences and preserving cultural traditions.

Hari Krishen Langoo's efforts in promoting and preserving the cultural heritage of India through the performing arts are truly admirable, and his contributions have left a lasting impact on the field. Congratulations to him on receiving the Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Award for his outstanding work.

BJP utterly failed to fulfill aspirations of general public: Balwan Singh

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 18: Senior Congress Leader and former MLA Thakur Balwan Singh held a Congress meet at Paloura and asked people to reject BJP for its failures of various fronts especially it's anti youth and anti poor policies.

Addressing the gathering in Ward 59, Paloura on Monday, Th Balwan Singh said that BJP has utterly failed to address the issues of the people especially of the poor and youth besides depriving the people of J&K deprived of democracy for more than five years.

He said common man is suffering on all fronts especially on economic fronts due to its wrong economic and other anti Jammu policies.

Common man is worst hit due to failures to control prices, give employment and check corruption and the dictatorship policies, where no voice is being heard. He said BJP is responsible for the strong arm meth-



ods of administration to crush every voice against injustice and huge taxes through smart meters, toll plaza, property tax etc.

Senior Congress leader said that people are fed up but feel cheated and not only want to bring change but also want to teach a lesson to BJP.

People see Congress as the only viable alternative to BJP in Jammu region and Congress will emerge a strong force and form government in Jammu & Kashmir, he said.

He added that a large number of leaders and workers from other parties have already joined Congress Party and

more and more are joining, who are welcome in the party to make it further stronger.

He said this while welcoming Kuldeep Kumar a prominent political and social activist in to the party in the meeting organized by Congress leaders Santosh Manhas, Th Hoshiar Singh and others.

BMO Ghat holds awareness and cleanliness drive at GHSS Bijarni

TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Sep 18: Under the supervision of Block Medical Officer Ghat Dr Ab Gafoor Ahmed, as a part of the ongoing Ayushman Bhava campaign and to mark the celebration of Swacchta Bharat Abhiyan to achieve universal sanitation coverage, an awareness programme and cleanliness drive was organized by the staff of HWC-SC Bijarni (Block Ghat) and GHS Bijarni at Govt High School Bijarni on Monday. Besides the health staff, the programme was attended by school staff students and prominent public of the area.

Alongside the Swacchta Bharat Abhiyan, the participants were aware about the ongoing Ayushman Bhava campaign launched



by the GOI, where in awareness regarding ABHA Id, AB PMJAY Sehat, NCDs, TB/Anaemia Mukht Bharat, IMI 5.0 Vaccination, Jan Sabha, Tele Consultation, Health & Hygiene etc was given to them.

Moreover, Sewa Pakhwada cleanliness drive was also organized at HWC Sub Centre Bijarni.

The aim of conducting the programme was to instill a sense of responsibility among the masses for keeping the area clean and green besides to educate them about the various health schemes run by the GOI.

On this occasion, Faizan A Trambo from the health department administered the pledge

to the participants on Swacchta Bharat Abhiyan and urged them to become the ambassadors of the campaign in their areas.

The programme was jointly managed and coordinated by the Principal, Staff of GHS Bijarni and HWC- Sub Centre Bijarni, which ended on a successful note.

GDC Chatroo organizes Slogan Writing Competition

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Sep 18: NSS Unit of Govt Degree College Chatroo, under the of Dr. Ved Kumar, Principal of the College, organized an engaging and thought-provoking Slogan Writing Competition.

This event was held as part of the college's celebration of Gandhi Jayanti, commemorating the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, with a thematic emphasis on "Truth and Non-Violence."

The competition witnessed the enthusiastic participation of talented students who poured their creativity into crafting beautiful and captivating slogans reflecting the principles of truth and non-violence, which were deeply cherished by Mahatma Gandhi throughout his life.



Prior to the commencement of the competition, Prof. Chander Parkash, the NSS Program Officer of the College, delivered an enlightening discourse on the significance of truth and non-violence as epitomized by Mahatma Gandhi.

His words served as an inspiring foundation for the students as they embarked on their creative journey. The slogans penned by the

students were evaluated by a distinguished panel of judges, comprising Dr. Jaivardhan Manhas, Prof. Waseem Rasheed, and Dr. Muddaser Nazar.

Towards the end of the event, Dr. Ved Kumar, Principal of GDC Chatroo, delivered an address in which he underscored the enduring importance of truth and non-violence as advocated by Mahatma Gandhi. He empha-

sized how these principles remain relevant in today's world and encouraged the students to adopt these values as guiding lights on their journey to success.

The NSS Unit of GDC Chatroo extended its gratitude to all participants, judges, and faculty members for their enthusiastic participation and support in making this event a resounding success.

Shiksha Niketan School brings laurels in Speed Ball Championship



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 18: Students of Shiksha Niketan High School Gandhi Nagar excelled in the Inter-School District Level Speed Ball Championship organized by Department of Youth Service and Sports at Govt High School Satwari. The winners in under 14 yrs boys include Sahildeep Singh, Gurasis Singh, Sahibdeep Singh and Under-17 girls were Many Bhau, Samiksha Choudhary, Arya Gupta. The Principal of the School, Rishiek Mengi applauded the effort of the students & their Coach Gurvansh Choudhary for this achievement as it was not possible without their equal efforts put in.

BSF provides computer systems, sports kits, ambulance to Keran people

TOP NEWS REPORT

KUPWARA, Sep 18: To develop a goodwill gesture among the Border population and their children/students, BSF regularly organizes Civic Action Programme to strengthen the bond with the population of Line of Control.

As a part of Line of Control Rehabilitation Plan, a Civic Action Programme was organised by 97 Battalion BSF of BSF Kashmir Frontier today at Mandian Villages close to Line of Control are located in remote areas and a need was felt to provide assistance to them for their upliftment.

Accordingly, Village of



Keran, Mandian, Patra, Kundiyan, Naga, Girls Middle School Keran, Govt Middle School, Kalas Mandian, Primary School Bani Mandian, Primary School Katia Mandian, Govt Middle

School Naga Mandian, Govt Middle School, Patra and Govt Middle School, Tanangaon Mandian were identified and were provided computers and sports kits.

Since these villages

are located in remote areas with basic medical facilities, a Mahindra and Mahindra Supra ZX Ambulance was also provided for movement of patients to hospitals located in District HQ,

Kupwara. These items have been provided by ICICI foundation and have been further distributed by BSF.

During this programme, Brigadier Manish Datt Upadhyay (Retd), DIG SHQ BSF Kupwara, Udham Singh Kuhad Commandant 97 Battalion BSF, Deputy Commander 268 Brigade, CO RR Battalion, PRI members and large number of villagers & students of these villages were present.

BSF is committed to the population living in remote areas near the Line of Control and all efforts are being made to bring these remote villages in the National mainstream.