

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Biker dies after collision with vehicle in Qazigund

QAZIGUND, Sep 21 (Agencies): A biker rider died after he collided with a vehicle near Ujroo tunnel in Qazigund area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Thursday, officials said.

An official said that the biker died on the spot after colliding with the vehicle.

He has been identified as Deepak Sharma son of Satpal Sharma of Jammu.

Police are said to have taken cognisance of the incident.

Husband allegedly hammers wife to death in Mendhar; accused arrested, weapon of offence recovered

POONCH, Sep 21 (Agencies): A woman was allegedly hammered to death by her husband in Mendhar area in Poonch district, officials said.

They said that one Gazanfar Bi (55), wife of Mohammad Khalil, resident of Ari was found in a pool of blood at her house today.

"She has been prima facie allegedly hammered on head by her husband", they said.

"A police team reached the site and took the body to a nearby hospital", they said.

Meanwhile, a police official said that they have arrested the accused alongwith weapon of offence and also registered a case in this regard for further investigations. "The accused person stands arrested alongside the weapon of offence", the official said adding details once available will be shared accordingly.

Man critically injured in bear attack in South Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Sep 21 (Agencies): A 32-year-old man was injured in a bear attack in the Brah Shangus area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Thursday afternoon.

Reports reaching news agency Kashmir Scroll said that a man was grievously injured after being attacked by a wild bear at Tehsil Shangus area of Anantnag. He was shifted to

India temporarily suspends Visa services for Canadians

NEW DELHI, Sep 21 (Agencies): India on Thursday "suspended till further notice" its visa services in Canada. The move comes amid the escalating diplomatic row that erupted following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of a Khalistani separatist in June.

Sources said India has suspended visa services for Canadians in the wake of the ongoing row. A private agency hired



for initial scrutiny of visa applications of Canadians put out a note on its website that Indian visa services have been "suspended till further

notice".

The ties between India and Canada came under severe strain following Trudeau's allegations of a "potential" involvement

of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June.

India on Tuesday rejected the allegations as "absurd" and "motivated" and expelled a senior Canadian diplomat in a tit-for-tat move to Ottawa's expulsion of an Indian official over the case.

In reflection of hardening of its position, India on Wednesday advised all its nationals living in Canada and those contemplating

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Police arrests KPS Officer Sheikh Adil in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Sep 21 (Agencies): Jammu & Kashmir police on Thursday arrested a Deputy Superintendent of Police (Dy. SP) on charges of corruption, extortion and fraud here.

Official sources said that a team of police had searched the residence of Dy. SP, Sheikh Aadil Mushtaq in Srinagar two days back.

"To evade arrest he had jumped out of the house. During searches



of a laptop, some incriminating documents, electronic devices etc were recovered from his residence.

On Thursday, the

officer was formally arrested by Srinagar police under FIR no 149 Of 2023 under section 167, 193, 201, 210, 218, 221 of Indian penal Code and 7, 7 A corruption Act at police Station Nowgam and further investigation has been set into motion.

A SIT formed under SP south will investigate the case keeping in view its possible serious ramifications, they added.

Srinagar's Bilquis Mir appointed senior canoeing, Kayaking Judge at Asian Games

SRINAGAR, Sep 21 (Agencies): Bilquis Mir, the former kayaking and canoeing player from Srinagar and the first water sports coach from the region, has achieved the distinction of becoming the first Indian woman to be appointed as the 'finishing chief judge' at the Asian Games, beginning in Hangzhou on



Saturday.

Mir, who hails from Khanyar area of the city, said it was a proud moment for her.

"I am the first woman from India to have been included in this jury panel," Mir said on Wednesday.

"I will be the chief judge at the finishing point in kayaking, canoeing and canoe sprint events at Hangzhou. It is a very crucial position and it's an honour for me. It's a dream come true.

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Court prevents man from interfering in his brother's marriage, imposes rs 10 lakh fine

SRINAGAR, Sep 21 (Agencies): A court in Kashmir ordered a revenue official to quit meddling in the marital affairs of his brother and sister-in-law. The court further directed the official to pay his sister-in-law Rs 10 lakh as compensation for the harm she incurred as a result of living apart from her spouse, Hindustan Times reported.

In March 2023, Batoola Rafiq, a resident in north

Kashmir's Sopore filed a court petition against her brother-in-law Aijaz Ahmad Khuroo, a tehsildar in Drugmulla.

She had claimed in her application that Aijaz had locked her husband Zameer in his home. He would prevent him from starting a teaching career, and would not let her and her son meet him. She stated that Zameer was suffering from mental illness

Manzoor Hussain,

judicial magistrate (first class), Baramulla, gave orders to release the husband of the victim Batoola Rafiq from captivity.

The mother and her son received temporary relief from the court, which also took serious note of the accusations made against Aijaz for creating a dispute in the marital life of his brother and seizing all of their assets.

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Burglars pull off Rs 25 lakh heist in Srinagar locality, police case filed

SRINAGAR, Sep 21 (Agencies): Burglars late last night pulled off Rs 25 lakh heist by stealing jewellery from a house in Karfalli Mohalla locality of Srinagar's Downtown area.

Family members told the news agency that burglars broke into their house, damaged the wardrobe and stole gold ornaments worth around Rs 25 lakh.

"The burglary occurred between 2 to 4 am and it appears the burglars gained entry through a window of washroom," they said.

They further they have filed a police complaint and urged them for prompt action.

A police official while confirming the incident said that a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and

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J&K ANTF arrests border resident with 3.5 Kg heroin

JAMMU, Sep 21 (Agencies): A border resident was arrested along with 3.5 kg of heroin worth about Rs 7 crores in the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, a senior officer of Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) said here on Thursday.

Zaheer Ahmad, a resident of north Kashmir's Keran sector of Kupwara district, was arrested on specific information from Gangbug area of Srinagar, Senior Superintendent of Police (ANTF) Raj Kumar told reporters here.

"The arrest of the narcotic smuggler and seizure of commercial

quantities of heroin from his possession is a big success for the ANTF," the officer said, adding an FIR was registered and further investigation to expose the backward and forward links of the arrested smuggler is going on.

He said heroin is mostly smuggled from across the border and "we are looking into details how the consignment reached this side - whether it was smuggled or airdropped through a drone." Some more arrests are expected in the case as the investigation progresses, he said, adding that it is a

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Dr Mir Mushtaq appointed nodal officer for PM Package, Jammu-based employees in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Sep 21 (Agencies): Dr. Mir Mushtaq has been appointed as the Nodal Officer to oversee matters related to the PM Package and Jammu-based employees posted in the Kashmir division.

"In addition to his existing responsibilities,

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Jammu's Sidhra belt to get Multifaceted Water Theme Park

JAMMU, Sep 21 (Agencies): A mega water theme park will come up on 92 kanals of land along the banks of the River Tawi in the Sidhra area here in the city outskirts.

Official sources said that a water theme park will be constructed on 92 kanals of land in Sidhra

village on the banks of the River Tawi, for which land has been identified.

"The water park will have attractions like a garden, jogging track, and tree houses," said an official.

He added that the park will have a water sky ride, wave pool, artificial

water landscape, kids pool, swimming arena, sunbathing, diving arena, water volleyball, and indoor water games, apart from special night shows and shopping complexes.

He said that this would further increase tourist footfall in the region.

Constitution cannot be amended so easily: Omar Abdullah

HANDWARA, Sep 21 (Agencies): Any attempt to play around with the Constitution will not be good for the country as it cannot be amended so easily, National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah said here on Thursday.

His remarks came in response to a reporter's question on the Congress alleging that the words "socialist" and "secular" have been dropped from the Preamble of the Constitution.

"The Constitution cannot be changed easily. To change the Constitution, you need a two-thirds majority. As far as I know, there has been no vote either



in the Lok Sabha or in the Rajya Sabha about removing such words," Abdullah told reporters in the Handwara area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

He said the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), in its defence on the issue, had said since

the occasion of moving the parliamentary proceedings from the old building to a new one was historic, it had circulated copies of the historic Constitution among the members.

"If that is correct, then we have no objection. But if they are playing

with the Constitution, then, forgive me, it will not be good for the country because we have always said that if Jammu and Kashmir has acceded to India, it has acceded to Mahatma Gandhi's country and not the country of the RSS or Sangh Parivar," the NC leader said.

Asked if his party is hopeful about a positive outcome from the Supreme Court hearing a batch of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, Abdullah said the NC has done whatever it could have and "we are hopeful of (getting) justice".

On Lieutenant

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People's life has become miserable due to high taxes, inflation by BJP led Modi Govt: PCC Chief

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 21 : Addressing a meeting of party leaders and workers, J&KPCC Chief Vikar Rasool Wani alongwith Working President Raman Bhalla chaired a meeting here on Thursday at PCC HQ Jammu declared that Congress party will raise burning issues of the people and highlight the hardships being faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir, by organizing meetings, protests, press conferences etc.

Today's meeting was attended by Former Ministers, Legislators, PCC & DCC functionaries, Frontal organizations heads, Corporators, Block and Ward Presidents and large number of party workers.

PCC Chief said that there is large scale resentment amongst the people including youth, students employees working as daily wagers, casual, need based, contractual, adhoc, consolidated basis in various government and PSUs, besides installation of smart meters, property



tax, water tax, toll plaza's and other taxes.

He said that there is great unrest amongst the people of Jammu and Kashmir for the reason of prolonged Governor rule, political unrests and uncertainties. In this situation, the centre and UT government has imposed various kinds of additional taxes and fees, like road tax, numerous toll taxes in Jammu region, enhanced stamp duty as per state act despite extension of central act, recent revision of registration fees and now the property taxes, which has causing great resentment and anger amongst the people. Such a tax regime which has overburdened the already distressed people of Jammu and Kashmir, needs its end,

soon. The government had made several commitments to the SC/ST and OBC with regard to their rights, especially post abrogation of Article 370, but there is large scale resentment amongst due to non-fulfillment of those commitments. The government should fulfill the genuine commitments and ensure due rights to them.

Wani Questioned BJP and Centre Govt. as to what has changed to the betterment of people of J&K and nation, after August 5, 2019 decision. He said that the promise of large scale Govt. jobs and opening private sector for jobs, was a big bluff & joke with the educated youth of J&K. He said that on 5th, August 2019, J&K

has lost its identity, rights and protections available to its residents which are available in various other states in the country too, in one or other form.

Raman Bhalla said that the claims of BJP for opening of floodgates of private investments and creation of large scale jobs in private sector, as nothing of this sort has been witnessed. The local traders, contractors, businessmen and transporters are loosing business opportunities to outside residents, especially in Jammu region, so who has been benefitted by this decision, he questioned, while strongly criticizing the disbanding and downgrading of historical state into UT.

Mula Ram, Vinod Sharma, Yogesh Sawh-

ney, Balwan Singh Gurbachan Kumari Rana, Th. Balbir Singh, Shabir Khan, Indu Pawar, Ved Mahajan, Krishan Bhagat, Hari Singh Chib, Pankaj Dogra, Sanjeev Sharma, Rajesh Sadotra, Shiv Kumar Sharma (INTUC), Kanta Bhan, Th. Manmohan Singh, Kuldeep Raj Varma, Kapil Singh (Spokesperson), PYC President Akash Bharat, Pranav Shagotra, Pawan Raina, Shashi Sharma, Narinder Gupta, Narinder Sharma, Gurdarshan Singh, Sanjeev Panda, H.S.Mehta, Nadeem Niaz, Nirdosh Sharma, Kulbir Singh Pathania, Thomas Khokher, Dwarka Choudhary, T.S. Tony, Ritu Choudhary, Bhanu Mahajan, Babal Gupta, Rajiv Saraf, Satish Sharma, Naresh Sharma, Namrata Sharma, Pritam Singh and Rashpal Bhardwaj, Suresh Dogra, Vijay Shastri, Bhushan Dogra, Balbir Singh, Hoshiar Singh, Jugal Sharma, Anoop Gupta, Ricky Dalotra, Parshotam Mehra, Michael Wazir, Camres David Babloo, Gurmeet Singh, Tamara Heer, Tinu Khokhar, Farooq Ahmed, and others.

Dr Karan Singh meets LG Sinha; pays obeisance at Kheer Bhawani Temple



TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Sep 21: Dr Karan Singh, former Sadr-I-Riyasat, today met the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan Srinagar and discussed the present day political and development scenario in J&K.

The two prominent figures engaged in a comprehensive discussion on the current political and development landscape in the Union Territory.

Meanwhile, Dr Karan Singh also paid obeisance at the Kheer Bhawani Temple in Srinagar and prayed for the peace, progress and prosperity of the Union Territory.

During his visit, Dr Karan Singh performed Pooja and went through the temple Complex to enquire about the facilities being provided to the devotees. He expressed satisfaction over the facilities and gave necessary instructions on the spot.

Notably, Kheer Bhawani Temple, Tulla-Mulla in Ganderbal district of Srinagar is being managed by the J&K Dharmarth Trust and Dr Karan Singh is its Chairman Trustee.

The Chairman Trustee asked senior functionaries of the Trust to work with more zeal and dedication and make all possible efforts in providing adequate facilities to the visiting pilgrims.

NC victory in upcoming polls only solution to end people's miseries : Sadhotra

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 21: Suresh Kumar Khajuria Rtd XEN PWD District Ramban joined National Conference in presence of the former minister and Additional General Secretary and Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu Province at Sher-e- Kashmir Bhavan, Jammu today.

Welcoming Suresh Kumar Khajuria into the party fold, Mr Ajay Kumar Sadhotra and Mr Rattan Lal Gupta described National Conference as a mass movement that has all along stood for the just cause of the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh and strived for development and progress of the state with a sense of commitment.

Ajay Kumar Sadhotra expressed his disappointment with the tall



claims of development made by the LG administration, considering the prevailing issues in Jammu and Kashmir. He called upon the people of Ramban district to support the National Conference for equitable development of the region in the ensuring elections in Jammu and Kashmir. He also asked the party workers to gear up for upcoming ULB

and Panchayat polls and ensure the victory of party in the general interest of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Rattan Lal Gupta urged the people to support the National Conference, as they believe it is the only party that can fulfill the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir for a brighter future. He said the National Conference strives to address

the concerns and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and work towards equitable development and progress.

Suresh Kumar Khajuria pledged to carry forward the mission of National Conference in transforming Jammu and Kashmir into a peaceful and progressive state with devotion and dedication.

Those who were present on this occasion: Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial Secretary Jammu, Babu Rampaul former minister and Central Zone President, Qazi Jalal Ud Din Ex-MLA, Bushan Lal Bhat Ex-MLC, Dr. Chaman Lal Bhagat Ex-MLA and Zonal Secretary Chenab valley, Dr. Shamsad Shan DDC Chairperson Ramban, Mohd Shafi Zargar DDC Rajgarh, Ayub Malik Provincial Secretary, Arif Mir District Secretary Ramban, Harshvardan Singh President NCSU, Sandesh Shan, S. Nirmal Singh, Man Mohan Banmotra, Zeevan Lal working Block President Rajgarh, Aruna Thakur District President women wing Ramban, Pooja Jaggi District Vice President Women wing Ramban.

NGO Anti Crime Bureau distributes notebooks, stationery items to GMS Maralia

TOP NEWS REPORT

RS PURA, Sep 21: In a generous gesture, the NGO "Anti Crime Bureau" extended support to the students of Government Middle School, Maralia (Miran Sahib) by distributing notebooks and essential stationery items.

Sham Lal Gupta, Chairman of the organization, graced the occasion with his presence as notebooks, stationery items (pencils, erasers, sharpeners, geometry boxes, scales, and pens), and biscuits were distributed among the students.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Gupta emphasized that the NGO, Anti Crime Bureau, is dedicated to promoting peace in society and providing essential



resources to students. He highlighted that the distribution of notebooks is a testament to the organization's commitment to the community, accomplished without any government assistance.

Gupta further urged parents to consider enrolling their children in government schools, emphasizing the sup-

port and facilities that the NGO intends to offer to students in the future. Swarna Devi, Zonal Education Officer, and Sahil Gupta, Corporator, extended their heartfelt appreciation to Chairman Sham Lal Gupta for his commendable efforts and requested the NGO to continue organizing such programs.

Surekha Sharma, Head Incharge of the school, motivated the students to focus on their studies, fostering a spirit of learning and growth.

Sarpanch Anju Rani, along with Panches and other community members, expressed their admiration for the dedication of Sham Lal Gupta and his team.

The people of Village Miran Sahib highly commended the work and efforts of the NGO, Anti Crime Bureau.

The students of Government School were elated to receive these notebooks and stationery items, and the event was met with smiles and enthusiasm from the young beneficiaries.

The event was attended by Sarpanch Anju Rani, Corporator Sahil Gupta, Panch Rajnish Kumar, Panch Manmohan Kumar, social worker Subash Chander, social worker S. Ranjeet Singh, and dedicated NGO volunteers Vijay Kumar, Rakesh Kumar, Sorab Digra, Rohit Kumar, Akshay Sharma, Vansh Mehra, and Ajay Singh.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT
Office of Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Jammu
Phone: 0191-2577745, Email: jfj.xenmidjmu@gmail.com

ABSTRACT OF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS
e-NIT No. MID/J-e-NIT/2023-24/80 Dated: 19-09-2023

Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Canal Road, Jammu, on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K UT, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from registered and reputed Firms **Replacement of damaged/wornout parts of 250 KVA Electrical Transformer along with allied works at LIS Batera.** The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover 'I' - Tender fee and Earnest Money Deposit, fulfillment of prequalification criteria, technical specifications and acceptance of terms and conditions of the tender and Cover 'II' - Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

S. No.	Name of Work	Qty.	Earnest Money	Cost of tender document	Period of completion	Validity of Rates	Name of Division
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Replacement of damaged/wornout parts of 250 KVA Electrical Transformer along with allied works at LIS Batera.	Complete job as per Scope of Work	2% of the quoted value	Rs200.00	10 Days	180 Days from date of Submission of bid.	Mechanical Irrigation Division, Jammu.

1. The tender documents can be viewed and downloaded from the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> from: **19-09-2023 (06:00PM)**

2. Submission of online bids: **20-09-2023 (10:00AM) to 30-09-2023 (02:00 P.M.)**

3. Opening of Cover I online bids: **03-10-2023 (2:00 PM)**

-sd-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical Irrigation Division
Jammu

DIP/J-8505/23

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECHANICAL DIVISION RAJOURI
Tele/Fax: 01962-261654 e-mail: xenphemrajouri@gmail.com

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e- NIT No. PHE/MDR/87 of 2023-24 Dated 18.09.2023

For and on behalf of The Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir (UT), Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Rajouri invites e-tenders from Approved contractors/ Registered firms /Original pump manufacturer/ their authorized dealer/ Workshop owners having experience in Electromechanical Works for following jobs: -

Name of work	Name of Division	Cost of tender document	Period of completion	Estimated cost (in lakh)	Bid Security	Bid Validity
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Installation, testing and commissioning of 100 kva voltage stabilizer, LT control panel cum star delta starter and interconnection between two delivery pipes along with allied works at pumping station Nadian Saralla	Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Rajouri	Rs. 500.00 (Non-Refundable) in the shape of Treasury Challan in favour of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Rajouri	15 days	2.10 lacs	As per Annexure "B" attached	Bid shall be valid for 180 days

1. The bidding documents can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> from **19.09.2023 (10:00 AM) to 28.09.2023 (04:00 PM)**. Bidding document contains instruction for bidders, bill of quantities, general terms and condition and other details.

a) The Bids shall be uploaded in electronic format on the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> from **21.09.2023 (10:00 AM) to 28.09.2023 (04:00 PM)**.

b) The complete bidding process will be through electronic mode.

c) A pre-bid meeting will be held on **20.09.2023 (11:00 AM)** in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Rajouri to address any queries from the firms.

d) Cover-I of the bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on **29.09.2023 (12:00 PM)** in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Rajouri in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

2. As per the Govt. Order No. O.M. No. A/24(2017)-651 Dated. 07-06-2018.

a) Furnishing of hard copies of bids immediately after submission of e-Tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as LI after opening of Financial Bids.

b) The cost of the tenders should be collected by introducing e-challan by simply uploading a copy of necessary treasury challan/Receipt.

3. Other details can be seen in the bidding document.

4. The guidelines regarding submission of bid in electronic mode can be downloaded from website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>

5. The bidders shall go through the tender specific instructions sheet also.

6. The bidders for any clarification can contact the department through e-mail xenphemrajouri@gmail.com

No: -PHE/MDR/3507-3510
Dated: 18.09.2023

-sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Division
Rajouri

DIP/J-8535/23

EDITORIAL

STOP SOCIAL EVILS

India is a huge country where people of different religions, castes and communities live. In other words, unity in diversity is our identity and pride. But it is also the cause of many problems. Sometimes there is a lot of problem in establishing harmony between caste, language, lifestyle and differences.

There are differences in the ideology of people of different religions and communities. The casteism, communalism, linguism etc. prevalent in the country are its side effects. Due to this, today news of riots, fights and massacres is heard from all the states of the country.

Atrocities against women, abuse and rape are shameful problems of our society. In ancient times, women were worshiped as goddesses, but today their feelings are suppressed. The man's ego opposes giving him equal rights. Dowry system is very prevalent not only among the uneducated but also among our civilized and educated people.

Every day many Indian women become victims of brutality of people due to dowry system. Problems like superstition and orthodoxy are pushing our country backward. Problems like superstition are taking our youth towards fatalism. Due to which Karmic inferiority complex is developing in them and they curse their fate for their failures. Similarly, there are many types of social evils in our country.

All the social evils that exist in our society today can probably be listed. Some of the major ones are juvenile delinquency, child marriage, dowry system, child abuse, fraud, drug supply, currency smuggling, bribery, corruption, hoarding of essential commodities, animal abuse, lack of employment opportunities, poverty, disease. And hunger, injustice and abuse of power etc.

We try to present our country as a modern leading country and it is true that India is making progress in the world along with encouraging development in scientific, economic and technological fields. As far as social development is concerned, it is still lagging behind other countries in this area.

Various steps have been taken by the government to eliminate the social problems spreading in the country. Through which social problems are being eliminated. By running various types of campaigns, people are being made aware about social problems and are also being told how to fight social problems.

To eliminate the social problem, it is necessary for the public to be aware before school and when the public will be educated. Then the public will easily become aware of social problems. Therefore, education seems to be directly related to tackling social problems.

A lot needs to be done to improve the situation. This work is not possible without changing people's thinking. The aim is to educate people about various problems. They have to be sensitized to change their thinking. Because without the cooperation of the people, all government and non-government efforts are futile. People should be ready to fight against the problems together with the country and the government.

Elderly people have the right to live a dignified life

By: Vijay Garg



Individualistic and opportunistic thinking has made the structure of society rude and insensitive in the present era. Now the essence of relationships remains only that people are maintaining relationships as per their need. As soon as the need ends, even the elders in the house start being considered a burden. Today, it is the same story in every household that the elders of the house are forced to live a life of loneliness, contempt, neglect and fear by the family mem-

bers. In this era of modernity, consumerist culture and metropolitan due to modern understanding, there has been a change in the thinking of the new generation in the changing environment of social values. The integrated lifestyle has created many problems for the elderly. Article 21 of the Constitution gives every human being the right to live a dignified life, but what can one do when one's own right becomes an obstacle? Well, it is a great irony of our society that we have become so blind in our desire for sons that we are unable to give the love to our daughters that they actually deserve. Even today in our society it is filled with male chauvinist mentality. Even today we consider sons as Kuldeepak, while daughters are considered

as someone else's wealth, but often these same Kuldeepak leave their own father in an old age home. We are the people of the country having the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. Then how are they becoming so blind in the race of modernity that they are bent upon abandoning their own traditions. Is this modernity, in which we forget to respect our loved ones? Why do we forget that mother brought us into this world by bearing the greatest pain of her life? Has given birth, the father has taught us to walk holding the finger, has made us capable of knowing the difference between right and wrong. Then when they need our support. So how can we turn back? We have to understand what our elders are trying to tell us. Today instead of listen-

ing to them, we have started telling our stories. This is the reason why criminal tendencies are increasing in the society in the present times. Today we want to preserve the old buildings, but leave the elders at home helpless and in tears. Are. Only if we give our elderly parents the right to live a respectful life, our present and future will be secure. Otherwise, the way we are making our parents homeless. Tomorrow we will also grow old and our children will also see and learn the same things that we do with our parents today. Have been.

(Vijay Garg Retired
Principal Educational
Columnist Malout
Punjab)

IS THE SUN MAKING YOU AGE FASTER?



By: Shahnaz Husain

Ageing is a natural process. It's something that happens to all of us starting the day we're born. But, have you ever wondered why some people look much older than they are while others seem ageless?

Besides the genetic lottery, there's something bigger at play in the world of how our skin ages. Sun exposure contributes to 90% of the visible signs of ageing! which is termed as Photoaging.

Photoaging is also called sun damage, or solar damage and photodamage.

Photoaging also called extrinsic aging refers to premature aging of your skin caused by light exposure. This can also include visible (HEV) and infrared light emitted from phones or computers which can be seen by the human eye.

Photoaging is caused when UV radiation, which is made up of UVA and UVB rays hits skin unprotected by sunscreen, causing DNA changes at a cellular level. In general, UVB rays burn, while UVA rays age the skin.

Photoaging appears on the most visible parts of the body — face, neck, and back of the hand. These areas often receive significant sun exposure. In women, the exposed

upper chest is another area where photoaging is seen. Exposure to harmful UV rays often occurs unexpectedly, like while in a vehicle or when it's cloudy.

One of the most effective ways to prevent photoaging is by protecting your skin from harmful UV radiation. Sun protection methods include wearing sunscreen with a broad-spectrum SPF of at least 30, which can shield skin from both UVA and UVB rays, accessories like sunglasses and wide-brimmed hats, and remaining indoors during peak sun hours. Some sunscreens now contain DNA repair enzymes that help undo previous damage by using nearby undamaged DNA to fix the area. These products can enhance anti-aging regimens.

Most of the damage we see in older adults is the cumulative damage from childhood and young adult years. The earlier someone starts using good sun protection, the better their skin will age. More than 15 minutes of direct sunlight is not recommended for the skin.

UV radiation tends to be strongest between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. during summer and in areas with a higher altitude.

Avoid going outside during peak UV hours typically between 10 AM-2 PM.

Sit under umbrellas and in the shade when possible.

Using Antioxidants to Protect Your Skin

The term antioxidant is a buzzword used throughout the health and beauty industry.

Antioxidants are used extensively in over-the-counter

skincare products and cosmeceuticals. Antioxidants are powerful compounds that neutralize free radicals and help protect your skin from UV damage. Some commonly used antioxidants in skincare products include vitamins C and E, Niacinamide, and green tea extract. However, the most abundant Trusted Source of antioxidants in the skin is vitamin C.

Vitamin C helps stimulate collagen production and is the best antioxidant for fading dark marks. Niacinamide known as vitamin B3 is a wonder product for fading dark spots and hyperpigmentation. Incorporating these ingredients into your daily skincare routine can help boost your skin's natural defenses against photoaging.

Antioxidants are present in a wide range of foods such as pomegranates, apples, lemons, and dried fruits, vegetables, such as kale, broccoli, chilis, olives, beets, peppers, and berries, such as gooseberries, bilberries, blackberries, and blueberries. Antioxidants may be valuable in skin care, both topically and orally. However, It is not advisable to use large doses for prolonged periods without seeking medical advice, as this may cause adverse effects. Studies suggest that skincare products containing several different antioxidant ingredients offer higher antioxidant activity and are therefore more effective.

Retinol: Retinoids are compounds that include Vitamin A and its derivatives. Vitamin A is used by the body in many ways beyond skincare:

to improve vision, regulate cell proliferation and differentiation, grow bone tissue, and activate immune function and tumor suppressor genes.

Retinol is arguably the most effective over-the-counter (OTC) ingredient for reducing fine lines and wrinkles. Including retinoids will boost new cell production, smooth the skin, and slow down collagen wear and tear every day. You can start retinoids once you age 40 and onwards but consult a dermatologist before adding them to your skincare routine.

Chemical peels: In a chemical peel, a chemical liquid, such as trichloroacetic acid or glycolic acid, is applied to your skin. Peels remove brown spots and actinic keratoses and improve the tone and texture of photoaged skin so new skin comes to the surface and treats fine lines and wrinkles. Although superficial chemical peels can be used for early signs of photoaging, medium-depth, and deep peels are necessary when the extent of photoaging is significantly more severe.

Additionally, lifestyle factors such as yoga, meditation, and physical exercise can also play a role in the prevention and treatment of photoaging. Understanding the various options available for treating and preventing photoaging is an important step in developing a comprehensive skincare routine that can help to maintain the health and appearance of the skin over

The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India

GDC Kishtwar, JKST&IC organises symposium, poster-making competition



STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR, Sep 21: GDC Kishtwar under the guidance of Dr. Jyoti Parihar, Principal GDC Kishtwar, and in collaboration with Jammu Kashmir Science Technology and Innovation Council (JKST&IC) organised symposium and poster making Competition on theme 'Global Science for Global Wellbeing' that served as a platform for students to explore the intersection of science and global challenges.

Dr. Sehrish Gazal held the proceedings of the event and also presented the welcome address. In her address she welcomed all the participants and also introduces the jury members.

Shruti Khanna (Guest of Honour) from Jammu Kashmir Science and Technology Department joined virtually and presented the inaugural address. In her address she highlighted the various initiatives taken by JKST&IC (Udhampur) in promoting scientific temperament among the students and general public.

She also acknowledges the effort of GDC Kishtwar in organising this event and also about the department's commitment for future collaboration with the college to organise more such programmes.

Students who participated in the symposium gave detail presentation on global pressing issues ranging from a general view on why we need global science contribution for the global well being to specific areas where global science contribution is needed such as health, pandemics, climate change and sustainable and resilient agriculture to ensure global food security.

After completion of symposium, poster making competition was held which provide a platform for students to creatively express their view on global well being.

Both symposium and poster making competition were judged by the jury member's comprising of Dr. Ashaq Hussain (Associate professor and Science Educator), Prof. Romana Akhter (Sr. Assistant Professor), and Prof. Waseem Rasheed (Assistant Professor).

Jury members also speaks on the occasion in which Dr. Ashaq Hussain gave a detailed presentation on why there is need of global science contribution and how scientific knowledge can play an important role in tackling global problems. He also encouraged students to participate in such events as these events provide a platform to students to

express their views.

Prof. Romana Akhter also speaks on the occasion about scientific contribution for global good.

Prof. Waseem Rasheed in his address shed light on global collaborations which are needed for the global well being.

Principal Dr. Jyoti Parihar who was also chief guest of the occasion also speaks in length about interdisciplinary and trans disciplinary approaches needed for modern day threats which are hampering the global well being such as pandemics, food security and also shed light on the need to preserve biodiversity for the well being of our planet.

She also congratulated the entire organising committee for organising this workshop and also thanks JKST&IC for providing the financial support for organising this event.

After this prize distribution ceremony was held in which prizes were distributed among the winners of both poster and symposium competition.

Abroo Wajid, Mutaqeen-ul-islam and Tanuja Thakur bag the first, seconds and third prize in symposium whereas Ayesha Kousar, Mamta Kumari, Anamika and Sahila Parveen bags first, second and third prize in poster making com-

petition.

The prize comprises of cash prize of Rs 1000, Rs 700 and Rs 500 and trophies to 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively in both the events and consolation prizes were given all the participants.

55 students participated in both the events. Mementos were also presented to the jury members and chief guest. The event culminated with the vote of thanks presented by Prof. Sarita Parihar.

In the end refreshment were given to all the participants. The event was organised by faculty from science department and coordinated by Prof. Sushil Kumar and Prof. Ajay Kumar and Prof. Sachinjit Singh. The event was attended by the teaching staff, non teaching staff and students of the college.

LFO-BHF organises free medical camp

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 21: Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation (LFO-BHF), a non-profit organization dedicated to making a positive impact on the community, recently organized a free medical camp in Maralia, Miran Sahib inaugurated by BDO Miran Sahib, Gurjeet Singh.

The event, which was held in collaboration with Talla Jewellers and association with Dharmik Avem Samajik Sudhar Sanstha Maralia aimed to provide essential medical services to the local community and promote health and well-being.

Medical professionals namely Dr. Nancy, Dr. Manpreet, Dr. Sushant, Dr. Rajesh, Dr. Farha, Dr. Neeharika from GMC, Jammu conducted Eye OPD whereas Dr. Aakriti, Dr. Pooja from SMGS Hospital conducted Gynaecology consulta-



tion; Dr. Iqbal, Dr. Amita, Dr. Anu Gandral, Dr. Manisha from Dental Hospital, Ambphala conducted Dental OPD and Dr. Vishal, Dr. Titiksha, Dr. Manju & Dr. Komal from Ayurvedic Hospital, Jammu conducted consultation.

All the doctors volunteered their time and expertise to ensure that the local community had access to quality healthcare services. Patients were able to consult with doctors, receive diagnoses, and obtain necessary medications to address their health

concerns.

Jyoti, President (National Body), LFO-BHF expressed her gratitude to all the volunteers, sponsors, and participants who made this event possible.

She said, "Our mission has always been to make a positive impact on the lives of those in need. This Free Medical Camp is just one of the many ways we are working towards that goal. We are immensely grateful to Talla Jewellers for their collaboration and support."

Abhishek Raina, Sec-

retary (Jammu Province) said, The event received positive feedback from the local residents, who expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to receive medical care and consultations at no cost. It underscored the importance of such community initiatives in ensuring access to healthcare services for all.

Volunteers present on the occasion were Stuti, Sahil, Shubam, Rikhil, Robin, Kunal, Babita, Shruti, Sachin, Abhishek Gupta, Sahil Sharma and Arun Singh.

Constitute Municipality in Mendhar before Local Body Elections: Dr Shazad

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 21: Jammu and Kashmir Border Areas Development Conference (JK-BADC), a registered organization working for the welfare of residents of border areas of J & K has once again reiterated its demand of setting up Municipal Committee in border town Mendhar of district Poonch for providing better sanitation, enhanced hygienic facilities and planned, controlled and managed construction of Lanes, drains and buildings in the border town.

Dr Shazad Ahmed Malik, Chairman of JK-BADC and former Vice Chancellor has urged the government for establishment of Municipal Committee in border town Mendhar before announcement of Panchayat and municipal elections because as presently due to uncontrolled and unplanned construction of infrastructure including private, government and commercial buildings in the Mendhar town the roads, lanes and drains are being encroached upon by rogue elements



and there is no check on it.

BADC Chairman citing the poor hygiene facilities there in Mendhar town also highlighted the issue of choked drains and unplanned disposal of solid, liquid and other harmful wastes. He said as the Mendhar is house to a huge population thus it is imperative that all the political parties should join hands and contribute their efforts in establishment of municipal body in the border town before elections to provide a sigh of relief to the residents.

Dr Shazad has been demanding municipality for Mendhar and during last over a decade has submitted dozens of representations and memorandums to senior officers and government functionaries.

New India Foundation announces commencement of applications for 2nd round of NIF Translation Fellowships

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 21: The New India Foundation (NIF) is pleased to announce the commencement of applications for the 2nd round of the NIF Translation Fellowships to be awarded in 2024.

Aimed at encouraging translations from important non-fiction works in Indian languages into English, the NIF Translation Fellowships will showcase the country's rich history through its diverse languages and literary knowledge traditions.

The first round of the Fellowships (awarded to Bangla, Kannada and Marathi) are all slated for publication by 2025.

These three significant translations will supplement the 32 books already published under the New India Foundation aegis through the flagship Book Fellowship programme.

Our aim through the Translation Fellowships is to expand on the NIF's mission to sponsor research and writing on all aspects of Independent India.

Proposals are invited from translators for ten Indian languages: Assamese, Bangla, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Marathi, Malayalam, Odia, Tamil and Urdu. Each language has a corresponding Expert from our Language Expert Committee, which consists of leading Indian authors and scholars, to ensure the highest standards of selection and support.

The Fellowship will be awarded on the basis of the choice of text, quality of translation, and overall project

proposal. The non-fiction source text from any of the 10 languages can be ecumenical, with no constraints on genre as long as it elucidates upon any socio-economic/cultural aspect of Indian history from the year 1850 onwards. NIF is expanding our mission of post-1947 India to include a broadly defined modern India only for the Translation Fellowship.

Awarded for a period of 6 months with a stipend of Rs 6 lakhs to each recipient, the Translation Fellowships will be awarded to translators/writers working on bringing historical Indian-language texts to an English publication. By the end of the year, Fellows are expected to publish the translated works, which will be an extension of their winning proposals.

Speaking on this initiative, Manish Sabharwal, Managing Trustee of the New India Foundation said: "The Translation Fellowships are an attempt to bring Indian knowledge in Indian languages to wider audiences by publishing them in English. There are rich intellectual traditions in our bhashas which deserve to be made accessible and this is our effort towards that."

Applications open on September 20th and deadline for submissions for the same is December 31, 2023.

The Jury for these fellowships this year includes the NIF Trustees: political scientist Niraja Jayal Gopal, historian Srinath Raghavan, and entrepreneur Manish Sabharwal alongside the Language Expert Committee in all 10 languages, comprising of esteemed bilingual scholars, professors, academics, and literary translators.

11th Vishal Bhagwati Jagran by Jai Durga Yuva Sanstha on Sep 23



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 15: Jai Durga Yuva Sanstha is proud to announce the upcoming 11th Vishal Bhagwati Jagran, scheduled to take place on September 23, 2023. The event will be held at the New JDA Parking area, near the revered Bawe Wali Mata Mandir in Bahu Fort, Jammu.

Amit Luthra, the esteemed Chairman of Jai Durga Yuva Sanstha, expressed his anticipation for a significant turnout of devotees who will gather to seek blessings and offer their devotion to Maa Bhagwati.

The Vishal Bhagwati Jagran is set to commence at 9 PM, prom-

ising an evening filled with spiritual ecstasy. Renowned bhajan singers and accomplished musicians will lead the congregation in soul-stirring devotional songs and hymns. This event is designed to foster a deep sense of spiritual connection and unity among all attendees.

In addition to the spiritual program, Jai Durga Yuva Sanstha has organized a Bhandara, which will commence at 7 PM, offering a chance for devotees to partake in a communal meal. This gesture embodies the essence of community and sharing, enhancing the overall experience of the event.

Amit Luthra, along with

fellow members Tirok Singh Negi, Vishal Talla, Lalit Luthra, Gourav Luthra, Raveesh Mengi, Nakul Sharma, Rohit Verma, and others from the sanstha, extend a warm invitation to people from all walks of life to join this auspicious gathering. Mr. Luthra remarked, "We encourage everyone, regardless of their background, to participate wholeheartedly and experience the divine energy and spiritual solace that the Vishal Bhagwati Jagran offers. This event is an opportunity to come together as a community, transcending our differences, and celebrate our shared faith and devotion."

Jayesh launches New Film 'Udta Jammu'; releases Album Song Bhagti ka Rang on Bawe Wali Mata

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 21: Renowned filmmaker Jayesh Gupta, celebrated for his award-winning films "Bacche Mann ke Sacche" and "Kyu," has unveiled his latest cinematic endeavor, "Udta Jammu."

In an official press conference held earlier today, Gupta introduced his upcoming film that aims to tackle the pressing issue of drug menace in the region.

With a track record of delivering thought-provoking narratives that resonate with audiences worldwide, Jayesh Gupta is set to take on the challenge of highlighting the drug crisis affecting the beautiful landscapes of Jammu and Kashmir. This latest project will mark his return to the direc-



tor's chair, with Gupta also handling production and writing duties for the film.

Addressing the media, Jayesh Gupta expressed his deep concern for the escalating drug problem in Jammu, emphasizing the adverse impact it has had on the lives of its residents, particularly the younger generation.

He stated that "UDTA JAMMU" will serve as a powerful vehicle for raising awareness about this critical issue and delivering a meaningful social message to the public.

The film will be shot at various locations throughout Jammu and Kashmir, showcasing the breathtaking beauty of the region while

shedding light on the dark shadows cast by drug-related activities.

Mr. Gupta's commitment to nurturing local talent will once again shine through in this project, with all the cast members hailing from Jammu and Kashmir, offering them a significant platform to display their skills and contribute to this important nar-

rative.

In addition to the film announcement, Jayesh Gupta also unveiled an album song titled "Bhagti ka Rang" dedicated to "Bawe wali Mata." The soulful track, sung by the talented Sarita Gupta, Jayesh Gupta's wife, features music composed by Ash K. and lyrics penned by Sonu Raipuria. The song's production and direction have been masterfully executed by Jayesh Gupta himself.

"Bhagti ka Rang" pays tribute to the spiritual and cultural heritage of the region and serves as a precursor to the forthcoming film, "UDTA JAMMU." The release of this song adds another layer of depth to Gupta's commitment to using art and storytelling to bring about positive change.

From stereotypical characters on screen, the portrayal of transgender characters has witnessed a sea-change



As the entertainment space aims at inclusivity, transgenders are no more playing the villainous brothel-keeper or that funny friend who dresses up weirdly for comic relief. Increasingly, they have become significant part of stories, at times taking a central role — be it Sushmita Sen in transgender activist Gauri Sawant's role in the biopic Taali or Akshay Kumar headlining Laxmii or Nawazuddin Siddiqui in Haddi.

Deepa Mehta's documentary I am Sirat, which recently created a buzz at Toronto Film Festival, unravels the inner life of a Delhi-based transgender woman. Do these portrayals on screen herald a change towards a new world that's inclusive or is it merely lip service in a world where being politically right is significant? We take a look.

Changing contours
The portrayal of transgender identity on screen has sure evolved over the years, barring a few exceptions. It reflects changing societal attitudes and awareness about gender diversity. However, it's essential to note that there is no 'one-size-fits-all' answer to this question, as the representation of transgenders varies across different productions and time periods.

"In the past, transgender characters in Indian cinema were often depicted using stereotypes and caricatures, contributing to their stigmatisation and marginalisation. They were frequently portrayed as comedians or villains," says actor Rajesh Kumar, who has been part of the recent release Haddi. But in recent years, there has been a noticeable shift towards more realistic

portrayals. "Filmmakers and series' creators have started to explore the lives, struggles and aspirations of transgenders with greater depth and sensitivity. This shift has helped in humanising them and raising awareness about their issues," he adds.

Although struggles of the transgender community are coloured in a humorous hue, the representation is not uniform. "It's crucial to recognise that transgenders are not a monolithic group and that their experiences intersect with other aspects of identity, such as caste, class, religion, and regional background. Thus, some productions may provide more nuanced and authentic portrayals than others," says actress Dharti Bhatt.

The representation of transgender identity in Indian cinema and

web series has indeed progressed, with certain productions taking meaningful steps to foster understanding and inclusivity. "Nonetheless, complexities persist and the degree of advancement fluctuates across different works. The essential task ahead involves advocating for more genuine and diverse portrayals, all the while remaining aware of the risk of shallow depictions, driven solely by political correctness," Dharti adds.

Matter of portrayal
Now, there are more empathetic depictions — be it Kubbra Sait as Kuckoo in Sacred Games or Vaani Kapoor as a transgender Zumba trainer, Maanvi Brar, in Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui. Their respective love stories talk of inclusion. However, the recent release Haddi takes a U-turn towards

making them a distinctive community, "Pata hai log humse kyon darte hain, hamara aashirwad bahut shaktishali hota hai aur hamara shrap bahut bhayavay. Aur us se bhi bhayanak jaante ho kya hota hai — hamara badla," says Nawazuddin as Harika, in Haddi. Earlier, in Laxmii, Akshay Kumar's transgender character too perpetuated more stereotypes.

On the flip side, Sushmita Sen in Taali and Trinetra Haldar Gummaraju, who plays Meher in the second season of the Indian web series Made In Heaven, not only bring to screen realistic characters, but also raise awareness about the community and its struggles. Sirat, whose life story Deepa Mehta highlights in I am Sirat, hopes that the documentary will help her mother accept her as a proud transgender woman.

"Advocacy, legal changes, and international influences also play a role. The challenge lies in balancing entertainment with education and striving for continuous improvement in representation," says actress Anupama Solanki.

Hina Khan on her debut single Barsaat Aa Gayi



Hina Khan is set to make her singing debut with Barsaat Aa Gayi, and called it a "surreal"

experience. Hina took to her social media platforms to share this news. Hina said, "I have officially sung my first-ever song on record, and the entire experience was truly surreal. Hearing my own voice being recorded for the beautiful Barsaat Aa Gayi track was such an exciting experience."

"One of the most intriguing experiences of mine as a performer. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and I am very excited for everybody to hear the song. I am also sure of this not only being my first of many songs, as I definitely want to explore a lot more singing as well."

The song will be released on Vyr! Originals. Just a few days ago, Hina let a sneak peek into her upcoming project, Barsaat Aa Gayi by sharing captivating behind-the-scenes glimpses.

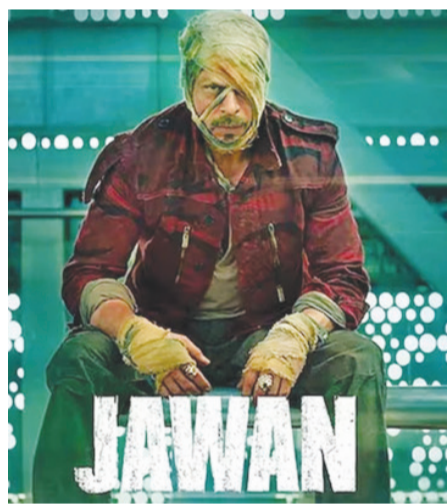
Hina is known for playing Akshara in the television show Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai and Komolika in Kasautii Zindagii Kay 2. She made her Bollywood debut in 2020 with Vikram Bhatt directorial Hacked.

Jawan crosses Rs 900 crore mark globally

Jawan, headlined by Shah Rukh Khan, has amassed Rs 907.54 crore at the global box-office in 13 days of its release. Production house Red Chillies Entertainment shared the latest data on its official X page. "And this is how the King ruled the box office!" the banner captioned the post. Jawan hit the screens on September 7 in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

A high-octane action thriller that outlines 'the emotional journey of a man who is set to rectify the wrongs in society', the film stars Shah Rukh in the dual role of Vikram Rathore and his son Azad. It also stars Nayanthara and Vijay Sethupathi with Deepika Padukone and Sanjay Dutt in special appearances.

Sanya Malhotra, Priyamani, Girija Oak, Sanjeeta Bhattacharya, Lehar Khan, Aaliyah Qureshi, Ridhi Dogra,



Sunil Grover and Mukesh Chhabra are also a part of the cast. A Red Chillies Entertainment presentation, Jawan is produced by Gauri Khan and co-produced by Gaurav Verma.

Comedians Cricket League to take place this weekend at Sector 16 stadium

This is big news for the fans of comedy as well as cricket! Dhruv Bakshi, owner, The Laugh Club, has come up with the idea of combining the two most loved things with the event Comedians Cricket League. It will be hosted this weekend at the Sector 16 Cricket Stadium with three teams — Chandigarh Challengers, Delhi Destroyers and Mumbai Maestros — competing against each other.

The tickets are available online on BookMyShow. The trophy was revealed at The Laugh Club on Wednes-



day. About how he managed to get every popular comedian to participate, Dhruv says, "It was surely a tough task. While this idea was in mind for quite some time, it took us one year

to lock the dates for this fun yet competitive cricket match." Earlier in 2021, The Laugh Club started Chandigarh Comedy Festival. Entering its third edition this year, comedians from all over India

perform at a single venue for two continuous days in November. Apart from entertainment for tricity people, it's a charity event wherein the cash amount of winning team will be donated to a

NGO called Initiators for Change.

More than 50 comedians, including Abhishek Upmanyu, Anubhav Singh Bassi, Munawar Faruqui, Harsh Gujral, Samay Raina, Punit Pania and Aakash Gupta, will take part in the event.

Not just that, expect your favourite comedian to enter the commentary box and roast the opponents! On Saturday, September 23, three matches (15 overs each) will be played. Top two teams will fight the next day for the trophy in a 20 overs match.

Waseem Mushtaq returns to TV with Aangan Apno Ka

Actor Waseem Mushtaq, who was last seen in TV show Spy Bahu, has joined the cast of upcoming show Aangan Apno Ka.

Waseem said, "It is my comeback to screens after more than a year. I have finally taken up a show and the primary reason for doing the show is the strong content in the storyline and amazing characterisation by the makers of the show."

"While reading the opening episodes I remembered my first

show 12/24 Karol Bagh which too had a plot based in Delhi and the characters were very relevant," he added.

He is popularly known for featuring in shows like Bhagyavidhaata, Aur Pyaar Ho Gaya, Kahaan Hum Kahaan Tum among others, and will be seen playing a grey shaded role.

He said, "I will essay Varun, a guy of today's generation who has grey shades. I feel when the audience will watch me on the screen, they will easily relate to him. I'm



excited and looking forward to this new journey."

Meanwhile, he is also pursuing singing as a career alongside acting and business.

"While I was off shooting, I was concentrating on my business and gearing up for my original songs scheduled to launch later this year. And have literally said no to almost 10-15 shows in the last one year."

Aangan Apno Ka will air on Sony Sab.

Katha becomes a modern bride



Aditi Dev Sharma, who has become a fan favourite for her endearing role as

Katha in Sony Entertainment Television's Kathaa Ankahee, will be seen ditching the quintessential bridal red attire and opting for a trendy look for the upcoming wedding sequence in the show.

Katha's bridal look draws inspiration from one of B-town's most beautiful brides, Kiara Advani — who perfected the contemporary bridal look. Katha will be seen donning a lovely pastel pink lehenga with exquisite embroidery, eye-catching jewellery, and minimal makeup, making for a picture-perfect bride.

Aditi says, "The team and I decided to keep the outfit subtle as Katha has always found solace in simplicity. Less is more for Katha, and this is not just another wedding, but also a celebration of second chances and the love that she feels for Viaan. Hence, we went ahead with a simple yet elegant attire."

An enchanting interaction with well-known actor Anupam Kher

The Valley Gardens, an exquisite enclave nestled in the heart of Panchkula, hosted an enchanting interaction with well-known actor Anupam Kher recently. The event, titled An Experience Called Home, offered a captivating insight into how the concept of 'home' has been an integral part of Kher's remarkable life journey.

With sharp wit, warmth and profound wisdom, Kher captivated the audience with anecdotes from his remarkable career. He shed light on how the concept of 'home' has



been a pivotal force in shaping both his personal life and professional journey. The session took the audience on an intimate explo-

ration of his experiences and emotions, emphasising that 'home' transcends physical borders to become a profound feeling. What truly set this event apart was the open forum, allowing the audience to engage directly with him. Kher graciously addressed questions, offering valuable insights into his craft, life lessons, and the core values that have guided him in his cinematic journey. Additionally, a select few participants were fortunate enough to receive autographed copies of his latest book.

Anne Hathaway feels insulted when people say she looks good for her age



Hollywood actress Anne Hathaway does not see it as a compliment when people tell her she looks good for her age! The 40-year-old actress considers the concept of ageing irrelevant and sees the process as 'another word for living'.

"I don't think about age. To me, ageing is another word for living. So, if people want to pay a compliment, it's nice.

But whatever the hype is, I'm

interested in what's beyond the concept of hype," Anne said. The Devil Wears Prada star also explained that she had learnt to be kinder to herself now that she had grown older and was also better at 'sharing'.

She explained: "I'm right at that point where I have a much better sense of how I like to do things. I'm so much better at sharing. I feel like I'm kinder to myself and kinder to others."

Passing of women reservation bill a golden day in India's parliamentary history, PM Modi says in Lok Sabha

Thanks all members for passing the bill with overwhelming majority

NEW DELHI, Sep 21 (Agencies): A day after the Lok Sabha passed the bill to allow 33 per cent reservation for women, Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaking in Lok Sabha on Thursday said the passing of the bill is a 'golden day' in the parliamentary history of the country.

Modi said all members of the House cutting across party lines needed to be equally praised. "I thank all those who debated and helped in passing the bill and thank all of you from the core of my heart," said Modi.

He said the decision of pass-



ing the bill would add strength to the country. The confidence of the country would soar higher and would provide an energy

that cannot even be visualised, Modi said.

He hoped the bill would pass muster through Rajya Sabha.

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday night passed the historic constitutional amendment Bill to reserve 33 per cent seats for women in Parliament, state Assemblies and Delhi Assembly with a thumping 454-2 majority.

The government has clarified that the quota provisions would come into effect after 2029 once the delimitation exercise followed by a census is completed.

'I would have liked to see the President of India in the new Parliament building': Rahul Gandhi

NEW DELHI, Sep 21 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday asked why President Droupadi Murmu, a woman and the first person from the tribal community to hold the high office, was not invited for the opening of the new Parliament building.

"I would have liked to see the President of India in this premise. The President of India is a woman, she represents the tribal community, it would have been befitting to have her presence in this transfer from one house to the another," he said.

Congress MP Ranjeet Ranjan also questioned the President's absence

at the new parliament building inauguration.

Initiating a discussion on The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023, which seeks to provide 33 per cent reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies, Ranjan also questioned why it took the BJP nine-and-a-half years to bring the bill despite promising it in the party's election manifesto in 2014.

"I want to ask why the president was not invited to the inauguration of the new Parliament building. She is a woman and comes from a tribal community," she said.



Stating that her party supports the bill, Ranjan questioned the need to call a special session to pass it instead of during a regular session. "Limelight lene ke aadat hai (it is a habit to hog the limelight)," she said, adding that the BJP is now trying to use women before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. She also questioned the government on its intentions on several issues, saying it did not consult anyone before the demonetisation of high-value currency notes and added that 155 people died during the limited window to exchange the banned notes.

It did not consult anyone when the three controversial farm laws were introduced, no one in government spoke

when women wrestlers protested against a BJP MP over allegations of sexual harassment and two women were paraded naked in strife-torn Manipur, the Congress member said.

Ranjan also questioned the conditions of a delimitation exercise based on census data for giving reservations to women.

"You want to raise the number of seats (in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies) and then give women reservation. Why not give them a share in the present seats?" She also demanded reservations for OBCs, similar to that for SCs/STs.

Odisha CM Patnaik says BJD strongly supports Women Reservation Bill



BHUBANESWAR, Sep 21 (Agencies): Ruling BJD president and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday said his party strongly supported the Women Reservation Bill tabled in Parliament.

"As you know, my party has always promoted the Women Reservation Bill in the Assembly and

elsewhere. I hope it will be passed shortly," Patnaik told reporters here.

Earlier, the BJD had issued a three-line whip for its Rajya Sabha MPs to remain present in the House and support the passage of the Bill. A three-line whip is a strict instruction to attend and vote according to the party's position, a

breach of which would normally have serious consequences.

Notably, the BJD has long been pushing for the Bill and made a strong pitch for its passage in both Houses. Senior BJD MP Bhartruhari Mahtab said Odisha is a model state for women's quota as former CM Biju Patnaik had first introduced 1/3rd reservation for women in panchayat and urban local body elections in 1991.

Thereafter, the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments were brought to ensure reservation for women in local body elections in all states.

Bharatanatyam exponent Saroja Vaidyanathan dies at 86



NEW DELHI, Sep 21 (Agencies): Bharatanatyam dancer Saroja Vaidyanathan died at her residence here in the early hours of Thursday after battling cancer, her daughter-in-law and dancer Rama Vaidyanathan said. She had turned 86 on September 19.

"She passed away at around 4 am today morning. She had been battling with cancer for some time now," Rama told agency.

The classical dancer was conferred the Padma Shri in 2002 and the Padma Bhushan in 2013. Vaidyanathan was known for her extensive contribution to Bharatanatyam and Carnatic music in the form of 10 full-length ballets and nearly 2,000 choreographies.

Rama remembered her mother-in-law and guru for leaving a 50-year-old

legacy behind in the form of Ganesa Natyalaya, a classical dance school in the national capital.

"It is now our duty to take her legacy forward. I remember her for the love and affection she gave all of us. Where I am today is solely because of her," Rama said.

The last rites will be performed at the Lodhi Crematorium on Friday at 2 pm. Minister of Culture G Kishan Reddy took to X to pay condolences on Vaidyanathan's demise.

"Saddened by the news of the passing away of Smt Dr Saroja Vaidyanathan - revered 'Bharatanatyam' Guru & Padma Bhushan Awardee and a prolific choreographer. Her contributions to the field of art & culture are laudable. My condolences to the family of Dr Saroja Vaidyanathan," Reddy posted.

Bharatanatyam dancer and Rajya Sabha MP Sonal Mansingh also remembered Vaidyanathan for her "immense contribution to the dance world".

"Legendary Bharatanatyam exponent Guru Dr. Saroja Vaidyanathan passed away this morning leaving behind a rich legacy. My condolences to the family. Her contribution to the dance world has been immense, her loss will be deeply felt amongst the dance fraternity (sic)" Mansingh wrote.

4 killed, 3 hurt as truck rams into roadside eatery in UP's Hapur

HAPUR, Sep 21 (Agencies): Four people were killed and three injured when a canter truck rammed into a roadside dhaba in this Uttar Pradesh district, police said on Thursday.

The accident occurred in the Dhaulana police station area here on Wednesday night when the driver of the truck

lost control over the vehicle and rammed into the dhaba, located near the Zubeda marriage home on the Dhaulana-Mussoorie road, SHO Devendra Singh Bisht said.

Seven people were injured in the incident. Police sent them to a hospital where four were declared dead.

Two of the deceased were identified as Arun (28) and Jitendra (18).

The condition of the three injured people remains critical, the SHO said.

On being informed about the incident, SP Abhishek Verma, ASP Rajkumar and Circle Officer Varun Mishra rushed to the

spot.

Mishra said four people were killed in the accident and two of them were identified. The victims might have gone to eat food at the dhaba at the time of the accident.

The driver of the canter truck has been taken into custody, Mishra said.

Census should begin immediately: Bihar CM Nitish Kumar

PATNA, Sep 21 (Agencies): A day after the Centre asserted that the census would begin soon after the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Thursday said the enumeration exercise should commence "immediately".

The JD(U) supreme leader also said the census should have been completed in 2021, claiming that the "decadal census has been delayed in the country for the first time".

"Why wait for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls...why not now? The decadal census should begin immediately. The Centre should start the enumeration exercise immediately," Kumar told reporters here when asked about Union Home Minister Amit Shah's announcement on the census.

Shah on Wednesday asserted that the census would begin soon after the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

"The enumeration exercise should have been completed in 2021. This is for the first time, the decadal census has



been delayed in the country. There is no need to delay it further. We wanted a caste-based headcount along with the census but the Centre did not agree. Finally, we conducted a caste-based survey on our own," Kumar said.

He claimed that the caste-based survey, in which social groups other than the SCs and STs are also counted, is "beneficial for all".

"It will enable us to work for the development of various sections of society, including those who are deprived. This will help us to know which areas require development," Kumar said.

On the women's reservation bill, Kumar said, "The bill has

been passed in the Lok Sabha, but what about its implementation? The Centre must move fast on implementing the proposals for the women's reservation. It will be really good if it is implemented at the earliest."

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed a bill granting reservation to women for one-third of seats in the Lower House of Parliament and state assemblies with near unanimity, amid demands from the opposition to extend similar benefits to Other Backward Classes and immediate implementation of the measure before the elections next year.

Kumar also said, "I

have always supported women's reservation. There must be assured representation. Our government has ensured adequate representation of women wherever it is possible.

The representation of women in Bihar is the highest for any state in the country."

There must be provision for women from SCs, STs, OBCs and Economically Backward Classes (EBCs) to get adequate representation, he said.

The chief minister also paid a surprise visit to the main secretariat that houses the offices of several departments, like cabinet secretariat, home, general administration, finance, planning and development, as well as the offices of chief secretary and development commissioner and additional chief secretaries.

"I have got information that people working at the main secretariat are not reaching the office on time. So, I came here to inspect their presence. I also came yesterday. We all are working for the betterment of people," Kumar added.

In an honour killing, man lynched by girl's family in UP's Mathura

MATHURA, Sep 21 (Agencies): A young man from Agra was lynched to death by his girlfriend's family, in this city of Uttar Pradesh, police said on Thursday.

Govind Kumar, whose body was recovered from a field in Mathura, was in a relationship with 20-year-old Rakhi, a resident of Saun village, Mathura.

On getting a phone call

from her, Govind went to her home where he was allegedly stripped, bound to a tree in a field, and beaten to death.

According to the police, the preliminary investigation suggests the incident is related to honour killing.

"Based on the complaint filed against the girl, her father Shiv Singh and brother Sunil Singh, we have regis-

tered an FIR under IPC sections 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of an offence committed) and 302 (murder)," said Pushpendra Kumar, SHO, Magora police station.

He added, "The accused have confessed to the crime and been remanded to jail following court orders."

Police sources indicate that the girl was

coerced into luring Govind to her home by her father and brother.

"A post-mortem examination revealed that Govind was beaten with sticks, resulting in multiple fractures in his skull and limbs," said the senior police officer.

Satendra Kumar, the deceased's younger brother, said, "My brother was killed in a premeditated manner."

Kerala man killed by friend following clash over lottery ticket

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, Sep 21 (Agencies): A 42-year-old man was hacked to death by his friend following a clash over an Onam bumper lottery ticket in Kerala's Kollam district. Police arrested the accused, Ajith, on Thursday.

The fatal dispute erupted during the recently drawn Onam bumper lottery, which took place on Wednesday. The victim, Devdas, purchased a lottery ticket and asked Ajith to keep it with him. As the lottery draw date approached, Devdas asked for the ticket back

from Ajith.

Both Ajith and Devdas were under the influence of alcohol during the clash, police said.

The situation quickly escalated from a verbal altercation to a violent clash, with Ajith wielding a weapon against Devdas.

In the heat of the moment, Devdas sustained grievous injuries, primarily to his hand, resulting in significant blood loss.

Devdas succumbed to his injuries while he was being shifted to the government medical college and hospital in Alappuzha.

UP man commits suicide after wife refuses to return from parent's house

AURAIYA, Sep 21 (Agencies): A 32-year-old man died by suicide after his wife refused to return from her parent's house in Uttar Pradesh's Auraiya district, police said on Thursday.

The incident reportedly took place after wife of the victim went to her parents' house due to his drinking habits, which led to frequent fights between the couple.

Despite the man's earnest attempts to reconcile and persuade her to return, his wife remained resolute in her decision to stay away. Distressed by this, the victim, identified as Rajesh, started consuming more alcohol and then died by hanging himself inside his house.

After intimation, police arrived at the scene. A thorough investigation was conducted before taking the body into custody for post-mortem examination.

The man had been living alone with his three children during this tumultuous period.

Meanwhile, a cop confirmed that Rajesh was heavily addicted to alcohol. His wife had repeatedly objected to his drinking habit.

The police are currently investigating the case. Further details are awaited.

Under pressure over border, Biden administration to protect hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans

WASHINGTON, Sep 21 (Agencies): The Biden administration said that it was granting temporary legal status to hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans who are already in the country — quickly making them eligible to work — as it grapples with growing numbers of people fleeing the South American country and elsewhere to arrive at the US border with Mexico.

The move — along with promises to accelerate work permits for many migrants — may appease Democratic leaders who have pressured the White House to do more to aid asylum-seekers, while also providing grist for Republicans who say the president has been too lax on immigration.

The Homeland Security Department plans to grant Temporary Protected Status to an estimated 4,72,000 Venezuelans who arrived in the country as of July 31, 2023, making it easier for them to get authorization to work in the US. That's been a key demand of Democratic mayors and governors who are struggling to care for an increased number of migrants in their care.

That's in addition to about 2,42,700 Venezuelans who already qualified for temporary status before Wednesday's announcement.

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas granted the expansion and an 18-month extension for those who already have temporary status due to "Venezuela's increased instabil-



ity and lack of safety due to the enduring humanitarian, security, political, and environmental conditions", the department said in a statement.

The administration said that it would accelerate work authorizations for people who have arrived in the country since January through a mobile app for appointments at land crossings with Mexico, called CBP One, or through parole granted to Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans who have financial sponsors and arrive at an airport. It will aim to give them work permits within 30 days, compared to about 90 days currently.

The promise of accelerated work permits does not apply to people who cross the border illegally and seek asylum, who, by law, must wait for six months to receive work permits.

Mayors and governors have been clamouring for President Joe Biden to figure out a way for

the administration to get newly arrived migrants to be able to work legally, so they can support themselves.

Democratic officials in New York, Massachusetts, Chicago and elsewhere have complained about the strain that newly arrived migrants are putting on their resources, especially in New York where the government is required to provide housing for anyone who needs it. The city is currently paying to house about 60,000 newly arrived migrants.

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said in a statement late Wednesday after the news broke that she was "grateful the federal government has acted so speedily to grant one of our top priorities: Temporary Protected Status to Venezuelan asylum seekers and migrants who have already arrived in this country".

The administration said it was also using Department of Defence forces to support

Homeland Security staff on the border. Homeland Security already uses about 2,500 National Guard troops to help Customs and Border Protection. In the news release, Homeland Security said up to 800 new active-duty troops would also be detailed to the border; they would be used for things like logistics so as to free up the Customs and Border Protection officials to do more of the front-line responsibilities.

Homeland Security also relied on active-duty troops back in May to support its operations when a surge of migrants was being encountered at the border in anticipation of the end of Title 42. At the time, Homeland Security officials emphasised that the active-duty troops would not be used for things like working directly with migrants but purely to free up CBP personnel.

Homeland Security said it was also taking other steps such as scaling up a process started in May to quickly remove families who are found to have no basis to stay in the country. They said they've also beefed up their holding capacity along the southern border. And the agency said it has increased the number of people expelled from the country. Since May 12, the agency said it has removed 2,53,000 people to a little over 150 countries around the world. That compares to 1,80,000 removed during the same period in 2019 — before the pandemic drastically alerted the government's ability to expel migrants.

Russia Helping North Korea Would "Threaten Peace": South Korea Tells UN



SEOUL, Sep 21 (Agencies): South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said that if Russia helped North Korea enhance its weapons programs in return for assistance for its war in Ukraine, it would be "a direct provocation" and Seoul and its allies would not stand idly by. In a speech to the annual high-level U.N. General Assembly, Yoon said such a scenario would threaten the peace and security of not only Ukraine but also South Korea. Yoon made the comments just as North Korean leader Kim Jong Un returned to Pyongyang from a week-long trip to Russia in which he and Russian President Vladimir Putin vowed to boost military cooperation.

North Korea's nuclear and missile programs were not only an existential threat to South Korea, but a serious challenge to peace in the Indo-Pacific region and across the globe, Yoon said.

"It is paradoxical that a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, entrusted as the ultimate guardian of world peace, would wage war by invading another sovereign nation and receive arms and ammunition from a regime that blatantly violates U.N. Security Council resolutions," he said.

Seoul and Washington have expressed concern that Russia could be trying to acquire ammunition from

North Korea to supplement stockpiles thinning as a result of its war in Ukraine, while Pyongyang seeks technological help for its nuclear and missile programs.

"If (North Korea) acquires the information and technology necessary to enhance its WMD capabilities in exchange for supporting Russia with conventional weapons, the deal will be a direct provocation, threatening the peace and security of not only Ukraine, but also the Republic of Korea," Yoon said.

"The Republic of Korea, together with its allies and partners will not stand idly by."

Any activities assisting North Korea's weapons programmes are banned under U.N. Security Council resolutions, and Putin has said Russia, one of the five permanent members of the Security Council, would "never violate anything."

A South Korean presidential aide rejected this, saying South Korea had been "watching military transactions take place for several months prior to the summit" between Kim and Putin.

On Wednesday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russia wants to expand ties with North Korea in all possible areas.

On Tuesday, South Korea's vice foreign minister, Chang Ho-jin, summoned Russia's ambassador to urge Moscow to abandon any potential arms deals with North Korea, warning of "clear consequences."

The South Korean presidential aide said discussions were underway with the United States and other countries to impose more sanctions on Russia and North Korea.

"The Security Council is divided ... and it is impossible to draw a unified position on Russia there, so for now there could be cohesive action within the solidarity of freedom, cantering around allies and friends," the official said.

Blasts heard in Kyiv following air raid alerts, rescue teams in place

KYIV, Sep 21 (Agencies): Blasts could be heard in Kyiv after an air raid alert on Thursday morning, Reuters witnesses said, as authorities sent rescue teams to at least two locations in the Ukrainian capital.

Air defences are at work and rescuers are on their way to possible blast sites in the city's eastern and southern districts, city Mayor Vitali Klitschko wrote on the Telegram messaging app.

Missile debris fell in central Kyiv and non-residential buildings were damaged in the



east, causing a fire, he said, with two people were hospitalised, including a child.

Officials and local media also reported blasts in Ukraine's Kharkiv, Khmelnytskyi, Rivne, Vinnytsia, Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk

regions.

In the city of Rivne in western Ukraine, according to the Suspilne media outlet, a partial power blackout was reported, indicating the Russian attack could have targeted energy infrastructure.

Russia says it destroyed 19 Ukrainian drones over Crimea, Black Sea



MOSCOW, Sep 21 (Agencies): Russian anti-aircraft units destroyed 19 Ukrainian drones over the Black Sea and the annexed Crimean peninsula and three more over other parts of Russia, the Defence Ministry said early on Thursday.

"In the night from September 20 to 21, an attempt by the Kyiv regime to

commit a terrorist attack with lethal drones on sites in the Russian Federation was intercepted," the ministry said on the Telegram messaging app.

The ministry said the three other drones were downed over Kursk, Belgorod and Orlov regions in central and southern Russia. It gave no details on casualties or damage.

Ukrainian forces were launching attacks with increasing frequency on targets in Crimea, seized and annexed by Russia in 2014.

Ukraine normally does not claim responsibility for such attacks. But on Wednesday, the Ukrainian military said its forces struck a Russian Black Sea fleet command post near Sevastopol in Crimea.

Canada Rejects India's Travel Advisory Amid Escalating Diplomatic Row

TORONTO, Sep 21 (Agencies): The Canadian government has rejected a travel advisory issued by India about security risks in Canada, claiming it is one of the safest countries in the world, and called for calm amid the escalating diplomatic row between the two nations over the killing of a Khalistani terrorist in this country.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations of "potential" involvement of Indian government agents in the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June unleashed a diplomatic row with India rejecting the charges as "absurd" and "motivated" and kicking out a senior Canadian diplomat in a tit-for-tat move to Ottawa's expulsion of an Indian official.

India on Wednesday advised all its citizens living in Canada and those contemplating travelling there to exercise "utmost caution" in view of growing anti-India activities and "politically-condoned" hate crimes in the North American country, as the diplomatic row over the killing of a Khalistani terrorist threatened to snowball into a major confrontation.



In a strongly-worded advisory, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in New Delhi referred to "threats" targeting Indian diplomats and sections of the Indian community that oppose the "anti-India agenda", and asked Indian nationals to avoid travelling to regions and potential venues in Canada which have seen such incidents.

Canada's Immigration Minister Marc Miller sought to reassure Indian nationals on Wednesday that it is safe to travel to the country even as a terrorist of the Sikh separatist movement banned in India has announced plans for rallies in Canadian cities on Monday that seek the closing of New Delhi's diplomatic missions in the country, The Globe and Mail newspaper reported.

"Look, I think everyone knows Canada is a

safe country and given the events of the last two or three days and the seriousness of the allegations that - it's important for everyone to stay calm," The Canadian Press quoted Miller as saying.

"Canada by any standard is one of the safest if not the safest countries in the world that is governed by the rule of law. So, I think people should read that statement for what it is," Mr Miller claimed.

He acknowledged that Canadian allegations of the "potential" involvement of Indian government agents in the killing of a Khalistani terrorist have heightened tensions with the Indian government.

"Given what the Prime Minister has said quite clearly to Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi, the allegations are very serious, and these are discussions that have

to continue with India," he said.

"At the same time, emotions are running high, and we've asked everyone just to stay calm given the seriousness of the allegations," he added.

Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Sean Fraser said that he would not comment on the specifics of the probe into Nijjar's death because he does not want to compromise any investigations.

He said Canadians should have faith in the security services' ability to investigate the death.

"It's important that if we believe in justice, we believe in the process that gets us there," the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation quoted Mr Fraser as saying.

"I am sure there are good reasons not to share details that may ground such extraordinary allegations because protecting the process of getting to a just result is extremely important," Mr Fraser said.

"We are a country that was built on migration. If you're not from an indigenous community, you came from somewhere else, and I can

tell you right now the people I'm talking to here, they don't want to see divisions based on whether you are Sikh, Hindu or Muslim. They want to come together as Canadians and promote peaceful dialogue, even in the most difficult conversations," he said.

"This is obviously a tragedy that played out. The allegations are extremely serious. And we're going to treat them seriously. We're always concerned about the safety and well-being of Canadians. There are no specific threats that I'm aware of currently that are tied to foreign officials. But from a public safety point of view, we want to always protect the safety and well-being of Canadians whether their family has been here for generations or whether they arrived last month," he added.

The MEA on Tuesday trashed Justin Trudeau's claims asserting that "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."

Khalistani Terrorist Sukhdool Singh Killed In Canada Gang War: Sources

TORONTO, Sep 21 (Agencies): Khalistani terrorist Sukhdool Singh, also known as Sukha Duneke, was killed last night in Canada in inter-gang violence, sources said. Duneke was part of the Khalistani movement in Canada. Jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi's gang has claimed responsibility for the killing.

Duneke was a "Category A" gangster from Punjab's Moga who fled

to Canada on a fake passport in 2017. He was a close associate of gangster and Khalistani terrorist Arshdeep Dalla and is one of 43 gangsters with links to Khalistan and Canada mentioned in the list released by the anti-terror agency NIA yesterday.

Duneke's killing comes in the backdrop of a huge diplomatic row between India and Canada after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told

the House of Commons earlier this week that his government had "credible allegations" that linked Indian government agents to the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on Canadian soil in June.

India and Canada have expelled a senior diplomat each following Mr Trudeau's accusations. India has denied the allegations, calling them "absurd" and "motivated."

Nijjar, 45, was an Indian



terrorist and chief of the banned Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF), and was assassinated outside

a gurdwara in Surrey, British Columbia, on June 18. He was one of India's most wanted

terrorists who carried a cash reward of 10 lakh.

Yesterday, India issued a travel advisory for its citizens in Canada, a day after Canada updated its own advisory for India. India's strong travel advisory warned of growing anti-India activity and "politically condoned hate crimes." The advisory urged Indian citizens in Canada and those planning to travel there to exercise caution.

"In view of growing

anti-India activities and politically-condoned hate crimes and criminal violence in Canada, all Indian nationals there and those contemplating travel are urged to exercise utmost caution. Recently, threats have particularly targeted Indian diplomats and sections of the Indian community who oppose the anti-India agenda," read India's advisory.

The Canadian government today rejected India's travel advisory,

saying that it is one of the safest countries in the world.

Amid this stand-off between the two nations, Punjab Police today launched a state-wide crackdown on the associates of gangster Goldy Brar, who is accused of killing singer Sidhu Moosewala.

According to the police, Brar has close links to the Khalistani separatist movement and is believed to be hiding in Canada.

St. Peter's High School observes International Peace Day

Top News Report

JAMMU Sep 21: St. Peter's High School observed International Peace Day on Thursday in the campus in the form of special assembly and a peace rally.

Special prayers were offered by the students and the staff members. Maulavi Mushtaq Ahmed, Pandit Makhan Shastri, and Fr. Vijay Lynda represented different religions of the country on the occasion.

'Sarva Dharma Prarthana Samaroh' was organized and readings from scriptures of different religions were read and prayers were offered by Sarva Dharma Gurus. It was an important lesson on peace and understanding for the students of the school.

Peace Club of St



Peter's High School organized this special assembly and Sarva Dharma Prarthana Samaroh' on the occasion of the World Peace Day.

Students, members of the staff and the priests representing different religions lit candles for peace and undertook peace pledge in front of the tricolor flag of the country.

Peace rally was inaugurated with prayers by priests representing

different religions of the country and with messages of peace with bunches of white balloons.

A huge and impressive peace rally by 450 students and the staff members of the school Rev. Fr. S. Joseph, the principal, led the peace rally from the front.

Peace rally left the school campus at 8:45 am through B. C. Road to K.C. Chowk at the Bus Stand -Jammu.

Turning from the Bus

Stand KC Chowk, the peace rally proceeded through the famed BC Road towards Jewel Chowk and Dogra Chowk.

Finally, it turned from Dogra Chowk towards the school, crossing M.A. Stadium, Nowabad Police Station and Jewel Chowk.

The Peace Rally culminated at St. Peter's High School at 9:45 am. Onlookers and bystanders, travelers and commuters blessed

the children and encouraged them by waving at them and reading the messages of the placards carried by the rallying children. The slogan of the peace rally was 'Peace be with you.'

The school management, under the guidance of Rev. Fr. S. Joseph, thanked profusely the office of the District Magistrate, Jammu for granting permission for the peace rally and for facilitating the same with required help from Jammu Municipal Corporation, Police Department and the Traffic Police, who supported and also congratulated the school management, students, and the staff members for organizing such an imposing, disciplined and inspiring peace rally in the heart of the City of Temples.

Representatives Khidmat Centres hold protest



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 21: Representatives of Khidmat Centres in Jammu Division are facing several challenges and have expressed their concerns.

They are affiliated with the J&K Khidmat Centre Association and have raised objections to the deviation from established guidelines and the influence of J&K Bank on the project's direction. Their main grievances include:

The representatives are opposing the rollout of Business Correspondent (BC) services by J&K Bank.

They believed that this initiative negatively affects their livelihood, as the 1209 Khidmat Centres assigned the role of J&K Bank BCs were originally

intended to serve the people and not just the bank's interests. They feel that the bank's actions have deceived people and contravened RBI guidelines.

The representatives are also concerned about the denial of their right to transfer ownership of their Khidmat Centres to legal heirs in case of their death. They see this as a fundamental right and are frustrated by the lack of sympathy and concessions in this regard.

The representatives are demanding the immediate creation and implementation of a Permanent Settlement Policy, as instructed by PMO Dr. Jitender Singh in March 2020. They want to be included in this policy according to SRO 202.

The representatives of Khidmat Centres are advocating for their rights and the protection of their livelihoods. They are calling on J&K Bank to address these concerns and resolve their issues on a permanent basis.

Until their demands are met, they appear committed to continuing their protest to achieve a favorable outcome, they said.

Sahitya Academy New Delhi organise two-day seminar on 'History of Dogri Language and Literature' at JU

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 21: Sahitya Academy New Delhi, in collaboration with the PG Department of Dogri, organised a two-day seminar on History of Dogri Language and Literature" on Thursday, in the Seminar Hall of the Department of Computer Sciences, University of Jammu, Jammu.

The inaugural session was presided over by Prof. Anju Bhasin, Dean Academic Affairs and Dean Research Studies, University of Jammu. In her address, she emphasised that language and literature are inextricably linked with the socio-cultural ethos of the region. In the rapidly transforming digital age, the preservation and promotion of regional languages like Dogri become imperative.

Academics can contribute a lot to retaining and promoting the Dogri language and literature. She also announced that the University of Jammu is committed to the promotion of Dogri by all means.

The welcome address was given by Dr. N. Suresh Babu, deputy secretary of Sahitya

Akademi, and the key note address was delivered by Dr. OM Goswami, an eminent writer of Dogri. The introductory remarks were given by Mohan Singh, convenor of the Dogri Sahitya Akademi advisory board, and the welcome address was delivered by Prof. Sucheta Pathania, Dean of the Faculty of Arts. Prof. Sushma Sharma, former head of the Department of Dogri, presented the formal vote of thanks.

While delivering the introduction remarks, Mohan Singh, convenor of the Dogri Advisory Board and Padmashri Awardee, said that this seminar will create awareness about Dogri language and literature among scholars and common people. The history of language is very important, and everyone should know the history of their language and literature. Literature and language are reflections of the social, economic, and political values of their time. Everyone should feel proud of their language and literature while studying its positive aspects faithfully.

Dr. Om Goswami, in his keynote address, declared that Dogri lit-

erature can trace its history right back to the 12th century, like other modern Indian languages. Dr. Suresh Babu told the gathering that Sahitya Akademi is committed to the development and promotion of 24 Indian languages enlisted in Sahitya Akademi's enrolment. Dogri is one of them, and Sahitya Akademi treats every language equally.

In addition to the inaugural session, the seminar will have four sessions with three papers in each. The scholars of excellence at Dogri will present their papers on the most unexplored subjects. The first two sessions will deal with the history of language, and the other two sessions will deal with the history of literature. Stalwarts of Dogri literature will chair these sessions, like Narsingh Dev Jamwal Padmashri, Shiv Nirmohi Padmshri, Prof. Veena Gupta, and Prof. Archana Kesar. The paper readers are Sh. Prakash Premi, Shiv Dobia, Tarseem Raina, Vijay Verma, Sushma Rani, Swarn Singh Kohstani, Neelam Sarin, Chanchal Bhasin, Radha Rani, Radha Sharma, Sandeep Sufi, and Padam Dev Singh.

6th Rashtriya Poshan Maah celebrated

Top News Report

BASANTGARH, Sep 21: Tehsildar Basantgarh, Sh. Karanjeet Singh presided over the 2nd Day of 3-Day Multimedia Exhibition on Seva Sushan & Garib Kalyan, Mission LIFE, at Basantgarh.

Speaking on the occasion, Singh said that these outreach programmes in far flung areas help to get connected with the mainstream and generate awareness among the masses. Khurshheed Yousuf, Field Publicity Officer, CBC, Udhampur today said, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India through its Central Bureau of Communication department is entrusted with the task of disseminating information about government policies, schemes and programmes through the different mediums of mass communication especially to the far-flung and media shadow areas like Basantgarh.

Yousuf said this while



addressing the second day of Multimedia Exhibition on Seva, Sushasan & Garib Kalyan, G20 and Mission LIFE at Basantgarh, a far-flung area in district Udhampur.

Speaking on 6th Rashtriya Poshan Maah, Yousuf said, the focal point of Poshan Maah 2023 is to cultivate widespread awareness concerning critical human life stages: pregnancy, infancy, childhood and adolescence. The aim is to Foster nutritional understanding across India through a theme centered on "Suposhit Bharat, Sakshar

Bharat, Sashakt Bharat".

Anuradha Sharma, Child Development Project Officer, Basantgarh in her address said, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme is world's largest community based programme aimed to improve the health, nutrition and education (KAP) of the target community. ICDS has been and is an excellent mother and child development programme and its implementation has been outstanding in most of the areas which has been possible only through the hard work of ICDS

ground workers, CDPO added.

Block Development Officer, Basantgarh, Jahanzeb in his address informed the audience about various initiatives of Rural development department taken in Basantgarh, especially regarding Swachha Abhiyan. He urged all to join hands in keeping Basantgarh neat and clean and protect the fragile environment.

Besides students, teachers, locals, ICDS workers, supervisors, Anganwadi Workers, the programme was attended by Principal GHSS Basantgarh, Rajinder Kumar. The event was moderated by Sh. Gurnam Singh, TA(s) CBC, Udhampur.

During the event, on the spot quiz competition was organised on Seva Sushasan & Garib Kalyan and patriotic songs & cultural programmes were performed by the students & Empanelled PRT of CBC. The prizes were later distributed among the winners of quiz competition and cultural programmes.

Govt should control operation of e-rickshaws: Dimple

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 21: Chairman Jammu Kashmir Auto Union and President Mission Statehood, Sunil Dimple led a protest of Black Auto drivers and gave a one-week ultimatum to the Jammu and Kashmir Government to control the operation of e-rickshaws.

If their demands are not met within this period, dimple threatened to hold a protest in Jammu city.

Dimple demanded that the Senior Superintendent of Police

(SSP) Traffic should establish checkpoints (nakas) in Jammu city to ensure that e-rickshaws operate only within their allotted zones.

The union has already organized a strong protest rally at the Bus Stand BC Road in Jammu, with the participation of 500 auto drivers and owners.

The union has previously held meetings with government authorities to address issues such as fixing rate lists for e-rickshaws, preventing overloading, and ensuring that e-rickshaw drivers are local res-

idents of Jammu and Kashmir and have the required licenses.

Dimple alleged that e-rickshaws are not following the designated zones and are not complying with traffic rules and orders. He demanded strict action against these violations.

Dimple expressed concern that the introduction of e-rickshaws, battery buses, and small battery autos is affecting the livelihood of the black auto industry.

He claimed that they are unable to meet financial obligations like installments, insur-

ance, and passing fees.

Dimple alleged that the government is launching battery buses and small battery autos, which they believe is detrimental to the 50-year-old auto and matador transport industry.

Several prominent leaders of the Jammu Kashmir Black Auto Union, including Sanjay Sethi, Haneef Chodry, Ajiyet Singh, Amar Jeet Singh, Pawan Kumar, S. Vikram Singh, RanJiet Singh, S. Taran Singh, Rameshwar Kumar and Ashok Kumar were present in the protest.

FROM PAGE 1

India temporarily suspends Visa services for Canadians

travelling there to exercise "utmost caution" in view of growing anti-India activities and "politically-condoned" hate crimes as well as "criminal violence" in that country.

The India-Canada ties were reeling under some strain for the last few months in view of increasing activities of the pro-Khalistani elements in the North American country. India believes the Trudeau government is not addressing its genuine concerns.

Srinagar's Bilquis Mir appointed senior canoeing, Kayaking Judge at Asian Games

I would like to dedicate this success to those girls who will take up this sport in future," she said.

Mir, who turned to coaching after a career as a player, said more women are in decision-making positions in the sport.

"When I started competing as a player, I saw very few women players being given such responsibilities, but today women are (in) decision-making process," she said.

Mir said there was an abundance of talent in Jammu and Kashmir which can be nur-

tured to become top-level athletes.

"In the last four years, water sports has given most of the medals to J&K. I am sure, this game will produce thousands like me from here who will make the country proud. We have a lot of scope in women's sports. You will soon see women from the region representing the country in the Asian Games and Olympics," she added.

Mir is hopeful the Indian contingent will put up a good show at the Games.

"I am very hopeful our country's athletes will bring (a lot of) medals... the girls will also make the country proud."

Burhan Bazaz, president J&K Rowing and Sculling Association said Mir's selection was a moment to celebrate.

"I would like to congratulate Mir. It is a proud moment for Jammu and Kashmir. It is something we should celebrate," Bazaz said.

He said Mir has become an inspiration for thousands of girls and boys.

Bushra and Shaista, two aspiring water sports athletes, said they want to emulate their coach Mir.

"I am happy as my coach has been selected as a jury. It is a proud moment. She is a role model for us," Bushra said.

"If she can do it, we can also do it. I also want to be successful just like her," Shaista said.

Mariya Jan, Mir's sister, said she did not get much support from the family when she started out.

"Initially, my sister did not get any family

support and people were just making fun. When my sister started making an identity in the sport, the family started feeling proud," said Jan.

Burglars pull off Rs 25 lakh heist in Srinagar locality, police case filed

further probe is going on.

J&K ANTF arrests border resident with 3.5 Kg heroin

matter of investigation whether the case is linked to narco-terrorism.

Kumar said this year ANTF registered 15 FIRs, mostly related to the seizure of commercial quantities of narcotics from different parts of the Union Territory and arrests of the accused were even made from outside J-K, including Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat and Delhi.

"The assets/properties raised by the smugglers are being identified and confiscated. Several bank accounts were also frozen," he said, adding that the same process will be followed in this case.

He appealed to the general public to come forward and cooperate with law enforcing

agencies in identifying and capturing the drug smugglers to safeguard the younger generation.

"Narcotics is a major threat to our society and we need to join hands to end this menace," the SSP said.

Dr Mir Mushtaq appointed nodal officer for PM Package, Jammu-based employees in Kashmir

Dr. Mushtaq will now take on the task of maintaining records and information pertaining to Jammu-based employees who are working within the Department. This comprehensive oversight will be crucial for future meetings and discussions concerning the PM Package and related matters," reads an order issued by Director Health Services Kashmir.

The decision has been taken for efficient governance and the effective resolution of issues affecting PM Package implementation and the welfare of Jammu-based employees in Kashmir Division.

Court prevents man from interfering in his brother's marriage, imposes rs 10 lakh fine

The court encouraged the woman to approach the concerned revenue authorities for redressal of her grievances regarding the allegations that Aijaz has grabbed the share of her husband's property.

Constitution cannot be amended so easily: Omar Abdullah

Governor Manoj Sinha's reported assertion that 80 per cent of Jammu and Kashmir's population is happy with the current system of governance, he said let the Assembly polls be held to see if that is the case. "We have not been able to see these 80 per cent people. If that is the case, then why are people coming to our programmes? Wherever there is an NC programme, people come. Let them hold the election. If this 80 per cent of the population stays away from it, then there is the (lieutenant) Governor's (rule). We will have no objection," the former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister said.

Man critically injured in bear attack in South Kashmir

GMC hospital Anantnag in critical condition. They injured person Pervaiz Ahmad Khan son of Zaffar Ullah Khan resident of Brah Shangu.

Markets decline for 3rd day on weak global cues; ICICI bank slumps 2.81 pc

Sensex fell 570.60 points or 0.85 per cent to settle at 66,230.24

MUMBAI, Sep 21 (Agencies): Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty buckled under selling pressure for the third straight session to settle nearly 1 per cent lower on Thursday as investors pared exposure to auto, banking and financial shares amid a sluggish trend in global markets.

Global equities fell after the US Federal Reserve signalled that they expect to raise rates once more this year to fight inflation.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 570.60 points or 0.85 per cent to settle at 66,230.24. During the day, it plunged 672.13 points or 1 per cent to 66,128.71.

The Nifty declined 159.05 points or 0.80 per cent to end at 19,742.35.

"Domestic market declined following a hawkish stance by the Fed chair and prolonged high-interest rate trajectory, which is not positive for a slowing global economy.

"PSU Banks and mid and small-caps were the worst hit due to stretched valuations and concern over moderation in yields. Rising



oil prices and erratic rainfall further led investors to stay cautious in the market," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

ICICI Bank was the biggest loser in the Sensex pack, slipping 2.81 per cent, followed by Mahindra & Mahindra, State Bank of India, UltraTech Cement, IndusInd Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tata Motors, Bajaj Finserv, Axis Bank and Power Grid.

Tech Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, Infosys, Asian Paints, Hindustan Unilever, Larsen & Toubro and Titan were the gainers.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the negative territory.

European markets were trading in the negative territory. The US markets ended in the

red on Wednesday.

The US Federal Reserve left its key interest rate unchanged on Wednesday for the second time in its past three meetings, a sign that it's moderating its fight against inflation as price pressures have eased. But, Fed officials also signalled that they expect to raise rates once more this year.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.81 per cent to USD 92.77 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,110.69 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

The BSE benchmark had tumbled 796 points or 1.18 per cent to settle at 66,800.84 on Wednesday. The NSE Nifty declined 231.90 points or 1.15 per cent to end below the 20,000 mark at 19,901.40.

No economic distress among common households, says Centre

This comes after an RBI report said financial savings of common households had crashed to five-decade low in fiscal 2022-23

NEW DELHI, Sep 21 (Agencies): The central government on Thursday said there is no distress among common households after a RBI report said 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.

"Lately, critical voices have been raised with respect to household savings and its overall effect on the economy. However, data indicates that changing consumer preference for different financial products is the real reason for household savings and there is no distress as is being circulated in some circles," said the Union Finance Ministry.

The RBI had also said financial liabilities of households had shot up by 5.8 per cent of GDP in 2022-23 as compared with 3.8 per cent in 2021-22 which indicated that part of the consumption was being financed by loans.



Putting forward the "correct position with true facts and right inferences with respect to household savings", the Ministry said there was no big difference in financial assets and liabilities of households.

"Between June 2020 and March 2023, the stock of Household Gross Financial Assets went up by 37.6 per cent, and the Stock of Household Gross

Financial Liabilities went up by 42.6%—no big difference between the two," it said.

"Households added net financial assets of Rs. 22.8 lakh crore in fiscal 20-21, nearly Rs. 17.0 lakh crore in 21-22 and Rs. 13.8 lakh crore in 22-23.

"So, they added less financial assets to their portfolio than in the previous year and the year before, but it is important to note

that their overall net financial assets are still growing. They added financial assets by a lesser magnitude than in the previous years because they have now started taking loans to buy real assets such as homes," said a lengthy Finance Ministry post on X.

As per RBI data, pointed out North Block, there has been a steady double-digit growth in loans for housing since May 2021. Vehicle loans have also been growing at double digits. "The household sector is not in distress, clearly. They are buying vehicles and homes on mortgages," it surmised.

Overall household savings (current prices) - which includes financial, physical and jewellery - has grown at a CAGR of 9.2 per cent between 2013-14 and 2021-22. Nominal GDP has grown at a CAGR of 9.65 per cent during the same period. "Hence, Household Savings/Nominal GDP has remained constant," it said.

Kia India to hike Seltos, Carens prices by up to 2 per cent from October



NEW DELHI, Sep 21 (Agencies): Automaker Kia India on Thursday said it will increase prices of Seltos and Carens by up to 2 per cent from October 1, according to a senior company official.

However, the company will not hike the prices of its entry-level model Sonet.

"We are looking to take about

a 2 per cent price increase on Seltos and Carens from October 1," Kia India National Head (Sales and Marketing) Hardeep S Brar told agency.

The company had last hiked prices in April this year as it upgraded its portfolio to conform to Real Driving Emission (RDE) norms, he said.

"While many of the companies

have already taken the price increase post-April, we, however, did not take...besides the raw material prices are going up... and we introduced the new Seltos and a lot of investment has gone into the product... so we think it is time that we take the price increase," Brar said.

Kia India also sells an electric model EV6 in the country.

Dip in household savings linked to shift to physical assets: SBI

NEW DELHI, Sep 21 (Agencies): A low-interest rate regime in the last two years might be behind the sharp fall in household savings in India, said SBI Research in a commentary about the latest numbers revealed by India's central bank.

According to RBI data, Indian households' net financial savings hit an all-time low of 5.1% of gross domestic product in FY2023 as household borrowings exceeded investments and savings.

This is considerably lower than the 11.5% recorded in FY 2021 and 7.6% recorded in FY 2020 before the Covid-19 pandemic.

Household liabilities rose 76% in FY23 from the previous financial year.

SBI Research suggested that the sharp decline in savings may be related to a 'paradigm shift' in saving — away from monetary assets to physical assets such as real estate. Such a transition is typically seen in times of high inflation, as monetary assets can't always keep up with the value appreciation delivered by physical assets during such times.

"To start with, the sharp rise in financial liabilities in hindsight may reflect a drawdown in precautionary saving during the pandemic," noted the analysts from SBI.

This suggests that the sharp increase in the financial liabilities and borrowings may have posed a reason for the decline in the net financial savings. However, a deeper look at the data reveals otherwise.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, the financial liabilities of Indian households jumped to Rs 8.2 trillion, outpacing the increase in gross financial savings at Rs 6.7 trillion.

Out of the Rs 8.2 trillion increase, Rs 7.1 billion was accounted for by an increase in household borrowing from commercial banks.

This, it suggested, indicates that Indians may be focusing more on credit-led expenditure on certain high-value items, instead of keeping their savings in the form of bank deposits.

"Juxtaposing this increase in borrowing from commercial banks with the increase in bank credit, we find that 55% of the retail credit to households in the last 2 years has gone to housing, education and vehicle purchase," said the analysts.

"Thus, it is entirely possible that a low-interest rate regime resulted in a paradigm shift of household financial savings to household physical savings in the last 2 years," it added.

Even though the report suggests that the decline in savings was due to the increase in financial liabilities, it is important to note that there was an incremental increase of Rs 4.1 trillion on the assets side, in terms of insurance and provident and pension funds.

The report also noted a significant long-run relationship between housing loans and household savings in physical assets.

"Every Rs 1 increase in housing loans has resulted in a Rs 2.12



increase in household savings in physical assets for the 14-year period ended FY22," said the analysts.

Hence, said SBI Research, household savings have not declined but are witnessing a shift in the mode of savings. The Indian households have reduced their net financial savings resulting in a substantial increase in household savings in gross physical assets.

In FY2021 which had registered an 11.5% net financial savings also happened to register a 48% decline of savings in physical assets, it noted.

"Savings in physical assets which accounted for more than two-thirds of household savings in FY 2012, had declined to 48% in FY2021," noted the analysts.

However, the trend is again shifting and the share of physical assets is expected to reach a nearly 70% level in FY23, due to a decline in the share of financial assets suggesting that the household savings are still up but in the form of assets.

"We believe that the total household savings (both financial+physical) for FY 2023 would still surpass the FY 2022

levels despite the decline in financial savings as household savings in physical assets have jumped Rs 6.5 trillion in FY 2022 over FY 2021 and as per current trends," noted the analysts.

It is expected to jump further by upto Rs 5 trillion in FY23 and hence will outstrip the increase in household indebtedness, it added.

"We also believe that the shift to physical assets is also triggered by a recovery in the real estate sector and the increase in property prices," said the analysts from SBI research.

The RBI House Price Index shows a modest acceleration since FY21, which may be acting as a motivator for buying homes. The household sector investment posted a gradual recovery at 11.8% in FY 2022.

This increased "pull" factor thereby pushed up capital spending in a multitude of sectors.

"If this is indeed the proximate story of the revival in household investment, this has strong policy implications for growth and investment revival," noted the analysts.

Reducing stress on T cells improves their ability to fight cancer: Study

The findings, published in Nature, establish new link between sympathetic stress response and how the immune system responds to cancer

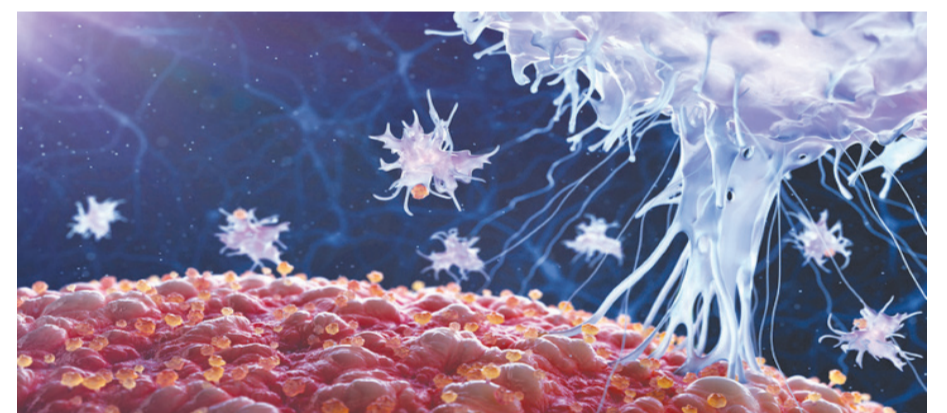
WASHINGTON DC, Sep 21 (Agencies): Even for killer T cells, which are specialised immune cells, searching for and eliminating cancer cells around the clock can be challenging. Scientists can produce stronger cancer-killing cells if they understand why killer T cells become exhausted.

In a new study, Salk Institute scientists discovered a relationship between killer T cell exhaustion and the body's sympathetic stress response (fight-or-flight) in varying cancer types in mouse and human tissue samples. What's more, the team found that the interaction between killer T cells and sympathetic stress response hormones can be inhibited with beta-blockers, a class of drugs already used in humans for controlling blood pressure and heart rate to create killer T cells that fight the tumor more efficiently.

The findings, published in Nature, establish a new link between the sympathetic stress response and how the immune system responds to cancer. Additionally, they demonstrate the benefit of pairing beta-blockers with existing immunotherapies to improve cancer treatment by bolstering killer T cell function.

There is no question immunotherapy has revolutionized cancer patient treatment but there are many patients for whom it's ineffective, says Professor Susan Kaech, senior author and director of Salk's NOMIS Center for Immunobiology and Microbial Pathogenesis.

Finding that our nervous system can suppress the function of cancer-destroying immune cells opens up entirely new ways to think about how to rejuvenate T cells in tumors. The sympathetic nervous system is responsible for mediating the body's stress response, also known as the fight-or-flight response. However, little was known about how the nerves regulate the immune response to infections or cancer.



The researchers focused on sympathetic nerves that innervate our organs and produce the messenger hormone noradrenaline, which is also a stress hormone. The scientists used a variety of cancer and chronic illness models in mice and human tissue samples to study when and how killer T cells are influenced by the sympathetic nerves.

They found that the sympathetic nerves were producing noradrenaline, which was binding to killer T cells using a receptor called ADRB1. Exhausted killer T cells expressed

more ADRB1 receptors than their functional counterparts, allowing the T cells to listen to the noradrenaline released by the nerves.

To test whether killer T cell exhaustion could be prevented, the researchers tested two approaches to intercepting noradrenaline and ADRB1 interaction: either removing ADRB1 altogether or impairing ADRB1 function with beta-blockers, which resulted in more-functional killer T cells that were better at destroying cancer cells.

The authors also found that the exhausted T cells do not just listen to nerves from afar, but cluster right around them in tissues. Surprisingly, the ADRB1 receptor provided the T cells with critical instructions to migrate near the nerves, which in turn suppressed their functions making them worse at fighting cancer.

The innervation of tumors is an understudied area of tumor immunology. Our study has now uncovered that nerves contribute to the process of T cell exhaustion in tumors, where T cells become worn out and less powerful in their fight against

the tumor over time, says first author Anna-Maria Globig, a post-doctoral researcher in Kaech's lab. If we can unravel the details of how nerves suppress the body's immune response to cancer and why the exhausted T cells move towards the nerves, we can begin to target this process therapeutically.

According to Kaech, the researchers hope to expand their understanding of the exhausted killer T cell environment to learn more about why stress makes us sicker.

"We were able to find a new pathway that we can target with beta-blockers to create more resilient killer T cells that resist exhaustion and fight cancer better," says Globig.

Since beta-blockers are already clinically used, the team also hopes to implement their proposed cancer-fighting regimen soon in patients with lung cancer. By partnering with clinicians, they hope to study more human cancer tissue samples to enrich their findings and provide further evidence of the efficacy of beta-blockers in cancer treatment.

WRESTLEMANIA: All eyes will be on reigning champ Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat's heir apparent Antim as wrestlers eye best-ever medal haul

NEW DELHI, Sep 21 (Agencies): From the Indian perspective, the focus during the last few days of the Asian Games shifts to wrestling. This year, as the wrestling competition kicks off on October 4, all eyes will be on Bajrang Punia.

As one of the most successful Indian wrestlers, the Olympics and World Championships medallist is expected to be in the spotlight whenever he competes.

But this year, Bajrang will have much more on his mind than the goal of defending his gold in the 65kg freestyle event. The 29-year-old will be eager to prove a point, more to his detractors than his fans, with another stellar show on the mat.

Bajrang has been in the news throughout this year, mainly due to controversies off the field. He was one of the key faces in the protests by some of India's top wrestlers against former Wrestling Federation of India president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

As the protests led to Brij Bhushan's ouster and the suspension of the federation, the fear of uncertainty overcame many wrestlers, which led to a divide in the wrestling community.



The split widened when Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat were given exemption from the Asian Games trials and included in the team. Bajrang and Vinesh, the only gold medallists at the 2018 edition, came under fire from wrestlers and coaches. Even Sakshi Malik, who had protested with them and did not compete in the trials, criticised the exemption decision.

The decision was also challenged in court by wrestlers in the weight divisions of Bajrang and Vinesh. While Vinesh pulled out due to an injury and had to undergo an operation, clearing the way for two-time U-20 world champion Antim Panghal,

Bajrang is all set to compete in Hangzhou.

Though Bajrang has been working overtime on his fitness to make up for the lost time, there are big questions about his match-practice. The Asian Games will be the first major event this year for Bajrang, who missed the World Championships to prepare for the continental extravaganza.

Bajrang will be the first person to accept that the competition level at the Asian Games can overwhelm even the athletes who are in top form. Considering his disrupted preparations and lack of competition experience, the odds will be against Bajrang. However, the Haryana wrestler, who will be extra motivated to

prove his detractors wrong, has the pedigree to spring a surprise in China.

Antim's beginning Another wrestler looking to make a statement will be Antim. The 19-year-old had gone to court, challenging the decision to award Vinesh the exemption. Though her plea was dismissed, Antim went on to win the trials. Antim, who had said that she could beat Vinesh in the trials, justified her claim of being the best in the 53kg division by becoming the first Indian woman to defend her U20 world title.

While her junior title was no clear indication of success at the Asian Games, Antim has proven that she is ready to compete at the top level in the senior category. The teenager stunned the reigning champion to reach the semifinals of the World Championships.

While World Championships silver medallist Deepak Punia will be the other main medal contender for India, Olympics silver medallist Ravi Kumar Dahiya will be the big name missing from the event. The 25-year-old aggravated a knee injury during the trials for the 57kg division, which were eventually won by Aman Sehrawat.

The ringmasters: Boxers, led by women, are primed for glory

NEW DELHI, Sep 21 (Agencies): At the 2018 Asian Games, India's boxers returned home after a disappointing show, winning just two medals — a silver and bronze. Several questions were raised on the women's performance as they failed to win a single medal.

A lot has changed since then for the women. So much so that at this Asiad, they are the overriding favourites to clinch gold. They have shifted the spotlight onto themselves after a series of commanding performances since last year and are primed to return in a blaze of glory.

India have sent a 13-member team, comprising seven men and six women, to the continental event. The team will be spearheaded by world champions Nikhat Zareen and Lovlina Borgohain. The pugilists will also aim to secure Paris quotas apart from bettering last edition's medal haul. Zareen, who will be competing in the 50kg category, is unlikely to show any first-time jitters as she makes her debut at the Asiad. The reason? She won gold at the Strandja Memorial and the 2022 World Championships and then backed it up with another gold at the Birmingham CWG. In March this year, she again won gold at the Worlds and became the only Indian after Mary Kom to have more than one world title to her name.

With form on her side, the unforgiving Zareen seems set to answer des-

tiny's call and win gold. She could come across a familiar face in Vietnam's Nguyen Thi Tam — whom she defeated in the 2023 Worlds final — in the later stages, but that shouldn't be troublesome for someone who is undefeated in the ring for the last two years. The country's second big hope is Borgohain. Ever since her move up to the 75kg category from the 65kg after the latter class was scrapped from the Olympics, the Tokyo bronze medallist has been burning bright. She replaced her failure in the 2022 Worlds and CWG with gold in the 2022 Asian Championships and then at the Worlds in March. Anything less than gold here would be considered an underachievement for the hard-hitting Assamese.

Unlike women, the men are deprived of star power this time as they are without Amit Panghal and Muhammad Husamuddin Haryana's Deepak Bhorla (51kg) takes the lead instead of Panghal, whom he defeated in the selection trials. He will be accompanied by Shiva Thapa (63.5kg) and Nishant Dev (71kg) as the country's other medal hopefuls.

Of them all, Bhorla will be under severe pressure to rise up to the challenge of defending India's gold medal won by Panghal. Thapa, the six-time Asian champion, has a shot at a bigger continental title. Karnal's Dev will also be confident about his chances of medalling. He became the first Indian to beat a Cuban boxer in May.

Asian Games 2023: Indian rowers qualify for finals in Men's Double Sculls and Lightweight Double Sculls

NEW DELHI, Sep 21 (Agencies): Indian rowers made a mark at the Asian Games on Thursday, September 21 as the duo of Arjun Jat Lal and Arvind Singh made it to the Final A of Men's Lightweight Double Sculls while the duo of Satnam Singh and Parminder Singh made it to the final of Men's Double Sculls in Hangzhou, China.



Junjie and Sun Man topped the heats with a timing of 6:14.97s.

In the Repechage A round, Arjun and Arvind finished first with a timing of 6:55.78s to qualify for Final A. Japan finished behind the Indian duo with a timing of 7:05.91s and also made it to the Final A.

Arjun and Arvind will battle for the final which will be held on Sunday, September 24.

In the men's double sculls, India's Satnam and Parminder clocked 6:48.06s to finish first

in Repechage A to qualify for the final in Double Sculls. Iraq finished behind India with a timing of 6:51.90s to qualify for Final A while Hong Kong, China, Sri Lanka, and Kuwait moved to Final B, which will not offer medals.

Satnam and Parminder had finished second in the Heat with a timing of 6:27.01s behind China which topped the heats with 6:22.76s.

The final of Men's Double Sculls will also be held on Sunday, September 24.

India vs Australia - "Because Of His Fielding...": On Ravichandran Ashwin Missing From ODIs, India Star's Unique Take

NEW DELHI, Sep 21 (Agencies): The India vs Australia ODI series narrative has been dominated by the inclusion of one player - Ravichandran Ashwin. The off-spinner is set to play his first ODI since 2022 when the India vs Australia series starts on Friday. The India vs Australia ODI cricket series is being seen as the final dress rehearsal ahead of the Cricket World Cup. The 2023 ODI Cricket World Cup starts from October 5 while the Indian cricket plays its first match on October 8. The much-awaited India vs Pakistan match at the Cricket World Cup will be played on October 14. But much before that, Ravichandran Ashwin will be in focus.



India star spinner Amit Mishra had an interesting observation on why Ravichandran Ashwin was missing from ODIs for a long time.

"Ravichandran Ashwin is undoubtedly a quality bowler and a wicket-taker, but remem-

ber this is not a 20-over game. It is of 50 overs. You have to bowl for 10 overs and field for 40 overs and might have to bat as well. No doubt he has been around for so long, has been a wicket-taker as well, but there is that matter of fielding as well and that is why a young player might be picked," Amit Mishra was quoted as saying by agency.

"The only reason he has been picked is because if a spinner gets injured, then the team needs to have a wicket-taking option, which Ashwin brings. Ashwin has got an edge as an

off-spin option, as India already has two left-arm spinners and a wrist-spinner in Kuldeep Yadav," "Indian team will be looking at how Ashwin will be bowling against Australia, and to assess if he still has the wicket-taking abilities in this format. The only reason why he is not in the team is because of his fielding and right-handed batting ability.

"Jadeja and Axar are both lefties. Washington is a young player and has shown wicket-taking abilities apart from being a batting option. Plus, he provides an advantage with his fielding, something which holds importance in ODIs," he added.

A month and half back, Ravichandran Ashwin was eloquently explaining on his Tamil YouTube channel, why a talent like Tilak Varma should be seriously considered for the ODI Cricket World Cup. One of India's greatest match-winners in Test cricket wouldn't possibly have envisaged that in six weeks time he would be sum-

moned for a two-match trial against Washington Sundar -- nearly a decade and half junior to him. Close selection calls are par for course when it comes to Cricket World Cup squads. But just two weeks before the mega event, the Indian team management has called the two off-spinners for the three-match series against Australia to keep a ready back-up option in case Axar Patel's quadriceps tear doesn't heal on time.

It will be a virtual shoot-out and their performances on flat decks of Mohali and Rajkot will be monitored by Ajit Agarkar's selection committee.

"I think Ashwin will be slightly ahead now that a bowler of his stature has been called into the mix. I have always felt that Ashwin should have been in the mix from the time the team got into the ODI Cricket World Cup mode," said former chairman of selectors MSK Prasad, who was at helm when the 2019 squad was selected.

Women in Blue look to start Asiad innings with a bang

In their first Asian Games appearance, the cricketers would want to go all the way and finish at the top of the podium.

CHENNAI, Sep 21 (Agencies): When the India women's cricket team stood on the podium, receiving their silver medal at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, it was a one-of-a-kind experience for the players. They had never been a part of anything like this before. Throughout the event, the conversations were around engaging and spending time with athletes from other disciplines, getting to know them and cheering for them. This time, the Asian Games in Hangzhou is different. They already know what to expect and how the Games village is and so on. Some of the players were even seen cheering for the Indian football team during their opening match against China.

Now, unlike other disciplines, cricket, especially Indian cricket, has often steered clear of multi-sport events over the past two decades. The tide, however, is changing. After making their debut in the CWG, the women's team will be taking part for the first time in the Asian event when they take the field against Malaysia in the quarterfinal on Thurs-



day. Their second-string men's team will do the same in October. With the ongoing talks to include cricket in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, understandably, the team with the biggest diaspora and fan base around the globe, India, are now the centre of attraction in other multi-sport events.

From the players' and former players' point of view, there is more to it. Not long ago, the women's team were not getting their due attention and opportunities — there is still a long road to travel ahead to attain an egalitarian ecosystem — but things have changed for the better. The

number of matches, the match fee for international players and the Women's Premier League are proof that women's cricket is the most promising commodity in the market and is only going to get bigger in the coming years.

Former cricketer and coach feels the impact of playing in the Asian Games is massive. "You look at the opportunities that have happened in the last two years for Indian cricket, overall, if you see. There is nothing like winning a medal. We have always seen it in different fields, whether its athletics or weightlifting, or javelin throw because of Neeraj Chopra. Now, we see

the women's and men's cricket teams being a part of this, it is always a pride. We have been talking over a period of time that we need more tournaments, and exposure and now we are getting it. And it is happening at the right time, everything is falling into place. WPL, Asian Games, so much to look forward to, especially for young cricketers to take up this game professionally," said Nooshin.

India is probably the strongest team heading into the Games but there are challenges. Their captain Harmanpreet Kaur is suspended by ICC for two games and Smriti Mandhana will lead in her absence.

The other teams, Pakistan are coming off an ODI series win against South Africa and Sri Lanka beat New Zealand in the same format.

On a given day, both could outplay India in the shortest format. And the teams will be playing three knockout games on the trot if they go all the way. "The positive side about it is that we are aware of it," says Nooshin. "We played in Bangladesh and at the same time, other Asian countries have also played some handy cricket. Pakistan and Sri Lanka are playing good cricket. Just as a unit, we have a balanced unit to take it forward. It is going to be a tough competition. Given the number of T20 leagues happening, there has been a lot of development in cricket. For me as a viewer, it is going to be quite exciting and it is not going to be one-sided contests."

While one can say with certain confidence that India will probably come back with a medal, they will be really disappointed if they do not finish at the top of the podium.

UCL: Barcelona, Manchester City start with wins



BERLIN, Sep 21 (Agencies): Barcelona's Joao Felix, Manchester City's Julian Alvarez and Paris Saint Germain's Kylian Mbappe all scored as their teams made winning starts in the Champions League. But the wildest celebrations of the night came in Rome, where Lazio goalkeeper Ivan Provedel headed in the team's equaliser in the fifth minute of injury time to earn a 1-1 draw with Atletico Madrid. It was the last action of the game. As the group stage began without either Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo for the first time since 2002-03, a 16-year-old almost scored on his competition debut for Barcelona. Lamine Yamal struck the side netting, then saw an effort saved by Antwerp goalkeeper Jean Butez after coming on as a substitute in Barcelona's 5-0 win over the Belgian team. Manchester City started their title defence by coming from behind to beat Red Star Belgrade 3-1 at home. Mbappe scored a penalty to break the deadlock as Paris Saint-Germain earned a 2-0 win over Borussia Dortmund. AC Milan were held to 0-0 draw by Newcastle.

Students of The Business School, JU interacts with GM The Hindu Group

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, September 21: Sunil Mirza, General Manager(S&D) of The Hindu Group today interacted with the students of MBA 1st and 3rd Semesters of The Business School, University of Jammu. His interaction focused on apprising the students about the relevance of media, both print and digital, in enhancing the skills and employability of the students by keeping them updated with the contemporary issues to remain relevant.

While emphasizing the



importance of differentiating between facts and fiction, he highlighted the need to identify the fake updates spread in the social media. He also encouraged the students to develop the habit of reading newspapers in order to

be aware of the latest authentic news which is also reliable. He also elaborated on the diverse career opportunities that the media sector offers to the students. The students found the session quite informative and raised

a lot of queries which were duly addressed by the resource person. He was accompanied by Mr. Devender Kumar, Assistant Regional Manager, Sales & Distribution, The Hindu Group of Publications.

Earlier, Prof. Vinay Chauhan, Director The Business School, welcomed the resource person and apprised the audience of the possibilities of employment and training opportunities with The Hindu Group. The event was coordinated by Dr. Amisha Gupta, associate Professor, TBS, JU.

Lalit elected as President, Danish General Secretary in KAJK

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 21: Kalarippayattu Association of J&K elected its new office bearers for the term of four years in its annual general body meeting at Amar Singh Club, Jammu here wherein Rajeev Sharma and Manjeet Singh were elected as Patron and Chairman respectively.

Tarsem Sharma was nominated as Chief Executive Officer, CA Lalit K Gupta was elected as Honorary President and Gul-E-Surkhab as Senior Vice President, while Shuja Zaffar, Archit Puri, Balbir Singh were nominated as Vice Presidents, Danish Sharma as Honorary General Sec-



retary and Arshad Aziz, Sandeepan Dutta, Sahil Sharma were nominated as Joint Secretaries besides Abhishek Pandita has been elected as Treasurer and Harsh Vardhan Raina, Shabir Ahmad Lone, Rohini Chib were nominated as executive members of the association. Elections were held

under the proper guidelines of Indian Kalarippayattu Federation and constitution of Kalarippayattu Association of J&K.

Vikas Gupta-Joint Secretary (JKOA) was observer from J&K Olympic Association. In the meeting, Danish Sharma gave detailed report of the recently

organised championships and brief about the J&K Kalarippayattu team's achievements at National and Khelo India Level.

He also expressed his gratitude to Poonthura Soman-Secretary General, Indian Kalarippayattu Federation for including Kalarippayattu sport in 37th National Games 2023 and School National Games 2023.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks presented by Lalit K Gupta - President of the association.

GDC Chatroo hosts Lecture on "Earning while Learning" in commemoration of Gandhi Jayanti



TOP NEWS REPORT

CHATROO, Sep 21: In celebration of the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, GDC Chatroo organized a thought-provoking lecture on the theme of "Earning while Learning." The event was targeted to highlight the significance of Gandhian principles in education and self-sufficiency.

The lecture, was presided over by Dr. Ved Kumar, the Principal of Government Degree College Chatroo and the speaker for the event was Dr. Haq Nawaz Ahmed, whose insightful presentation left a lasting impact on the attendees.

Dr. Haq Nawaz Ahmed, in his enlightening lecture, emphasized the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi on "Learning

while Learning."

He eloquently conveyed that Gandhi's initiatives such as the Khadi Movement and the Salt March were not merely political endeavors but crucial steps toward self-sufficiency and economic independence.

Dr. Ahmed passionately urged the students to integrate these profound lessons into their educational journeys by concurrently pursuing skill development courses, allowing them to "earn while learning."

Furthermore, Dr. Ved Kumar, in his concluding remarks, commended Dr. Haq Nawaz Ahmed for his informative and inspirational lecture. He called upon the students to become torchbearers of Gandhi's message and principles in their communities and

beyond.

Dr. Kumar stressed the importance of holistic education that includes both academic pursuits and practical skills to foster self-reliance.

The event, which among students was graced by faculty members that include Dr. Ashaq Hussain, Prof. Chander Parkash, Dr. J.V. Manhas, Prof. Waseem Rasheed, Dr. Jaswant Singh, Dr. Muddasser Nazar, Dr. Inam and Muddasser Butt served as a meaningful tribute to the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi.

It underscored the enduring relevance of his ideas and the importance of instilling them in the younger generation. The proceedings of the event were carried out by Dr. Muddasser Nazar in a coherent way.

MHAC School Nagbani celebrates Founder's Day with fervour

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 21: MHAC School Nagbani celebrated the Great Maharaja Hari Singh's 128th birthday with great pomp and show in the school premises on Thursday.

The founder father of the school was paid rich floral tributes by the Chief Guest, Bharat Bhushan, Chairman Distt Development Council, Jammu.

Among the dignitaries present on this auspicious occasion were respected LMC members, ID Soni, Susheel Jamwal, ARO JK Zone-AALok Betab. Sarita Singh, Daughter in-law of Late Capt Dewan Singh was also present along with the Sarpanch from various villages.

The celebrations commenced with a Havan Yajna. A divine flavor was added to the atmosphere with melodious resounding Bhajans and mantras. A dance drama was pre-



sented by the students showcasing the life of Maharaja Hari Singh and the social reforms done by him.

On this auspicious occasion the school presented gifts to two guests schools - Vir Ram Chander Memorial Trust School Ban Batehra and School for hearing and handicapped, J&K Samaj Kalyan Kendra Shahidi

Chowk, Jammu.

Principal MHAC Nagbani Brij Mohan in his welcome address paid rich tribute to Maharaja Hari Singh and highlighted his visionary ideas. Vote of thanks was presented by Alok Betab, ARO to all the esteemed invitees.

In his address the Chief Guest Bharat Bhushan threw light on Maharaja Hari Singh's contribu-

tion towards education describing him as a great visionary ruler of the state.

Keeping alive the philanthropic works of the Maharaja, the programme culminated with the chanting of Shantipath. It was followed by community Langar organized on a very large scale on this auspicious day.

To hell with OBC, Upper Caste: Rajesh

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 21: The Jammu Warriors Front (JWF) Chairman Rajesh Gupta on Thursday took a strong note of Rahul Gandhi's statement in Parliament on Wednesday in which he pushed for a separate quota for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the women's reservation bill and also pushed for the Caste Census data to be released. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi pushed for a separate quota for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the women's reservation bill and also pushed for the Caste Census data to be released. "Daro Mat, Daro Mat (don't be scared)", said Rahul, as he talked about the Caste Census. He said there are 90 secretaries of the government. "I asked myself how many



of these secretaries are from the OBC community, and was shocked and shattered to find out the answer. Only 3 of them are from the OBC community and only control 5% of India's budget," Rahul said.

Rajesh asked Rahul Gandhi not to indulge in vote bank politics, think about country also. In past 6 decades Congress remained in power now how many more years you want to divide and rule the people for power. Gupta

further said, "to hell with OBC and hell with Upper Caste." JWF leader said, "I would appreciate you if you have had said that Congress will no more tolerate casteism and we respect all the religions and will never involve both in politics". We all are Indians first. He further added that it is a young India. And India has more than 50% of its population below the age of 25 and more than 65% below the age of 35. He told Rahul Gandhi that somehow you are also young but your statement shows what is your thinking level? Grapes are sour. You are a duffer having no foresightedness. You are dreaming for prime-ministership have you ever talked about health sector, Gupta questions.

Gupta said, a public health system to deliver primary health care was, and remains, another

major developmental and welfare measure which was neither taken up strongly in the early post-independence period nor strengthened later to make up for earlier failures. Till today, this remains one of the largest and most glaring failures of the 75 years of Indian independence, as starkly evidenced by India lagging behind even several of our neighbours in South Asia and other low-income countries as regards basic health indicators. He said, thank God our Prime Minister Narendra Modi may tell lies but he never tried to divide the India on casteism. Gupta said, he is astonished that Rahul Gandhi has again started the activities of 'Papu'. Gupta said Rahul Gandhi liked his nick name 'Papu'.

Rajiv Gandhi College of Nursing organizes seminar on Alzheimer's Disease

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 21: World Alzheimer's Day is celebrated on September 21 each year since 1994. On this day, the world concentrates its efforts on creating awareness of Alzheimer's disease. The disease is among the most prevalent forms of dementia, a set of disorders that disrupt mental function.

As per international report, there were more than 55 million people suffering from the disorder worldwide in 2020. This number has been projected to double every 20 years which will result in a total of 78 million case of dementia in 2030. By raising awareness, and encouraging well-informed action for this purpose Rajiv Gandhi College of Nursing, Chak Bhalwal Jammu conducted seminar on Alzheimer's disease & its awareness with the Theme "Never Too Early Never Too Late" on 21 September 2023 at their campus, Chak Bhalwal Jammu. All the students of college were present along



with faculty.

The seminar was started with warm welcome to all worthy Dignitaries of RGCN by Lubna Qasim clinical Instructor, RGCN. The programme was conducted with great enthusiasm by conducting scientific session.

Adnan Bin, Nursing student give brief introduction about Alzheimer's & significance of the day. In his session he highlighted the importance of recognizing the signs of dementia. Umer Bin, M.Sc N 2nd yr student discussed about the end of Alzheimer's starts with you. He explained about early signs - symptoms of the

disease.

Shriya Asgotra, M.Sc N 2nd yr student explain about early diagnosis of Alzheimer's prognosis & diagnosis. In her session discuss about Advancing the science-early assessment of the disease & treatment.

Shashika Singh, Lecturer, RGCN discuss about new innovative updation regarding Alzheimer's. At the end Students also presents a psychodrama on Awareness of Alzheimer's Disease & its prognosis & create hope through action in front of the audience.

Chairman RGCN Jammu, M.S Katoch encouraged the staff

and students for organising such events benefit to students and people. He further said that The day is celebrated and observed to raise awareness about this distorted life with memory and to encourage people to come together in order to awareness.

Anjana Bavouria, Director RGCN, explained we all play a pivotal role & our efforts have been made to increase public awareness, reduce stigma, and ensure widespread access to innovative diagnostic tests. We can also create hope through action and be the light.

Principal RGCN,

Rafiq Bashir praised the faculty of RGCN, Department of Psychiatric Nursing & Department of Medical Surgical Nursing for organising such events. She further said these days are also used as an opportunity to spread awareness about the overall health and well-being of people.

Shrista Sotra, clinical Instructor, RGCN the seminar with vote of thanks. The seminar was informative and educational to all participants. Management of RGCN Jammu is thankful to all the staff, IT department and all participants who joined in this program.