

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-14 Issue-260 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

J&K issue needs to be resolved through dialogue: Hurriyat Chief in first public appearance after 4 Years



SRINAGAR, Sep 22: In his first public appearance following his release from four-year house arrest on Friday, Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq reiterated the stand of his separatist amalgam that the issue of Jammu and Kashmir has to be resolved through dialogue and peaceful means.

The Mirwaiz also said the people of Kashmir believe in peaceful coexistence between communities and nations, and have always advocated for the return of Kashmiri Pandits.

"We have always invited our Pandit brothers to return to the valley. We have always disapproved of making it as a political issue. It is a human issue," he said.

"Our stand is that a part of J-K is in India, another in Pakistan and the third in China. All these make Jammu and Kashmir as it existed in August 1947. The people have been divided and it is a reality that the issue needs to be resolved which the international community also endorses," the Mirwaiz said during the Friday congregational sermon at the historic Jamia Masjid here.

Many families have been separated because of the dividing line between India and Pakistan, and they are craving to see and meet each other to celebrate their joys and share their pains, the Mirwaiz said.

"This can be a geographical issue for some, but it is foremost a human issue for the people of J-K. We have to rise above the considerations of geography or area and understand the human values and relationships and then

IAF conducts air show at Air Force Station in Jammu

JAMMU, Sept 22 (Agencies): An airshow by the Indian Air Force (IAF) to commemorate 76 years of the accession of Jammu and Kashmir into India enthralled spectators here on Friday morning even as the event was cut short by a little over 15 minutes due to rains.

Thousands of people, mostly youngsters, thronged the Air Force Station here as the show was open to the public. The show was presented by the Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT), Mi-17 helicopters and the Aakashganga Daredevil Skydiving team.

The act by the Air Warrior Drill Team and the musical performance by the IAF band drew a lot of applause and whistling.

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha was the chief guest at the event,



which was organised jointly by the IAF and the Union Territory administration. The airshow was also to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the Air Force Station, Jammu and raise awareness about aviation.

Air officer commanding Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh Air Vice Marshal Praveen Keshav

Vohra, and senior civil and police officers also witnessed the show. "The Indian Air Force is a glowing symbol of strength, bravery and dedication. I salute the IAF personnel for their magnificent heroism and the spirit of sacrifice. My deepest gratitude to the Air Warriors and their families," the L-G wrote on X after

the event.

Three Mi 17 helicopters of the 130 Helicopter unit, headed by Wing Commander Irfan Wahid Khan Jarial presented a flypast on the arrival of the chief guest.

Shruti Arora, a youngster from Jammu city, thanked the IAF for providing the people the opportunity to watch the show.

"The show had a magnificent start with 11 members of the IAF flying high with the national flag and performing the most difficult stunts in the sky. The IAF's Garud Commandos paratrooping operation from helicopters to pin down its target was also worth watching," she said. "I was apprehensive that the show might be cancelled because of the heavy cloud cover. Though rains cut short the show, we enjoyed every bit of the show," said Vinay Kumar, a student of class 11.

Anurag Thakur cancels Asian Games visit after China denies entry to sportsmen from Arunachal Pradesh



NEW DELHI, Sep 22 (Agencies): Reacting to some Indian sports persons from Arunachal Pradesh being denied entry into 19th Asian Games in China, Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Sports Anurag Thakur has cancelled his scheduled visit to China for the Games.

India has also lodged a strong protest in New Delhi and Beijing against this.

MEA spokesperson

Arindam Bagchi said, "China's action violates both the spirit of the Asian Games and the rules governing their conduct, which explicitly prohibits discrimination against competitors from member states."

The MEA spokesperson was reacting to media queries on some Indian sports persons being denied entry into 19th Asian Games.

Bagchi said the government had learnt that the Chinese authorities have, in a "targeted and pre-meditated manner, discriminated" against some of the Indian sports persons from the state of Arunachal Pradesh by denying them accreditation and

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Over 2600 teachers in JK lack secondary qualifications

SRINAGAR, Sep 22 (Agencies): In Jammu and Kashmir, more than 2600 teachers possess qualifications below the secondary level and instruct students across all tiers. Notably, among this group, over 1700 teachers are responsible for guiding primary-level classes.

As per the news agency KNO, official data discloses that a total of 2685 teachers with qualifications below the secondary level are engaged in teaching students across various levels. The data further reveals that within the pre-primary educational tier across Jammu and Kashmir, at least 276 such teachers are involved in instructing students.

Furthermore, it is indi-

cated that more than 66 percent of these teachers, amounting to 1773 individuals, are engaged in teaching students at the primary level. Official statistics say that 540 teachers operate at the upper primary level, followed by 88 teachers at the secondary level, and eight teachers at the higher secondary level.

Meanwhile, an anonymous government teacher said, "As per government norms, a person should hold a minimum of a graduate degree to be eligible for teaching students, regardless of the educational level, be it primary, upper primary, or secondary."

The teacher added that whether these teachers belong to government or private schools, "I

believe they should enhance their qualifications to improve their teaching abilities and ensure that students do not suffer."

In 2021, the Government of India (GoI) stated that over 2000 'untrained' teachers working in Government Secondary Schools in Jammu and Kashmir lack the necessary professional qualifications for teaching students.

During a Project Approval Board Meeting (PAB) for 2021-22 attended by the Ministry of Education (MoE) of the GoI and officials from Jammu and Kashmir earlier this year, it was stated, "There are 2061 untrained teachers in Government Secondary Schools, as

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Friday prayers led by Mirwaiz conclude peacefully at Jamia Masjid: Div Com

SRINAGAR, Sep 22 (Agencies): Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Friday said that the congregational prayers led by Hurriyat Conference (M) Mirwaiz Umar Farooq at historic Jamia Srinagar Masjid concluded peacefully.

Talking to reporters, Bidhuri said that prayers concluded peacefully, which is the dividend of peace process. "The credit goes to the people and agencies, who took

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Indus water dispute: India, Pakistan attend meeting in Vienna

NEW DELHI, Sep 22 (Agencies): India has taken part in a two-day meeting in Vienna that was part of the proceedings aimed at resolving a dispute between New Delhi and Islamabad

of the Kishenganga and Rattle hydroelectric projects in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting in the Austrian capital city was convened by a neutral expert.

Senior advocate Harish Salve was present in the meeting as India's lead counsel in the matter, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday.

Driver killed, 6 injured in Qazigund accident

QAZIGUND, Sep 22 (Agencies): A driver was killed while six of the family members were injured in an accident at Levдора area of Qazigund along the Jammu-Srinagar highway in Kulgam district.

An official said that a vehicle bearing registration number (JK06B 0901), en route from Srinagar, collided with a truck traveling near the Walnut factory in Qazigund.

"The accident resulted in severe injuries to all seven occupants of the Echo vehicle, who were swiftly taken to the Emergency Hospital in Qazigund for treatment," he said.

Among them, a driver identified as Maroof Ahmad Bhat, son of Niyaz Ahmad Bhat a resident of Doda died at the hospital, he said.

He identified the injured persons as Ghulam Qadir Bhat, son

of Mohammad Abdullah, Mohammad Niyaz Bhat, son of Ghulam Qadir, Mumtaz Ahmad Bhat, son of Ghulam Qadir, Mubeena Begum, wife of Niyaz Ahmad Bhat, Mehvish Akhter, daughter of Mohammad Niyaz, Maroof Mumtaz Bhat, son of Mohammad Niyaz and Absha Banoo, daughter of Mohammad Niyaz all residents of Doda.

Meanwhile, a case under FIR number

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MotoGP | India's distorted Map broadcast Live, J&K, Ladakh missing

NEW DELHI, Sep 22 (Agencies): A huge controversy erupted ahead of MotoGP's India debut when a distorted map of the country - with Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh missing from it - was broadcast during a live stream of the biggest motorcycle racing event on Friday.

Within hours of the matter being flagged by some social media users, MotoGP on its official account on X, formerly Twitter, posted an apology for the gaffe.

"We'd like to apologise to our fans in India for the map shown earlier a part of the MotoGP broadcast. It is never our intent to make any statement other than that of



support and appreciation for our host country," MotoGP stated.

"We're excited to be able to enjoy the IndianOil Grand Prix of India with you and we're with you and we're loving our first taste of Buddh International Circuit," it added.

Practice is scheduled

for Friday in all classes - Moto 2, Moto 3, and MotoGP. The qualifying will be held on Saturday and the main races are scheduled for Sunday. India are hosting a motorsport event of this magnitude for the first time since the 2013 Formula 1 Indian Grand Prix, which was dropped

from the calendar due to financial, taxation and bureaucratic issues.

Dorna and Fairstreet have signed a seven-year MoU for the MotoGP race in India.

Earlier this month, the Uttar Pradesh government released a fund of Rs 8 crore to its department 'Invest UP' for the MotoGP after a proposal from Fairsreet Sports, according to an official statement of the local Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority.

Besides this fund, the local authority worked on beautification and repair works on connecting roads to the Buddh International Circuit, it added.

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Congress protests, demands CBI probe in JJM Scam

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 22: The Congress party took to the streets today, demanding a CBI probe into the alleged 14,000 crore rupee Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) project scam in Jammu & Kashmir. They also addressed pressing issues such as smart meters, toll tax, property tax, rising prices, and unemployment.

Leading a massive protest, JKPC Chief Vikar Rasool Wani called for a CBI investigation into the allegations made by Senior IAS officer Mr. Ashok Kumar Parmar, the former Principal Secretary of the Jal Shakti department, who has filed a complaint with the National SC Commission.

Wani questioned the central government's failure to initiate a high-level inquiry into the serious allegations of corruption in the multi-crore JJM project for J&K.

Accompanied by Working President Shri Raman Bhalla and the entire senior leadership of the party, a large number of prominent Congress leaders and workers, including functionaries of PCC, DCC, frontal wings, corporators, ex-corporators, and members from blocks and wards of Jammu district (urban and rural), participated in a



strong protest march from Shaheedi Chowk headquarters towards Raj Bhawan.

The police faced challenges in halting the protesters at Residency Road, where they were encouraged not to proceed further. The demonstrators chanted slogans demanding a CBI probe into the JJM scam, removal of toll plazas, relief from property tax, addressing rising prices, and tackling unemployment.

Speaking to reporters, JKPC Chief Vikar Rasool Wani reiterated the demand for a CBI investigation into the allegations made by the senior IAS officer regarding the mismanagement of the JJM project in the Union Territory.

Wani also criticized the government for imple-

menting prepaid smart meters, failing to remove the toll plaza at Sarore despite Minister Nitin Gadhkari declaring it illegal, imposing property tax, and the widespread issue of unemployment and price hikes.

JKPC Chief stated that Congress is the only party capable of leading the people towards peace, progress, harmony, and equitable development for all regions and sections of society. He urged the people to teach the BJP a lesson in all upcoming elections, including ULB, Panchayats, assembly, and Lok Sabha elections. Furthermore, he demanded the restoration of statehood and early assembly elections.

Raman Bhalla also called for a CBI probe into the implementation

of the Jal Jeevan Mission project and the serious allegations made by Mr. Parmar, emphasizing the urgency of a high-level investigation into the 13,000 crore rupee project.

Bhalla expressed disappointment with the central government and UT administration, accusing them of implementing anti-people and anti-youth policies and actions that infringe upon people's rights to protest common issues.

The entire Jammu region observed a complete Bandh in protest against the toll plaza, but the BJP government at the center and the UT administration appeared unresponsive to the concerns of the electorate who had given them a substantial mandate.

It is time to hold the BJP accountable for its

insensitivity and arrogance toward the issues faced by the common people and their peaceful protests against numerous challenges.

Several prominent leaders participated in the protest, including Mula Ram, Th. Balwan Singh, Yogesh Sawhney, Kanta Bhan, Ravinder Sharma, Th. Balbir Singh, Ved Mahajan, Gurbachan Kumar Rana, Indu Pawar, Vinod Sharma, Th. Manmohan Singh, Rajnish Sharma, Hari Singh Chib, Shiv Kumar Sharma, Kapil Singh, Dwarka Choudhary, T.S Tony, Gurdarshan Singh, Pawan Raina, Shashi Sharma, Narinder Gupta, Neeraj Gupta, Sanjeev Panda, Gurmeet Singh, Manjeet Singh Jatt, Amrit Bali, Satish Sharma, Karan Bhagat, Akash Bharat, Kamal Singh, Ritu Choudhary, Bhanu Mahajan, Namrata Sharma, Rajinder Singh Jammwal, Satish Sharma, Sandeep Dogra, Bhupinder Singh Jamwal, Vijay Shastri, Jatinder Singh, Com. Gurmeet Singh, Jatinder Bhagat, Parshotam Mehra, Vijay Malhotra, Michael Wazir, Dr. R.K. Khajuria, Suresh Bagothra, Rajesh Sharma, Charanjit Bhagat, Balbir Singh, Pawan Dev Singh, Ram Magotra, Kewal Jogi, Jatinder Vashisht, Atul Sharma, Ricky Dalotra, Hoshiar Singh, Rakesh Sharma, and others.

Farooq, Omar conveyed condolences

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU Sep 22: National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Omar Abdullah expressed grief over the passing away of Late Rajinder Handoo Adv Son of Late P.L Handoo Adv former member of parliament and former minister and conveyed condolences to the bereaved family.

In their messages, Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah prayed for peace to the departed soul and expressed solidarity with other

members of the family. In the condolence message, General Secretary Haji Ali Mohammed Sagar, Dr Sheikh Mustafa Kamaal, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra Additional General Secretaries, Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu Province and Nasir Aslam Wani Provincial President Kashmir have also expressed grief and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

Ajay Kumar Sadhotra Additional General Secretary, Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu, Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provin-

cial Secretary, Babu Rampaul Central Zone President, Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretary, Ajaz Jan Provincial President Jammu YNC, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Satwant Kour Dogra Provincial President Women Wing, Vijay Lakshmi Datta, Raghvir Singh Manhas District President Jammu Rural, Sardar Gurnam Singh Block President Jammu West, Sardar Tejinder Singh District President Jammu Urban YNC, Nitish Gowsami, Jatinder Bhat and other party functionaries of

JKNC participated in the cremation at Bantala today.

Senior leaders of the National Conference have also conveyed their condolences to the bereaved family.

Those who prayed for peace to the departed soul, include Khalid Najeer Suharwady Provincial Vice President Jammu Province, Javed Ahmed Rana Zone President Pir Panjal, Abdul Gani Malik Zone President Udhampur Reasi, Sajjad Ahmed Kichloo Zone President Chenab Valley, Bushan Lal Bhat Ex-MLC, Surind-

er Choudhary Central Secretary, Bimla Luthra Ex-MLA, Deepender Kour, Ex-MLC, Jugal Mahajan, Zeeshan Rana, Th. Yashvardhan Singh Additional Spokespersons Jammu, Ayub Malik, Ankush Abrol, Ghar Singh, Nar Singh, Harshvardhan Singh, Waris Gill, D.S Chouhan, Chander Mohan Sharma District President Jammu Urban and Naresh Bittu District President Jammu Rural B, Sudagar Gupta District President Samba, Som Raj Taroch and other party functionaries.

High Court celebrates 128th Birth Anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 22: The J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu, organized a grand function at the Court Complex in Jammu to celebrate the 128th Birth Anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji. The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of a large number of lawyers who gathered to pay their heartfelt tributes.

During his address, Vikram Sharma, senior Advocate & President of J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu, shed light on the life and contributions of Maharaja Hari Singh. He also expressed appreciation for the government's decision to declare September 23rd, the birthday of Maharaja Hari Singh, as a holiday. This recognition is a testament to the significant role played by Maharaja Hari Singh, who integrated Jammu and Kashmir into the domin-



ion of India by signing the Instrument of Accession as a progressive and secular ruler.

Sharma pointed out that the J&K High Court of Judicature was established during Maharaja's rule in 1928. He also highlighted Maharaja's justice-oriented approach during his tenure. He urged intellectuals to conduct more research on Maharaja's life and contributions, making his legacy more widely known to the

public. Sharma called upon the people of Jammu & Kashmir to celebrate Maharaja Hari Singh's birthday as a 'Diwali' and pay the highest tribute to his memory.

All the lawyers in attendance paid their respects by offering floral tributes to Maharaja Hari Singh.

The event was attended by various office bearers of the J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu, including Amit

Gupta (Vice-President), Parvesh Singh Salaria (General Secretary), Chetan Misri (Joint Secretary), Utkarsh Pathania (Treasurer), and Rohit Sharma (President, YLA), among others. Both senior and young lawyers actively participated in the celebration, including Deepika Mahajan, Anil Bagothra, S. M.P. Singh Palli, Rameshwar Singh Jamwal, Anil Khajuria, Gourav Jamwal, M.S. Qureshi, Zamir Muslim

Qureshi, Prem Sadotra, Bindusar Abrol, Divyais-han, Amit Manhas, Surjeet Singh Andotra, Atul Raina, Sachin Dev Singh, Manjit Singh Sarkaria, Dakshesh Maharaj, and many others. The celebration concluded with the lawyers enjoying a traditional Halwa.

Parvesh Singh Salaria, General Secretary of J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu, brought the function to a close.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) ELECTRIC DIVISION JAMMU

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
xejpwdelcdv.jammu@gmail.com
e-NIT No.EDJ/185 of 2023-2024 Dated 18-09-2023

For and on behalf of the **Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir** e-tenders are invited on Percentage Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estimated Cost (in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of New Complex at Bus Stand after Demisealling the Old One (GF and FF) Samba Electrical Part.	PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu	27.80	600/-	55600/-	Linked with Civil works.	29-09-2023 At or after (12:00 A.N)	"A" Class Electrical Contractor
2	Balance Work Community Hall at Thalora Mandi Samba in Ward No.15 including Const. of Kitchen Toilet Complex Samba Electrical Part.	PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu	4.54	600/-	9080/-	Linked with Civil works.	29-09-2023 At or after (12:00 A.N)	"A" Class Electrical Contractor

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule.

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	19-09-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 19-09-2023 to 28-09-2023, 4:00 P.M
3	Bid submission Start Date	19-09-2023
4	Bid Submission End Date	28-09-2023 up to 4:00 P.M
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	29-09-2023 at or after 12:00 A.N in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work and NIT No. duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favouring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu. uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, and relevant documents of L1 to be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu, at the time of allotment.

2. Bid Security Declaration should be kept in the Bid documents as per tendered.

3. The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

5. The earnest money shall be forfeited, If :-

a) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period after issue of letter of acceptance.

c) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement on same day of allotment of work contract as per Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department Jammu's Circular No. CEJ/G/12660-87 dated 07-10-2021. No.:- EDJ/9282-89

Dated :- 18-09-2023

DIP/J-8601/23

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Electric Division
Jammu

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu
[e-mail: xennorth@gmail.com](mailto:xennorth@gmail.com)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. 208 of 2023-24

For and on behalf of Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Jammu, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from the reputed/registered firms/Sole Prop. for the below mentioned work:-

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of document/ tender fee (in Rs.)	Earnest money	Validity of Rates	Bid validity
1.	Repair / replacement of damaged components of Automatic Transformer starter (ATS) of motor of HC Pumping unit no 01 at CPS Samadhian with allied works.	200/-	Rs. 3100/- in the shape of CDR / FDR	180 days	180 days

Date of Publishing : 19-09-2023 04.00 pm.

1. Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 19-09-2023 (04.00 pm).

2. The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 19-09-2023 (04.00 pm) to 29-09-2023 (04.00 pm).

3. The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

4. The Technical bids received shall be opened online on 30-09-2023 (04.00 pm) or any other subsequent date in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division North Jammu.

5. The Financial bid of the bidders shall be opened online after scrutinizing the technical bid in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu in 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.

6. The bidder should make payment for cost of bidding document in shape of single window challan of JMC / online payment through the JMC website link <http://www.jmcjammu.org/online-payment.html> in the name of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu.

7. The original instruments in respect of cost of document, EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR and other relevant document of L1 bidder will be required to be submitted to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu after opening of financial bids on line. No separate intimation about opening of financial bids will be sent by this office / by the tender opening authority. In case the original documents are not submitted by the L1 bidder opening of financial bid, the tender will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.

8. The date and time of opening of financial bids will be notified on website <http://jktenders.gov.in> and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.

9. The original documents when submitted by L1 bidder for the cost of tender documents, specified in the tender document should be same as uploaded on line (Scanned copies) otherwise allotment will not be issued, the tenders will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.

10. Bid security of successful tenderer will have to be in form of CDR/FDR of any scheduled bank and shall have to be valid for 180 days from last date of receipt of Bid. No exemption of any kind shall be allowed on this.

11. Only such firms should submit tender, who have requisite infrastructure and workshop facility for carrying out similar type of job which may be inspected by the competent authority before awarding the job contract so as to access the working capacity of the tenderer. The workmanship and material used should be of high quality and as per the specifications of the job order / tender.

12. The bid for the execution of work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the earnest money of the firm shall stand forfeited.

13. The tenderers are advised to visit the site of work / inspect the parts to be fabricated before uploading their tenders so as to acquaint themselves with exact measurement and site conditions.

14. Special conditions as per Finance Department order No. OM A/24 (2017)-651 dated 07-06-2018.

i. 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 L-1 after opening of financial bids.

ii. The cost of tenders should be collected by introducing e-challan or simply uploading a copy of necessary challan / receipt.

iii. Similarly, instead of insisting on actual call deposit receipt, a copy of same duly pledged to the concerned department should be uploaded by the tenderers. However, before allotting the work or issuing the supply order, the original CDR/FDR should be obtained and kept on record.

15. Other details, instructions and terms and conditions can be seen / downloaded from the bidding document.

JMSMDNJ/3233-35
Dated: 19-09-2023

DIP/J-8590/23

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti Mech. Division North
Jammu

EDITORIAL

MAKING
RESERVATION
FOR DESERVING
PEOPLE

Even though people have been given the right to equality in our Constitution, the reservation implemented for people of special castes is today working to spread inequality, unrest and break unity. Today, reservation has become very important in every field from railway travel to medical services and even in jobs and political positions.

Some places are reserved in each of these areas for a particular caste, due to which a qualified person belonging to the upper class of the society, whose economic condition is not good, is not able to take advantage of these posts. Today, due to low marks of some percentage, a qualified person is not able to get a job, a lower caste person who has less marks than him can easily get a job, even if he does not need that job more than him.

Reservation means to secure. Reservation keeps a reserved place for a particular caste in every area. However, everyone has a desire to have a safe place in every field, whether it is traveling in a railway compartment or getting treatment in a hospital or getting a job in a government department or contesting elections for the Assembly or Lok Sabha.

In earlier times, reservation was such a fight for their rights, for which it became very important for those people who belonged to lower castes and who were being oppressed and exploited by the upper classes for centuries, to raise their voice. Everyone needed reservation to live a life of equality and freedom. That is why reservation was brought.

When a person is not able to get even general rights, he demands special rights. The main objective of reservation is that there should be equality in all areas and no one's rights should be violated nor should anyone misuse his rights. Reservation was brought only for the purpose of upliftment of the backward class of the society. But today reservation is being misused.

First of all, if we talk about the benefits of reservation, then reservation can benefit those people who are backward in the society and belong to lower castes. Reservation was brought only for the upliftment of the lower caste. Since ancient times, due to the discrimination between upper and lower castes in the name of caste, their position in the society had lagged behind.

Keeping that position in mind, BR Ambedkar and other constitution makers had decided to add reservation in the Constitution of India. Due to reservation, discrimination against lower caste people has ended and their status in the society has improved and their lifestyle is developing.

Reservation was brought with the aim that the lower class people in the society would be uplifted and their lifestyle would be improved. However, today the lifestyle of lower class people has improved. But reservation has become a problem for those who belong to the upper class and are deserving.

Reservation has been implemented on the basis of caste due to which if a person belonging to upper class comes from a poor family, despite being qualified, many times he is not able to get a job due to reservation. With the help of the crutch of reservation implemented on the basis of caste, even an incompetent person from a lower class can easily get a job.

Due to reservation, a qualified person is not able to get a job due to which he remains unemployed. The government should bring fundamental changes in this system and start making reservation for the benefit of the deserving and poor people and not for the lower castes. Poverty does not come from looking at low and high castes. Poverty can happen in any caste.

G-20 was about much more than an economic corridor

By: Debotri Dhar

The recently concluded G-20 summit hosted in New Delhi is all the talk in global affairs forums. An inter-governmental forum of 19 countries, the European Union and now the African Union, which together account for 85 per cent of the world's gross domestic product and two-thirds of its population, the G-20 was founded in 1999 in response to that decade's massive Asian financial crisis, to formulate key economic and financial policies. Importantly, the G-20's economic agenda encompasses issues such as gender-inclusive growth and global health, through the G-20 Health Working Group established in 2017 to strengthen health-care systems and address their socio-economic determinants via targeted public policy measures.

The Bharat Mandapam at New Delhi's Pragati Maidan, framed with the tallest ashtadhatu Nataraja statue depicting Bhagwan Shiva's cosmic dance, was the venue for this summit. Delightful animals were on display -- as topiaries, architectural sculptures of elephants, and motifs on tapestry. The G-20 member countries have a variety of national animals and birds -- tiger, jaguar, lion, kangaroo, bears and beavers, wolves, dragons and pandas, along with peacocks, roosters and robins, eagles, falcons and hawks, thrushes and sparrows, cranes and geese -- and several of these also enjoyed pride of place. Despite the attendance of the big leaders, big outcomes had not been expected, as foreign policy experts were doubtful of reaching a consensus, given the backdrop of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. But at the conclusion of the summit, the list of

achievements has been impressive.

In what was a major diplomatic win for India, unanimity was reached in the Delhi Declaration. With the support of the United States and other member nations, the declaration used the language of war, and called for the protection of sovereignty, territorial integrity and peace, signalling the growing importance of the Global South. India secured permanent membership for the African Union, which comprises more than 50 countries, a tremendous win for the post-colonial world. Like the nations of Africa and Latin America, India, too, has a painful history of colonialism, its wealth drained by centuries of racist plunder. Against this historical backdrop, the inclusion of Africa is highly symbolic, as only South Africa was a member until now. The announcement and MoU for an ambitious economic corridor connecting India, Europe and the Middle East, to also include the United States, France, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Germany and Italy, was also huge. As President Joe Biden announced, this new development initiative will bridge ports to facilitate ease of trade, export clean energy, improve digital inclusion, and spur economic growth.

Any policy disagreements aside, Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak won many hearts with his genuine warmth and charisma. Mr Sunak emphasised his Indian cultural heritage and faith, expressing support for a deeper bilateral relationship. Mr Sunak, not just a head of government but a seasoned statesman, said it was not for him to instruct the Global South on what position to take on global wars. A substantive Indo-UK trade agreement is likely. Some South Asian analysts said the change of

heart of a few Western commentators, who had earlier greatly upset international audiences with their colonial arrogance and who were now talking of multi-polarity and praising India, was also a win. But two prominent Delhi-based news hosts dismissed them as "players" who could be trusted to do anything to stay in the game.

Meanwhile, one man who is getting a lot of respect from across the political spectrum is India's brilliant external affairs minister, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, who must be credited for his post-colonial vision and courageous leadership.

At the same time, and for all the big wins coming out of this summit of eagles and falcons, its "smaller" successes must also be celebrated, especially as the bigger plans will have to surmount big challenges. Years ago, I became fascinated with the hummingbird, that tiniest bird of the Americas which, despite its small size, catches everyone's eye with its effervescent colours and uniquely structured wings that flap and fly at an incredible speed. A hardworking creature that outlives bigger birds, hummingbirds pollinate flowers, disperse seeds and control the insect population. What had struck me most, though, was how some larger predatory birds, annoyed by the hummingbird's visibility and vibrant colours, attack and feast on it as a group.

(Unlike humans, there is at least there is no illusion in the animal kingdom. The lion does not pretend to be the deer's friend, and the deer does not protect the lion out of love; it knows to see and flee.)

India's invitation to Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as a guest for the summit was a small but welcome gesture, to remind ourselves that our relationships

with those closest to us is also important, especially when there is some history of trust. India had extended support to Bangladesh during the 1971 liberation war, a genocide which also included the systematic rape of an estimated 200,000 to 400,000 Bengali women. As important was the understanding over Taiwan which, on the request of the United States, India has agreed to support, another step forward for India-US relations. Decades ago, the persecution faced by peaceful Tibetans had received very little international attention; Taiwan will be different.

India, Brazil and other countries of the Global South will continue to be courted by a range of suitors, so astute decisions must be made. Where the ostrich digs its head in the mud, the wise owl looks more closely. Those whose strength is independence, alongside productive collaborations, must be cautious of partners who misused their power to cause harm. In Asia, the Sri Lanka-China and other stories provide insight into the need for diversifying portfolios rather than relying on large developmental loans from friends who may seek to control more than the terms of repayment. Friendships are not just about disagreement; good friends also go to a great extent to support each other. (As for making just, timely decisions, one expects that even from ethical strangers, let alone leaders supposed to be serving the public good.) The Global South's global wins must continue alongside addressing the local needs of socio-economic inclusion. As I wrap up this article, news is coming in of a unique, hybrid hummingbird with glittering gold feathers just found in the Peruvian Andes. It is a new world, and one hopes for a golden dawn.

Advanced Digital Skills through Upskilling to keep up with the fast pace of technological changes

By: VIJAY GARG

The rapidly changing nature of jobs and skills requirements. Across the world is creating a skills gap that hinders employment opportunities. Business leaders need to quickly identify this gap and prepare their workforce for the future by providing clear direction to employees on how to build the skills they need to succeed. In the Asia-Pacific region, approximately 86 million workers need to acquire advanced digital skills through upskilling or reskilling to keep up with the fast pace of technological changes.

The UNDP's Human Development Index ranks India at 132 out of 191 countries. This is a critical concern, as companies face a shortage of skilled workers while millions of educated individuals remain unemployed. To address this problem, India has been working to transform into a skill-based economy over the past decade. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and the National Skill Development Corporation have been established to bring skill development to the forefront. The Skill India Mission, which began in July 2015, aims to address the shortage of skilled workers in the country. However, there is still a huge mismatch between the numbers of candidates. Trained, certified, and finally placed, with the International Labour Organization predicting a shortage of around 29 million skilled personnel in India by 2030.

Employees across various industries are facing pressure to upskill and reskill, but many find it challenging to take time out for learning due to long work hours. A lack of support systems that prioritize worker well-being can hinder motivation for upskilling and reskilling. Organiza-

tions can create new financial incentives through skills-based compensation to encourage employees to self-learn new skills.

A skilled workforce is critical for higher growth, but only 45% of trained individuals in India are employable, with only 4.69% of the workforce having vocational training. This indicates a significant skill gap in the country.

Which can be attributed to a lack of training infrastructure and limited private-sector participation. The lack of a monitoring body for these training institutes is also a contributing factor.

India's demographic advantage will become a challenge if the young population is not skillfully upskilled, reskilled, and skilled. By 2025, an estimated 70% of India's population will be of working age, and without proper employment opportunities, unemployment will remain a significant challenge. The National Education Policy (2020) needs to make sincere efforts in skill development from the school level. There is a need to create a sound National Vocational Education and Training System that provides every child with an option to go for vocational education, and training after 10 years of schooling. Most developed countries have a well-defined national vocational education and training system that facilitates job readiness among youth and encourages skill-empowered entrepreneurship.

Inadequacies in skills are directly linked to the kind of education that is being imparted right from the school level and the ecosystem we put in place to equip every job seeker with market-driven skills. If someone wishes to be a carpenter, plumber or electrician, he or she needs to have undergone at least a globally certi-

fied course for which we need to have a skill training centre in every high school where job seekers should be trained in the fields of their interest during non-school hours. Similarly, education providers must support students with knowledge and skills relevant to the world of work to make them productive and able to be employed. All skill courses at school levels must be synchronised with employment for a wholesome integration between skill providers and industries will be of paramount importance.

Today, education is not confined to what is taught in schools and colleges, but the scope of learning has become wider, owing to the evolving market and technological advancement. To secure a career in the competitive and evolving job market, upskilling and remaining industry-relevant are crucial for youths. Acquiring market-driven skills will offer great placement opportunities to the youths and help them build promising careers.

India currently lacks an effective vocational education and training system that is both aspirational and accessible to all young people. To address this issue and achieve the national goal of making India the skills capital of the world, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship should establish a National Skills University (NSU), as proposed in the National Skills Universities Bill 2015. This university would offer industry-relevant curricula and skill-based certificates, diplomas, and degree programs to enhance employability.

In addition to the NSU, state governments can establish Multi-Skills Development Centres (MSDC) in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. These centres can identify skill gaps in major industrial clusters and

provide cluster-specific Skill Development Centres to upgrade the skills of existing workers. Advanced Skill Development Centres can also be set up to provide the latest know-how and courses to meet the high-end skill requirements of the industry. The World Bank has approved the \$250 million Skill India Mission Operation (SIMO) to improve the marketability of short-term skill development courses of 3-12 months.

To keep pace with the rapidly evolving technological landscape, it is essential to conduct global skill gap mapping and shift recruitment from "degree-based" to "skill-based". According to a report by The World Economic Forum, 150 million new technology jobs will be created globally over the next five years, with 77% of all jobs requiring digital skills by 2030. Currently, only 33% of technology jobs worldwide are being filled by skilled workers, which could hinder technological advancements on a global scale. Therefore, it is crucial to bridge the skills gap by providing training in emerging technologies. Such as artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), block chain, robotics, 3D printing, drones, and data analytics. A skilled workforce capable of understanding, implementing, and driving innovation is essential to the success of these technologies and the industries that rely on them. By focusing on vocational education and the latest skills training, India can create a workforce equipped to meet future demands.

*(Vijay Garg Retired
principal Educational
columnist Malout
Punjab)*

Shiv Sena, SSP expresses concern over present situation in J&K

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, SEP 22: Shiv Sena (UBT) and Sanik Samaj Party J&K unit expressed their anguish and concern about the prevalent condition in Jammu, highlighting the indifference and apathy of government towards people, attitude of bureaucrats and their management and unprecedented escalation in the militancy in both the regions of JKUT.

During a press conference held at Jammu Press Club today, Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni and Sainik Samaj Party chief Colonel S.S. Pathania paid heartfelt tribute to the soldiers who made supreme sacrifice in the recent encounters of Rajouri and Kokernag.

Sahni said in his address that for the last 35 years we have been burning in the flame of terrorism. After Pulwama, perhaps the biggest terrorist attack was in Kokernag of Kashmir, in which Colonel, Major,



DSP(J&K police) were martyred. He said that in the last five years, there were around 1000 terrorist attacks in which around 200 soldiers were martyred, although our security forces gave a befitting reply to terrorism and around 800 terrorists were sent to hell.

He said that the target, killing of command man and martyrdom of soldiers continues, but it is unfortunate that no major change is being seen at the top level along with fixing any accountability. Whereas Colonel Pathania said that the Central Government probably does not have any concrete roadmap for restoration of peace

and betterment in the state. Jammu and Kashmir, which has 90 assembly seats and 20 districts, is being run by the Lieutenant Governor along with only one non-local advisor. At the same time, the public is helpless, disappointed and angry due to administrative indifference towards public issues. The arbitrariness of the bureaucracy and lack of communication with the public is at its worst.

Both the leaders jointly asked the central government to nominate a retired Army general as Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir on the lines of Arunachal Pradesh and Ladakh, appoint a retired army officer as security advisor in the interim period, give priority to the appointments of local officers on top and important posts in police and administration. So that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir can be made truly better and people friendly. On this occasion Meenakshi Chibber, Balwant Singh, Varinder Balaria, Amrik Singh, Sunil Dutt were present.

The main reason for which is the appointment of non-local officers on top and important positions. They have no doubt on the ability of non-local officers.

While addressing the meeting Babu Rampaul said that the last election was held in 2014 in Jammu and Kashmir and since then no election has been conducted depriving people of their constitutional and democratic rights. He said that India was called as mother of democracy but keeping people without elections for long is the murder of democracy and urged upon the Centre to hold assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir without any

delay. He further said that no democracy can survive without elections as popular government is the soul and people are its body. "The elections in Jammu and Kashmir had been conducted in the worst situations in the past and one cannot digest the excuse of the Centre that the situation is not conducive for elections", Rampaul added. Former Minister criticised the stoppage of 'Darbar Move' practice as immoral by the government because it has adversely affected the business community. "The business community, small traders and commoners are all suffering due to policy paralysis and deep rooted corruption at all levels. "Unemployment among youth has also impacted the life of the educated youth who are concerned about

'Will revoke Property Tax if voted to power in ULBs': Rampaul

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 22: "The people of Jammu and Kashmir are being deprived of their democratic and constitutional right as the Centre is shying away from holding elections in Jammu and Kashmir". It was said by Babu Rampaul former minister and President Central Zone (Jammu-Samba-Kathua), JKNC while addressing the meeting at old Janipur in Jammu district.

The meeting was organized by Dr Vikas Sharma, Zonal Secretary and Coordinator Jammu District (Jammu) which was attended by Adv. Rajinder Chanyal, Surjit Kumar, Ashok Tyagi, BD Dalotra, Charan Dass, Rajinder Kumar, Arjun Tyagi and others.

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their career for which their parents are in a doldrums and deeply worried about their children", he added. Lauding the pro-people work done during the NC rule, he said that his party leadership knew the ground realities and framed the policies in such a way that people of J&K irrespective of region, religion, caste and creed benefited equally.

While welcoming the new entrants into the party fold Babu Rampaul said that the party will get a new energy and momentum in spreading the message of Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah, party president and vice president respectively. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Vikas Sharma said that only the youth can bring visible change and they should actively work in the upcoming ULB elections, elect NC

candidates and bring them forward for equitable development and progress of Jammu City. Hence everyone should join hands together to do good for Jammu City by ensuring victory of JKNC candidates. Dr Vikas emphasized that whether it is meter or property tax, we will not allow it to be imposed as we will do the work for the overall interest of the public, he added.

Those who joined the National Conference include Rajinder Kumar, Gulshan Kumar, Vinod Kumar, Shamsheer Singh, Sanjeev Kumar, Deep Kumar, Shiva Kumar, Sonu Singh, Pawan Sharma, Gulshan Kumar, Shammi Kumar, Avinash Kumar, Rajat Kumar, Rinku Kumar, Shami Kumar, Kewal Krishan, Kaka Ram, Monik Kumar, Deepak Sharma, Shanga Ram and others.

GDCW Kathua organises cleanliness drive

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, SEP 22: In a significant contribution to the ongoing activities of Gandhi Jayanti, a noteworthy cleanliness drive was organized in Dreamland Park, Kathua, under the Swachhta Abhiyan (Cleanliness Campaign) by the National Service Scheme (NSS) and National Cadet Corps (NCC) Units of Government Degree College for Women (GDCW), Kathua, on September 22, 2023. This event, which was dedicated to commemorating the principles and values of Mahatma Gandhi, was conducted under the able leadership of Dr. Savi Behl, Principal of Government Degree College for Women, Kathua. The primary objective of this initiative



was to promote cleanliness, hygiene, and the spirit of community service, aligning seamlessly with the ideals and philosophies cherished by the Father of the Nation. The tasks carried out during the cleanliness drive included the diligent picking up of litter and the thorough sweeping of pathways within the park. Smt. Veena Sharma, representing the Flow-

ery Culture Department and serving as Incharge of Dreamland Park, expressed heartfelt gratitude to all the dedicated volunteers and Cadets who participated wholeheartedly in this event. She emphasized the profound connection between Gandhi's teachings and the vital importance of maintaining public spaces. She further encouraged the community to per-

petuate the practice of cleanliness and hygiene as a fitting tribute to the enduring legacy of Mahatma Gandhi. The entire event was organized and supervised by Dr. Arun Dev Singh, NCC Programme Officer, Prof. Pallavi (Nodal Officer of Shikshit Bharat Club) and Dr. Anupam Manuhaar, ensuring its smooth execution and success.

ment here that Case FIR No. 159/2021 and FIR No. 153/2023 under relevant provisions of NDPS Act were registered against Sajad Ahmed Butt in Police Station Doda. Similarly Case FIR No. 166/2019 and FIR No. 60/2023 under relevant provisions of NDPS Act were registered against Muzamil Rafiq at Police Station Baderwah. Both the individuals being habitual offenders were a serious threat to the local youth and their detention under PSA will definitely act as deterrence to the criminals and drug smugglers still a large and will also save precious life of number of innocent youth of the locality. Acting tough against drug ped-

Two notorious drug peddlers booked under PSA

TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Sep 22: Doda Police booked that two notorious drug peddlers namely Sajad Ahmed Butt son of Gulam Qadir Butt resident of Wanda Beoli Doda and Muzamil Rafiq son of Mohd Rafiq Ganie resident of Sultanpura Baderwah District Doda under PSA (PITNDPS) for their active involvement in illicit drug trafficking and lodged in District Jail Baderwah under the order passed by the Divisional Commissioner Jammu. The activities of the offenders are highly detrimental and a serious threat to the society being involved in number of FIRs registered against them in Police Station Baderwah and Doda. It is

dlers, this year Doda Police has registered (20) FIRs against (26) offenders. Besides, 03 notorious drug peddlers got detained under PSA (PITNDPS) so far including one drug peddler detained earlier. Besides number of individuals were detained under preventive custody for their involvement in drug selling/ addiction. Doda Police has sought cooperation from the general public and has warned the drug smugglers to desist from this black trading and other criminal activities, else stringent action as warranted under law shall be taken against them which includes detention under PSA and also attachment of property of habitual offenders.

JKBS team interacts with community people of Tehsil R SPura



TOP NEWS REPORT

R.S PURA, Sep 22: A team of the Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha on Friday interacted with Batwal community members of Kotli Miyan Fateh, Langotiyian, Chack Mohd Yar and Jindarh Mellu of Tehsil Ranbir Singh Pura and appreciated the role being played by them in strengthening ties between community members of other tehsils.

During the interaction, General Secretary R.L.Kaith stressed on the essence of literacy in the community. He said, Greater literacy skills open the doors to more educational, employment and entrepreneurial opportunities. Literacy helps people pull themselves out of poverty and underemployment. Team was accorded a great honour by their community members. Prominent among

those with whom the team interacted were Messrs Tehsildar Satish Kumar Mandi, Ex CMO Dr G.L.Motan, Ved Raj Motan, Hony Captain Behari Lal Sandhu, Subedar Major Thoru Ram Mandi, Ex Sarpanch Krishan Lal Sandhu, Ex Section Officer Krishan Lal Sandhu, Retired TSO Rachhpal Kaith, Retired Account Officer Mohinder Singh Motan, Dilay Ram Kaith, Sat Pal Mandi and Janak Raj Sandhu.

Three-day outreach programme & Multimedia Exhibition concludes in Basantgarh

TOP NEWS REPORT

BASANTGARH, Sep 22: The three-day Multimedia Exhibition and Outreach Programme organized by the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, Field Office Udhampur, came to a successful conclusion in Basantgarh today. The concluding function was presided over by Dr. Sheikh Yaser Nazir, the Block Medical Officer of Basantgarh.

During the event, Dr. Yaser provided a detailed overview of various schemes of the health sector department. He emphasized the availability of free ambulance services for emergency health exigencies, even in remote areas, by dialing 108. A live demonstration of how to dial 108 was conducted during the program. Dr. Sheikh also discussed the key



aspects of programs like Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK), Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), Ayushman Bharat Health Cards, ABHA Cards, and other health-related schemes. BMO Basantgarh commended the role of CBC in creating awareness about welfare schemes, particularly in the health sector. The concluding day of the outreach program focused on raising

awareness about various Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the Health and Education departments. Khurshheed Yousuf, Field Publicity Officer of CBC Udhampur, provided an introduction to CBC's functions and mandate during his welcome address. He also gave an overview of Vigilance Week 2023, scheduled to be organized from October 30th to November 5th. Prof. Vijay Kumar, a

faculty member from Government Degree College in Basantgarh, delivered a comprehensive expert lecture on the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. He explained that NEP 2020 envisions an education system rooted in Indian ethos that contributes to transforming India into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society by providing high-quality education to all. This, in turn, will make India a global knowledge super-

power. Sh. Vijay emphasized the uniqueness and utility of the CBC's exhibition in Basantgarh, highlighting its multidimensional benefits for the local population. In addition to students, teachers, locals, and employees of the Jal Shakti and Health Departments, the concluding day of the event was attended by Rajinder Kumar, the Principal of HSS Basantgarh. The entire event was skillfully coordinated by TA (S) CBC Udhampur, Gurnaam Singh. The event featured an on-the-spot quiz competition on Seva Sushasan (Good Governance) and Garib Kalyan (Welfare of the Poor), as well as patriotic songs and cultural performances by students and empaneled PRTs of CBC, J&K, and Ladakh. Prizes were distributed among the winners of the quiz competition and cultural programs.

Actress Kritika Kamra has made quite a mark with the web series *Bambai Meri Jaan*. She talks about her role...

I am a softie, avers the lovely actress Kritika Kamra. Yet, she pulled it off as the vengeful Habiba in *Bambai Meri Jaan*. Standing her ground among the band of gangsters, the reference points for her were not films of similar genre, certainly not Haseena Parkar, which by the way she has not seen. Rather, she says, "Certain emotions are universal."

Besides, she shares how the script at hand was rather dense and detailed. "Shujaat Saudagar was not an easy director to please. Thus, there was not one but many briefs, how to keep it all authentic, the language conversational with no bombastic dialoguebaazi even though it may have been prevalent in the cinema of the 1970s and 80s," she says.

Class apart

With umpteen workshops and rehearsals to guide them all, she recalls, "It was akin to being in a class and all of us were scolded at some point or the other." But what happens when the class has actors like Kay Kay Menon, Nivedita Bhattacharya and Avinash Tiwary? Where do you stand? She laughs, "Oh, they are in a different class (read league) altogether." One thing she learnt from the ensemble cast of talented actors was, "Discipline and how each actor



put the show above themselves. There was no rivalry, no competitiveness and no desire to outshine each other."

With source material of the series coming from S Hussain Zaidi's book *Dongri to Dubai*, she insists, "The characters are not based on any real persons,

but are fictional." As for inhabiting the dark space that both the series and her character demanded, she reasons, "You try not to judge your character. Nor do you try to justify her or other gangsters in the series." Of course, there are tools to get into and out of the charac-

ter. She adds, "The only thing you take home are the precious moments from the sets and the relationships you forge while shooting."

Thus, the bonding with Avinash Tiwary, who plays her doting brother Dara in the series, has spilled over in real life. Bonhomie prevails with her other onscreen brothers too.

More the merrier

Though she thinks she was almost like a boy in the family of three brothers, she was told to play Habiba as an alpha woman, but not tomboyish. With the show designed as three seasons, you bet her act will get more power-packed in the ensuing seasons. Even otherwise she has an exciting line-up ahead. Apart from starring in a show with Pratik Gandhi, with whom she has worked in the film *Mitron* too, she has just finished shooting for *Gyaarah Gyaarah*, co-produced by Oscar-winner Guneet Monga and Karan Johar.

Although when Kritika landed in Mumbai she already had a television show going for her, she asserts, "It is not easy to survive." Thus, to all her close family and friends her advice is, "If you have a plan B, don't become an actor. Pursue acting only if you are consumed by it."

Gauri Tejwani to play mother in *Pashminna - Dhaage Mohobbat Ke*



Gauri Tejwani will be seen essaying the role

of the mother of the titular character of *Pash-*

minna in the upcoming television show *Pashminna - Dhaage Mohobbat Ke*.

The show brings a beautiful saga of love set in Kashmir's scenic valley capitalising on its stunning natural beauty.

Playing the roles of *Pashminna* and *Raghav*, Isha Sharma and Nishant Malkani bring life into characters who, despite their diverse backgrounds, find themselves united by destiny.

In the show, Gauri assumes the pivotal role of Preeti Suri, *Pashminna's* mother. Talking about her part, the actress said, "Being part of *Pashminna* is an incredible experience, as it seamlessly weaves together the timeless elements of classic romance against the enchanting backdrop of Kashmir."

The script of the show is truly exceptional. *Pashminna* will premiere in October on Sony SAB.

Laugh with Simran Kaur Suri

Actress Simran Kaur Suri is currently captivating her audience on *Hipi*, a short video app by Zee Entertainment, with her comedic flair.

While her eagerly awaited Punjabi psychological mystery film *Full Moon* will hit screens this year, it's on *Hipi* where Simran truly shines.

Simran says, "I believe *Hipi* lets me be creative and connect authentically with my audience. It allows me to express different characters, which is something I truly value."

Beyond acting, I see myself as a storyteller who thrives on challenges, and I'm dedicated to personal growth."



Paris-based Chandigarh girl Shreya Tyagi talks about her love for fashion in both real and virtual spaces

Chandigarh girl Shreya Tyagi recently reserved a place on the prestigious list of the *Vogue Business 100 Innovators*. An alumni of Carmel Convent School, Chandigarh, Shreya knew early on that she wanted to work in the fashion industry. Dreaming of being a designer, her notebooks were covered with sketches of elongated figures draped in imaginative silhouettes ever since she was six. At an enviable position now, calling Paris her home, Shreya talks about her professional journey.

Luxury and innovation I have six years of experience in strategic innovation in the luxury industry and have worked with several entrepreneurs, agencies and start-ups. My



role as Innovation Manager at Christian Dior Couture requires a passion for driving transfor-

mation in a way that is tangible, seamless and enhances brand desirability.

AI to aid

For four years in my previous role at Dior, I led the Dior Data Accelerator, an in-house incubator aimed at leveraging AI to provide unified, personalised client experiences and improve business performance through affinity-based product recommendations. While the business case for artificial intelligence is clear, there is also a paradigm shift in the works for creators, thanks to the emergence of generative AI.

Fashionable in France I have become pretty adept at handling fast-changing environments. Reconciling my different identities was definitely a challenge initially. But now I feel like I can easily do it, and fashion has definitely been

a useful armour. It has been seven years in Paris now and I absolutely love going for walks along the Seine river.

Chandigarh connect I owe a lot to my early schooling at Carmel Convent, where I received fantastic education. Additionally, the city's rich heritage and unique architecture, a legacy left to us by Pierre Jeanneret and Le Corbusier, has definitely left a mark on not only me but the global design community.

Future endeavours Future plans include building my own fashion brand with select designers and artists. I want to encourage young creatives to push the boundaries of creativity.

Tamannaah Bhatia visits new Parliament, praises Women's Reservation Bill



Actor Tamannaah Bhatia on Thursday visited the new Parliament building and hailed the Women's Reservation Bill. Speaking to the media, Tamannaah said, "This bill will inspire common people to join politics."

Actor Divya Dutta also shared her views on the bill. "This (Women's Reservation Bill) is a big initiative. It feels

really good.

The women are being brought to the forefront. To witness a special session of Parliament is an experience in itself..." she said.

Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal moved the Women's Reservation Bill in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

"Through the Constitutional Amendment Bill that I have brought today, a section will be inserted in Article 330, Article 332, and Article 334. Through these, 1/3rd of the seats will be reserved in the Lok Sabha and all State Assemblies of the country. This is a major step," Meghwal said in the Rajya Sabha.

The Lok Sabha scripted history on Wednesday as it passed the Bill reserving a third or 33 per cent of seats for women in national and state legislatures with an overwhelming majority. The Bill seeks to grant one-third of its seats to women in both the Lok Sabha and state assemblies.

The 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' is the first bill passed by Lok Sabha during the special session after it shifted to the new Parliament building on Tuesday. The Rajya Sabha had earlier passed the Women's Reservation Bill in 2010 during the Congress-led UPA government but it was not taken up in the Lok Sabha and subsequently lapsed in the lower House of Parliament.

3 Idiots fame actor Akhil Mishra dies at 67



Actor Akhil Mishra, best known for his role in *3 Idiots*, died after a fall at his residence in Mumbai on Wednesday evening, said a publicist for his actor-wife Suzanne Bernert. He was 67. The publicist said Mishra, who had blood pressure issues, succumbed to injuries following the accident in the kitchen.

"He was on a chair in the kitchen trying to do something when he fell down and hurt his head. He was later rushed

to the hospital by the family and neighbours. Despite the doctor's best efforts, he could not be saved," the publicist said. Bernert was in Hyderabad for a shoot when Mishra passed away.

Mishra is best remembered for his role of librarian, Dubey, in *3 Idiots*. He had also worked in films and serials such as *Don*, *Gandhi*, *My Father*; *Uttaran*, *Udaan* and *Shrimaan Shrimati*, among others.

Jasmine Bhasin tells why Lord Ganesha is called 'Vighna Harta Ganesha'

Actress Jasmine Bhasin shared why Lord Ganesha is called 'Vighna Harta Ganesha' and spoke about what all she prayed for this year.

"Ganesh Chaturthi is relevant to everyone and celebrated nationally. I have fond memories of Ganesh Chaturthi from my hometown Kota, Rajasthan. I used to see a lot of Jhakis and dress up for the occasion and eat a lot of mithai," she said.

Her experience in Mumbai, therefore, is all the more special.

"After coming here I realised the Ganpati fervour spreads over many days. The atmosphere totally changes. From the time I am in Mumbai I have seen my friends getting Ganpati home, so I visit them and eat modaks as well."

"I feel the festive celebration is very cleansing for the mind and atmosphere of the city and Ganesha is called Vighna Harta Ganesha for a reason. I think



we should surrender to God, he knows what is right and as faith can move mountains. I believe in living life

one day at a time and have learnt it's nice to be important but more important to be nice," she concluded.

Strong, stable government with majority made passage of women's bill in Parliament possible: PM Modi

BJP's Mahila Morcha felicitates the PM for the passage of the bill in the Parliament

NEW DELHI, Sep 22 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Friday that the women's reservation bill is no ordinary legislation, but an announcement of a new India's new democratic commitment.

Addressing an event organised by BJP's Mahila Morcha to felicitate him for the passage of the women's reservation bill in Parliament, Modi also made a pitch for having a strong government with majority, saying this made the parliamentary approval for the long-pending idea possible.

Having reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies was talked about for nearly three decades, he noted, adding that the earlier efforts lacked



commitment and women were even insulted.

Asserting that his government worked to empower women, who have emerged as a power over the last one decade, Modi said that is why the political parties that used to tear copies of the women's reservation bill in Parliament had to support it -- a jibe at parties, such as the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and Samajwadi

Party (SP). Every party had to support it, he added.

The prime minister said it was the BJP's good fortune that its government got the opportunity to pass the bill.

Some decisions have the power to change a country's fate, he said, describing the proposed law as one such measure that will infuse new confidence among women and mul-

tiply India's strength to advance.

The Constitution amendment bill will soon become law after the president's assent and the subsequent notification -- a procedural formality.

A new history was made on September 20 and 21, Modi said, referring to the days the bill was passed first by the Lok Sabha and then by the Rajya Sabha. "It

was our good fortune that people gave this government the chance to do so," he added.

It was made possible because people elected a strong, stable and decisive government that has a full majority, the prime minister asserted.

This is a proof of fulfilling "Modi's guarantee" that he will usher in a new era of women-led development, he said amid loud cheers from the large number of women present at the BJP headquarters.

Citing a number of his government's schemes and decisions for women's welfare, Modi said it has made every attempt to unshackle them with programmes that will security, respect and prosperity.

"100% Regret": Rahul Gandhi On Congress Not Including OBCs In Women's Bill



NEW DELHI, Sep 22 (Agencies): The Congress "100 per cent regrets" it did not pass the women's reservation bill when it was in power, Rahul Gandhi said Friday afternoon. He acknowledged that had his party accepted the demand for a quota for women from OBC communities - a demand it rejected in 2010 but is now championing - the landmark bill might have become law a decade ago.

"100 per cent... (we have) 100 per cent regret," Mr Gandhi said after calling out the Bharatiya Janata Party over a potential delay of a further six years or more before the new bill comes into effect.

The call for a quota within a quota for OBC

women was made by the Samajwadi Party and the Rashtriya Janata Dal in 2010, when the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance government had tabled its version of the bill. The Congress rejected that demand and a furious SP and RJD withdrew support. The bill, which had already cleared the Rajya Sabha, never made it to the Lok Sabha.

The Congress has been critical of the Bharatiya Janata Party's version of the bill since it mandates a census and delimitation, or redrawing of constituency boundaries, before implementation. This means it is unlikely to come into effect before the 2029 election and possibly not till 2034.

The opposition has united to condemn the government for this delay, demanding provisions for conduct of a census and delimitation be dropped and the quota be implemented immediately.

The BJP has hit back by pointing out the Congress' inability to pass this bill and told Parliament Thursday the delay is to ensure "transparency" in deciding which seats are to be reserved.

"What this (the census and delimitation provisions) means is this bill won't be implemented now... it won't be implemented today and this is something every woman in India should understand."

"If at all it is implemented, it will be 10 years from now," Mr Gandhi said.

Mr Gandhi also attacked the BJP for using the women's reservation bill as a "diversionary tactic" to shift focus from the demand for a caste census, which the Congress MP said is needed for a better understanding of the various castes and communities that make up India's vast population.

Take action against those facing terrorism charges, India tells Canada

NEW DELHI, Sep 22 (Agencies): Asking Canada to take action against those facing charges related to terrorism, India on Thursday said that Ottawa's response to its requests for extradition of anti-India elements has not been helpful.

Responding to a query at the regular media briefing, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said that Canada should not become a safe haven for those involved in terror activities.

"Safe haven is being provided in Canada, we want the Canadian government to not do so and take action against those who have terrorism charges or send them here to face justice," Bagchi said.

"We've sought either extradition request or assistance related to that, at least more

than 20-25 individuals we've requested over the years but the response has not been helpful at all," he added.

Referring to terrorism, Bagchi said it is funded and supported by Pakistan. He also spoke of the issue of safe havens.

"Not only terrorism but also the fact that it is funded and supported and we know this from sometime...from our western neighbours Pakistan...but the issue of safe havens, and places to operate have been provided abroad, including in Canada... and that...you know we would expect that is the main focus. The question is: do we have the political will to address terrorism or do we want to justify it and condone it?" he asked.

Visa services provider BLS International on Thursday said it has with immediate effect sus-

pended Indian visa services in Canada.

BLS International Services Limited is an Indian outsourcing service provider for government and diplomatic missions worldwide. The company manages visa, passport, consular, attestation and citizen services.

"Due to operation reasons, with immediate effect i.e. 21 September 2023, Indian visa services in Canada have been suspended till further notice," the company informed stock exchanges in a filing on Thursday.

Bilateral relations between India and Canada have hit a downward spiral after Prime Minister Trudeau on Monday alleged that "Indian agents" were behind the shooting of Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Nijjar, chief of banned Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF) and a

"designated terrorist" was killed in a targeted shooting at British Columbia in Canada's Surrey in June 2018.

India has rejected the allegations by the Trudeau administration, terming them "absurd" and "motivated".

"We have seen and reject the statement of the Canadian Prime Minister in their Parliament, as also the statement by their Foreign Minister. Allegations of Government of India's involvement in any act of violence in Canada are absurd and motivated," MEA had said in a statement.

"Similar allegations were made by the Canadian Prime Minister to our Prime Minister and were completely rejected. We are a democratic polity with a strong commitment to the rule of law," it added.

Lalu Prasad blames PM Modi for BJP MPs' bad behaviour

PATNA, Sep 22 (Agencies): RJD president Lalu Prasad on Friday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of giving rise to a "depraved social and political culture" which was manifest in the behaviour of BJP parliamentarians.

The former Bihar chief minister, who was also a member of the Manmohan Singh Cabinet, came out with the statement in Hindi in the social media.

"The Prime Minister has given rise to a depraved (vikrit) social and political culture in which one of his MPs glorifies the terrorist who assassinated Father of Nation Gandhi ji," he wrote without taking any names.

The allusion was apparently to Bhopal



MP Pragya Thakur, who had called Nathu Ram Godse a "patriot", only to retract later under mounting public criticism.

Prasad, who is a key figure in the opposition INDIA coalition, alleged "A BJP MP, (apparently) under instructions of the PM, made inappropriate, petty and unparliamentary remarks against an opposition MP. This is objection-

able, deplorable and a cause of concern for society and democracy. Truly, this is not Amrit Kaal but Vish Kaal (the era of venom)".

Although the veteran politician again took no names, it was an obvious reference to the Rajya Sabha address of BJP parliamentarian Ramesh Bidhuri whose religion slur against BSP MP Danish Ali was expunged.

Barred from wearing sari for Ganeshotsav, 13-year-old schoolgirl ends life in Pune

PUNE, Sep 22 (Agencies): Tragedy struck a Pune family on Ganeshotsav day when their little daughter was barred from sporting a sari and she later committed suicide, police said here on Friday.

It was on Ganesh Chaturthi day (Sep. 19), when the girl, Sushmita

P. Pradhan, 13, reportedly threw a tantrum and insisted on welcoming the Lord Ganesh by wearing a sari.

However, her mother firmly refused to oblige her desire, after which the angry girl locked herself in a bathroom.

When she did not emerge for quite some

time, the girl's elder sister knocked on the bathroom door but there was no response.

They managed to peek in through a window and saw Sushmita hanging by a scarf in the bathroom after which they broke open the door.

The Pradhan family rushed her to a local

hospital where she was declared dead on admission, plunging the entire neighbourhood into gloom on the auspicious day.

Investigating Officer, ASI Ashish Jadhav said that the Dehu Road Police Station has registered an accidental death report and is

investigating the matter further, though no arrests have been made so far.

Described by her friends as a chirpy, outgoing and cheerful girl, Sushmita was a student of Class VII at the Shree Shivaji Vidyalaya in Dehu Road area of Pune.



Former UP minister Dinesh Johri dies at 80

BAREILLY, Sep 22 (Agencies): Former Uttar Pradesh health minister Dinesh Johri died at his house here on Friday, his family said.

The 80-year-old Johri was ailing for a long time.

Johri served as an MLA from Bareilly city assembly seat for three consecutive terms.

He was elected as an MLA for the first time in 1985 on a BJP ticket in 1985.

In 1991, he was made the health minister in the Kalyan Singh government.

OBC leaders to meet on Sept 23 to explore ways to seek reservation in women's quota Bill: Uma Bharti

BHOPAL, Sep 22 (Agencies): Leaders from Other Backward Classes have agreed to a "big" meeting on Saturday to find ways to seek quota for OBCs in the just-cleared women's reservation bill, senior BJP leader Uma Bharti has said on X.

The former Madhya Pradesh CM, however, has not shared details about the time and venue of the meeting of the OBC leaders on

September 23.

The Bill to reserve one-third of the seats in the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies for women received the parliamentary nod on Thursday as the Rajya Sabha unanimously voted in its favour. "Now, if a path is to be chalked out to raise the demand for another amendment for reservation for OBCs, a discussion (in that regard) was held with backward class lead-



ers from in and around Bhopal. It was decided to call another big meeting on September 23," she wrote on X, sharing pictures of those who were part of the meeting

at her Bhopal residence. Last year, Bharti took to the streets in her party-ruled MP expressing her unhappiness against the opening of liquor shops near public

places. The Shivraj Singh Chouhan government later tweaked its excise policy to discourage drinking. It also closed all the 'hathas' (small bars attached to liquor shops) across the state in one go.

Recently, Bharti expressed her displeasure after she was apparently not invited to the launch of the BJP's 'Jan Ashirwad Yatra' from Chitrakoot in Satna district on September 3.

Arvind Kejriwal's personal WhatsApp channel goes live



NEW DELHI, Sep 22 (Agencies): Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's personal WhatsApp channel went live on Friday.

Earlier this week, the Delhi CMO WhatsApp channel went live.

"Excited to connect with you all through my WhatsApp channel. Let's work together to make India shine as the number-1 country in the world," Kejriwal said in a post on X.

Hosted by Art of Living, over 450K people expected to attend World Culture Festival in Washington

The World Culture Festival (WCF), a brainchild of Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, will be held at the prestigious National Mall in the US next week

WASHINGTON, Sep 22 (Agencies): More than 4,50,000 people from across the world are expected to attend the World Culture Festival (WCF), a brainchild of Indian spiritual guru Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, at the prestigious National Mall here next week.

A host of global leaders will address the WCF, which is being hosted by the Art of Living and is said to be the 'Olympics of world's culture'.

Organisers of the event said more than 17,000 diverse cultural artists, entertainers and speakers will perform on the largest stage ever built in the nation's capital from September 29 to October 1.

The dynamic lineup features over 50 performances including a Chinese cultural performance with 1,000 singers, dancers and dragons; a 'Garba' extravaganza with 7,000 dancers that will encourage audience participation; a 50th anniversary tribute to hip-hop.

More than 700 Indian classical dancers will perform with a



live symphony. The cultural festival will also see 100 Ukrainian dancers perform folk dance 'Hopak'.

Over 1,000 guitarists led by Grammy Award winner Micki Free, performance of the official World Culture Festival theme song "Una Familia" uniting citizens of more than 150 nations and live reggae with Skip Marley, the grandson of legendary Bob Marley, culminating with the classic "One Love" will also be part of the

festival.

A one-mile stretch between the National Mall and the Capitol Hill would feature cultural pavilions and activities including fashion showcases. More than 80 international food trucks offering visitors a taste of cuisines from across the world will also be there.

The full lineup will include over 50 performance groups representing an array of cultural art forms from around the globe. The programme will feature a

plethora of US-based artists presenting music, dance and performance art, the organisers here said.

Over 1,000 leaders from business, government and international institutions attending the festival will gather for the Global Leadership Forum (GLF) on September 30. The attendees will exchange ideas and forge partnerships to address key corporate and societal challenges of our time, they said.

The theme of this year's GLF is "Shaping a Humane Future". Among prominent leaders to attend and address the World Culture Festival are former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, President of Mauritius Prithvirajsing Roopun, former Indian president Ram Nath Kovind, former president of Ecuador Rosalia Arteaga Serrano, ex-Norway prime minister Kjell Magne Bondevik, former Mongolian president Nambaryn Enkhbayar and former president of Paraguay Federico Franco, among others.

Canada says no place for aggression, hate, intimidation in country amid online threats to Hindus



TORONTO, Sep 22 (Agencies): The Canadian government has said the circulation of an online video in which Hindu Canadians are told to leave the country is offensive and hateful, asserting that acts of aggression, hate, intimidation or incitement of fear have no place in Canada.

The video was circulated amid escalating tensions between India and Canada following Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's explosive allegations of the "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on his country's soil on June 18 in British Columbia. India had designated Nijjar as a terrorist in 2020.

India has angrily rejected Trudeau's 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.

Public Safety Canada, the department responsible for matters of public safety, emergency management, national secu-

urity, and emergency preparedness, said the circulation of the video is offensive and hateful and is an affront to all Canadians and "the values we hold dearly". "There is no place in Canada for hate," it said on Thursday night in a post on X.

"Acts of aggression, hate, intimidation or incitement of fear have no place in this country and only serve to divide us. We urge all Canadians to respect one another and follow the rule of law. Canadians deserve to feel safe in their communities," it added.

Indo-Canadian lawmaker Chandra Arya from Prime Minister Trudeau's party has earlier expressed dismay at the 'glorification of terrorism' and hate crime targeting Hindus in this country in the name of 'freedom of expression' in Canada.

"A few days back Khalistan movement leader in Canada and the president of Sikhs for Justice which organises the so-called referendum Gurbatwant Singh Pannun attacked Hindu Canadians asking us to leave Canada and go back to

India," Arya, a member of the Liberal Party of Canada, said.

"I have heard from many Hindu-Canadians who are fearful after this targeted attack. I urge Hindu-Canadians to stay calm but vigilant. Please report any incident of Hinduphobia to your local law enforcement agencies," the Indo-Canadian MP posted on X.

The Khalistan movement leader is trying to provoke Hindu Canadians to react and divide the Hindu and Sikh communities in Canada, Arya said.

Canada's public safety minister Dominic LeBlanc said all Canadians deserve to feel safe in their communities.

"All Canadians deserve to feel safe in their communities. The circulation of an online hate video targeting Hindu Canadians runs contrary to the values we hold dear as Canadians. There is no place for acts of aggression, hate, intimidation or incitement of fear," he posted on his official X account.

Emergency preparedness minister Harjit Sajjan in a post on X said: "To Hindu Canadians and Indians from all backgrounds: Anyone who says you do not deserve to be safe & welcomed in your home does not embody the values of freedom and kindness we hold dear as Canadians. Do not let others delegitimise or question your place and love for Canada."

2 killed, dozens of students injured in New York bus crash

NEW YORK, Sep 22 (Agencies): At least two adults were killed and dozens of students were injured after a bus rolled over on a highway in New York's Orange County, authorities have said today.

A spokesman for the New York State Police confirmed that two adult women on the bus died and at least five children were in critical condition, Xinhua news

agency reported.

The bus, carrying members of a high school band from Long Island, New York, was heading to a music camp event in Pennsylvania on Thursday when the accident occurred, according to authorities.

Aerial footage showed a coach-style bus on its side amid trees and brush at the bottom of an embankment. Emergency respond-



ers could be seen at the crash scene and a medical helicopter was parked on the highway

nearby. It appeared that "a faulty front tire contributed to the accident,"

New York Governor Kathy Hochul said at a news conference. An investigation is ongoing.

Russian attack on Ukrainian town near Donetsk leaves 13 injured

KYIV, Sep 22 (Agencies): A Russian attack on a town west of Donetsk near Ukraine's eastern front has injured 13 people, including one pulled out from under rubble, an official from the area was quoted as saying early on Friday.

There were two strikes on the town, sparking a fire, according to Roman Padun, administrative head of the town of Kurakhove, speaking to public broadcaster Suspilne. He gave no details on what weapons had been used.

Photos posted on social media showed several buildings ablaze. Agency was unable to independently



verify the reports.

Kurakhove is near Maryinka, a town near the front line still held by Ukraine but under Russian attack for many months.

In the southern region of Kherson, governor Oleksandr Prokudin, in a report on Telegram, said Russian forces had shelled the town of Zelenivka and killed

a woman resident, who was pulled from underneath the rubble of her home.

Ukraine's southern group of forces, also reporting on Telegram, said a Russian missile had struck recreation facilities southwest of the Black Sea port of Odesa.

No casualties were reported.

Justin Trudeau's popularity dips as poll puts Poilievre as preferred choice for Canada PM

OTTAWA, Sep 22 (Agencies): Pierre Poilievre, the Opposition Conservative Party leader, is the preferred choice as prime minister by 40 per cent of Canadian citizens, as incumbent Justin Trudeau lags behind, according to a new Ipsos poll done for Canada-based news platform Global News.

This gives an indication that Conservatives have high chances of getting a majority to form the government in the next elections in 2025, reported Global News.

Poilievre's polling momentum continues to chug along with 40 per cent of Canadians saying he is the best choice to be PM. His favourables on this question are up five points from a year ago.

On the other hand, the number of respondents who think PM



Justin Trudeau is the best choice remains static year-over-year at 31 per cent.

NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh, a Khalistan sympathiser and a coalition partner of PM Trudeau, has slipped four points since

September 2022, with 22 per cent of respondents saying he is the best choice to lead the government.

On core issues facing Canada around the economy, health care and housing, the poll found

a plurality of Canadians think Poilievre has the best plans across all three areas.

On the ongoing diplomatic stand-off between India and Canada triggered by Justin Trudeau's allegations, Poilievre had stated that the Canadian PM should come out clean with all the facts.

"I think the prime minister needs to come clean with all the facts. We need to know all the evidence possible so that Canadians can make judgments. On that the prime minister hasn't provided any facts. He provided a statement," Poilievre said in a media address on Tuesday.

Ipsos CEO Darrell Bricker said this shows the Conservatives could form a majority government if an election was held today.

Trump's government shutdown call to Republicans to 'defund' his criminal cases

WASHINGTON, Sep 22 (Agencies): Former President Donald Trump has urged fellow Republicans in Congress to shut down the government to thwart the federal prosecutions against him, although any funding lapse was unlikely to stop the cases from being pursued.

Republicans in the US House of Representatives are at odds over how to proceed with spending legislation, which must be passed to avert an October 1 shutdown. A small group of hardliners, including Trump's most fervent supporters, have complicated the agenda for House Speaker Kevin McCarthy as he pushed a short-term funding plan.

"Republicans in Congress can and must defund all aspects of crooked Joe Biden's weaponised government," Trump wrote on his Truth Social media site late on Wednesday, calling it "the last chance to defund these political prosecutions against me and other patriots".



The US Justice Department has previously said activities funded by "permanent indefinite appropriations" would continue during any funding lapse.

The Special Counsel's Office prosecuting Trump and his allies had no formal comment, but it is covered by "the permanent, indefinite appropriation for independent counsels," according to its latest funding statement.

President Joe Biden's re-election campaign accused Trump, the leading candidate by far in the 2024 Republican presidential nominating contest, of putting his own interests ahead of those of the country.

"Donald Trump is rooting for a government shutdown and couldn't care less what it would mean for American families," the campaign said in a statement.

Biden, a Democrat, defeated Trump in 2020 and is seeking re-election in 2024.

Trump faces two federal trials, one tied to his attempts to overturn his 2020 loss, as he again seeks the presidency in the 2024 election, and the other over his handling of classified documents.

New York and Georgia are also prosecuting him and a federal shutdown would not affect those cases.

The White House has stressed the independence of the Special Counsel's Office.

Republicans and Democrats seized on Trump's plea, with a Trump ally, US Representative Matt Gaetz, posting on X, "Trump Opposes the Continuing Resolution. Hold the Line."

House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries wrote on X, "Trump ordered House Republicans to shutdown the government. These people are too extreme to ever be trusted."

Taiwan reports 24 Chinese military aircraft, 17 crossing Strait median line

Taiwan's defense ministry has reported 24 Chinese air force aircraft entering its air defense zone, with 17 of them crossing the Taiwan Strait's median line.



TAIPEI, Sep 22 (Agencies): Taiwan's defence ministry said

on Friday that over the previous 24-hour period it had detected 24 Chi-

nese air force aircraft entering into Taiwan's air defence zone, part of a regular pattern of what Taipei calls Chinese harassment.

At least 17 of the aircraft crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait, according to a map the ministry published.

The median line previously served as an unofficial barrier between the two sides until China's air force began regularly crossing it last year.

YRS to take out rally on Maharaja Birth Anniversary celebration, appeals Dogras to participate

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 22: Jammu is all set to celebrate the Maharaja Hari Singh Birth Anniversary on September 23. And this year holiday on Maharaja Hari Singh birth anniversary is a cherry on the cake as it got after long struggle.

As per the tradition, the Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS) will take out the mega rally this year on the occasion of 128 Birth Anniversary of Last Dogra ruler of Jammu and Kashmir Maharaja Hari Singh.

It is pertinent to mention that YRS has been organising a rally for the last 10 years in the support and celebrations of Maharaja Hari Singh birth anniversary.

Inhabitants of Jammu Kashmir have huge respect towards their last Dogra Maharaja ruler who is known for his visionary work and especially socio-economic upliftment of Jammu Kashmir residents.

Every year a grand celebration organises in Jammu at Maharaja Hari Singh statue near Tawi Bridge where Dogras across the Jammu Kashmir visit to pay tribute to Maharaja Hari Singh.

Dogras Rajput Community leaves no stone unturned to make this rally as well as celebration memorable and successful on 23rd September.



President YRS told media that a grand rally on 23rd September is started on 10 am from MD Resort Keran Bantalab and drives towards Chinore, Roopnagar, Paloura, Janipur, Tali Morh, New Plot, Amphala, CPU Chowk Panjthirti, Kachi Chowni, Prade, Shalimar, Indra Chowk, Gumat, Dogra Chowk and finish it at Near Maharaja Hari Singh Ji Statue site near Mandir Majid point Tawi Bridge followed by tribute to Maharaja Hari Singh there.

Vikram Singh appealed to the people of J&K to come in this Maha rally and pay tribute to The Greatest Maharaja of J&K, as due to Maharaja we the people of J&K proudly said to be Indian and we live in democratic and peaceful country.

Vikram also thanked the Central Govt for declaring the holiday on 23rd September last year as this holiday is a moment of proud for Dogra Community and It's a true tribute to Maharaja Hari Singh Ji for their contributions to our Nation.

Holiday on Maharaja Hari Singh birth anniversary reflects the revival of patriotic forces in Jammu Kashmir and respecting of Dogras identity, he added.

Vikram also requested to Dogra fellows, other Civil organisations and Various Shabas of Jammu to join YRS in this rally of grand celebration.

He appealed to everyone to maintain peace, brotherhood and discipline as this rally is a symbol of pride of Dogra Community and this is just like a festival for the people of J&K.

Vikram further said that we Rajputs of Dogra community known for their valour and discipline, and being a law abiding citizen of Maharaj, he asked youth to not carry any type of weapon in this rally and bikers are also requested to follow the rules and regulations of traffic and swords should be in kept in the cover to give the message of greatness of Rajput Community and their dedication towards our Maharaja Sahab and remember their Slogan "As A Ruler I Have No Religion, My Religion Is Justice Only".

The YRS Core Committee members, Senior members, All stakeholders and active members also invites everyone from all communities to come in this Maha rally, Team YRS also appeal to administration to provide necessary assistance and requirements for this maha rally.

Women Reservation Bill & One Nation One Election a biggest fraud: AAP

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 22: Sensing fear of loss in 2024 and negative tendency of women against ruling dispensation due to sky rocketing prices of LPG & kitchen items as reflected in Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Delhi MCD the BJP which is infamous over throwing Jumlars to befool the masses & divert their attention from the burning issues, has thrown a biggest ever Jumla to woo the women folk in the name of Women Reservation Bill in Lok Sabha, for 33% reservations to women in Lok Sabha, Assemblies, which can't implement in more than next ten years for implementation.

The bill first need be ratified by 50% Assemblies in the country and then outcome of next census has to be kept into consideration for delimitation of seats in

various states in the country which process may take more than 10 years the AAP release said & added that the second latest Jumla "One Nation One Election", in case 'One Nation One Election' is brought into force ahead of 2024 elections, Assemblies of at least 19 of 31 states & UTs will have to be dissolved.

Modi-led Union government has formed a panel headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind to explore the possibility of "One Nation One Election".

The announcement comes a day after the government scheduled a special session of the Parliament. The AAP release said that instead of one Election, people want one Nation, one Education (equal Education for all) & one Nation, one treatment, (rich or poor, equal treatment for all),

where everyone rich & poor will get equal education & treatment.

The release further said that these fresh two Jumlars have obviously been thrown for fear of tendency of loss in 2024 and to befool the masses & the women folk across the country feeling & taking it guaranteed that the memory of masses is weak & can be swayed easily.

The AAP release has cautioned the masses that BJP has smelt rat of eating humble Pie in ensuring 5 state Assembly elections in Nov/Dec, 2023 in MP, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Telangana & Mizoram etc and that is why they are turning every stone to divert the attention of the public of the country in general & women folk in particular and make best use of their emotions for electoral gains.

The AAP release has cautioned the masses in general & women folk

across the country in particular to see through the game and not fall into the trap of BJP which they lay at the time of elections and later call it a JUMLA. Their sympathy with the women is well known in case of women wrestlers, Hathras episode and Manipur naked parading of girls & women, the AAP release asserted and appealed to teach them a lesson for times to come to save the honor and dignity of women.

The AAP release further said that a perpetrator is always a man of sin, whatever be his caste, political affiliation or sect or religion but sad on the part of ruling dispensation, they have saved all such perpetrators- rapists and criminals be it Brij Bhushan Singh, Kuldeep Singh Sengar, or Ajay Teni who crushed down 8 protesting farmers or a contractor who repaired the bridge.

Youth Wing of SSH protest demanding waving off huge electricity bills of poor people

TOP NEWS REPORT

ARNIA, Sep 22: Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K Youth President Ganesh Choudhary on Thursday led strong protest against huge electricity bills being served to poor people of border areas in Arnia demanding waving off huge power bills of poor and restoring earlier installed meters. Speaking on the occasion, Choudhary said poor quality aerial bunched cables installed at the electricity poles of Jammu have become a reason for long power cuts this summer in border areas. The cables do not take load at most of the localities and get damaged easily.

"These cables get heated and burn after taking load for a couple of hours, added Choudhary. We have registered complaints of wires getting burnt from dozens of localities on a daily basis. To get rid of such complaints and to protect these cables, the department has increased the scheduled power cuts," Choudhary said.

"The department had



promised us that after the installation of these cables and electronic meters, there will be no scheduled power cuts. But despite paying hefty power bills, we are facing 10-hour unscheduled power cuts," said Choudhary.

Choudhary said, "We don't understand why the government is not listening to our grievances. Despite all resentment, the government is going ahead with the move," he said.

He said that they want flat rates and not the smart meter-generated power bills. He said that given their economic condition, they won't be able to afford exorbitant bills. He said that most of the locals are either roadside vendors or labourers. He

those present on the occasion include District President Jammu Raj Kumar Gupta, Badi Brahmana Block President Sanjeev Kumar, District President Samba Nek Ram, Bishnah Block Vice President Shankar Singh, Arina Block Vice President Bharat Bhushan, Bishnah Chairman Vikas Kumar, Karan Singh, Bhushan Kumar, Kamal Kumar, Punjab Singh, Jhankar Singh, Mohammed Ashraf, Girish Kumar, Pawan Kumar, Kewal Kumar, Bishnah Block Vice President Pritam Singh, Madhu Bala, Sunita Devi, Sonia Choudhary, Reena Devi, Veeeta Devi, Sheela Devi, Pinky Devi, Sunita Devi, Santosh Devi and Suman Devi.

GDC Kishtwar celebrates NAAC Accreditation, felicitates former Principals, Staff

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Sep 22: Government Degree College (GDC) Kishtwar celebrated its successful accreditation by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) today. The college organized a grand felicitation ceremony to honor the former principals and staff who have contributed significantly to the growth and development of the institution.

The event commenced with a warm welcome address by Dr. Jyoti Parihar, the Principal of Government Degree College Kishtwar. Dr. Parihar expressed her gratitude towards the NAAC for recognizing the college's commitment to quality education and overall excellence.

Distinguished senior faculty members, including Dr. Tariq Tamkeen, Prof. Mussarat Mattoo, and Prof. Faisal Mushtaq, also addressed the gathering, highlighting the college's achievements and its commitment to academic excellence.

The proceedings of the event were expertly conducted by Prof. Romana Akhtar, ensuring a smooth flow of the program. The chief guest of the ceremony, Prof. Shakeela, along with the guest of honor, Prof. Mehjooba and Prof. Sen, graced the occasion with

their presence.

In recognition of their significant contributions, former principals and stars of the college were presented with special mementos. These individuals have played pivotal roles in shaping the college's identity and have positively impacted the lives of countless students.

Furthermore, the hard work and dedication of the college's staff, both teaching and non-teaching, during the NAAC visit were acknowledged and appreciated. The staff members were presented with appreciation certificates, recognizing their outstanding performance and contribution to the college's success.

The celebration was incomplete without the enthusiastic participation of the students, who showcased their talents through various cultural performances. These performances added a vibrant and festive atmosphere to the event, emphasizing the rich cultural heritage of Kishtwar.

Government Degree College Kishtwar remains committed to providing quality education and nurturing talented individuals who will contribute to society. The accreditation by NAAC serves as a testament to the college's dedication towards academic excellence, and the felicitation ceremony was a fitting tribute to those who have contributed to its success.

FROM PAGE 1

Anurag Thakur cancels Asian Games visit after China denies entry to sportsmen from Arunachal Pradesh

entry to the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou.

"In line with our long-standing and consistent position, India firmly rejects differential treatment of Indian citizens on the basis of domicile or ethnicity. Arunachal Pradesh was, is and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India," he asserted.

Further, as a mark of our protest against the Chinese action, the Government of India reserves the right to take suitable measures to safeguard our interests, he cautioned.

Over 2600 teachers in JK lack secondary qualifications

per UDISE 2018-19, who do not meet the required professional qualifications." During the meeting, the GoI advised

the Jammu and Kashmir government to implement a policy that would facilitate the enrollment of such teachers in teacher education institutions to complete the necessary professional courses, notwithstanding their minimum qualifications.

"The training of all untrained teachers is essential to ensure compliance with the regulations of the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE)," emphasized the GoI.

Furthermore, the GoI informed the JK government that in the current year, all remaining untrained teachers, masters, and lecturers from the School Education Department would be enrolled in the B.ed course through IGNOU.

Driver killed, 6 injured in Qazigund accident

206/23 under section 279, 337 IPC has been registered at the Qazigund Police Station while further investigation has been started," official said.

Friday prayers led by Mirwaiz conclude peacefully at Jamia

Masjid: Div Com

the decision after calculating the things," he said.

He added that the role of every citizen is equal in the society, in the present situation related to the drug menace, everyone including religious leaders have a role to play.

J&K issue needs to be resolved through dialogue: Hurriyat Chief in first public appearance after 4 Years

move forward towards the resolution of the issues," he added.

The Hurriyat chairman, while referring to the recent statement of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Ukraine that this is not an era of war, said the sentiment holds true.

"We have always believed and participated in efforts of resolution through an alternative to violent means which is dia-

logue and reconciliation. We have personally suffered for pursuing this route.

"We have no personal ambition but to represent the interests and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir who are our basic concern and people want settlement and peace. We want the issue to be resolved in a peaceful manner so that people are rid of further difficulties," he said, adding, a new phase of peace and prosperity can start after resolving the issues.

The Hurriyat chairman was released from house arrest, four years after he was taken into detention in the wake of abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution in August 2019.

Referring to the abrogation of Article 370, Mirwaiz said the phase after that has not been easy for the people of Kashmir. "There have been assaults on our identity. The abrogation of Article 370 and 35A, the downgrading of J&K into a Union territory from a state, the dismemberment of Ladakh from it and post that new laws and diktats being imposed incessantly through the reorganisation Act, unfortunately are harsh unilateral decisions of disempowerment," he said.

The Hurriyat chairman said not only could he not fulfil his religious responsi-

bilities, "but my human rights were denied forcibly".

"I was forced to move the courts and was informed yesterday by senior officers that I will be released. How much difficult this period has been, no one can understand that. It has been the most difficult phase of my life after my father's death," he said. However, he added "I do not think my morale is down. My morale is high".

Calling for the release of youths and activists from jails, the Mirwaiz said stern approach to deal with issues is a dangerous thing.

"It leads to human rights violations. Dozens of our leaders, men and women, are languishing in jails for years, thousands of young men and boys, journalists, human rights activists and lawyers are suffering incarceration. They need to be released as soon as possible. Their health and families are suffering," he said.

He appealed to the youth to keep calm, courage, and have patience.

"This is the time to keep patience. We should keep patience and have faith in God. Quran teaches us that there is ease after every difficulty... In Sha Allah, the situation will improve in our favour surely," he added.

Sensex, Nifty fall amid cautious trade, remain under pressure

The S&P BSE Sensex rose marginally in early trade, but fell 0.24 per cent to 66,071.94 by 10 am, while the NSE Nifty 50 fell 0.33 per cent to 19,677.10.

NEW DELHI, Sep 22 (Agencies): Benchmark stock market indices opened flat on Friday and were under pressure as investors remain cautious about the ongoing volatility on Dalal Street.

The S&P BSE Sensex rose marginally in early trade, but fell 0.24 per cent to 66,071.94 by 10 am, while the NSE Nifty 50 fell 0.33 per cent to 19,677.10. Broader market indices were also under pressure as volatility inched up.

With this, both the benchmark indices are set to register their first weekly loss in four weeks.

All the sectoral indices were trading in negative territory except Nifty PSU Bank, which was up 1.6 per cent. Nifty Pharma was down almost 2 per cent amid



weakness in pharmaceutical company stocks.

The top five gainers on the Nifty 50 were Maruti, SBI, Mahindra and Mahindra, Tech Mahindra and HDFC Life. On the other hand, the top losers were Cipla, Dr Reddy's, Wipro, Power Grid and Hindalco.

Om Mehra, research analyst at Choice Broking, said, "Today's Indian market direction hinges on global

factors. Unchanged policy rates from the Federal Reserve and Bank of Japan, along with India's JP Morgan Bond Index inclusion, will significantly impact investor sentiment and trading trends."

"Technically, Nifty support remains at 19650-19620 while resistance is placed at 19850-19880 zone. Sectorally, PSU and FMCG could remain in radar for the day," he added.

Indian govt bonds to be included in JP Morgan global bond index in June '24; \$22-26 billion inflow

As per the index inclusion criteria, eligible instruments are required to have notional outstanding above \$1 billion (equivalent) and at least 2.5 years remaining maturity.

NEW DELHI, Sep 22 (Agencies): The much-awaited inclusion of Indian Bond in the international bond index is finally happening with JP Morgan all set to include Indian government bonds in the GBI-EM Global index suite and all relevant derivative benchmarks (including custom indices), starting 28 June 2024.

"India is expected to reach the maximum weight of 10% in the GBI-EM Global Diversified Index (GBI-EM GD). Currently, 23 Indian Government Bonds (IGBs) with a combined notional value of \$330 billion are index eligible," says a JP Morgan Global Index Research note.

The inclusion of Indian bonds will be staggered over a 10-month period starting 28 June 2024, through 31 March 2025. GBI-EM GD accounts for \$213 billion of the estimated \$236 billion benchmarked to the GBI-EM family of indices.

As per the index inclusion criteria, eligible instruments are required to have notional outstanding above \$1 billion (equivalent) and at least 2.5



years remaining maturity.

According to JP Morgan, the inclusion of Indian bonds into the GBI-EM Global/Diversified indices is estimated to increase index yields by 33bps and 8bps, respectively, upon completion of the staggering process. The duration for GBI-EM Global and GBI-EM GD is expected to extend by +0.19 years (to 5.34) and +0.24 years (to 5.22), respectively.

Since India currently has a local currency debt rating of BBB-/BBB-/Baa3 (Fitch/S&P/Moody's), Indian bonds are eli-

gible for inclusion in the GBI-EM Global Diversified IG 15% Cap index. India is expected to have a weight of 14.59% in the index, which will be phased in over the 10-month period.

According to JP Morgan note, the Asia (ex-Japan) local currency bond index (JADE Global Diversified) will include India (over the same rebalance time frame as the GBI-EM GD), and it is expected to have a weight of 18.48%.

An Emkay Global report says that the inclusion of Indian government bonds in the JP Morgan

global indices would result in passive inflows of \$22-26 billion.

"Structurally, this will lower India's risk premium/cost of funding, enhance the liquidity and ownership base of G-Secs and help India finance its fiscal and CAD. This will also imply more accountable fiscal policy-making ahead," says Madhvi Arora, chief economist of Emkay Global.

However, she says the inclusion in the JP Morgan bond index does not immediately pave the way for inclusion in the FTSE and Bloomberg indexes, which have stringent conditions.

CEA V Ananth Nageswaran welcomed the development. "JP Morgan has made this decision on their own. It attests to the confidence that financial market participants and financial markets, in general, have on India's potential and growth prospects and its macroeconomic and fiscal policies. Just as long-term equity investors have been amply rewarded by investing in Indian markets, so will long-term investors in Indian government bonds be," he said.

Inter-ministerial discussion underway to ease FDI norms in space sector: Official

NEW DELHI, Sep 22 (Agencies): An inter-ministerial discussion is going on to further liberalise foreign direct investment norms in the space sector to attract overseas players and private companies, a top government official has said.

The official said that there is huge scope for foreign companies to invest in India in this fast-growing sector. The proposal to ease foreign direct investment (FDI) norms in the space sector is "under inter-ministerial discussion," the official added.

However, the official did not disclose further details.

Presently, FDI in the space sector is allowed up to 100 per cent in the area of satellite establishment and operations through government routes only.

After the touchdown by ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft near the moon's South pole, three G-20 countries have expressed interest in possible collaborations or partnerships with India in the space sector.

In April, the government approved the Indian Space Policy 2023, which seeks to



institutionalise private sector participation in the space sector, with ISRO focusing on research and development of advanced space technologies.

The Indian Space Policy-2023 also delineated the roles and responsibilities of ISRO, space sector PSU NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) and the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACe).

As per estimates by different reports, the global space economy is valued at about USD 546 billion in 2022 and is projected

to reach about USD 1 trillion by 2040. The reports have stated that the growth will be driven by cost-reduction efforts and technological advancements.

According to a Deloitte-CII report, the Indian space economy comprises a long value chain, starting with Research and Development (R&D) outfits and manufacturers of space hardware and ending with providers of space-enabled products and services to consumers that enable technology, business, and governance propositions.

As per the report, while the Indian government has started to provide tax impetus to the space sector, it needs to take more initiatives for tax exemptions/tax holidays/accelerated depreciation for companies directly or indirectly engaged in space sector activities, so that the benefits are available to the entire value chain and there is no embedded tax cost.

"Within the space industry, governments often serve as the initial customers for numerous startups, while also acting as stable clients for companies engaged in strategic space and national security initiatives.

"To enhance investor interest in the space sector, space agencies are fostering capital inflow, with companies securing government contracts, offering a sense of assurance to potential investors," the report has said.

It has added that there is a need to create sustainable market demand for private startups, which in turn contributes to the establishment of a robust private space ecosystem in India.

Customers go bonkers as Apple's iPhone 15 goes on sale from today



MUMBAI, Sep 22 (Agencies): Apple's much-anticipated iPhone 15 series went on sale in India on Friday.

The series, comprising iPhone 15, iPhone 15 Plus, iPhone 15 Pro, and iPhone 15 Pro Max as well as the Apple Watch Series 9 and Watch Ultra 2 were announced on September 12 at their "Wonderlust" event.

Long queues of people were seen outside the Apple store at Mumbai's BKC, which is India's first Apple store.

People could also be seen standing outside the Apple Store at Delhi's Select Citywalk Mall in Saket.

Rahul, the first customer today at the Apple Store at Select Citywalk Mall, said, "It was a great experience. I was in the queue since 4 am and then purchased the phone. I have always had top phones with me. I have an iPhone 13 Pro Max and an iPhone 14 Pro Max. After the 15 series was announced, I wanted to get the iPhone 15 Pro Max - that too before

everyone else."

A customer outside the Apple store at Mumbai's BKC said, "I have been here since 3 pm yesterday. I waited in the queue for 17 hours to get the first iPhone at India's first Apple store. I have come from Ahmedabad."

Another customer, Vivek from Bengaluru, added, "I am happy I am getting my new iPhone 15 Pro. I am very excited."

Aan from Ahmedabad says, "I flew in yesterday. I was here at the store at 5 o'clock. I was at the store opening a few months ago where I was fortunate enough to meet Tim Cook for the second time."

iPhone 15 and the iPhone 15 Plus, both versions come up with the dynamic island feature that first debuted on the iPhone 14 Pro and Pro Max and the USB-C type charging.

Scientists rebuild neurons that allow mice to walk again after spinal cord injury

WASHINGTON (US), Sep 22 (Agencies): A team of researchers discovered a critical component for regaining functional activity after spinal cord injury in a recent study on mice.

The neuroscientists demonstrated that re-growing specific neurons back to their normal target locations resulted in recovery, whereas random regrowth did not.

The researchers discovered a therapeutic method that causes axons, the small fibres that connect nerve cells and allow them to communicate to sprout after spinal cord injury in animals in a 2018 article published in Nature. Even though that strategy was successful in regenerating axons across severe spinal cord lesions, functional recovery remained a considerable barrier.

The researchers wanted to see if guiding the regeneration of axons from specific neuronal subpopulations to their native target locations may lead to meaningful functional restoration following spinal cord damage in mice.

They began by using advanced genetic research to identify nerve cell groupings that improve walking after a partial spinal cord injury.

The researchers discovered that just rebuilding axons from these nerve cells across the spinal cord damage had no effect on functional recovery.

Significant gains in walking ability were reported in a mouse model of total spinal cord injury when the tech-

nique was refined to include the use of chemical signals to attract and guide the regeneration of these axons to their natural target site in the lumbar spinal cord.

"Our study provides crucial insights into the intricacies of axon regeneration and requirements for functional recovery after spinal cord injuries," said Michael Sofroniew, MD, PhD, professor of neurobiology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a senior author of the new study.

"It highlights the necessity of not only regenerating axons across lesions but also of actively guiding them to reach their natural target regions to achieve meaningful neurological restoration." The authors say understanding that re-establishing the projections of specific neuronal subpopulations to their natural target regions holds significant promise for the development of therapies aimed at restoring neurological functions in larger animals and humans. However, the researchers also acknowledge the complexity of promoting regeneration over longer distances in non-rodents, necessitating strategies with intricate spatial and temporal features. Still, they conclude that applying the principles laid out in their work will unlock the framework to achieve meaningful repair of the injured spinal cord and may expedite repair after other forms of central nervous system injury and disease.

Study discovers earlier puberty onset in both girls, boys with diabetes

Puberty causes hormonal changes that can have impact on metabolic regulation in diabetes

WASHINGTON (US), Sep 22 (Agencies): Researchers have discovered earlier puberty onset in both girls and boys with diabetes. Puberty in both girls and boys with type 1 diabetes has shifted forward over the last two decades, according to research presented at the 61st Annual European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology Meeting in The Hague.

Furthermore, longer diabetes duration, larger waistlines, and lower blood sugar levels were linked to even earlier puberty development.

The most frequent type of diabetes in children is type 1 diabetes. Puberty causes hormonal changes that can have an impact on metabolic regulation in diabetes. For example, the body can grow more resistant to insulin, raising blood sugar levels. Many studies have found earlier puberty onset around the world in recent years, notably in healthy girls. Diabetes, on the other hand, has been linked to a delay in pubertal onset in children.

Researchers from Germany examined data from the German DPV registry on the



onset of puberty and pubic hair development of 65,518 children aged 6 to 18 years who were all diagnosed with type 1 diabetes between 2000 and 2021.

In this study, researchers from Germany analysed data on the onset of puberty and pubic hair development of 65,518 children aged 6-18 years, all diagnosed with type 1 diabetes between 2000 and 2021, from the German DPV registry.

They discovered that over the last two decades, both girls and boys have reached puberty six months earlier than before. This

outcome was more pronounced in children who had diabetes for a longer period of time, were overweight, or had lower blood sugar levels.

"While the findings for girls align with previous research, our study is groundbreaking in revealing a similar trend in boys with type 1 diabetes for the first time," said lead researcher Dr Felix Reschke from the Children's Hospital Auf Der Bult in Hanover.

"As a result, we now anticipate that the average onset of puberty in boys with diabetes

will occur just before the age of 12 (11.98 years)."

He added: "Our study demonstrates that children with diabetes are also experiencing this trend towards earlier puberty, which is already known in healthy girls, but not evident in boys yet. It's also important to note that previous research indicated that type 1 diabetes may lead to delayed pubertal onset, thus our study provides new insights into the complex relationship between type 1 diabetes and puberty onset."

Many factors that alter puberty in children, such as healthy girls, have been associated with early puberty. However, early puberty often does not have an obvious cause.

"Our research not only sheds light on the evolving landscape of puberty timing in children with type 1 diabetes but also underscores the intricate interplay between metabolic factors, hormones, and environmental influences," said Dr Reschke.

Further investigations are warranted to explore these dynamics comprehensively and inform targeted interventions for this vulnerable population.

On track to make history

With form on their side, Chopra-led track and field athletes hope to rewrite record books

NEW DELHI, Sep 22 (Agencies): There is a palpable buzz in the Indian athletics contingent. Of all the major multi-sports events, the Asian Games is the biggest hunting ground for India's track and field athletes.

In the history of the Games, India is third in the total medals won, with 79 gold, 88 silver and 87 bronze. In comparison, India is 16th at the Commonwealth Games with six gold, 14 silver and 14 bronze. The nation has only three medals at the Olympics, with the two silver medals before Neeraj Chopra's gold coming in 1900.

Chopra's gold at the Tokyo Games brought Indian athletics back into the limelight. The 25-year-old, though, has been India's lone bright star in world athletics, having won every major title available in his short career.

Javelin success

The Haryana athlete's success has led to a recent boom in men's javelin throw. After a ground-breaking performance at the recent World Championships — with three Indians finishing in the top-6 — there are high expectations of multiple podium finishers in Hangzhou.

Kishore Jena, who finished fifth at the Worlds with a personal best of 84.77m, has recorded the season's third-best throw among Asians. Chopra, who won his maiden world title in Budapest, leads with 88.77m, while Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, who finished second behind the Indian, has a season's best of 87.82m. Reigning Commonwealth Games champion Nadeem, who has a personal best of 90.18m, will be the biggest threat for defending champion Chopra.

Relay magic

The World Championships also saw a monumental performance from the 4x400m men's relay team. A blazing run saw the team finish second behind the US in the heats, clocking an Asian record time of 2 minutes, 59.05 seconds. They could not match their effort in the final and finished fifth, but again managed a sub-3-minute time. The Japanese team (3:00.39) has the next best Asian time this year.

Being the favourites, India will be under pressure, but the team is bursting with self-confidence after its Worlds performance.



"Whatever they throw at us, we will be ready," said Amoj Jacob, a key member of the relay team.

Having won silver in the last edition, India will look to add a third gold — first since 1962 — in the event. The 4x400m relay women's team is looking to extend its dominance by winning the gold for the sixth consecutive time.

Old and new faces

Tajinderpal Singh Toor is also looking to make history by becoming only the fourth Indian — and the first since 1982 — to defend the shot put title. He is 13th on the list of best throws this year with an effort of 21.77m. No other Asian is in the top-50.

Having recently recovered from a groin injury, though, Toor has taken it slow with his preparations. "I am happy with the progress. Right now, it is about getting my rhythm back. I am trying to build it up gradually and not thinking about going full intensity. I don't want to take any risk. I will give my 100 per cent only at the Asian Games, and hopefully it will be enough for gold," the 28-year-old said.

Chopra, Toor, Jinson Johnson (1500m) and Swapna Barman (heptathlon) are the only defending champions in the athletics team. In the history of the Games, only six Indian athletes have been able to defend their gold in individual events.

India will also have high hopes from many of the first-timers, with sprinter Jyothi Yarraji, long jumpers Murali Sreeshankar, Jeswin Aldrin and Shailli Singh, triple jumper Abdulla Aboobacker and steeplechasers Avinash Sable and Parul Chaudhary among the top medal contenders.

"The Asian Games will be my season's last race," Sable said. "This year I didn't run any race for the national record but

I hope to clock my best timing. The training I had, I hope to win the race," he added.

Schedule

September 29
Women's 20km race walk final: Priyanka Goswami

Men 20km race walk final: Sandeep Kumar, Vikash Singh

Women's hammer throw final: Tanya Chaudhary, Rachna Kumari

Men's long jump qualifying: Murali Sreeshankar, Jeswin Aldrin

Men's 400m Round 1: Muhammed Anas Yahiya, Muhammed Ajmal

Women's 400m Round 1: Aishwarya Kailash Mishra, Himanshi Malik

Women's shot put final: Kiran Baliyan, Manpreet Kaur

September 30
Men's and women's 400m finals

Women's heptathlon: Swapna Barman, Nandini Agasara

Women's 100m hurdles Round 1: Jyothi Yarraji, Niithya Ramraj

Women's 1,500m Round 1: Harmilan Bains, Deeksha

Men's 1,500m Round 1: Ajay Kumar Saroj, Jinson Johnson

Men's 10,000m final: Karthik Kumar, Gulveer Singh

October 1
Men's long jump final

Women's 100m hurdles final

Men's & women's 1,500m finals

Women's 200m Round 1: Jyothi Yarraji

Men's 200m Round 1: Amlan Borgohain

Mixed 4x400m relay Round 1: Nihal Joel William, Rahul Baby, Muhammed Anas Yahiya, Soniya Baishya, Aishwarya Kailash Mishra, Jisna Mathew

Women's heptathlon: Swapna Barman, Nandini Agasara

Men's shot put final: Tajinderpal Singh Toor, Sahib Singh

Women's discus throw final: Seema Punia

Men's 3,000m steeplechase final: Avinash Sable

October 2
Mixed 4x400m relay final

Men's and women's 200m finals

Men's decathlon: Tejaswin Shankar

Men's 800m Round 1: Krishan Kumar, Mohammed Afsal

Men's high jump qualifying: Sarvesh Anil Kushare, Jesse Sandesh

Women's 400m hurdles Round 1: Vithya Ramraj, Sinchal Ravi

Men's 400m hurdles Round 1: T Santhosh Kumar, Yashas Palaksha

Women's pole vault final: Pavithra Vengatesh

Women's long jump final: Shailli Singh, Ancy Sojan

Women's 3,000m steeplechase final: Parul Chaudhary, Priti Lamba

October 3
Men's 800m final

Men's and women's 400m hurdles finals

Women's 4x400m relay Round 1: Soniya Baishya, Florence Barla, Subha Venkateshan, Prachi, Aishwarya Kailash Mishra, Himanshi Malik, Jisna Mathew

Men's 4x400m relay Round 1: Muhammed Anas Yahiya, Muhammed Ajmal, Arokia Rajiv, Amoj Jacob, Mijo Chacko Kurian, Rajesh Ramesh, Arul Rajalingam

Men's decathlon: Tejaswin Shankar

Women's 800m Round 1: Harmilan Bains, Chanda

Men's triple jump final: Praveen Chithravel, Abdulla Aboobacker

Women's high jump final: Rubina Yadav, Pooja

Women's 5,000m final: Ankita, Parul Chaudhary

Women's javelin throw final: Annu Rani

October 4
Women's 800m final

Men's and women's 4x400m relay finals

Mixed 35km race walk final: Ram Baboo, Manju Rani

Men's javelin throw final: Neeraj Chopra, Kishore Jena

Women's triple jump final: Sheena Nellikal Varkey

Men's 5,000m final: Gulveer Singh, Avinash Sable

October 5
Men's marathon: Man Singh, Belliappa Appachangada Bopai

In final dress rehearsal, India look to fine-tune combination



NEW DELHI, Sep 22 (Agencies): The three-match India-Australia ODI series, starting with the opener here today, is nothing less than a dress rehearsal for both the teams before the World Cup.

On the eve of the first ODI, Australia skipper Pat Cummins and India coach Rahul Dravid termed the series as the ultimate test before starting their World Cup campaign against each other on October 8 in Chennai.

"In the last few years, we have played less ODIs and this series before the World Cup will be like a test for us. We will have a chance to try out our players, and we are definitely going to have rotation in the three matches," Dravid said.

After a successful run at the Asia Cup, skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli have been rested for the first two games along with spinner Kuldeep Yadav and allrounder Hardik Pandya. In their absence, the hosts will have the option to test Shreyas Iyer and Suryakumar Yadav. And, with Axar Patel recovering from a left quadriceps strain, the focus will be on comeback man Ravichandran Ashwin.

"He (Ashwin) is a great motivation for the team and always remains in our plans. He provides depth in batting. He brings a lot of experience, which is very essential for the team," said Dravid.

In the absence of Sharma, local boy Shubman Gill is expected to open the innings with Ishan Kishan. However, all eyes will be on Iyer and Yadav. "We completely back him (Yadav). We believe he will do well in ODI cricket and turn things around in ODIs, and will be getting opportunities in the first two ODIs against Australia. As I said, we want players to be in their comfort zone mentally and physically before the start of the World Cup," Dravid said.

Cummins, who is making a return from a wrist injury, confirmed that fast bowler Mitchell Starc and allrounder Glenn Maxwell will miss the opener. Starc has been recovering from a groin injury, which he sustained during the Ashes, while Maxwell will join the squad today having recovered from an ankle injury.

Wrestling worlds: Coming of age

Antim, 19, wins bronze, earns quota for Paris

BELGRADE, Sep 22 (Agencies): Young Indian wrestler Antim Panghal's superb campaign at the World Championships culminated with a bronze medal, a performance that also earned the country a quota place in the women's 53kg category for the Paris Olympics.

The 19-year-old became only the sixth Indian woman to win a medal at the Worlds with her victory over Sweden's Emma Jonna Denise Malmgren, the two-time European champion. The high-scoring bout (16-6) ended with a technical superiority win for the Indian, who became the first Indian wrestler — male or female — to lock a quota place for next year's Paris



Games.

The wrestler from Haryana seems to be making a smooth transition from the junior to senior circuit, having made an impression in the trials for the Asian Games and World Championships. Panghal is rising in a category that Vinesh Phogat has made her own on the back of her stupendous

show in the last few years.

Vinesh is recuperating from a knee surgery and it remains to be seen if the 53kg quota remains with Panghal. Geeta Phogat (2012), Babita Phogat (2012), Pooja Dhanda (2018) and Vinesh (2019, 2022) are the other bronze medalists, while Anshu Malik won silver in 2021.

Asian Games: Sharath Kamal, Harmeet, Sathiyam G help India start off with dominating win in men's table tennis

HANGZHOU, Sep 22 (Agencies): Indian men's table tennis team started off their proceedings in style in the Asian Games 2023 defeating Yemen comprehensively on Friday, 22 September. Playing in Hangzhou, China, the Indian team smashed Yemen 3-0 in a commanding display.

The Indian team, which had Achanta Sharath Kamal, Sathiyam Gnanasekaran and Harmeet Desai dominated from the start. Sathiyam started off the proceedings with an 11-3, 11-2, 11-6 win over Yemen's Ali Omar Ahmed. Sharath Kamal, who has recently fallen below the top 100 rankings in the world, took just 17 minutes to defeat Yemen's Ebrahim Abdulhakim Mohamm Gubran. Sharath Kamal won his match 11-3, 11-4, 11-6.

India's top-ranked player at the moment - Harmeet Desai was the last one to go and finished his match in a ruthless manner with the scoreline reading 11-1, 11-1, 11-7 against Magd Ahmed Ali Aldhubhani.

This is the same Indian team that delivered a stellar performance at the Commonwealth Games 2022, held in Birmingham, England. There, the team clinched the gold medal, marking India's second consecutive victory in the event.

The final match saw the Indian team face off against Singapore, resulting in a 3-1 victory for India. The team's triumph was not without its challenges. National champion Sharath Kamal was defeated in the second match of the tie, putting the team in a precarious position. However, the experienced players, Sathiyam Gnanasekaran and Harmeet



Desai, stepped up to the challenge, winning their matches and securing the gold for India.

Sathiyam Gnanasekaran, who is the highest-ranked Indian player globally, played a crucial role in the team's success. His performance against Singapore's Pang Yew En Koen was particularly noteworthy, as he managed to win despite a slow start. Similarly, Harmeet Desai's performance against Zhe Yu Clarence Chew was instrumental in India's victory. Despite being ranked lower than his opponent, Desai managed to outsmart Chew with precise returns, helping India secure back-to-back gold medals.

Sharath Kamal also made headlines by winning the singles gold medal in table tennis at the same event. This marked his third Commonwealth title of Birmingham 2022, further solidifying his status as one of India's best table tennis players.

“Had My Differences With MS Dhoni. But...”: India Great’s World Cup-winning Teammate Opens Up On Their Relationship

NEW DELHI, Sep 22 (Agencies): MS Dhoni is an enigma in Indian cricket. His rise from a non-traditional cricket centre to becoming one of the most successful captains in world cricket is a stuff of legends. As the Indian cricket team skipper, Dhoni won two Cricket World Cups - the 2007 T20 Cricket World Cup and the 2011 ODI Cricket World Cup. As another Cricket World Cup is round the corner, the Indian cricket fans would be hoping of the Rohit Sharma-led Indian cricket team to emulate the success of MS Dhoni's side. Former Indian cricket team fast bowler Sreesanth was a member of both the side which won the 2007 T20 Cricket World Cup and the 2011 ODI Cricket World Cup.

Recently, on Sportskeeda, Sreesanth opened up on MS Dhoni's role and his way of working. "I also had my differences with Dhoni bhai. But now when I look at cricketing side of things, no one can say that Dhoni didn't back them. There are some situations which made the captain think the other way, and that's how life is."

Sreesanth also explained Dhoni's great impact as a captain in the World Cup wins.

"It will be a bit controversial when I say this. Yes you can say



"Why to talk only about 2-3 players? We also played our part in the win.' But it's just about the way Dhoni thought about the team first all the time. He even started the culture of giving the cup to the newest person in the team. He never wanted the limelight. He always wanted the team to do well," he added.

"Yes we won the World Cups because of the hard work of each and every player. But while the ship may have many celebrities on it, the task to take it from one destination to another always is always done by the captain. No matter how much you put a flight on autopilot, you need the pilot."

Another of MS Dhoni's former

teammates, Gautam Gambhir, in a recent interaction on Star Sports, spoke about how MS Dhoni "sacrificed" his batting position for the sake of the team, otherwise he would have been India's No 3.

"MS (Dhoni) was the first wicketkeeper of India who could change the game with his batting. Earlier, they were keepers first and batters later, but MS was batter first and then was a wicketkeeper. It was a blessing for Indian cricket that in MS Dhoni, we got a wicketkeeper-batter who can win you matches from No 7, because he had that power game. If MS would have batted at No 3, I am sure he could have broken several ODI

records," said Gambhir on Star Sports.

"People always talk about MS Dhoni and his achievements as a captain, which is absolutely true. But I feel due to captaincy, he sacrificed the batter in him, and he could have achieved much more with his bat which he didn't. And this happens when you are a captain because then you put the team ahead, and you forget about yourself. He started batting at No 6 or 7. If he had not been captain, he would have been India's No 3, and I think he could have scored more than what he has scored and could have scored more hundreds also," he added.

Dhoni is arguably India's greatest-ever captain, having led the team to three major ICC triumphs.

Under him, India won the 2007 T20 World Cup, 2011 ODI World Cup and 2013 Champions Trophy.

Overall, he led India in 332 matches, the most by a captain in international cricket. Out of these, he won 178, lost 120, tied six and 15 ended in a no-result. His win percentage as a captain is 53.61. This combined with the trophies he has won, makes him India's most successful captain ever.



Glimpses of maiden Air Show organised at Air Force Station Jammu. (Pics by Aman Sharma)

GDC Kathua hosts declamation competition on Gandhi Jayanti

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Sep 22: In celebration of Gandhi Jayanti, Government Degree College in Kathua held a Declamation Competition on September 22, 2023, in the Smart Classroom. The theme of the competition centered on 'Truth and Non-violence.' The esteemed guest for the occasion was the College Principal, Prof. Seema Mir.

Prof. Seema Mir, in her address, emphasized the importance of truth and non-violence as ideals. She noted that non-violence is a powerful weapon of the strong-willed and expounded on the inseparable relationship between non-violence and truth. These two principles are often regarded as the core tenets of Gandhi-



an philosophy. Prof. Mir also commended the organizing committee for successfully arranging the competition. A total of 13 students from various semesters participated in the competition, showcasing their oratory skills. The first prize was awarded to Vishal Gupta from the third semester. The competition was judged by a panel of esteemed

faculty members, including Prof. Shubh Kumar, Dr. Chetna Gupta, and Dr. Amita Dua.

The Literary/Debate/Symposium Committee, led by Prof. Shivani Kotwal as the Convenor and Prof. Shubh Kumar as the Co-convenor, along with Dr. Chetna Gupta, Dr. Amita Dua, Prof. Madhvi Manohar, Dr. Upasana Andotra, Prof. Manmohan Singh,

Dr. Rachna (Psychology), Dr. Seema Devi, Dr. Shamsher Singh, Dr. Poonam, Prof. Kamaldeep Singh, Prof. Esha Verma, Dr. Eva Sharma, Dr. Nitasha Baloria, and Prof. Rakhi Malhotra, was present to oversee the event.

The competition was skillfully anchored by Vishal Gupta, adding to the overall success and charm of the event.

Aashuutosh of DPS Jammu awarded as best batsman, man of the series in cricket tournament

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 22: Jammu Cricket team won Inter-Zonal U-19 Cricket Tournament under the Captaincy of Aashuutosh Mahajan (XI-G), a young cricketer and Sports Captain from Delhi Public School Jammu. He was also awarded the title of "Best Batsman" and "Man of the series" in the event. The Cricket tournament was organized by District Youth Services and Sports held at Khelgaon, Nagrota on 21st September, 2023. Aashuutosh had scored brilliant 218 runs in 4 Matches and had also grabbed 3 wickets. He has also received gold medal and glittering trophies.



In addition to this, Smriti Sharma of class XI-H also won first position and a gold medal in U-17 Archery Competition held at SMVD Sports Complex, Katra from 21-22 September, 2023. She had also

received merit cum participation certificate. The management of DPS Jammu including President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC-Dr. Ritu Singh, Director-S.S Sodhi along with Principal- Ruchi Chabra con-

gratulated Aashuutosh & Smriti, their parents and coach, Sudesh Manhas for their splendid performances in the event.

They also extended their best wishes for all their future endeavours.