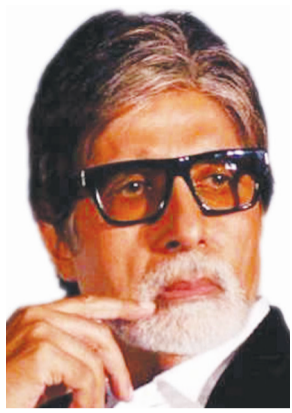


TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Women's reservation bill to be introduced, PM says September 19 'historic day'

China's former Foreign Minister Qin Gang was ousted after alleged affair: Report

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BRIEFLY

A Great Step: Mehbooba Mufti on Women's Reservation Bill



SRINAGAR, Sep 19 (Agencies): Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday welcomed the Union cabinet's purported decision to approve the Women's Reservation Bill for discussion in parliament, calling it a great step.

"Having navigated the rough terrain of a predominantly male political landscape myself, I am happy to see that finally the Women Reservation bill will become a reality. Despite constituting half of the population, we are grossly under-represented. It's a great step," Mufti wrote on X.

Minister of State Prahlad Singh Patel had on Monday posted on social media platform X that the Cabinet has approved the women's reservation bill but deleted the post within an hour. While there was no official word on what transpired in the Cabinet meeting Monday, which lasted for more than 90 minutes, speculations were rife that it approved the women's reservation bill.

Carpenter dies after falling from rooftop

SRINAGAR, Sep 19 (Agencies): A 62-year-old man, carpenter by profession, died after he fell from the rooftop of a house in Repora village of Chadoora in central Kashmir's Budgam district on Tuesday, officials said. Quoting an official, KNO reported that the man identified as Samad Najjar son of Gh Qadir Najjar of Kherigund Chadoora was working when he fell down from the rooftop of the house.

He was immediately taken to sub-district hospital Chadoora for treatment where he was pronounced dead. Police have taken cognizance of the incident.

Lok Sabha proceedings begin in new Parliament building



NEW DELHI, Sep 19 (Agencies): Lok Sabha proceedings on Tuesday began in the new Parliament building, located adjacent to the old one, starting a new chapter in the parliamentary history of India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who walked down from the old building along with Union Ministers including Amit

Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari and other leaders, was present on the occasion. Initiating the first day of the proceedings, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla urged on members to set a new standard of parliamentary debate by raising people's issues, as he extended greetings of Ganesh Chaturthi, and called the move to the

new parliament house a historic event. Birla also paid his tributes to leaders who built the nation and gave India its own constitution.

The new parliament building boasts of a palette of colours and architecture that takes its cue from everything Indian, from ancient to medieval.

The colour used in

Rajya Sabha has been inspired by the shade of kokum red, while the look of Lok Sabha is based on Indian agave green with inspirations from the plumes of the Indian peacock. The new Parliament building, inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi on May 28, has artwork narrating India's

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Anantnag to have its own Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI)

AC approves transfer of land to RDD

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Sep 19: The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, approved the transfer of land measuring 04 Kanal at Bangi Nowgam, Anantnag in favour of Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj for establishment of Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI).

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor; Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K and Dr. Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

Rural Self Employment Training Institute

(RSETI), an initiative of Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India, aims to create dedicated infrastructure in each district of the country to impart training and skill up-gradation of rural youth geared towards entrepreneurship development. RSETIs are managed by banks with active co-operation from the Government of India and State Governments.

These offer Skill Development programmes in various avenues. The programmes pertain to agriculture, product programmes (like dress, design, bakery), automobiles, radio/TV repairs other programmes related to skill development and general programmes of skill development for women.

India expels Canadian diplomat

NEW DELHI, Sep 19 (Agencies): India on Thursday announced expulsion of a Canadian diplomat hours after Canada asked an Indian official to leave that country, citing a "potential" Indian link to the killing of a Khalistani separatist leader in June.

The Canadian High Commissioner to India was summoned to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and informed about the decision to expel the senior Canadian diplomat.

The MEA said the decision to expel the Canadian diplomat reflects India's growing

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LG Sinha pays tributes to Sepoy Pardeep Singh martyred in Anantnag



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Sep 19: Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha, laid wreath and paid homage to Sepoy Pardeep Singh, martyred during anti-terror operation in Anantnag.

"I bow to the exemplary courage and sacrifice of our braveheart. A grateful nation will always remain indebted to his martyrdom. The entire nation stands firmly with his family in this hour of

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AC approves transfer of land for Research Center, Anantnag; Milk Processing Center, Budgam

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Sep 19: The Administrative Council (AC), which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, approved the transfer of land measuring 500 Kanal 11 Marla at Sallar Anantnag in favour of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology (SKUAST) Kashmir for establishment of Research Station and additional Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieuten-



ant Governor; Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K and Dr. Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

The Research Station shall provide scientific technologies to improve productivity in

Turn to page 9

Day 7 Of J&K Operation | Security forces comb through Anantnag Forest

SRINAGAR, Sep 19 (Agencies): Security forces sieved through the dense forests of Gadole in Kashmir Valley's Anantnag district for the seventh day on Tuesday, one of Jammu and Kashmir's longest anti-militancy operations that has claimed the lives of three officers and a soldier.

Two bodies were found from the forest area on Monday. One was identified as Pradeep, the soldier killed by terrorists last week Wednesday. The identity of the other is yet to be ascertained, officials said.

Police officials have

maintained silence on the operation for the last four days. They believe two to three terrorists are trapped in the forest area.

The operation started on Wednesday when Colonel Manpreet Singh, commanding officer, 19 Rashtriya Rifles, Major Ashish Dhonchak and Deputy Superintendent of Jammu and Kashmir Police Humayun Bhat, were killed by terrorists. Pradeep went missing on the first day of the encounter and was believed to have been killed.

Officials had said

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Kokernag encounter: LeT commander Uzair Khan among two terrorists killed, says ADGP

SRINAGAR, Sep 19 (Agencies): Police on Tuesday said that LeT commander Uzair Khan was among two terrorists killed in Kokernag operation which began last week in the Gadole forest area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Speaking to reporters, Additional Director General of Police Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said the body of Uzair Khan has been retrieved from the encounter site while another body is lying there.

Responding to a ques-



tion, Kumar said that they had inputs about the presence of 2-3 terrorists in the area. "Searches are underway in the area to look for the third terrorist," he said.

An Army colonel, a

Major, a soldier and a DySP of Jammu and Kashmir Police were killed in the encounter which broke out last Wednesday in the Gadole area of Kokernag.

Woman 'Extortionist' posing as an aide of Police held in Shopian

SRINAGAR, Sep 19 (Agencies): Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested a woman who extorted money from people by posing as a close aide of the police in south Kashmir's Shopian district.

In a handout, the police said that Shopian Police in a coordinated and efficient manner have arrested one lady namely Mehbooba Akhtar W/O Shafkat Mohi-ud-din Kuchay R/o Kardar, Kulgam, who was acting as a tout and

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Set up posts, deploy forces & strengthen VDCs in vulnerable areas of Rajouri Poonch: Congress

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 19: Expressing serious concern over rising militancy and fresh infiltrations and presence of terrorists in border districts of Rajouri Poonch, JKPC has urged the LG administration to step up vigil, presence of army and security forces and strengthen village defence mechanism in all remote & vulnerable areas including Narla-sajali area of Kalakote, which witnessed fierce encounter last week, killing two terrorists and an army jawan besides injuries to three other security men & villagers fear retaliation.

Addressing a press conference, JKPC Working President Shri Raman Bhalla & Chief Spokesperson Shri Ravinder Sharma, along with Former Minister & Dist president Rajouri Mr. Shabir Ahmed Khan & PCC Spokesperson Kapil Singh said that Dhangri type incident has been averted by the timely information by one Prem Lal Sharma shepherd of Sajali Gala in Narla area & the quick action of army and security forces but anything can happen again, as people fear retaliation in absence of an army post and strengthening of VDC with modern



weapons.

Prem Lal Sharma was in the terrorists captivity for three four hours and his phone and contact numbers were noted by two terrorists before his escape.

Bhalla said that there are fresh media reports of increased presence of terrorists in the twin border districts causing sense of insecurity amongst the people in remote far flung areas. In last two years several attempts have been made resulting into martyrdom of several innocent civilians and army, security personal.

He said Ravinder Sharma, former MLC & Chief Spokesperson of the party who visited the area, a couple of days ago witnessed the fear & sense of insecurity amongst population in

areas of recent encounter In Narla, Sajali Gala and other remote area of Kalakote and demanded deployment of security posts and strengthen of Village defence mechanism with sophisticated weapons is totally missing. Besides Prem Lal sharma, Naseer Ahmed Panch, Madan Lal, Krishan Lal, kuldeep kumar, Gulshan Kumar and several other were present.

Reacting to the cabinet decision regarding 33 percent reservation for women, the Senior Congress leaders said that the Congress has already passed the bill in Rajya Sabha in, 2010 besides giving 33% reservation to women in panchayats and ULBs whereby 15 lakh women representatives are elected today including 8300 in J&K.

encounter when there is still fear in the area. The government claims of deployment of forces and strengthen of Village defence mechanism with sophisticated weapons is totally missing. Besides Prem Lal sharma, Naseer Ahmed Panch, Madan Lal, Krishan Lal, kuldeep kumar, Gulshan Kumar and several other were present.

Reacting to the cabinet decision regarding 33 percent reservation for women, the Senior Congress leaders said that the Congress has already passed the bill in Rajya Sabha in, 2010 besides giving 33% reservation to women in panchayats and ULBs whereby 15 lakh women representatives are elected today including 8300 in J&K.

JKEEGA announces 48-hour work boycott on Sept 25

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 19: The Jammu and Kashmir Electrical Engineering Graduates Association (JKEEGA) has declared a 48-hour work boycott protest, commencing on 25th September.

This move comes in response to the persistent lack of progress on key issues previously highlighted in a protest leave notice served on 24th August 2023.

Additionally, the decision to proceed with this protest follows a mass protest held on 9th September 2023, during which employees from Junior Engineers to Chief Engineers participated, along with various associations of Power Development, in solidarity with JKEEGA.

The General Council meeting held on 9th September unanimously resolved to implement a 48-hour protest leave program starting on 25th September.

This decision stems from the government's failure to address the significant delay in filling vacant positions across the department's hierarchy, severely affecting the morale of its officers



and hindering the delivery of public services and grievance redressal.

The situation has worsened over the past two months, as salaries have not been disbursed on time, leaving all 21,000 Power Development Department (PDD) employees without their August salaries.

During a press conference held at the Press Club today, JKEEGA's President, Sachin Tickoo, highlighted the ongoing neglect by the authorities within the Power Development Department.

Tickoo emphasized that more than 750 vacancies exist in the engineering cadre, with crucial positions such as Director, Executive Director, Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers, Execu-

tive Engineers, Assistant Engineers, and Junior Engineers remaining unfilled. This has led to a situation where multiple responsibilities are being shouldered by individual employees, disrupting service delivery.

In response to these pressing issues, JKEEGA has served a notice to the administra-

tion. The General Council of JKEEGA, representing both Jammu and Kashmir regions, has resolved that engineers of the J&K Power Development Department will submit a joint protest leave application on 25th and 26th September 2023. They will gather at POD Complex Gladni Jammu and Bemina, Srinagar on 25th September to register a peaceful protest and abstain from work for 48 hours. Additionally, engineers with assigned additional charges will submit a joint representation to the government requesting relief from these additional responsibilities for the effective functioning of the department and Power Corporations.

G20 NORTHERN RAILWAY	
E-TENDER NOTICE	
Sr.DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.irps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids up to closing date and time only.	
Tender No.:	251-Elect-T-27/2023-24
Name of Work	Electrical Work for One-time repair of Tunnel-07, 23 & 25 electrical assets like SCADA system and associated Sensors in JAT-SVDC section.
Approx. Cost (in Rs.)	5196956.00
Earnest Money (in Rs.)	103900.00
Completion Period	04 Months
Opening of Tender	09.10.2023 after 15:00 Hrs.
Website Particulars	www.irps.gov.in
251-Elect/T/Notice No.-19-Elect/2023-24 Dated :- 18.09.2023 2885/23	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

After dabbling in Tamil film industry, actor R Siddharth will be making his Hindi debut with his films shot in Mirzapur

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 19: Excited about his debut film with senior actors, he says, "I play a newly posted senior cop who is assigned to clean up the mafia from the region. Working with senior actors like Govind Namdev, Mukesh Tiwari, Zarina Wahab and Hemant Pandey was the biggest learning for a newcomer like me. They are like an institution and their guidance is better than any learning school."

Remembering an incident, he says, "When we were shooting the climax scene of Purvanchal Files, I was a little unsure how to go



about it. Mukesh, having 25 years of experience, literally showed me how to do it and eventually the act came out very well. My preparation about the Eastern UP language conducted by Swarup (Ghosh, director) sir helped me a lot." Before his film, he started with regional projects. "I come from

Jammu and shifted with my parents to Hyderabad in 2019. I wanted to become an entrepreneur but during the pandemic, inspired by the film Dhoni: The Untold Story, I decided to become an actor and started preparing myself and giving auditions." On his debut in Tamil movie he dropped his

surname (Gupta) and used initial (R) of his mother's name. "That's how it works down south. I have done movie in Tamil called Ravaali with Naira Shah and we hope that it will come up after the release of my Hindi film. I learnt Tamil for these films and took proper training in Chennai."

Expecting the release of his film, later this year, he is in talks for other Hindi projects. "There is a film and a series but till it happens, there is no point talking about it. My first film was shelved and the second is yet to release, so I have become superstitious now (smiles)."

Panthers condemn withdrawal of security from Srinagar Office

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep19: Vilakshan Singh President, J&K National Panthers party has strongly condemned withdrawal of security from party office at Srinagar. Singh said that J&K National Panthers Party is one of three recognised parties in J&K. He said that JKNPP has been a target of successive governments as JKNPP has always raised the issues of the poor and downtrodden. He said that political parties which are not even recognised have been provided accommodation by the government for running offices and security has also been deployed in the said offices but step motherly treatment is given to J&K National Panthers Party as it has always

opposed the oppression of the needy by those in power. He said that JKNPP is being made to pay costs for raising the voice of Dogras. He said that the government has failed to provide accommodation to JKNPP despite the representations made in this regard. He said that in Srinagar, the party was running its office in a rented accommodation and security was deployed at the party office keeping in view the threats from the terrorists. Singh said that JKNPP has always stood up for complete integration of J&K with India and due to the said reason its leaders, particularly in Kashmir, are on the hit list of the terrorists. Singh said that by removing the security from the Sri-

nagar Office of the party the government has put the lives of leaders of J&K National Panthers Party under severe threat. Singh said that target killing has seen rise in Kashmir valley in the recent past.

Singh said the leaders and parties advocating talks with Pakistan even after martyrdom of brave Army and police personnel are enjoying security cover but the party which has always stood by its Army and police has been deprived of the security cover and lives of its leaders have been put in jeopardy.

Questioning the timing of the withdrawal of security from Srinagar Office of the party, Singh said that ULB elections and panchayat elections are going

to be held soon and to demoralize the leaders of J&K National Panthers Party security has been removed from its party office.

Singh said that J&K National Panthers Party is the only recognised party in J&K which has never danced to the tunes of Pakistan but the successive governments have made attempts to uproot JKNPP from J&K so that there is no hindrance to their agenda of Autonomy or Self rule.

Singh demanded that security should immediately be redeployed at the party office at Srinagar to ensure that there is no threat to the lives of the leaders of JKNPP and they may be able to carry out political activities in Kashmir valley without any fear.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, REW POONCH TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No 201 of REW POONCH 2023-24 Dated:- 15-09-2023 1st call

For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, the Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch, as his representative invites tenders by e-tendering mode from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Union Territory Govt/CPWD/MES for the following work under:

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estt. Cost (Rs in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor	Position of Funds				
Under PRI Grant													
1	Upgradation of Pyt Ghar Pyt. Jugal Block Mendhar Under PRI Grant Year 2023-24	Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	3.80	300	7600	45 days	(1000 Hrs) on or after 28-09-2023 in the office of Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	DEE	Partially Available/ Demanded				
Under DDC Grant													
2	Construction of 01 B/Path at Gursai Harmutta and 01 Graveyard at Parat Pyt. Parat Block Mendhar Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24		2.00	200	4000	30 days							
3	Cattle Shed Near H/o Rafeeq Jaral Murrah Lower Pyt. Murrah Lower Block Buffiaz Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24		1.80	200	3600	30 days							
4	Construction of Toilet Bathroom /Tanki Complete Job Near the H/o Shakeel Ahmed Pyt. Behramgalla Block Buffiaz Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24		2.00	200	4000	30 days							
5	Construction of P/Work Near Shabir Ahmed Draba Malik Market Pyt. Draba Block Buffiaz Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24		1.00	200	2000	30 days							
6	Upgradation of Road from Fazal Shah to Moh. Chowki Darran Fazalabad Pyt. Fazalabad Upper Block Buffiaz Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24		1.00	200	2000	30 days							
7	Construction of Bathroom near Waqar Ahmed S/o Mohd Naseeb Mohalla Dupri Pyt. Fazalabad Lower B Block Buffiaz Under DDC Grant Year 2023-24		1.00	200	2000	30 days							
Under UT Capex Budget Scheme 0856-Infrastructure for the Welfare of Tribals													
8	Construction of Drain Mohall Takki Nr. L/o Mushtaq Hussain Terwa S/o Faqir Din Terwa & others W.No. 8 Pyt. Dodi Block Surankote Under UT Capex Budget Scheme 0856-Infrastructure for the Welfare of Tribals Year 2023-24	3.00	200	6000	30 days								

NOTE: The Contractors registered with DDC, Poonch in reference to GOVT. Order No: 238-F of 2021, Dated 07-09-2021 can participate upto an amount of Rs 3.00 Lacs, in local Panchayat works.

- The already defaulted contractors are not allowed to participate in any tendering work of REW Division Poonch.
- Subletting of allotted work is not allowed and will attract strict legal action, even cancellation of contract with imposition of costs and penalty etc, if any successful bidder is found involved in same at any stage.

NOTE: No PRI member shall be allowed to take part in Tendering process

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	15-09-2023.
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 15-09-2023 to 27-09-2023, 1855 Hrs
3	Bid submission Start Date	15-09-2023 from 1855 Hrs onwards
4	Bid Submission End Date	27-09-2023 up to 1855 Hrs
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) (in case of holiday, the bid shall be opened on next day)	28-09-2023 on or after 1000 Hrs in the Office of the Executive Engineer REW, Poonch
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) (of only successful technical bidders)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website <https://www.jktenders.gov.in/> to acquaint bid submission process. No:- XEN/REW/P/2989-98

Dated:- 15-09-2023

DIP/J-8380/23

Executive Engineer
Rural Engineering Wing
Poonch

EDITORIAL

DEVELOPING
INDIA

Before independence, the condition of India was very pathetic as we all know that India was under British rule for a long time. Under which some people lived a happy life. The condition of the common people was pathetic. At that time the common people did not even get two meals a day. But the people of our country opposed the British, as a result of which the British had to leave India.

Systematic development planning was started from 1951. Five year plan was started. We have completed our development of almost 7 decades. We have made considerable progress in all areas. The India of 2023 is very different from that of 1950.

Today India is moving towards rapid development. Under this, various types of plans started being made for economic development and it is also true that progress has been made in all areas in 70 years.

Since independence, India has taken meaningful steps to make itself self-reliant in all fields. New possibilities have also been carved out by making proper use of modern technology and the resources available at our disposal. The Green Revolution that started in the sixties has made us very self-reliant in the field of food grains.

We have also achieved heights in the field of education through innovative training techniques and establishment of modern educational institutions. There has also been a lot of development in the field of science. Many types of government and private hospitals have been built. Dispensaries have been constructed. Free medical facilities have been provided to the lower and backward classes so that no one is deprived of these facilities.

Various types of laboratories have been built and many types of research have also been conducted. Industrialization is increasing rapidly in India and India is continuously developing in every field. By making good use of technology, every person in the village has been connected with communication facilities.

India will be fully developed only when all classes are equally prosperous. There is a dire need for development in India. Even at present India is a developing country. Like other countries like Japan and America, it has not been possible to go abroad because till now the pace of development is going on in India. Development in India was very slow for many years after independence. However, at present the pace of development has increased considerably.

At present, the rate of development in India is also increasing rapidly and development is being seen everywhere in India. The rate of growth in India is expected to be higher in the coming times.

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 uncertainty.

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!

Along with education, writing should also be beautiful

By: Vijay Garg

The standard of intellectual, emotional ability and capacity of every person can be identified from his writing. A person's personality and his writing keep influencing each other. Those who do not have consistency, coherence, fluency and speed in their writing, their behavior also does not have these symptoms. Lack of motivation on practice If we associate beautiful handwriting with school students, then their number is equal to salt in flour. The reason why the writing of the students is not beautiful and attractive is the early stage There is a lack of proper guidance, practice and inspiration from parents or teachers, neglect from students, existence of unfathomable syllabus without learning and teaching the art of writing from the basic level, etc. It is necessary for teachers and education department to be serious In order to develop the art of beautiful

writing in students, it is necessary to be more serious than the parents and the teachers and the education department. Continuous motivation among students, constant practice, organization of beautiful writing competitions in schools, apart from morning meetings of students with beautiful writing. Positive steps taken at the school level, such as special honors programs, compulsory use of ink or gel pens for all students for school-home work, etc., can be effective. Being comfortable in the fingers of the hands After the practice of blackboards disappeared in schools, ball point pens came in the hands of students, then they started to move away from the art of beautiful writing. Writing with these pens has replaced the ease of hand while writing, which results in randomness of letters, coordination, fluency, lack of uniformity in appearance and shape etc. became the cause of As a result, rudeness came in the writing of the students. In

schools, teachers who have beautiful handwriting expect beautiful handwriting from their students and encourage them to write with ink or gel pens because they move/write smoothly and become a reason for fluency in writing. The first condition for the beauty of handwriting is to have harmony in the fingers of the hands. The start of the beautiful writing campaign At the present time, the education department or the department at the government level for students with beautiful writing Compulsory participation of every school by starting the tradition of commendation, awards at L level, policy of awarding separate/extra marks to students for good writing in annual board examinations should be considered. Sending the percentage report of students with beautiful handwriting to the department by the inspection teams, organizing seminars/trainings/workshops etc. for teachers to promote the art of beautiful handwrit-

ing, ranking each school in the lower level in academic competitions conducted by the Punjab School Education Board every year. From this Banning to participate in and beautiful writing campaign should be started in government schools. Fatties were useful in making writing beautiful In the current government primary schools, the practice of writing on blackboards has been over for about fifteen-twenty years. Fatties were very useful in making students' handwriting beautiful. The 'good' found on the board by the teacher encouraged the students to bring beauty in their writing. Thus, the student matures in beautiful handwriting by repeatedly writing on the board with pen and ink. used to go.

(Vijay Garg Retired
Principal Educational
Columnist Malout
Punjab)

No space for gender discrimination under Modi Govt: Kavinder

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 19: Narendra Modi government at the centre is committed to provide equal opportunities to both, males and females, in the country and stands for the socio-economic empowerment of all the sections of the society. There is no gender based discrimination with any one, said Kavinder Gupta.

Kavinder Gupta, former Dy. CM accompanied by RS Pathania, former MLA & BJP Spokesperson, Munish Sharma, Prabhari BJYM and Shailja Gupta, J&K BJP working committee member were attending to the public grievances at BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Kavinder Gupta said that cabinet approval for granting reservation to women in Parliament and state assemblies themselves speaks of



the commitment of Modi government towards political empowerment of women in the country.

While conducting grievance redressal at BJP headquarters, Jammu, Kavinder Gupta, former Deputy Chief Minister, called for a responsive and a pro-active grievance redressal mechanism. He said that with the same responsiveness and commitment to the masses, senior party leaders are daily attending the public grievances at the party

headquarter.

Pathania said that the general public has limited access to the information, time and resources to deal with their day-to-day issues especially regarding the government departments. BJP has continually tried to fill that gap and these grievances camps are a way to provide the people opportunity to address their issues.

Munish Sharma said that the BJP has designated the senior party leaders to listen to the

issues of public daily at the party headquarter and many people visit the party leaders to present their issues.

Shailja Gupta, remained present and diarized the issues presented. She said that the senior party leaders solved most of the issues that were presented, on the spot.

Numerous individuals and deputations from different parts of Jammu & Kashmir visited the party office to represent the issues of their respective areas as well as their individual concerns before the senior party leaders.

Listening patiently to the various issues represented by the deputations, Kavinder Gupta and RS Pathania telephonically talked to the concerned departmental officials for resolving the issues and also issued letters to many of them.

Release Rs 25 lakh package in favour of refugees: Vipul Bali

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 19: Apni Party Provincial President Jammu, Youth Wing, Vipul Bali today has appealed to the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi to release the pending Rs 25 lakhs financial package in favour of the refugees in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement to the press, Vipul

Bali said that "Than Govt of India had sanctioned Rs 25 lakhs for each refugee family in J&K. However, only Rs 5.5 lakhs was released and this amount too was not provided to all the families of refugees." He said that these people work as labourers within and outside J&K. However, they faced problems because of poor financial conditions and no political representation. He pinned

hope with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi that he would announce the release of a sanctioned financial package of Rs 25 lakhs in favour of the refugees in Jammu and Kashmir. He also demanded reservation of jobs and scholarship in higher studies for the children of refugees keeping in view their existing financial situation so that their generations can be upgraded.

Inter District Division Level U-14 Boys' Leather Ball Cricket Tournament begins at Mini Ground Chadwal

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Sep 19: The Inter District Division level U-14 Boys' Leather Ball Cricket Tournament was officially inaugurated at the Mini Ground Chadwal, with Sh. Ranjeet Singh (JKAS), the Assistant Deputy Commissioner (ADC) of Kathua, doing the honors. The event, organized by the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, promises to be an exciting platform for budding cricket talent.

Under the meticulous guidance of Sh. Suram Chand Sharma, Joint Director, and Sh.



Jatinder Kumar Mishra, Deputy Director, DYSS J&K UT, and with the overall supervision of DYSSO Kathua, Sh. Sunil Kumar, the tournament aims to promote sportsmanship and teamwork among the

youth of the region. The event is being efficiently managed by Sardar Dharminder Singh PEM and Sh. Parveen Singh PEM, the activities in charge.

In his address to the young participants, Sh.

Ranjeet Singh, the Chief Guest, extended his best wishes to all the teams and urged them to give their very best on the field. He highlighted the importance of sports in fostering discipline, camaraderie, and a spirit

of healthy competition among the youth.

DYSSO Kathua, Sh. Sunil Kumar, expressed his gratitude to the Chief Guest for gracing the occasion with his presence. He emphasized the significance of such sporting events in nurturing young talents and promoting a culture of sports in the region.

The tournament promises thrilling cricket action and provides an excellent platform for young cricketers to showcase their skills and sportsmanship. It is expected to be a source of inspiration for the youth of the region, encouraging them to actively participate in sports and lead a

Chandel advocates for a unified Sanatan society, proposes eliminating caste system

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 19: Raju Chandel, a prominent Hindu Sanatani leader, addressed the media today in Jammu, expressing his views on the need to safeguard India from external influences such as Ghazwa-e-Hind and Islamic radicalism.

Chandel urged the Honorable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, to introduce legislation in the Lok Sabha session that would replace caste-based identities with the term 'Sanatan' throughout India. He believes this step will lead to a united and undivided Bharat, resonating with the values of Sanatan Dharma.

Chandel emphasized that among the countless followers of Sanatan Dharma, there exist 145 different 'gotras' or ancestral lineages. He



proposed adopting the practice of addressing individuals by their respective 'gotras,' as was done during the ancient eras. He suggests implementing this change in government jobs and other areas where individuals are identified by their gotras, uniting all Sanatani Hindus under a common identity.

Highlighting the present scenario, Chandel pointed out that some radical Islamist forces, operating from abroad, are actively working to

increase their population and promote religious conversions among Sanatani Hindus. He warned that these elements are striving to establish dominance in a united India, and their ambitions could lead to a fragmented nation if not curtailed.

Chandel commended the distinguished and successful leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and expressed hope that he would have the courage to eliminate the caste system entirely while preserving the essence of Sanatan Dharma. He criticized certain political parties and leaders for exploiting Sanatan Dharma for their political gain and castigating the deities and divine figures of the faith.

He stressed the importance of using the term 'Sanatan' above caste identities, asserting that

Gandhi for their tireless efforts in addressing poverty, fostering leadership qualities, and uplifting society. He firmly believes that Rahul Gandhi is the ideal candidate for the role of Prime Minister and has consistently demonstrated his commitment to serving the nation. Singh commends Rahul Gandhi's strong parliamentary presence and unwavering questioning of the government's actions.

Under the guidance of his superiors, including Vikar Rasool Wani, G.A Mir, Raman Bhalla, Mulla Ram, Ravinder Sharma, Man Mohan Singh, and Gurdarshan Singh, Gurmeet Singh has worked tirelessly to address various societal issues and has compiled a Project Report on "Hath Se Hath Jodo Abhiyan," with 90% of the work already accomplished in his region.

AAP urges Parliament to prioritize electoral reforms in Special Session

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 17: Kuldeep Kumar Rao, a Member of the State Organization Building Committee & Manifesto Drafting Committee of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Jammu and Kashmir, has emphasized the need for electoral reforms in India. Mr. Rao contends that electoral reforms, which have been promised since 2014, should be the foremost legislative priority for the new Parliament.

In his statement, Rao highlighted the importance of electoral reforms as a means to strengthen the democratic foundations of the country. He emphasizes that instead of "one election," the focus should be on "one nation, one education" and "one nation, one treatment." The vision is to ensure equal access to quality education and healthcare for all, regardless of economic status.

Rao called upon the electorate to make informed choices and



not vote for candidates with criminal backgrounds based on religious or party affiliations. He urges all political parties to refrain from fielding candidates with tainted images.

Rao noted that the current system, with a significant percentage of Members of Parliament (MPs) having criminal backgrounds, hinders the pursuit of justice and genuine reforms.

Rao criticized recent attempts by the Central Government to change the process of appointing the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs). He argues that replacing the Chief Justice of India (CJI) with a cabinet minister in the selection process undermines the

independence of constitutional institutions.

Rao expressed concerns about various policies enacted by the central government, such as those related to farmers, GST, education, foreign policy, and more. He believes that these policies are against the spirit of the Indian constitution and hinder progress.

Rao asserted that if India can boast of "One Nation - One Tax," it should also aim for a unified system of education, healthcare, policing, and public welfare planning and execution. He advocated for decentralizing power and fostering democracy at the grassroots level.

He also highlighted the adverse effects of political corruption on various aspects of society, including militancy, unemployment, economic development, ethical values, healthcare, and education. He called for a concerted effort to combat political corruption and its detrimental impact on the nation.

Education Department's contractual appointments reform impacts thousands of youths: MPEJ

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, SEP 19: The Movement for Peace, Equality & Justice (MPEJ) strongly criticized the contractual system of appointments in Higher Secondary Schools within the Education Department during the year 2019. This system left thousands of highly educated youth frustrated and dejected as they remained unemployed and felt like burdens on their parents.

The MPEJ leaders, in a press release issued here, condemned the policymakers responsible for this flawed contractual policy for Higher Secondary School Lecturers and Assistant Professors in Colleges. It highlights that this policy was abandoned when many candidates reached the government's prescribed upper age limit.

The MPEJ leaders expressed surprise and dismay at the revival of this policy without addressing the concerns of those who exceeded the upper age limit during the previous period. They believe that reviving the contractual policy with an eye on the 2024 elections is a misguided approach. Instead, they emphasize the importance of first addressing the grievances of

the thousands of affected families who have already crossed the age limit. They describe this attempt as "putting the cart ahead of the horse."

The MPEJ members also criticized the unfulfilled promises made in 2014, including the pledge to provide 2 crore jobs annually to the country's youth and 50,000 jobs to the youth of Jammu & Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370. They note that these promises remain unfulfilled, adding to the frustration of the region's young people.

Furthermore, the MPEJ highlighted the plight of thousands of youths engaged on a contractual, ad-hoc, daily wage, or need-based basis across various government departments. These arrangements have compounded the miseries of frustrated youths as many of them are nearing or have exceeded the age limit without any hope of better opportunities. The MPEJ places the blame on previous state governments for haphazardly adjusting youths for political gains, leading to a state of confusion and dilemma.

The members of MPEJ pointed

out that Educational Institutions were established for political considerations without adequate infrastructure, and Health Institutions were sanctioned without adequate staff and buildings.

They expressed disappointment that, despite the abrogation of Article 370, the highly educated unemployed youth had hoped for better prospects through a concrete educational policy, which has not materialized even after four years under the current administration. They suspect that the deliberate neglect of the crucial education sector may serve the purpose of keeping the masses illiterate for easier governance.

They appealed to the Lt. Governor, Manoj Sinha, to take immediate cognizance of the deteriorating plight of highly educated unemployed youth and the student community across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. They request prompt action to fill all vacant teaching positions in schools, government degree colleges, and government higher secondary schools to safeguard the future of students.

In Chandigarh, actress Shraddha Kapoor confesses her love for chole bhature, paranthas and vada paos, but says workout is a must too

Proud of her half-Punjabi, half-Maharashtrian roots, the Stree actress Shraddha Kapoor is a big foodie who knows the art of balancing a good Punjabi meal with an effective workout!

Looking sporty, the girl-next-door, during her brief stop to Chandigarh for a brand endorsement, Shraddha opened up on her journey. The Arohi of Aashiqui 2 is much in love with the spirit of Chandigarh. "I love the people here, and their vibe," smiles the actor, wondering aloud if she will be able to have her favourite chole bhature, given the short duration of her trip!

Grounded and humble, she talks of her family and how it has always been a cushion. "I have been fortunate to be part of the family that has always empowered me," says Shraddha. If she finds strength in the women in the family, in her famous father, Shakti Kapoor, she finds an excellent walking buddy. Not giving in to naysayers, she finds strength in social media fan clubs too. "I am grateful for my family and extended family on social media; they have always stood by me through it all."

Sequel time
Just like her audience, she too is looking forward to the transition from O Stree Kal Aana to O Stree Raksha Karna. She talks



about the sequel. "Amar Kaushik is one of the finest directors our industry has seen," as she joins Kaushik in the Stree sequel.

Not confined to genres, Shraddha's focus is on characters that she gets to play, "I want to be part of amazing narratives." Bollywood working on not, formula or alternative cinema, she insists, "It is the audience that

is the ultimate deciding factor. Nobody knows the so-called 'hit' formula. We can just work hard and wait."

Another director, apart from Kaushik, whom she absolutely adores is Mohit Suri. Having done Aashiqui 2, Ek Villain and Half Girlfriend with him, Shraddha insists, "Even if I ever see a missed call from him, I am like

'yes' I am doing it! His portrayal of romantic narrative is magical."

Also in her favourites' list is Anvita Dutt. "What she has done with Qala is just out of the world, it is one enchanting, haunting story beautifully presented." Amongst the heroes, "I have admired Hrithik Roshan or long. He is a fabulous actor."

Fashion mantra
In Chandigarh to promote a sports brand, Shraddha shares her fashion funda, "I am big on comfort, athleisure is my style."

While she is consistent with her workout, her food comprises regular meals. "I don't believe in cheat meals; it brings a feeling of guilt. All meals are just meals for me," says the girl, particularly fond of chole bhature, paranthas and vada pav.

Ask her about her perfect date and she says, "It has to be delicious food on the table and a plan to workout all the calories consumed the next day!"

When Sukhmani Played the host

Sukhmani Sadana, actor-writer, had a great time being the host in her favourite city, Chandigarh. She shared, "The vibe here is beyond electric. I love coming to Chandigarh as this city is full of love and life. As for Shraddha, she is a delight to work with."

Mouni Roy went over 200 outfits, experimented with her hair for 'Sultan of Delhi'



Actress Mouni Roy, who is awaiting the release of her debut streaming series 'Sultan of Delhi', is over the moon with the fact that she got to play a highly stylised character that required her to go through over 200 outfits and demanded her to experiment a lot with

her hair.

Mouni will be seen embracing the retro vibe with classic, elegant dresses and hair-dos. 'Sultan Of Delhi', which is based on the book, 'Sultan of Delhi: Ascension' by Arnab Ray, is a larger-than-life mass entertainer made for streaming.

It also stars Tahir Raj Bhasin, Anjum Sharma, veteran actor Vinay Pathak and Nishant Dahiya in pivotal roles, alongside the ladies Anupriya Goenka, Harleen Sethi and Mehreen Pirzada.

Talking about her look and character, Mouni said: "Which girl doesn't enjoy dressing up and looking strikingly different. 'Sultan Of Delhi' gave me the opportunity to explore my own style and colour schemes across each episode, as Nayantara. It was a tedious process to find the perfect look for the character and I went through over 200 outfits and experimented a lot with my hair as well."

She further mentioned: "After trying over 10 test-looks, we finally got what we wanted. Nayantara brings a lot of glamour and glitter to the storyline in her own way. This is the first time I am donning a look from the '60s era and am very excited for the audiences to see this side of me."

'Sultan of Delhi' will stream from October 13 on Disney+ Hotstar.

Chahatt Khanna is excited to bring Lord Ganpati to her new abode

Actress Chahatt Khanna, who is waiting for the release of her upcoming film 'Yaatri' is having double celebrations this year on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi.

The actress has shifted to her new abode just in time for the festival.

Her luxurious 4-BHK house boasts of a balcony garden, newly acquired furniture, wardrobes, a revamped bedroom, and exquisite interior decor.

Expressing her excitement, Chahatt Khanna said: "I've had this plan to shift to my new home for a while.

It's a spacious and elegant 4-BHK house that I've decorated with care, from the new furniture to the interior decor"

But the excitement doesn't stop there. Chahatt is all set to celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi in her new abode.

She shared: "The goal was to expedite the shifting process so that we could focus on decorating for Ganpati and



welcome our beloved Bappa to bless our new home and bring prosperity. It's my second year celebrating Ganpati, and I'm both thrilled and a little exhausted." Meanwhile, her film 'Yaatri', which also stars Raghubir Yadav, Seema Pahwa, and Jamie Lever, is set to release next month. The actor also shared

that after Ganpati, she will be fully immersed in her work commitments, followed by the promotions and the release of 'Yaatri'.

As Chahatt Khanna welcomes Lord Ganpati to her new home, she eagerly awaits the release of 'Yaatri'.

It's a double whammy of happiness for the actress.

Ganesh Chaturthi is all about blessings of Bappa. Here's how celebs plan to celebrate this year

When we moved to Mumbai, I had the privilege of witnessing the grand festival of Ganesh Chaturthi. For me, it's all about the grandeur and the way Mumbaiers celebrate the arrival of Bappa.

Special festival
Prateik Chaudhary
Ganesh Chaturthi has always been special for me, and I cannot forget it because I got my first good break, Sindoor Ki Keemat, on Indian television during Ganesh Chaturthi. Last year, I was working, and this year, I am working as well. Bappa has always blessed me.

Fond memories
Raavee Gupta
Growing up in Mumbai, Ganesh Chaturthi was the festival we celebrated the most. We also had Ganesh ji visiting our home every year. My childhood is filled with memories of Ganesh Chaturthi, whether it was at our home, a friend's place, or in the neighbourhood. Apart from our family celebration, we visited friends' homes. This year, too,



we will be welcoming Ganesh ji into our family for a day-and-a-half. I will need to control my intake of sweets though!

Pure feeling
Surabhi Das

After coming to Mumbai from Assam, now I eagerly look forward to Ganesh Chaturthi to seek Bappa's blessings. It's such a powerful and pure festival. This year, I'm planning to visit the Lalbaug

pandal and my friends' places. Currently, I'm not personally bringing Bappa to my home, as I feel I still need to be more prepared to celebrate at home.

Prayer time
Akshay Anand
I start my day by praying to Bappa. I celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi in my society and visit the homes of many friends from the industry during these 10 days of wor-

shipping Lord Ganesh. Until now, I haven't celebrated it at my home, but I plan to do so.

Eco-friendly approach
Sheeba Akashdeep
At my parents' house, we celebrate for 11 days. The whole house gets prepared for Ganpati festival in terms of decoration. Besides that, whatever I need to get painted or repaired, it is done during this time. My Bappa is eco-

friendly and dissolves in water.

Deep faith
Shivangi Verma
Lord Ganesh plays a very important role in my life because he's really helped me sail through tough times. I will be decorating the home and the pandal where Bappa will be residing for some days. This time, I will be inviting all the friends home and seek Bappa's blessings.

Big B inspires people on 'KBC 15': 'Status of life must read #hardwork'

Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan shared an inspirational speech, saying how in today's digital era, we can make our lives as easy as social media.

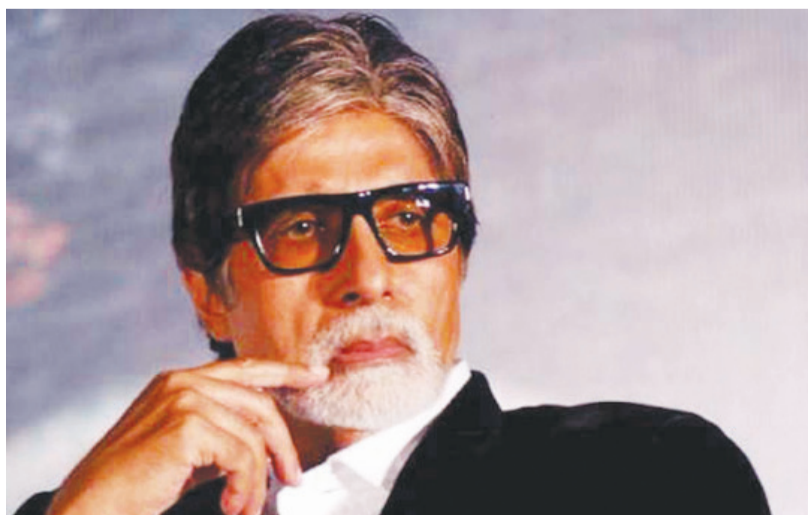
The host of quiz based reality show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' season 15, Amitabh began the episode 26th with a speech, leaving the audience spellbound.

Big B said: "If we wish, in today's era of social media, we could make our lives just as easy as social media itself in the following manner.

May the page of our lives be filled with stories and posts of effort and hard work. The status of life must read #hardwork."

"May inspiration, hope and dedication be on our friends list. May, courage and strength be our followers. May we be able, to tag our victories and poke our goals, and ask our challenges, 'What's on your mind?'" shared the actor.

The actor went on to say: "And



fill that space with a picture of life in which we can crop negativity, apply a filter to positivity, and make our lives brighter!"

"There's more... May every attempt we make go viral. May we get loads of likes and heart emojis of prayers. If the blue tick of self-confidence appears after our

name, then there is no situation in life that can log your passion out! Thank you very much," he added.

"Kaun Banega Crorepati 15' airs on Sony.

Meanwhile, on the film front, Amitabh has 'Ganapath', 'The Umesh Chronicles', 'Kalki 2898 AD', and 'Butterfly' in the pipeline.

Screenwriter-lyricist Varun Grover talks about Punjabi translation of his short stories titled Radio

Celebrated screenwriter and lyricist Varun Grover participated in the discussion about the Punjabi translation of his short stories, released under the title Radio, at the Punjab University Chandigarh.

The event was moderated by research scholar Sukhdev Singh Bhagaur. It commenced with theatre artiste Sahej Aziz narrating the title story Radio, which is based on Grover's maternal grandmother's account of Partition and how the family became refugees in independent India, after having to leave their ancestral vil-



lage in Gujranwala (now Pakistan).

Satdeep Gill shared how the Punjabi translation came about after he read the stories in the Hindi collection, Paperchor.

As they were very much from the Punjabi milieu, the stories needed to be told in their original language.

Varun Grover shared, "A good story should be able to evoke love and compassion in the reader. The writers should not limit their language, thinking that a certain concept or word won't be comprehensible to readers."

Women's reservation bill to be introduced, PM says September 19 'historic day'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced the Women's reservation in Lok Sabha during the special session of Parliament.

NEW DELHI, Sep 19 (Agencies): The Women's Reservation Bill that seeks to provide 33 per cent quota for women in parliament and state legislative assemblies was introduced in the Lok Sabha today in the ongoing special session of Parliament. Calling September 19 a "historic day", Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged the Opposition to unanimously pass the Bill - 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' - that has been stuck for nearly three decades.

"On this historic occasion in the new Parliament building, as the first proceeding of the House, the beginning of all the Parliamentarians opening gateways for women power is being done with this crucial decision," Prime Minister Modi said in Lok Sabha as he tabled the bill.

PM Modi announced his government is "bringing an important constitutional amendment bill", taking forward "our resolve of women-led development"



"Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam" will further empower our democracy," said PM Modi.

The government said the women's reservation bill is aimed at enabling greater participation of women in policy-making at the state and national levels.

The statement of purpose of the bill said the role of women is extremely important for achieving the goal of making India a developed country by 2047.

WOMEN'S RESERVATION

BILL - HIGHLIGHTS

The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023, seeks to introduce three new articles and one new clause in the Constitution.

1. New clause in 239AA: Seats shall be reserved for women in the Delhi Legislative Assembly, 1/3rd of the seats reserved for women, 1/3rd of total number of seats to be filled by direct elections shall be reserved for

women through law determined by parliament.

2. New Article - 330A: Reservation for women in Lok Sabha — 1/3rd of seats reserved for SCs and STs shall be reserved for women, 1/3rd of total seats to be filled by direct elections to the Lok Sabha shall be reserved for women.

3. New Article - 332A: Reserved seats for women in every state Legislative Assembly, 1/3rd of seats reserved for SCs and STs shall be reserved for women, 1/3rd of total seats to be filled by direct elections to the LA shall be reserved for women.

4. New article - 334A: Reservation shall come into effect after the delimitation is undertaken after the relevant figures for the first census have been published. Rotation of seats for women shall take effect after each subsequent exercise of delimitation.

In a tit-for-tat, India expels Canadian diplomat; rejects Justin Trudeau's charges as 'absurd and motivated'

NEW DELHI, Sep 19 (Agencies): A new chill entered India's already-frosty ties with Ottawa after the Foreign Office here summoned the Canadian High Commissioner on Tuesday and expelled a senior diplomat in retaliation after Canada asked an Indian diplomat to leave the country and its Prime Minister Justin Trudeau alleged that the Indian Government may have had links to the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Surrey in June.



Foreign Minister Melanie Jolie while expelling an Indian diplomat as "absurd and motivated".

In fact, sources said, Indian diplomats in Canada have received threats to life and two of them were posted out from the country after separatists splashed their photos and names on posters while threatening retaliation. Videos have also emerged of Nijjar's ideological mentor and another designated terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannu threatening PM Modi, NSA Ajit Doval and Union Home Minister Amit Shah while being given protective cover by the Canadian security.

They also recalled a



series of demarches served on Canada, including one four years back, after Trudeau's comments on the farmers' stir encouraged gatherings of Khalistani separatists in front of the Indian High Commission and Consulates in Canada that raised issues of safety and security. Last month, Canada had pushed back at suggestions from India to send a team of National Investigation Agency to probe the threats to safety to Indian diplomats and the diplomatic missions.

Nijjar, who allegedly made an undocumented entry into Canada, was shot dead outside a Sikh temple in Surrey, British Columbia, on June 18.

The Indian government had already declared him a terrorist.

This has the potential to have more expansive effects, including reputational -- and the latter impact will not be the same outside and inside India.

Sources said Trudeau made up his mind to go ballistic against India during the time he was held up in India after his special aircraft developed a mechanical fault. As part of that plan he despatched his NSA Jody Thomas to London to brief her British counterpart while he personally set up calls to acquaint the leaders of the US and Australia about the development.

What did they say Ministry of External Affairs

"We are a democratic polity with a strong commitment to rule of law. Such unsubstantiated allegations seek to shift the focus from Khalistani terrorists and extremists, who have been provided shelter in Canada and continue to threaten India's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The inaction of the Canadian Government on this matter has been a long-standing and continuing concern. That Cana-

dian political figures have openly expressed sympathy for such elements remains a matter of deep concern.

The space given in Canada to a range of illegal activities including murders, human trafficking and organised crime is not new. We reject any attempts to connect the Government of India to such developments. We urge the Government of Canada to take prompt and effective legal action against all anti-India elements operating from their soil."

Pro-separatist Canadian politician Jagmeet Singh whose party supports Trudeau govt

"Today we learned of allegations that agents of the Indian Government murdered Hardeep Singh Nijjar — a Canadian killed on Canadian soil. To all Canadians, this is my vow. I will leave no stone unturned in the pursuit of justice, including holding Narendra Modi accountable."

Canadian PM Justin Trudeau "Any involvement of a foreign government in the killing of a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil is an unacceptable violation of our sovereignty. It is contrary to the fundamental rules by which free, open and democratic societies conduct themselves."

Govt lists women's reservation bill for introduction in Lok Sabha

NEW DELHI, Sep 19 (Agencies): The government on Tuesday listed the women's reservation bill in the Lok Sabha to provide one-third reservation to women in the Lower House of Parliament, state assemblies and the Delhi legislative assembly.

The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023, was listed for introduction in the Lower House through a supplementary list of business.

This will be the first bill to be introduced in the new Parliament building. The government said the women's

reservation bill is aimed at enabling greater participation of women in policy-making at the state and national levels.

The statement of purpose of the bill said the role of women is extremely important for achieving the goal of making India a developed country by 2047.

The reservation will come into effect after a delimitation exercise is undertaken and will continue for 15 years.

Seats reserved for women will be rotated after each delimitation exercise, according to the bill.

It is ours: Sonia Gandhi on women's reservation bill



NEW DELHI, Sep 19 (Agencies): Congress parliamentary party chief Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday said the women's reservation bill "is ours", amid speculation that the bill may be tabled in Parliament.

The Congress on Monday said it welcomed the reported move as the party had been raising the demand for long.

Asked about the bill when she was entering Parliament on Tuesday, Gandhi said, "It is ours, apna hai."

In a post on X a day back, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "We welcome the reported decision of the Union Cabinet and await the details of the Bill. This could have very well been discussed in the all-party meeting before the Special Session, and consensus could have been built instead of operating under a veil of secrecy."

Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram said if the government introduced the women's reservation bill on Tuesday, it would be a "victory for the Congress and its allies in the UPA government".

It was during the UPA government that the bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha on March 9, 2010. But it was not taken up in the Lok Sabha.

Speeding car kills 2, including policeman, in Delhi's Pandav Nagar

Offender absconding; case registered under IPC sections 279, 337 and 304(A)

NEW DELHI, Sep 19 (Agencies): A 54-year-old Delhi Police Sub-Inspector died after being hit by a speeding car in east Delhi's Pandav Nagar area on Tuesday, officials said. A driver of a pick-up vehicle was also injured in the same incident.

According to police, a PCR call was received early in the morning about an accident involving a policeman.

SI Gangasaran and ASI Ajay Tomar were on patrolling duty in a Gypsy with Tomar at wheel, a senior police officer said.

Around 5.30 am, the two stopped a Bolero pick-up for checking and Gangasaran came out of the vehicle, as did Ramgopal, the truck driver.

As they were standing



on the road, a Honda Amaze car came speeding from Gaziabad side going towards Sarai Kale Khan and hit Gangasaran and Ramgopal from behind, the officer said.

Tomar, with the help of Rajkumar, the Bolero driver's helper, took Gangasaran and Ramgopal to Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital where Gangasaran died during the treatment.

Gangasaran is survived by a wife and five children, police said.

Ramgopal, who lives

in Outer Delhi's Nangloi, was sent to Safdarjung Hospital for further treatment, the officer said.

The spot has been inspected by a crime team and a case under sections 279 (rash driving), 337 (Causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others), and 304A (causing death by negligence) of the IPC was registered, police said.

The offender is absconding and an investigation is underway to identify the car.

Car falls into water-filled pit in MP's Vidisha, four of family killed



VIDISHA, Sep 19 (Agencies): At least four members of a family, including a woman and three minor children, were killed when the car they were travelling in plunged into a roadside rainwater-filled pit in Vidisha district of Madhya Pradesh, police said on Tuesday.

The incident occurred on Monday night when the family was returning after visiting their farmland in Haidargarh village, a police officer said.

"The car fell into the pit filled with rainwater when the driver was reversing it to negotiate a turn," said Additional Superintendent of Police Samir Yadav. He said two other members of the family who were also travelling in the car were rescued by villagers. They are undergoing treatment in a hospital, he added.

The deceased persons were identified as Shakeela Bi (30), Nikhat (13), Ayan (10) and Shaad (7), the ASP added.

"While three bodies were recovered by villagers, the fourth one was found in the car after it was pulled out of the pit by a team of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) at around 11 pm," he said.

48-hour bandh in Manipur against arrest of 5 people held for carrying weapons

IMPHAL, Sep 19 (Agencies): Normal life was affected in Imphal Valley districts on Tuesday as Meira Paibi, a collective of Meitei women, and five local clubs called for a 48-hour bandh from midnight demanding the release of five youths who were arrested for carrying firearms and sporting camouflage uniforms, officials said.

Markets and commercial establishments remained closed and very few vehicles plied the roads on Tuesday morning.

Supplementary examinations of all subjects of class 10 board exams of Board of Secondary Education, Manipur, scheduled on Tuesday and Wednesday, were cancelled in view of the bandh. Those will be rescheduled at a later date.

On Monday, Meira Paibis blocked several important roads in Khurai and Kongba in Imphal East district, Kakwa in Imphal West district, Nambol in Bishnupur district and parts of Thoubal district, demanding the release of the youths. Manipur Police had arrested five

people on Saturday for carrying sophisticated weapons and donning camouflage uniforms.

In a statement, police said the five had been produced before the judicial magistrate and remanded to police custody.

Yumnam Hitler, president of All Lanthabal Kendra United Clubs Coordinating Committee, said, "The five arrested youths are civilians and village volunteers who have been guarding their respective villages from attacks by Kuki Zo militants as security forces

have failed to do their job properly. We want them to be released unconditionally."

"The agitation will intensify if the government fails to release them," Yumnam added.

On Saturday, protesters had tried to storm the Porompat police station demanding the release of the five youths, prompting security forces to fire several rounds of teargas shells. A few protesters and a RAF personnel received minor injuries during the stand-off.



Decomposed body of woman found in Maharashtra, hunt on for live-in partner, friend



THANE, Sep 19 (Agencies): The highly-decomposed body of a 36-year-old woman was found in a room in Bhiwandi city in Thane district of Maharashtra, police said on Tuesday.

Police suspect the role of her live-in partner and a female friend in the murder. Both of them are untraced. A police official said the woman might have been killed with her throat slit at least three-four days back. The deceased has been identified.

Police were informed on Monday night about a foul smell emanating from the room, located in Kongaon area, by its owner, the official said.

"Police broke open the door and saw the woman lying dead in the kitchen," he added.

As per neighbours, the victim was a divorcee who was staying in the room for the last 11 months, the official said, adding that further investigation is underway.

Canada says Indian govt agents could be linked to Sikh leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar's murder

Nijjar was shot dead outside a Sikh temple in Surrey, British Columbia, on June 18

OTTAWA, Sep 19 (Agencies): Canada said it had credible information linking Indian government agents to the murder of a Sikh leader in British Columbia in June and said it had expelled a senior Indian intelligence official.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said any involvement of a foreign government in the killing of a Canadian citizen was "an unacceptable violation of our sovereignty".

Hardeep Singh Nijjar was shot dead outside a Sikh temple in Surrey, British Columbia, on June 18.

Nijjar supported a Sikh homeland in the form of an independent Khalistani state and had been branded by India as a "terrorist", the Canadian Broadcasting Corp said.



Canadian Broadcasting Corp said.

"Canadian security agencies have been actively pursuing credible allegations of a potential link between agents of the government of India and the kill-

ing of a Canadian citizen, Hardeep Singh Nijjar," Trudeau said in an emergency statement to the House of Commons parliamentary chamber.

"Canada has declared its deep concerns to the top intelligence

and security officials of the Indian government.

Last week at the G20 I brought them personally and directly to Prime Minister Modi in no uncertain terms."

New Delhi said last week that Modi had conveyed strong concerns about protests in Canada against India to Trudeau.

Foreign Minister Melanie Joly told reporters that Ottawa had expelled the Indian head of intelligence in Canada but gave no further details.

Canada has the highest population of Sikhs outside their home state of Punjab in India, and the country has been the site of many protests that have irked India.

China's former Foreign Minister Qin Gang was ousted after alleged affair: Report



BEIJING, Sep 19 (Agencies): China's former Foreign Minister Qin Gang, who was ousted from his position in July, had an extramarital affair while he was ambassador to the United States, the Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday, citing people familiar with a briefing.

The report said Qin was cooperating with the investigation, which was now focused on whether the affair or Qin's conduct had compromised China's national security.

Senior Chinese officials were told that an internal Communist Party investigation found Qin engaged in the affair

throughout his tenure as China's ambassador to the United States, the report said. Two sources told the newspaper the affair had resulted in the birth of a child in the US.

China's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request from agency seeking comment on the WSJ report.

Qin was replaced by veteran diplomat Wang Yi in July as the foreign minister after a mysterious one-month absence from duties barely half a year into the job.

He was China's top envoy in Washington from July 2021 until January this year.

Taiwan Detects Another 55 Chinese Warplanes Around Island

TAIPEI, Sep 19 (Agencies): Dozens of Chinese warplanes were detected around Taiwan in a day, the self-ruled island's defence ministry said Tuesday, as it called on Beijing to stop its "provocative actions".

The latest sorties came a day after China flew 103 warplanes in the 24-hour window from Sunday to Monday morning around Taiwan, which the island's authorities said was a "recent high" number.

On Tuesday, the ministry said China flew 55 aircraft and sailed seven naval vessels around the island from Monday to Tuesday morning.

Beijing claims Taiwan

as its own territory to be seized one day, and has ramped up diplomatic and military pressure on Taipei in recent years.

On Tuesday, Taiwan's ministry accused China of carrying out "provocative actions" that were leading to "rising tensions and deteriorating regional security."

Around half of the 55 warplanes detected crossed the so-called median line of the Taiwan Strait that separates the island from China, and entered its southwest and southeast air defence identification zone (ADIZ), Taipei said.

On Monday, Taiwan had urged China to "immediately stop such

destructive unilateral actions."

China's foreign ministry did not comment on the sorties on Monday, though its spokeswoman Mao Ning reaffirmed Beijing's position that Taiwan belongs to China.

She also reiterated Beijing's policy that "the so-called median line does not exist".

Taipei has reported a marked uptick in the number of incursions by Chinese warplanes and ships in recent days.

Beijing said last week its troops were on "high alert" after two ships belonging to the United States and Canada sailed through the Taiwan Strait.

Australia Warns Of Worse Fires, Heat As El Nino Kicks In

SYDNEY, Sep 19 (Agencies): Australia's weather bureau confirmed on Tuesday that an El Nino weather pattern is under way, bringing hot and dry conditions that risk a severe wildfire season and drought.

The announcement, which follows similar confirmations from other weather agencies, came as the country bakes in unseasonal heat, with the weather agency warning of more to come.

Government forecaster Karl Braganza said elevated surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean could impact the country until early next year.

"This summer will be hotter than average, and certainly hotter than the last three years," he said.

"Importantly with the El Nino now settling into that pattern in the Pacific Ocean, that increases our confidence that this pattern is going to last until the end

of summer," he added.

The El Nino climate pattern occurs on average every two to seven years and usually lasts between nine to 12 months.

In July, the UN's World Meteorological Organization declared El Nino was already under way and said there was a 90-percent chance that it would continue during the second half of 2023.

El Nino is typically associated with warming ocean surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.

It can bring severe droughts to Australia, Indonesia and other parts of southern Asia, coupled with increased rainfall in parts of southern South America, the southern United States, the Horn of Africa and central Asia.

The relationship between El Nino and climate change is not well understood.

But Australia's government science agency earlier this year concluded that climbing global

temperatures may increase both the likelihood of the pattern forming, and the severity of its impacts.

Record-high global sea surface temperatures played a major role in stoking soaring temperatures throughout the Northern Hemisphere summer, with marine heatwaves hitting the North Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea.

Braganza said the onset of El Nino in the Pacific would continue to inject heat into the planet's oceans.

Australian climate researcher Nandini Ramesh said this year's El Nino was "developing during some of the warmest global average temperatures in history".

Worldwide, temperature records have tumbled in recent years, as climate change makes meteorological conditions more volatile.

July 2023, marked by heat-

waves and fires around the world, was the hottest month ever registered on Earth, according to the European Union's climate observatory Copernicus.

Climate scientist Andrew King said El Nino would escalate the risk of bushfires and sudden droughts in parts of Australia.

"The unusually hot weather we're seeing across southeast Australia at the moment is a warning of the kind of extremes we're likely to see more of over the next few months."

The El Nino pattern has formed after consecutive years of La Nina, which typically brings cooler conditions and more rain to Australia.

Australia is facing its most intense bushfire season since the "Black Summer" of 2019-2020, when a series of out-of-control infernos raged across the eastern seaboard.

UN chief says people are looking to leaders for action and a way out of the current global 'mess'

The absence of leaders from the four Security Council powers has sparked grumbling from developing countries who want major global players to listen to their demands.

UNITED NATIONS, Sep 19 (Agencies): Leaders of a world fractured by war, climate change and persisting inequality gather under one roof Tuesday to hear the U.N. chief summon them to take united action on humanity's huge challenges – and to start delivering their own assessments on the most global of stages.

"People are looking to their leaders for a way out of this mess," Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said ahead of the annual gathering of presidents and premiers, ministers and monarchs at the General Assembly.

He said the world needs action now – not merely more words – to deal with the worsening climate emergency, escalating conflicts, "dramatic technological disruptions" and a global cost-of-living crisis that is increasing hunger and poverty.

"Yet in the face of all this and more," Guterres said, "geopolitical divisions are undermining our capacity to respond."

This year's week-long session, the first full-on meeting of world leaders since the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted travel, has 145 leaders scheduled to speak. It's a large number that reflects the multitude of crises and conflicts.

But for the first time in years, U.S. President Joe Biden, who will speak soon after the U.N. chief, will be



the only leader from the five powerful veto-wielding nations on the U.N. Security Council to address the 193-member assembly.

China's Xi Jinping, Russia's Vladimir Putin, France's Emmanuel Macron and Britain's Rishi Sunak are all skipping the U.N. this year. That should put the spotlight on Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who will be making his first appearance at the assembly's podium later Tuesday, and on Biden, who will be watched especially for his views on China, Russia and Ukraine.

The absence of leaders from the four Security Council powers has sparked grumbling from developing countries who want major global players to listen to their demands – including for money to start closing the growing gap between the world's haves and have-nots.

The G77, the major U.N. group of developing countries that now has 134 members including China, lobbied hard to make this year's

global gathering focus on the 17 U.N. goals adopted by world leaders in 2015. Those are badly lagging at the half-way point to their 2030 due date.

At a two-day summit to kick-start action to achieve the goals, Guterres pointed to grim findings in a U.N. report in July. He said 15% of some 140 specific targets to achieve the 17 goals are on track. Many are going in the wrong direction, and not a single one is expected to be achieved in the next seven years.

The wide-ranging goals include ending extreme poverty and hunger, ensuring every child gets a quality secondary education, achieving gender equality and making significant inroads in tackling climate change – all by 2030.

At the current rate, the report said, 575 million people will still be living in extreme poverty and 84 million children won't even be going to elementary school in 2030 – and it will take 286 years to reach equal-

ity between men and women.

Guterres told leaders at Monday's opening of the summit he called to rescue the 17 sustainable development goals or SDGs, that they promised in 2015 to build "a world of health, progress and opportunity" for all people – and to pay for it.

Soon after he spoke, leaders from the 193 U.N. member nations adopted a 10-page political declaration by consensus which recognizes that the goals are "in peril." But it reaffirms more than a dozen times, in different ways, leaders' commitment to achieve the SDGs, reiterating their individual importance.

The declaration is short on specifics, but Guterres said he was "deeply encouraged", especially by its commitment to improving developing countries' access to "the fuel required for SDG progress: finance." He pointed to its support for an SDG stimulus of at least \$500 billion a year, aimed at offsetting challenging market con-

ditions faced by developing countries.

At the summit, leaders were then supposed to make pledges to meet the SDGs.

As an example, Nepal's Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, who chairs the U.N. group of least-developed countries, said they need "massive scaling up of affordable finance" including through the SDG stimulus. He said foreign investment to the least developed countries fell by about 30% in 2022 compared to 2021, and he urged developed countries to be more generous in helping the world's poorest countries.

There are also hundreds of side events during high-level week. The European Union's top diplomat Josep Borrell told reporters after a closed meeting to try to revive the decades-old peace process between Israel and the Palestinians that there was "a strong commitment to the two-state solution."

He said there were 60 participants at the meeting organized by the EU, the Arab League and several other countries, and called it "a good starting point."

There was "an injection of new political will," Borrell said, and three senior-level working groups were established to examine what Israeli-Palestinian peace would look like. He said they would start work in a month in Brussels.

Russia Ramps Up Output Of Some Military Hardware By More Than Tenfold

MOSCOW, Sep 19 (Agencies): President Vladimir Putin has ordered production to be cranked up to ensure Moscow achieves the aims of what he calls its "special military operation" in Ukraine despite the West supplying Kyiv with weapons worth billions of dollars and imposing unprecedented Western sanctions on the Russian economy.

Bekhan Ozdov, industrial director of the armament complex at Rostec, the Russian state corporation which controls much of the

weapons industry, said production volumes for various types of weapons had increased from between two and 10 times.

And for some types of hardware, output had been boosted "by tens of times," said Ozdov. "We are going forward at cruising speed, smoke from all the pipes," he said.

Ozdov said there had been significant growth in production of tanks, armoured vehicles, rocket launchers, artillery, the Iskander short-range ballistic missile, the Pantsir medium-

range surface-to-air missile system and the hypersonic Kinzhal missile.

He did not detail the total volume of weapons produced.

Rostec, which is sanctioned by the West, is run by Sergei Chemezov, a close Putin ally. It controls 800 Russian civilian and defence entities and is by far Russia's biggest arms producer.

The U.S. Treasury calls Rostec "the cornerstone of Russia's defense, industrial, technology, and manufacturing sectors."

After two years in detention, independent Chinese journalist and labour activist to face trial this week

BEIJING, Sep 19 (Agencies): After two years in detention, a Chinese journalist active in the #MeToo movement will go on trial this week, along with a labour rights activist who was detained with her in 2021, one of their supporters said.

China often silences activists by holding them incommunicado for a long time and then sentencing them to prison. A pretrial hearing was held on Tuesday and a trial was set for Friday in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou, the supporter said, citing a family member. The supporter requested anonymity out of fear of government retaliation.

Huang Xueqin, an independent journalist, helped spark China's first #MeToo case in 2018 when she helped a graduate student go public with accusations against her PhD supervisor. The other activist, Wang Jianbing, is more known for his labour rights activity but also helped women report sexual harassment.

It's not clear what got them into trouble with authorities. Both have been charged with subversion of state power, their supporters have said.

China's #MeToo movement flourished briefly until it was snuffed out by the government, which sees powerful social movements as a potential threat to stability and the Communist Party's hold on power.

Friends say the two disappeared on Sept. 19, 2021, the day before Huang was scheduled to head to the United Kingdom to start a master's degree program on gender violence and conflict at the University of Sussex.

Last year, the International Women's Media Foundation gave Huang its Wallis Annenberg Justice for Women Journalists Award.

Supporters of Huang and Wang created a GitHub webpage two years ago to post case updates and share their thoughts. They expressed outrage last weekend that the trial had been delayed for so long.

Khatana meets HM, stresses for push to PMDP projects

TOP NEWS REPORT

NEW DELHI, Sep 19: BJP MP Rajya Sabha Er. Gulam Ali Khatana met Union Minister for Home Affairs Amit Shah and discussed various issues concerning Jammu and Kashmir including security situation, developmental scenario and providing jobs to the unemployed youth, here Monday.

Khatana apprised the Home Minister Amit Shah about the security scenario and developmental works undertaken under Prime Minister Development Programme and other centrally sponsored schemes. While praising the security forces and supreme sacrifices made by the jawans and officers of Army, police and CAPFs, Khatana said that army and J&K Police are on high alert and terrorists are making last ditch efforts to disturb peace in UT. He stressed the need for further strengthening the security grid as



a desperate and bankrupt Pakistan is trying to up the violence in J&K to divert attention of their people from the failure of the Govt.

MP Khatana said that Govt. of India has sanctioned various projects under PMDP and other centrally sponsored schemes worth more than one lakh crore. Some are almost complete and others nearing completion including Jambu Zoo, Tawi River Front, Jammu-Akhnoor highway, tunnels on Jammu-Srinagar NH,

Smart City project in Jammu and Srinagar and a little push needs to be given so that people reap the benefits of these projects.

He stressed the need for providing employment opportunities to the unemployed youth and a decisive action against the drug mafia in the Union Territory. He reiterated the need for putting gamma scanners at strategic locations to check arms and drug smuggling besides free movement of anti-social elements.

He also discussed setting up of Cold Storages by Govt and private players in the uncovered areas especially Kupwara district.

MP Khatana also discussed the burning issue of smart meters, old age, disabled pensions and raising some battalions of CAPF and army especially for the unemployed youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

Home Minister Amit Shah assured to redress the issues raised by the MP on priority.

Sat, Dr. Pardeep, Neelam felicitate JKAS female qualifier

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 19: Encouraging youth for cracking JKPS exams, Former Minister Sat Sharma felicitated Sunali Ashok, who has secured rank in the recently declared JKAS (JKAS) examination results.

Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, BJP Media Incharge, Neelam Nargotra, Ward Councillor, also accompanied Sat Sharma while felicitating the qualifier.

Sunali Ashok, daughter of Ashok Kumar and Rajni Kumari, has done Masters in Botany from Jammu University (2019) and is a resident of Kabir Colony, Ward 40, Talab Tillo, Jammu.

Keshav Chopra, Rahul Nargotra, Sachin Nargotra, Vikas Kumar, Abhishek Sharma, Krishan Lal Sangral, Mela Ram Bassan, Gyan Chand, Joginder Lal Digra, Rajinder Bangotra, Sardari Lal, local residents and political activists of the area



were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma lauded Sunali Ashok for her achievement and advised her to work with honesty and sustained devotion to promote common man's welfare. He also congratulated her parents and teachers who motivated and inspired her for outstanding performance in JKPS examination.

Sharma also wished her good luck for her future endeavors. He also stated that it is our duty to motivate such students who have achieved various milestones in their

lives so that they also feel encouraged to register more success in life. Terming selection of candidate as real empowerment, he said that such young officers can help the government in better implementation of development plans across UT.

Sunali Ashok attributed her success to her parents and teachers and stated that her success is the outcome of the support and love she got from family, teachers and friends. She also promised that she will work with full dedication to serve the society and nation. She also stated that she will put her best

to improve the system in UT.

Dr. Pardeep Mahotra said that today, the women, with their sheer hard work have proved that they can achieve any goal with their determination. He wished her all good luck and asked her to discharge her duties as a social service to the needy and the underprivileged.

Neelam Nargotra, while wishing the qualifier all good luck for her future endeavours, thanked Modi's efforts for the women empowerment by citing the example of 33% women reservation bill in Parliament.

CSIR-IIIM-TBI City Camp reaches MAM College

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 19: IIIM-Technology Business Incubator of CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu, in collaboration with Institution Innovation Council & National Service Scheme - Self Finance Unit (NSS-SFU) of Maulana Azad Memorial College, Jammu, on Tuesday conducted City Camp with the object to sensitize the students about startup ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir. During the program, Er. Ankush Varma, Coordinator / CEO, IIIM-Technology Business Incubator was the resource person.

Dr. Vishal Sharma, NSS-SFU Coordinator, delivered the opening remarks wherein he spoke about the importance of entrepreneurship and how it aligns with the broader goals

of societal development. He emphasized the need for nurturing an entrepreneurial spirit among the youth and encouraged students to actively participate in startup initiatives under IIIM-TBI City Camp, Jammu.

Er. Ankush Varma, Coordinator / CEO, IIIM-TBI, as a domain expert, delivered a compelling presentation on the intricacies of starting a business venture and how to navigate the funding landscape. His insights and guidance were invaluable for the aspiring entrepreneurs and innovators present at the event.

Dr. G.S. Rakwal, Principal of Maulana Azad Memorial College, reiterated the college's commitment to fostering an entrepreneurial mindset and providing a platform for students to explore and realize their

entrepreneurial aspirations. He applauded the efforts of the keynote speaker Er. Ankush Varma and emphasized the college's dedication to supporting students in their entrepreneurial endeavors.

Dr. Bharti Slathia, HoD BBA, provided insightful closing remarks, summarizing the key takeaways from the expert lecture. She encouraged students to leverage the knowledge gained during the event and translate it into actionable strategies for their startup endeavors. Neeraj Sharma, IQAC Coordinator, graced the event with his presence and commended the initiative for promoting knowledge sharing and fostering a culture of innovation within the college.

The event concluded with a stimulating question-answer session,

where students had the opportunity to engage directly with Er. Ankush Varma, gaining further insights into the world of startups and funding.

In a gesture of appreciation, both the keynote speaker and the Principal of the College were presented with planters, symbolizing growth, prosperity, and the fruitful exchange of ideas.

CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu is a national R&D institute of Government of India working under the Ministry of Science & Technology. Currently, there are three incubators operational under its campus. These incubators are supported by the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and NITI Aayog (Atal Incubation Mission).

UIET Kathua organizes awareness programme on Human Organ & Tissue Donation

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 19: In a move aimed at transforming lives and spreading a message of hope, University Institute of Engineering and Technology (UIET), Kathua Campus, University of Jammu organized an awareness programme on Human Organ and Tissue Donation. Anshu Sharma, Consultant (Media/IEC), State Organ & Tissue Transplant Organization, J&K was the resource person.

Sharma said that there is a huge shortage of organs in Bharat and patients die while on the waiting list as they do not get an organ on time. Further, she said that the transplantation of organs is possible only if there are organ

donors available in the country. She also unveiled the extraordinary potential of organ and tissue donation to save lives. She said for the patients and families awaiting transplant, organ and tissue donation can mean the difference between life and death.

Dr. Meenakshi Kilam, Rector, Kathua Campus, University of Jammu in her message said that there can be no greater service to mankind than donating organs to save another life. She opined that the education and awareness are key to increasing the number of donors and ultimately saving more lives. She further said that by organizing this programme, UIET has taken an active role in addressing the critical shortage of organs and

tissues required for transplantation.

Dr. Vivek Sharma, Academic Coordinator, Kathua Campus (JU) appreciated the efforts of UIET for organising such awareness programmes.

Dr. Sourabh Shastri, I/c Coordinator, UIET welcomed the audience and said that the organ donation provides a life-giving, life-enhancing opportunity to those who are at the end of the line for hope.

Er. Arjun Kapoor coordinated the whole programme while Er. Archana Salaria delivered vote of thanks. The faculty members and non-teaching staff of the campus were also present during the programme.



FROM PAGE 1

Lok Sabha proceedings begin in new Parliament building

democratic traditions from the Vedic period to the present day.

The journey of democracy in the country is depicted through a series of exhibits in the Constitution Hall in the new Parliament building, which itself is inspired by the Sri Yantra, used for worship by many Hindus and considered a source of energy.

The building has three ceremonial foyers where huge brass images of Mahatma Gandhi, Chanakya, Gargi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, B R Ambedkar, and the Chariot Wheel from the Sun Temple at Konark are on display.

The public entrances lead to three galleries — the Sangeet Gallery which exhibits dance, song, and musical traditions of India, the Sthapthya Gallery which depicts the architectural heritage of the country, and the Shilp Gallery which showcases handicraft traditions of different states.

The interiors of the Lok Sabha chamber are based on the theme of peacock, our national bird, while that of the Rajya Sabha takes its hues from lotus, the national flower.

The four-storey Parliament House has a built up area of 64,500 sqm and has two chambers — an 888-seater Lok Sabha, which can accommodate 1,272 members for the joint sitting of both the Houses, and a 384-seater Rajya Sabha chamber.

The building opens into a central courtyard with a banyan tree.

The new building also has six new committee rooms and 92 rooms for use as offices for the Council of Ministers.

There are six entry-exit points or 'dwars' in the new Parliament building, all inspired by ancient sculptures.

The Gaj Dwar has two stone elephant statues that have been inspired by statues at Madhukeshwara temple in Banavasi in Karnataka dating back to 9th century CE, while two horse statues at the Ashwa Dwar have got their inspiration from sculptures at 13th century Sun temple in Odisha.

The statues at three other dwars — Sharadula, Hamsa, and Makara — are inspired by sculptures at Gujri Mahal in Gwalior, Vijay Vithala temple in Hampi, and Hoyasaleswara temple in Karnataka.

The remaining Garuda dwar has as its sentinel the statues of mount (vahana) of Vishnu and have been inspired by 18th century CE Nayaka period sculpture from Tamil Nadu.

India expels Canadian diplomat

concern at the "interference of Canadian diplomats in our internal matters and their involvement in anti-India activities" "The concerned diplomat has been asked to leave India within the next five days," it said in a statement.

LG Sinha pays tributes to Sepoy Pardeep Singh martyred in Anantnag

grief," the Lt Governor said. The mortal remains of the martyr Sepoy Pardeep Singh will be sent to his hometown for last rites with full military honour.

AC approves transfer of land for Research Center, Anantnag; Milk Processing Center, Budgam

agriculture farming and enhance the economic well-being of farmers. The establishment of the Research Station and additional Krishi Vigyan Kendra shall have a major impact for creating awareness about improved agricultural technologies through a large number of extension programmes and produce quality inputs like seeds, planting materials, organic products, bio-fertilizers, livestock and poultry strains of the farmers.

In another significant development, approval has also been accorded for transfer of 47 Kanals 13 Marlas of land at Chadoora, Budgam in favor of Animal and Sheep Husbandry department for establishment of milk processing infrastructure.

The establishment of milk processing infrastructure shall bring multifaceted benefits that encompass economic development, job creation, improved nutrition, food security, and the enhancement of agricultural practices. It will upgrade the dairy industry by promoting the overall well-being of communities and economies. The dairy industry on J&K holds immense

potential for UTs economy, providing employment opportunities and contributing to the local population's wellbeing. With increasing demand for the dairy products and per capita availability of milk being lower than many milk potential states, the dairy sector is poised for significant growth in the UT in coming years.

Day 7 Of J&K Operation | Security forces comb through Anantnag Forest

earlier that drone footage showed a charred body near one of the terrorist hideouts destroyed during the operation. Security forces are using drones and helicopters to survey the dense forest area with several cave-like hideouts where terrorists are believed to have been holed up since Wednesday.

On Sunday, the security cordon was extended to the neighbouring Posh Kreeri area as a precautionary measure to ensure the terrorists don't slip into civilian areas.

Addressing a function here late on Sunday evening, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha said every drop of blood of the slain security personnel will be avenged and the terrorist handlers will have to pay a heavy price. "We have complete faith in our soldiers.... The entire nation stands in solidarity with the jawans," Sinha said.

Top officials of the security grid in Kashmir, including the director general of police (DGP) and general officer commanding (GOC) of the Army's 15 Corps, have been monitoring the operation.

Woman 'Extortionist' posing as an aide of Police held in Shopian

was extorting money from locals in Shopian.

The lady was pretending to be close to police in Shopian and in lieu of getting the persons, who are brought in for questioning under preventive detention by police, released, she extorted huge amount of money from a few families in Shopian.

She was assisted by another person namely Ghulam Hassain Shah s/o Mohd Shaban Shah R/o Behibagh, Kulgam in this fraud. In this regard, case FIR No-158/2023 under relevant sections of law stands registered in Police station Shopian and Investigation has been taken up. Based on the information received, both Extortionists were called to Police Station for questioning.

The police spokesman further stated that the accused person disclosed the whole nexus and modus operandi that they have used to extort money from people. Co-accused Gh. Hussain Shah further disclosed that lady in discussion has extorted a tune of rupees 8.4 lakh from these families over the period of time. Police was able to recover 2.5 lakh rupees from her possession.

Further recovery is expected. SSP Shopian, Tanushree has said that extortion is a form of blackmail and made it clear to the public that they should not fall prey to any such blackmailer.

Tense diplomatic relations may not impact trade, investment ties between India, Canada: Experts

NEW DELHI, Sep 19 (Agencies): The tense diplomatic relations between India and Canada are unlikely to impact trade and investments between the two countries as economic ties are driven by commercial considerations, according to experts.

Both India and Canada trade in complementary products and do not compete on similar products.

"Hence, the trade relationship will continue to grow and not be affected by day-to-day events," Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) Co-Founder Ajay Srivastava said.

Certain political developments have led to a pause in negotiations for a free trade agreement between the two countries.

On September 10, Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveyed to his Canadian counterpart Justin Trudeau India's strong concerns about the continuing anti-India activities of extremist elements in Canada that were promoting secessionism, inciting violence against its diplomats and threatening the Indian community there.

India on Tuesday announced the expulsion of a Canadian diplomat hours after Canada asked an Indian official to leave



that country, citing a "potential" Indian link to the killing of a Khalistani separatist leader in June.

Srivastava said these recent events are unlikely to affect the deep-rooted people-to-people connections, trade, and economic ties between the two nations.

Bilateral trade between India and Canada has grown significantly in recent years, reaching USD 8.16 billion in 2022-23.

India's exports (USD 4.1 billion) to Canada include pharmaceuticals, gems and jewellery, textiles, and machinery, while Canada's exports to India (USD 4.06 billion) include pulses, timber, pulp and paper, and mining products.

On investments, he said that Canadian pension funds will continue investing in India on

grounds of India's large market and good return on money invested.

Canadian pension funds, by the end of 2022, had invested over USD 45 billion in India, making it the fourth-largest recipient of Canadian FDI in the world.

The top sectors for Canadian pension fund investment in India include infrastructure, renewable energy, technology, and financial services.

Mumbai-based exporter and Chairman of Technocraft Industries Sharad Kumar Saraf said the present frosty relations between India and Canada are certainly a cause for concern.

"However, the bilateral trade is entirely driven by commercial considerations. Political turmoil is of a temporary nature and

should not be a reason to affect trade relations," Saraf said.

He added that even with China, India has acrimonious relations but bilateral trade continues to remain healthy.

"In fact, bilateral trade is an effective tool to improve political relations. India must make special efforts to increase our bilateral trade with Canada," Saraf said.

India and Canada have a strong education partnership. There are over 200 educational partnerships between Indian and Canadian institutions.

In addition, over 3,19,000 Indian students are enrolled in Canadian institutions, making them the largest international student cohort in Canada, according to GTRI.

According to the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE), Indian students contributed USD 4.9 billion to the Canadian economy in 2021.

Indian students are the largest international student group in Canada, accounting for 20 per cent of all international students in 2021.

Benefits of educational partnerships are mutual and hence the current situation may have no impact on the relationship, Srivastava said.

Household savings in India plummet to 5-decade low; debt increases at second fastest rate since Independence



NEW DELHI, Sep 19 (Agencies): Behind the veneer of the highest growth in GDP among major countries, ordinary households in India are hurting. The net financial savings of households have crashed to a nearly five-decade low of 5.1 per cent of GDP in fiscal 2022-23 from 7.2 per cent in the previous financial year, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Households were also being burdened with more financial liabilities indicating a severe income crunch and post-pandemic rise in consumption due to pent-up demand. Financial liabilities of households shot up by 5.8 per cent of GDP in 2022-23 as compared

with 3.8 per cent in 2021-22 which also indicated that part of the consumption was being financed by loans.

The RBI said the rate of increase in financial liabilities in 2022-23 was the second highest since Independence. The only time the flow was sharper was during 2006-07 when it was 6.7 per cent.

In absolute terms, net household assets plummeted from Rs 22.8 trillion during the height of the pandemic in 2020-21 to Rs 16.96 trillion in 2021-22, and then to Rs 13.76 trillion in 2022-23.

Household debt, in terms of the stock of financial liabilities, also was high at 37.6 per cent of the GDP in 2022-23, as against 36.9 in the previous financial

year. The reason could be erosion of stagnant incomes due to the high inflation rates leading to lower savings and higher debt.

The figures in the RBI data on household assets and liabilities also indicate that despite the government's frequent exhortations, it is the public spending from the revenue earned by taxes that is holding up the GDP growth rate and not private consumption and private capital expenditure.

"We believe that consumption growth is unsustainable. Whether it will be substituted by investments is not our base case, though the jury is still out," said Nikhil Gupta of Motilal Oswal.

However, in the first quarter of 2023-24 (April to June), private consumption final expenditure (PCFE) rose to six per cent as compared to the same period last year. The PCFI was 2.8 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2022-23 and 2.2 per cent in the third quarter of the last fiscal.

Adani case: Plea claims conflict of interest in court-appointed panel

NEW DELHI, Sep 19 (Agencies): A fresh petition filed in the Supreme Court has alleged links between the apex court-appointed expert committee members and billionaire Gautam Adani.

The petition notes that the committee has members with potential conflict of interest and there is a need to appoint a fresh panel to probe allegations raised by the US-based short seller Hindenburg Research.

Petitioner Anamika Jaiswal claimed the appointment of former State Bank of India Chairman OP Bhatt, who is part of the six-member committee, is conflicted as he is also the head of renewable energy firm Greenko, which has commercial dealings with the Adani group.

The petition cited Greenko's March 14, 2022, statement announcing the supply of up to 1,000 mega-

watts of renewable electricity to Adani's proposed industrial complex. It also cited a news report of a partnership between the two being entered in Davos. "The above shows a clear conflict of interest of OP Bhatt...ought to have been pointed out by Bhatt himself," the petition said.

The petitioner claimed the CBI also examined Bhatt in March 2018 in a case of alleged wrongdoing in disbursing loans to the former liquor baron and fugitive economic offender Vijay Mallya, who is accused of defrauding banks, including SBI, of \$1.2 billion.

In May 2023, the report of the 6-member expert committee set up by the Supreme Court gave a clean chit to the Adani group on charges of stock price manipulation based on the information provided by the market regulator Sebi. The panel has also

refused to conclude in its report that there was a regulatory failure by Sebi.

The petition also found faults with two other members of the panel -- K V Kamath, who served as ICICI Bank's chairman between 1996 and 2009, and Somashekhar Sundarasan, a lawyer who had represented Adani in various forums including the Sebi board.

The other three members were Abhay Manohar Sapre, retired Justice JP Devadhar and businessman Nandan Nilekani. Kamath, it claimed, had figured in a CBI FIR in ICICI Bank fraud case relating to alleged kickbacks former MD and CEO Chanda Kochhar received for loans given to Videocon group. "There is an apprehension that the expert committee would fail to inspire confidence among the people of the country," it said.

Foxconn's ambitious plans for India: From EVs to chip-making

NEW DELHI, Sep 19 (Agencies): The world's largest electronics contract manufacturer, Foxconn (Hon Hai Precision Industry), has been rapidly expanding its presence in India, particularly in the southern region, with a series of significant investments and ventures.

The company, known for producing Apple iPhones, already operates an iPhone factory in Tamil Nadu employing around 40,000 individuals.

A few days ago, the company's India representative, V Lee, said the company is working towards doubling investments, business and workforce in the country.

As the company works to double its investments in India by 2024, it has shown keen interest in expanding its businesses in India, extending beyond just smartphones and mobile



components. Here's how Foxconn's footprint in India looks at the moment.

Apple assembling facilities

Foxconn is set to produce casing components for iPhones at a newly established facility in Karnataka, backed by a \$350 million investment. This endeavor is expected to generate approximately 12,000 jobs.

Furthermore, the company secured an order to manufacture Apple's AirPods and intends to establish a factory in

India for their production.

Manufacturing chip-making tools

In a recent development, Foxconn announced a collaboration with Applied Materials for a \$250 million project aimed at manufacturing chip-making tools in Karnataka.

This initiative is poised to create employment opportunities for approximately 1,000 people.

Mobile components plant

Foxconn has inked a deal with the southern state of Tamil Nadu to

invest Rs 1,600 crore in a new electronic components manufacturing facility. This facility is anticipated to generate employment for 6,000 individuals.

Semiconductor manufacturing

The company is currently engaged in discussions with Gujarat regarding the establishment of a semiconductor plant. This move comes after Foxconn terminated a \$19.5 billion joint-venture plan with India's Vedanta.

A report indicated that Foxconn has teamed up

with STMicroelectronics NV to submit a joint bid for constructing a semiconductor manufacturing plant in India.

EV push

Foxconn is venturing into the development of a standardised electric vehicle platform. The company is eyeing India, among other locations, as a potential site for producing a small battery-powered car under this initiative, as revealed by the unit's CEO.

Foxconn's growing interest and investments in India span across a wide spectrum of industries, from electronics assembly to semiconductor manufacturing and electric vehicle development.

These endeavors are not only expected to boost India's manufacturing sector but also contribute significantly to job creation in the country.

Toxic 'forever chemicals' in plastics, dyes driving cancers in women: Study

PFAS is referred to as 'forever chemicals' and has contaminated water, food and people through products such as Teflon pans, waterproof clothing, stain-resistant carpets and fabrics, and food packaging

SAN FRANCISCO, Sep 19 (Agencies): Exposure to certain endocrine-disrupting chemicals like PFAS (per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances) and BPA (phenols) found in everyday use products like plastics, nonstick cookware, dyes and may be playing a role in cancers of the breast, ovary, skin and uterus in women, suggests a study.

PFAS is referred to as "forever chemicals" and has contaminated water, food and people through products such as Teflon pans, waterproof clothing, stain-resistant carpets and fabrics, and food packaging.

While it does not prove that exposure to chemicals like PFAS (per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances) and phenols (including BPA) led to these cancer diagnoses, researchers found that women who developed those cancers have significantly higher levels of these chemicals in their bodies.

The study, published in the Journal of Exposure Science



and Environmental Epidemiology, showed that women in particular who were more exposed to PFDE, a long-chain PFAS compound, were twice as likely to have a previous melanoma (form of skin cancer) diagnosis.

While the women with higher exposure to two other long-chained PFAS compounds, PFNA (Proximal Femoral Nail Antitraction) and PFUA (Perfluoroundecanoic acid) had nearly

double the odds of a prior melanoma diagnosis.

Researchers analysed blood and urine samples from more than 10,000 people and found a link between PFNA and a prior diagnosis of uterine cancer. They found that women with higher exposure to phenols, such as BPA (used in plastics) and 2,5-dichlorophenol (a chemical used in dyes and found as a by-product in wastewater treat-

ment), had higher odds of prior ovarian cancer diagnoses.

"These findings highlight the need to consider PFAS and phenols as whole classes of environmental risk factors for cancer risk in women," said Max Aung, Associate Professor of environmental health at University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine.

Researchers also identified that associations between various PFAS and ovarian and uterine cancers were observed only among white women, while associations between a PFAS called MPAH and a phenol called BPF and breast cancer were observed only among non-white women.

"As communities around the country grapple with PFAS contamination, this adds further evidence that supports policymakers developing action to reduce PFAS exposure," said Tracey J. Woodruff, professor at University of California - San Francisco.

Vaping may increase asthma risk in adolescents, says study



NEW YORK, Sep 19 (Agencies): Vaping or the use of e-cigarettes increases the risk of asthma in adolescents who have never smoked conventional tobacco products, finds a new study.

E-cigarettes have fewer toxins than regular cigarettes but still contain a mixture of harmful chemicals and raise the risk of respiratory diseases.

The study, published in the journal 'Preventive Medicine', identified an association between e-cigarette use and asthma in adolescents who had never smoked

conventional tobacco products.

This demonstrates that vaping increases the risk of asthma independently from conventional tobacco product use in adolescents.

Researchers analysed the data of 3,000 adolescents aged 13 to 17 in the state of Texas, and more than 32,000 adolescents in the US for comparison.

Researchers asked the respondents whether they had ever used an e-cigarette and how many days during the previous 30-day period they had used one, whether they had

ever been told they had asthma by a healthcare professional?

The study included information on respondent gender, age, race and ethnicity, body mass index and presence of depression symptoms.

The analysis also included data on the use of other substances, such as conventional cigarettes, alcohol and illicit drugs.

"Increasing knowledge about the harmful effects of e-cigarette use, implementing stricter regulations, and promoting alternative coping mechanisms for mental health are potential interventions to mitigate e-cigarette use," said Dr Taehyun Roh, lead author of the study.

The study highlights a need for strategies to tackle the increasing prevalence of e-cigarette use and its adverse health effects.

DC Kishtwar chairs DLRC Meeting for the Quarter Ended June 2023

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Sep 15: Dr. Devansh Yadav, District Development Commissioner of Kishtwar, chaired a significant District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting on Thursday.

The meeting delved into a detailed review of the performance of banks in the first quarter of the financial year 2023-24. Dr. Devansh Yadav-IAS underscored the vital importance of identifying beneficiaries and ensuring the seamless flow of credit to them through the convergence of government-sponsored schemes and the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). He emphasized the need to augment credit flow in the agriculture sector.

The overall achievement under the Annual Credit Plan (ACP) for the first quarter of 2023-



24 stood at a commendable 27.8%.

Deputy Commissioner Yadav advised bankers and relevant line departments to enhance credit flow within the priority sector, with a special focus on areas such as KCC, Education, and Women's Development. He further urged banks to intensify their efforts and enhance

their performance in the forthcoming quarters of 2023-24.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the significance of capital formation in the agriculture sector for long-term growth, along with the importance of conducting financial literacy camps in the Aspirational Blocks of Kishtwar district.

The meeting witnessed the participation of distinguished officials, including ADDC Kishtwar, Sh. Sham Lal; Joint Director of Planning, Kishtwar, Mohd Iqbal; Lead District Manager, Pankaj Bhadani; DDM NABARD; heads of line departments; district leaders of various banks, and heads of other relevant agencies.

Spiritual preachers, women must start campaigns against drug abuse to prevent youth from self-destruction: Zorawar

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 19: Making a fervent appeal to the women and spiritual preachers to come forward and join hands in making drug awareness campaign as mass movement here in Jammu and Kashmir, especially, in Jammu Province, BJP leader and Chairman, Team Jammu, Zorawar Singh Jamwal said that drug mafia is making all attempts to trap younger generation including School and College going students in their evil net here by spoiling the future of nation.

While addressing a large gathering of women and spiritual preachers during a religious function "Shrimad Bhagwat Katha" organized at Baba Sidhgoria Temple in Paloura here, organized by Mahant Kuldeep Singh ji Maha-



raj, Team Jammu chief, Zorawar Singh Jamwal said that its volunteers will leave no stone unturned to take on its fight against drugs to all nook and corner of Jammu region.

"School going children

and College youth need to be involved in a big way for spreading the message at the grass root level. And for that, mothers have to take the lead to make aware their wards about the ill and dead effects of drug abuse," highlighted Zorawar Singh Jamwal and made a passionate appeal to women and spiritual preachers to join hands and take the responsibilities in their respected localities to strictly counter suspicious activities of drug peddlers.

Team Jammu chief, said, "Time has come for the women who being wife, sister and mother to start pro-active campaigns with a spirit of love and compassion that will surely help in preventing self-destruction of those who have fallen prey to drug-addiction. The time is giving alarming bells to come out from homes and reach out to vulnerable segments in a big way."

BJP leader and Chairman Team Jammu, Zorawar Singh Jamwal said that, "Women have to shoulder the responsibility of inculcating the practice of Sanatan

in their siblings since childhood, which would enlighten them about good and bad from their tender age and would help them making a bright future."

City SP, North, Kulbir Handa in his address, expressed views on the glaring issue of Drug Abuse, which is affecting the youth, both boys and girls and underscored the duty of parents and especially mothers who have a very considerable role in shaping the future of younger generation.

He also cautioned the city residents to have watch in their respective localities about the suspicious movements of unscrupulous elements who are spreading drugs among youth and wherever such activity is detected, people must inform local police for strict action.

SHO, Police Station, Janipur, Inspector Sikanter Singh Chauhan informed the gathering the steps taken by police to curb the drug menace and number of cases registered, drug peddlers arrested besides the narcotics seized by police department.

Sarpanch Gurdeep Saini inaugurates Children's Park in memory of Martyr Tarsem Lal

TOP NEWS REPORT

R.S PURA, Sep 19: The State Secretary of All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference and Sarpanch of Gandali Panchayat, Sardar Gurdeep Singh Saini today inaugurated the Children's Park named after Martyr Tarsem Lal in the village of Gandali on Tuesday.

The inauguration ceremony of the park, built at an approximate cost of Rs 6 lakh in its first phase, witnessed the presence of various Panchayat members, including Deputy Sarpanch Pyarelal, Panch Satyadevi, Panch Pawan Singh, Sardar Harjinder Singh, and



Darshan Singh. Speaking on the occasion, Sarpanch Gurdeep Saini paid his respects to Martyr Tarsem Lal and assured the people of the Pan-

chayat that efforts for their development would continue in the coming days. He highlighted that the long-standing demand of the Panchayat to create a

Children's Park in the name of the martyr had been fulfilled. He mentioned that the project was proposed to the relevant department, and it was approved,

leading to the completion of the first phase. Soon, the construction of the second phase, which includes seating and swings for children, will also commence.

Sarpanch Gurdeep Singh Saini expressed that the Central government's continuous efforts for the development of Panchayats are bearing fruit, and significant progress in development work is evident. He also commended the "Meri Mati Mera Desh" campaign by the Central government, which is honoring the martyrs.

On this occasion, Deputy Sarpanch Pyarelal and others also shared their thoughts

and mentioned that significant development work has been carried out in the Panchayat due to the efforts of Sarpanch Gurdeep Singh Saini.

The park's successful completion and inauguration were acknowledged with gratitude to the Director of Rural Development Department, Mumtaz, and Officer Veerendra Pal Singh and their entire team for their continuous support in achieving development goals in the Panchayat. Sarpanch Gurdeep Singh Saini assured that development projects in the Panchayat would continue in the days to come.

GDC Darhal organizes Essay Writing Competition on 'Truth and Non-Violence'



TOP NEWS REPORT

RAJOURI, Sep 19: To revisit the fundamental principles of peace, truth, and non-violence, the NSS unit (IMDAD) of GDC Darhal organized an Essay Writing Competition with the theme "Gandhian Philosophy of Truth and Non-Violence" to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary. A significant number of students from the college enthusiastically participated in the competition, shedding light on various aspects of Gandhi ji's life and teachings. The competition aimed to provide a platform for participants to express their thoughts,

ideas, and views on the theme while allowing students to understand and embody the values propagated by Gandhi ji.

In the Essay Writing Competition, Shariq Ali Bin Ghulam, Faraz Ahmed Malik, and Imraz Ahmed from Semester 5 secured the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes, respectively. A consolation prize was awarded to Mahboob Sadeeq from Semester 5.

The event was organized under the guidance of the College's Principal, Prof. Mus-saraf Hussain Shah. During his address, he emphasized that the life and teachings of the father of the nation

serve as a guiding light for all of us in various aspects of our lives. He further stressed that in today's conflict-ridden times, there is an urgent need to embrace and practice the teachings of Gandhi ji to achieve lasting global peace.

The event was coordinated by NSS PO, Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch, who encouraged the students to embrace and uphold the principles of truth, unity, and harmony as taught by Bapu.

The competition was adjudicated by Dr. Imtiaz H. Shah (HOD Urdu) and Prof. Tahir Mahmood (HOD English). Certificates were presented to all the winners.

Agri Dept organizes two-day District Level awareness program on Beekeeping

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 19: The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare in Jammu organized a two-day Seminar cum Awareness program on 'Transformation of Bee-Keeping' under the National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) at KISSAN KENDRA JAMMU. The program aimed to emphasize the importance of beekeeping and achieve the goals of the 'Sweet Revolution.'

The program was inaugurated by Bharat Bhushan, Chairman of the District Development Commissioner (DDC) in Jammu. It was attended by officers from Agri-allied departments, experts from SKUAST, KVK, Information, Banks, and other officials. In addition, farmers, beekeepers, and unemployed youth participated in the event. Present at the event were Director of Agriculture Jammu,



Sh. K.K. Sharma, Joint Director of Agriculture Extension, Sh. H.K. Hiteshi, Joint Director of Inputs, S. A.S. Reen, Joint Director of Marketing, Sh. Mahesh Verma, Chief Agricultural Officer (CAO) Jammu, Sh. Vinod Kundal, District SMS, SDAOs, AEAs, and Mrs. Ashu Kakoria, DAO Jammu.

During his address, DDC Chairman Shri Bharat Bhushan highlighted that the department provides financial support under the National Beekeeping

and Honey Mission (NBHM) and Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). This support aims to encourage apiculture ventures for livelihood and income generation, as well as ecological balance.

He stressed that honey is in high demand worldwide and encouraged farmers to take advantage of seminars like this to tap into the rising global demand. He urged them to focus on cultivating high-quality honey on a larger

scale to capitalize on this demand.

Throughout the seminar, resource persons provided valuable insights to beekeepers and young enthusiasts regarding the potential of beekeeping in the district. They emphasized the benefits of government schemes for creating livelihoods and promoting pollination and health benefits.

Speakers also shared information on new and scientific beekeeping cultivation methods to increase production

and productivity across the district. Additionally, they emphasized the importance of marketing strategies to ensure farmers get the best prices for their products.

CAO Jammu Vinod Kundal encouraged farmers to make the most of the program by participating in training sessions and gaining awareness of different government schemes. These initiatives aim to help them establish income-generating units within the apiculture sector.

The program featured interactive sessions with experts on various aspects of beekeeping management strategies. On the first day, sessions covered the significance of bees, the role of pollination, and the management of bee colonies. Participants received detailed information about high-income opportunities in the beekeeping sector.