

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Cop among two persons killed as vehicle falls into gorge in Poonch

JAMMU, Sep 26 (Agencies): Two persons including a policeman were killed when a vehicle they were travelling in skidded off the road and fell into 100-ft deep gorge in Poonch district on Tuesday, officials said.

They said that the Alto car (JK12C-6052) driven by one Mohammad Sadiq (Sgt Constable) met with the accident near Zirat Plera, resulting in his death as well as another person, Jamil Ahmed, both residents of Plera. One person, Naeem-ul-Sadiq, son of Sadiq, was injured and he has been shifted to hospital.

They said that while Sadiq died on the spot, Jamil was shifted to SDH Mandi but died during treatment.

Confirming it, a police official said that a case has been registered.

Four suspects held in central Kashmir's Beerwah: Army

SRINAGAR, Sep 26 (Agencies): Four suspected individuals were arrested in a joint operation by the Indian Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police, army said today.

"In a Joint Operation launched by #IndianArmy, @JmuKmrPolice & Int agencies on the intervening night of 25-26 Sep in Beerwah, #Budgam, four suspected individuals have been apprehended," said an army spokesman on X.

"03xPistols & other war like stores recovered. Investigation in progress," he added.

Three drug peddlers held in Baramulla: Police

SRINAGAR, Sep 26 (Agencies): Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police have arrested drug peddler in Sultapura, Garkote-Laghma Crossing Uri & Zandfaran Sheeri Baramulla and recovered psychotropic substances from their possession.

A Spokesperson said

Terrorist, 8 associates involved in Cross-Border Smuggling of Arms arrested in Baramulla

BARAMULLA, Sep 26 (Agencies): A terrorist and eight terror associates, including two women, involved in cross-border smuggling of arms and ammunition were arrested in separate operations as security forces unearthed two terror modules in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district, police said on Tuesday.

The terrorist associates were involved in cross-border smuggling of arms and ammunition at the behest of Pakistan-based terror handlers and its further distribution to Lashkar-e-Toiba terrorists for carrying out terror activities. Giving details at a press conference in



Baramulla, senior superintendent of police (SSP), Baramulla, Amod Nagpure, said on September 21, police, through reliable sources, came to know that Yaseen Ahmad Shah, resident of Janbazzpora Baramulla, is missing

from his home and has joined proscribed terror outfit LeT/TRF. TRF or The Resistance Front is the shadow outfit of the LeT. Nagpure said a case was registered and investigation was taken up.

On receipt of the information, based on human/technical intelligence, during mobile vehicle check-point (MVCP) checking at Tapper Pattan, the security forces apprehended the terrorist on

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No change in peaceful atmosphere in Kashmir post Kokernag Encounter: DGP Dilbag Singh



KATRA, Sep 26 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir's Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh Wednesday said that the Kokernag encounter has not changed the peaceful situation in Kashmir and that the situation continues to remain peaceful as it was before the

encounter. He, however, said that it is always advantageous for those who open fire first and in Kokernag terrorists opened the fire first leading to the killing of three officers.

Talking to reporters after inaugurating the modular police station at Katra, Jammu, DGP

Singh, said that the Kokernag encounter hasn't changed the situation in Kashmir. "Situation continues to remain peaceful as it was before the Kokernag encounter. I know, it is the handiwork of some vested interests to blow the Kokernag encounter out of proportion," he said.

He said it is always an advantage for those who open the fire first. "When security forces open fire at the terrorists first, it's to our advantage. In Kokernag, terrorists were waiting for the forces and took advantage of the first fire that led to the

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Raid on terror suspect's house in Jammu

JAMMU, Sep 26 (Agencies): The Special Investigation Agency (SIA) on Tuesday carried out a raid on the house of a former terrorist associate on the outskirts of Jammu, officials said. The counter-insurgency wing of Jammu

and Kashmir Police searched the house of Mohd Iqbal at Peer Bagh locality of Sunjwan in the early hours and confiscated a mobile phone and two SIM cards for examination, they said. The officials said that

Iqbal, originally a resident of village Khor in Mahore Tehsil of Reasi district, was a former terrorist associate and the raid was conducted on the suspicion that he still has connections with terrorists.

Dheeraj Gupta to discharge function of J&K BOPEE Chairman

JAMMU, Sep 26 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Tuesday ordered Dheeraj Gupta (IAS) to discharge functions of Chairman, J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examinations.

"In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 4 of the Jammu and Kashmir Board of Professional Entrance Examination Act, 2002, the Government hereby orders that Mr. Dheeraj Gupta, IAS (AGMUT:1993), Principal Secretary to the Government, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment shall discharge functions of Chairman, J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examinations, in addition to his own duties, as an interim arrangement, till further orders, in place of Raj Kumar Goyal, IAS (AGMUT:1990), Financial Commissioner

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J&K Govt issues social media guidelines for its employees

SRINAGAR, Sep 26 (Agencies): The Directorate of Family Welfare, MCH & Immunization, Jammu and Kashmir, has issued new social media guidelines for its employees, prohibiting them from criticizing government policies or actions on social media, posting content that is political, anti-secular, or communal in nature.

"No government employee shall, in any radio broadcast or in any document published in his own name or anonymously, pseudonymously or in the name of any other person or in any communication to the press or in any public utterance make any statement of fact



or opinion," reads an official order. Besides that, employees, directly or indirectly, shall not publish, post or release any information on social media that is considered confidential or that is not meant

for public dissemination nor shall they pass any official documents or any part thereof to any Government employee or any such person to whom he is not authorized to communicate such document or information.

"No Government employees shall, through any post, tweet or otherwise discuss or criticize on social media, any policy pursued or action taken by the Government, nor shall he/she, in any manner, participate in any such discussion or criticism on social media pages/communities/micro blogs," reads an order.

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India's Vision for Indo-Pacific Emphasises peaceful resolution of disputes: Army Chief

NEW DELHI, Sep 26 (Agencies): India's outlook for Indo-Pacific emphasises respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations, Chief of Army Staff Gen Manoj Pande said on Tuesday, amid growing global concerns over China's aggressive military muscle-flexing in the region.

In an address at a conclave of army chiefs of Indo-Pacific nations, Gen Pande also said



that India's commitment towards positively engaging all stakeholders in the region has been unwavering and enduring.

India's vision for Indo-Pacific emphasises

peaceful resolution of disputes, avoidance of use of force, and adherence to international laws, he said.

"While efforts by countries are converging towards a free Indo-Pacific, yet we are witnessing manifestations of interstate contestations and competitions," the Army chief added.

The Army chief further noted that "challenges we face transcend across borders and our

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Leaders extend wishes to former PM Manmohan Singh's on his 91st birthday



NEW DELHI, Sep 26 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with several other leaders extended their greetings to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on his 91st Birthday on Tuesday.

PM Modi took to X and said "Birthdays wishes to former PM Dr Manmohan Singh Ji. I pray for his long life and

good health."

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh also wished the party's veteran leader and said "Today Dr. Manmohan Singh turns 91. He has always been an outstanding symbol of erudition and learning. But much more than that he has always epitomised grace, sobriety, humility and dignity in whichever position he has held. These are extremely rare qualities in our public life, even more so now."

"I have heard Presidents and Prime Ministers refer to him as a guru. He does not need self-advertisement. On a personal note, I still recall the time in Sep-Oct 1986 when as Deputy Chairman he inducted Arvind Virmani, Rakesh Mohan and myself into the Planning Commission which was a tremendous learning experience," Jairam Ramesh said on X.

Manmohan

■ Turn to page 9

J&K Govt removes JMC Councilor for abusing official position

JAMMU, Sep 26 (Agencies): In a significant move, the Jammu & Kashmir Government has removed a councilor of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) on the grounds of abusing of her official powers.

The Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) has ordered removal of Jyoti

Devi, councillor, Jammu Municipal Corporation, who was caught red handed by sleuths of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) while accepting Rs 1000 as bribe.

"Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 34(l) (b) of The Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act, 2000,

the government hereby removes Smt. Jyoti Yadav, councillor, ward No 53, from her office on the ground of abuse of her official powers, with immediate effect," reads an order issued by the H&UDD.

This is the second such action in the past two years.

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TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Sohan Lal Gupta** S/o Late Sh Chuni Lal Gupta R/o H No. 179 Ward No. 9 R S Pura Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 17/09/2023.

Tenth Day will be performed at Ravi Dass Mandir R S Pura on 26/09/2023 (Tuesday) at 10 am to 11 am.

Kriya will be performed at our residence on 29-09-2023 (Friday) at 12:00 noon.

Grief Stricken :-

Smt Sunita Gupta (Wife)

Brothers & Bhabhis

Lt Sh Rattan Lal Gupta and Lt Smt Chano Devi

Sh Sham Lal Gupta and Smt Tripta Gupta

Sh Mohan Lal Gupta and Smt Suman Gupta

Sisters & Brothers in law

Smt Sita Devi and Sh Raj Gupta

Lt Smt Santosh Kumari and Sh Gulshan Gupta

Daughters and Sons in law

Sumegha Gupta and Nikhil Gupta

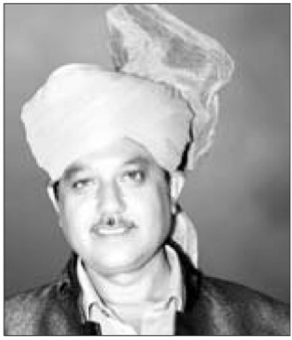
Sumitika Gupta and Pankaj Kumar

Son

Sh Nitish Gupta

SUNITA MEDICOS R S PURA JAMMU

7006343992, 9906356428, 9419194302



Sh Sohan Lal Gupta

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Papa Ji **Shri Sri Kanth Pandit** on 19th September 2023, originally from village Lajoura/ Tral, District Pulwama, presently at H. No. 487A, Sector 2, Muthi Vinayak Nagar, Jammu.

10th Day Kriya shall be performed at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education, Jammu on 28th September 2023 at 9:00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Girja Pandit & Sh. Ramesh Kumar Pandit.

Smt. Shakti Pandit & Sh. Vinod Kumar Pandit

Smt. Jyoti Bhat & Sh. J L Bhat

Smt. Babli Pandit and Ashok Kumar Pandit.

Contact No. 7006123703, 9599182958, 9419611426



Shri Sri Kanth Pandit

TENTH DAY / KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Narinder Singh Jamwal** S/o Late Sh. Sansar Singh Jamwal R/o 29-D, Extension Karan Nagar Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 15-09-2023.

Tenth day will be performed at Ved Mandir, Amphalla on 24-09-2023 (Sunday) at 10:00 am.

KRIYA will be performed at our residence on 27-09-2023 (Wednesday) at 12:00 noon.

Grief stricken :-

Smt. Rakesh Jamwal (wife)

Daughters-in-law & Sons

Sonu and Kannav Jamwal

Kailash and Vijender Singh

Ekta Jamwal (Daughter)

Brothers & Bhabhis

Renu Jamwal & Lt. Kuldeep Singh Jamwal

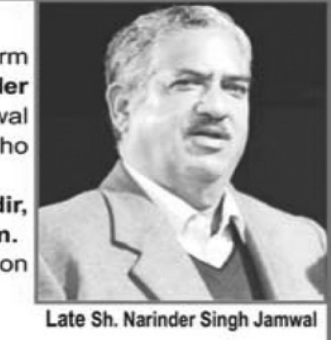
Sharda and Dr. Surinder Singh Jamwal

Chinta and Ashok Singh Jamwal

Nisha and Jagjit Singh Jamwal

JAMWAL FAMILY

Mob No: 9873978418, 9419792346, 9419104406



Late Sh. Narinder Singh Jamwal

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA/ RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Pushpa Devi** W/o Late Sh Badri Nath Sharma R/o H No 151, Lower Laxmi Nagar, Sarwal, Jammu.

The **Tenth Day** will be performed at our residence (Sarwal) at 11:00 am on 27th Sep, 2023 (Wednesday)

The **Kriya** will be performed at our residence (Sarwal) at 12:00 noon on 28th Sep, 2023, Thursday.

The **Rasam Pagri/Uthala** will be performed at Kotli Bhawan opp Mayur Gift Shop, Rehari at 5:00 pm on 28th Sep, Thursday.

Grief Stricken :

PATYAR FAMILY & RELATIVES (Birpur Wale)

Contact No. 9796684673, 7051196925



Smt Pushpa Devi

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform that our beloved **Sh. Vipen Kumar Baru** S/o Lt. Sh. Shiv Lal Baru R/o W.No. 2 Indira Nagar Udhampur left for heavenly abode on 19th September, 2023.

10th Day will be performed on 27th September 2023, 11.30 am Wednesday at Shiv Mandir Housing Colony Udhampur.

Kriya will be performed on 28th September 2023, Thursday at Devika Ghat Udhampur.

Grief Stricken

Baru Family (Chenani Wale)

Ph.: 9419796260, 9419298700, 9797417805



Sh. Vipen Kumar Baru

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh Dwarka Nath Kichloo (Saraf)** S/o Late Sh Janki Nath erstwhile resident of Batapora Shopian presently at H No-13 Tara Vihar (Behind Soap Factory), Khajuria Mohalla, Paloura Jammu (Near Supreme Car Wash) who attained Nirvan on 19th Sep 2023.

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on Thursday i.e. 28th Sep 2023 at Muthi Ghat at 8.30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Smt Kishni Kichloo (Wife)

Sons and Daughter-in-law

Smt Anjali and Sh HK Kichloo

Smt Manju and Sh RK Kichloo

Daughters and Son-in-law

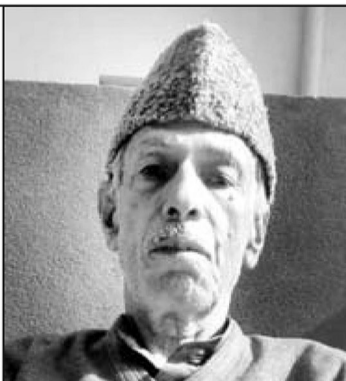
Smt Kiran and PN Bhat

Smt Rajni and Sh BL Ambardar

Smt Dolly and Sh Rameshji Raina

Grand Children

Rimi & Prasad Ji, Nishu & Vipin Ji, Binny, Vinny, Ashish & Shivani, Divya, Ankush, Alok, Harsha, Ujwal and Moksha.



Sh Dwarka Nath Kichloo (Saraf)

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we painfully inform about the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Dwarika Nath Dassi**, originally R/o Nai Basti Anantnag, presently at 1110, Latina Tower, Mahagun Mirabella, Sector-79, NOIDA, 201301, on 21st Sept 2023.

10th Day Kriya will be performed on 30th September (Saturday) at Muradabad Gaziabad UP.

Assembly will be held at our residence Mahagun Mirebella Sector 79, in the clubhouse at 10.30 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sunita & Ramesh Dassi (Daughter in law & Son)

Radhika & Satish Dassi (Daughter in law & Son)

Rajni Tickoo W/o Late Sh Ramesh Tickoo (Daughter)

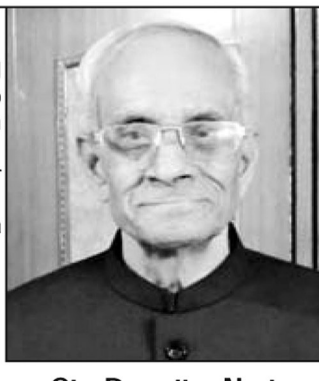
Sarita & Rajinder Bhat (Daughter & Son in law)

Anita & Vinod Dhar (Daughter & Son in law)

GRAND CHILDREN

Reesha & Viraj Pandita, Deepli & Ashwani Bhat, Akash, Riya, Pranav, Adirut, Vivaan, Anaya, Aarohi & Aarna

Contact Ph.Nos.: 9717678817, 9310457521



Sh. Dwarika Nath Dassi

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh Krishan Lal Sarmal** S/o Late Sh Manga Ram who left for heavenly abode on 18-9-2023.

TENTH DAY will be performed on Wednesday 27-9-2023 at our residence H No. 308 Shiv Mandir Sarwal Jammu at 12:00 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN :

Smt Krishna Devi - Wife

Sons & Daughter-in-law

Late Sh Rakesh Kumar & Mrs Jyoti Devi

Sh Ravi Kumar & Mrs Kiran Devi

Sh Naresh Kumar & Mrs Nipunika

Brothers and Sister in law

Sh Tilak Raj & Mrs Raja Devi

Sh Keshori Kumar & Late Smt Rani Devi

Sh Raj Kumar & Kanchan Devi

Grand Daughter

Ruby Devi W/o Rahul Kumar

Shivani, Arpita, Virat, Pringri

Mobile No. 6006026596



Sh Krishan Lal Sarmal

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Sohan Lal Gupta** S/o Late Sh Chuni Lal Gupta R/o H No. 179 Ward No. 9 R S Pura Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 17/09/2023.

Tenth Day will be performed at Ravi Dass Mandir R S Pura on 26/09/2023 (Tuesday) at 10 am to 11 am.

Kriya will be performed at our residence on 29-09-2023 (Friday) at 12:00 noon.

Grief Stricken :-

Smt Sunita Gupta (Wife)

Brothers & Bhabhis

Lt Sh Rattan Lal Gupta and Lt Smt Chano Devi

Sh Sham Lal Gupta and Smt Tripta Gupta

Sh Mohan Lal Gupta and Smt Suman Gupta

Sisters & Brothers in law

Smt Sita Devi and Sh Raj Gupta

Lt Smt Santosh Kumari and Sh Gulshan Gupta

Daughters and Sons in law

Sumegha Gupta and Nikhil Gupta

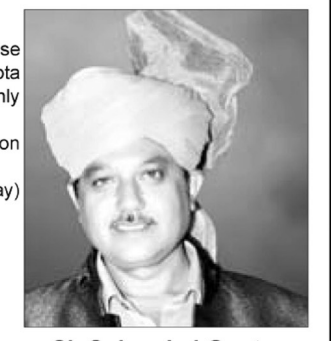
Sumitika Gupta and Pankaj Kumar

Son

Sh Nitish Gupta

SUNITA MEDICOS R S PURA JAMMU

7006343992, 9906356428, 9419194302



Sh Sohan Lal Gupta

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Narinder Singh Kotwal** S/o Sh. Faquir Chand Kotwal on 18th of September, 2023.

The **Tenth Day** will be performed on 27th of September, 2023 at our residence Gwari, Bhadewah.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Pritima Kotwal - Mother

Smt. Sudesh Kotwal - Wife

Son & Daughter-in-law

Jimmy Kotwal & Kajal Kotwal

Daughter & Son-in-law

Poonam Kotwal & Dr. Rahul Kait

Brothers & Sisters-in-law

Sh. Nirmal S. Kotwal & Jyoti Kotwal

Sh. Nardev S. Kotwal & Pawan Kotwal

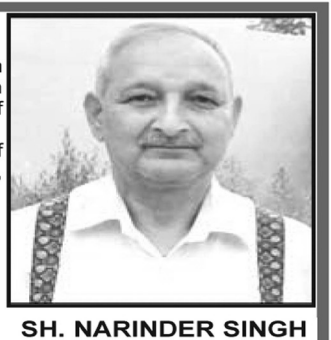
Sh. Nater S. Kotwal & Kiran Kotwal

Sisters & Brothers-in-law

Smt. Kailash Kotwal W/o Dr. S.L. Kotwal

Smt. Anjali Luthra W/o Sh. Dilip K. Luthra

Grand Children: Aaditya, Kartikay, Smarth, Krishang



SH. NARINDER SINGH KOTWAL

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Ravinder Pandita** S/o Late Sh Mohan Lal Pandita originally resident of village Achhan (Pulwama) at present 378, Shanti Nagar below Govt Quarters behind Krishna Mandir Topsherkhania Jammu on 20/09/2023.

TENTH DAY shall be performed on 29/09/2023. (Friday) at 9 AM at Muthi ghat near Directorate of School Education Muthi.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Mrs. Bandana Pandita - Wife (9149833816)

Smt. Veena ji- Mother (8492981584)

Master Manik (Son)

Master Saras (Son)

Mrs Anjali and Suneel Razdhan - Sister & Brother in law.

All Near and Dears



Ravinder Pandita

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we informed that a noble soul and our revered mother **Smt Parmeshwari Bakshi** W/o Lt. Sh D.N Bakshi originally resident of Batapora Sopore Distt. Baramulla presently residing at H.No. 147 Preetam Nagar Paloura, Dhoke.

10th Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat on Dated. 28-9-2023 at 8.30 am.

Mourners:-

Sons & Daughter-in-laws

Bushan Lal Bakshi & Girja

Mohan Lal Bakshi & Sunita

Raj Nath Bakshi & Beauty

Daughters & Son-in-laws

Girja & Late Sh T.N Pandita

Rajni & Sh Satish Pandita

Grand Kids



Smt Parmeshwari Bakshi

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of Karamyogi **Shri Triloki Nath Khar (Tathaji)** originally from Bara Mohalla Srinagar. Presently at House no. Z-51, Lane no. 9, Sai Dham Road near Lal Kothi, Kashmiri Colony, Najafgarh on 21-09-2023.

The **10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on Saturday, Sept 30th 2023 at Ganga Canal Ghat, (Chota Haridwar) Muradnagar, Gaziabad - Meerut Road U.P. at 8:30 AM

GRIEF STRICKEN

Nancy Khar - Sister-in-law

Bimla Koul - Sister

Usha & Vijay Pandita - Daughter & Son-in-law

Muni & Ashok Munshi - Daughter & Son-in-law

B.L. Khar & Anjina - Son & Daughter-in-law

Pintoo Ji Khar & Veena - Son & Daughter-in-law

Mob: 6006339322, 09711569422



Shri Triloki Nath Khar (Tathaji)

TENTH DAY/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Prof. Prem Chand (Retd.)** resident of H. No. 85, W. No.4, Court Road, Udhampur on 20/09/2023.

10TH DAY/UTHALA shall be held at Goverdhan Palace, Dhar Road, Udhampur on Friday, 29th September, 2023.

Saibang 11 a.m. to 12 Noon

Uthala 12:15 p.m. onwards

Langer 12:15 p.m. onwards

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Smt. Ram Pyari (Wife)

(Son & Daughter-in-law)

Sh. Vinay Kumar & Smt. Vijay Kumar

Dr. Anil Kumar & Smt. Mithu Bhargava

(Son & Daughter-in-law)

Dr. Sunil Kumar & Dr. Kiran (Son & Daughter-in-law)

Smt. Sita Devi (W/o Late Sh. Shankar Dasa) (Sister-in-law)

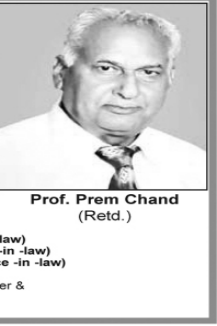
Sh. Paramanand & Smt. Vijay Kumar (Nephew & Niece-in-law)

Dr. Vijay Kumar & Smt. Poonam Rana (Nephew & Niece-in-law)

Grand Children:

Bhumi, Semita, Jovita, Komledep, Sahil, Kushalbeer & All Relatives & Friends

Contact: 9419160558, 9419160949



Prof. Prem Chand (Retd.)

10TH DAY/ KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we wish to inform you of sad demise of **Mrs. Prabha Ogri** W/o Late Sh. Mohan Kishan Ogri, originally of Budipare, Aji Kadal, Srinagar, Kashmir at present Flat 1 B, 9 Mayfair Road, Kolkata. She left for her heavenly abode at 10:00 PM on September 18th, 2023. May her soul attain Sadgati / Moksha.

YLA seeks postponement of JKPSC Civil Judge Examination

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 26: Young Lawyers Association (YLA) held a press conference today to address the pressing concerns of aspiring lawyers and students regarding the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) examination for 69 posts of Civil Judge Junior Division, scheduled for the 8th of October.

Led by Gagandeep Singh Lucky, the Vice President of YLA, and Yasser Khan, General Secretary of Young Lawyers Association, the conference highlighted deep concerns about the current state of the examination and the challenges faced by candidates. Despite numerous representations and appeals, including those made by Bar Associations, the concerns of students have largely gone unheeded, prompting the YLA to take this public stand.

Among the key concerns raised by YLA, one major issue was the inclusion of out-



dated materials in the examination syllabus, particularly the Financial Code and the Jammu and Kashmir Residential and Commercial Tenancy Act 2012. The Financial Code has already been replaced by the General Financial Rules applicable nationwide, and the latter Act has been stayed by the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Another pressing concern emphasized by YLA was the need for age relaxation for eligible candidates who have become overage

due to the delay in conducting the examination. Candidates were also provided with only 40 days of preparation time for an examination with an extensive syllabus, which the YLA argued was insufficient and added unnecessary stress.

The irregular gap of 5 years between consecutive examinations was noted as a challenge for candidates' preparations and professional commitments. Additionally, the complexity of subjects in the examination syllabus, which practicing law-

yers find challenging to cover effectively within the limited preparation time, was highlighted.

During the press conference, misleading rumors, particularly those regarding the High Court's stance on the examination postponement, were addressed. The YLA clarified that, upon verification with High Court officials, no such communication exists.

The YLA also pointed out that the examination's timeline deviated from past practices, causing concerns among candidates. Fur-

thermore, attention was drawn to candidates who recently participated in the Prosecuting Officer Examination in 2022, now facing a quick transition to the Judicial Services Examination, which has a different syllabus.

In his concluding remarks, Gagandeep Singh Lucky, Vice President of YLA, earnestly requested the JKPSC to reconsider the current approach to conducting the examination. He emphasized the need for a thoughtful and transparent process, considering the number of posts, the short preparation time, and the legal developments. Postponement was urged to provide candidates with adequate preparation time and ensure fairness in the process.

The YLA's press conference sheds light on the challenges faced by aspiring lawyers and students and underscores the importance of addressing these concerns for the sake of fairness and transparency in public employment.

Warm farewell accorded to SSP Ashok Kumar Sharma



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 26: A warm farewell was accorded to Ashok Kumar Sharma, SSP Staff Officer to the Additional Director General of Police, Jammu Zone, at the Provincial G.P. Fund Police Cell, ZPHQ

Jammu, today. Ashok Kumar Sharma is set to retire on September 30th, 2023. In recognition of the retiring officer's stewardship, Monika Hans, along with her staff, organized a farewell party. They expressed their appre-

ciation for the guidance and directions provided by the officer during his tenure as the Staff Officer to ADGP Jammu Zone and thanked him for his contributions to the welfare of the Provincial G.P. Fund Police Cell, ZPHQ Jammu.

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY JAMMU & KASHMIR
JAMMU POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ELECTRIC DIVISION-III, JPDC REHARI JAMMU
CIN No: U40300JK2013SGC003898, E-mail: recthreedistribution@gmail.com
SHORT NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
e-Nit No: ED-III Jammu/50 of 2023-24 dated 22.09.2023

INVITATION:-

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, the Executive Engineer (Distribution), Electric Division-III, JPDC Jammu, hereinafter referred to as 'Employer', invites online e-bids from reputed Companies or Class 'A' registered Electrical Contractors having a valid license and meeting eligibility criteria as per terms, conditions, technical specifications and schedules forming part of this tender document for "Creation of 3x100 KVA Sub Stations (1x100 KVA at Kot Maira Ppt. Kot Maira Lower+ 1x100 KVA at Badhan Panchyat Manchak+ 1x100 KVA at Aijal Malal Ppt. Kaleeth) including laying of required 11 KV Tap lines and LT network for dispersal of power under PMAGY scheme of Social Welfare Department, falling under the jurisdiction of Electric Sub Division Jaurian on Turnkey basis.

Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful/conscious study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications. Bidders are requested to visit the sites of work before participating in bidding process, so that they have clarity regarding topography of area of work.

1. The tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested Bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

A	Tender Document Sale/Download Start Date	23-09-2023; 10.00 AM
B	Tender Document Sale/Download End Date	12-10-2023; 3.00 PM.
C	e-Bid submission (start) date & time	21-09-2023; 10.30 AM.
D	e-Bid submission (end) date & time	12-10-2023; 4.00 PM.
E	Submission of Hard Copy of Tender Fee	13-10-2023 up to 4.30 PM.
F	Commercial and Technical Bid opening date & time	14.10.2023; 2.00 PM.
G	Online financial e-Bid opening date & time (Only of the technically qualified Bidders)	Will be communicated to the Technically Qualifying Bidders.
H	Venue of opening of techno-commercial Bids	Executive Engineer Electric Division-III, JPDC Rehari, Jammu
I	Tender Value	25.99 Lakh (Rs. 2599618.00)
J	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs. 1000 (Non-Refundable)
K	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 52000/-
L	Technical Sanction	Accorded
M	Accord of Administrative Approval	Awaited
N	Position of funds	Available

2. The Bidders need to submit the proof/cost of e-Bid document as stated in the above table through e-Challan, treasury Challan/receipt, in favour of Executive Engineer, Electric Division-III, Jammu (Cost of Tender to be credited to Head: 0801) or Demand Draft from any Nationalized/Scheduled bank pledged to Executive Engineer Electric Division-III JPDC Rehari Jammu, payable at Jammu. The original demand draft or e-Challan, treasury Challan/receipt shall be submitted in a separate envelope to the Office of the Executive Engineer Electric Division-III JPDC Rehari Jammu and should reach at least one day before opening of commercial and technical e-Bid. The scanned copy of the Demand Draft/ e-Challan treasury Challan/receipt must be uploaded along with the e-Bids & other asked documents. Bidders are requested to upload asked/required documents only. Pl. don't upload unasked documents.

3. Bidders must quote for all the particulars of the item in the Technical Bid and in the price schedule/BOQ of financial bid. The bids of Bidders who will not quote for all the particulars for any item in technical and financial bids shall be liable to be rejected at the discretion of the Employer keeping in view the interest of the JPDC.

4. All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee only from any Nationalized/Scheduled bank only pledged to Executive Engineer Electric Division-III JPDC Rehari Jammu. No Interest shall be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department.

a. Hard Copy of original instrument of EMD shall be demanded from the successful bidder(s) after the opening of the financial e-Bids.

b. The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site <http://jktenders.gov.in>. This is conveyed to the technically qualified Bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids shall be opened accordingly online on the same Web Site.

5. The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of Bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the venue, date and time mentioned in the above table. An authority letter of Bidder's/OEM representative will be required to be produced.

6. The JPDC reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof if any major lapse/deviation is found. The decision of the JPDC will be final and binding.

7. In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared a holiday for JPDC office, then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the notified time and venue.

8. All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidders electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD.

9. To participate in e-bidding process, Bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.

Hard Copy of Cost of Tender Document must be delivered to the Office of the Executive Engineer Electric Division-III JPDC Rehari, Jammu in sealed cover at least one day before the scheduled date of opening of the commercial and technical e-Bids. The sealed cover shall be super scribed as "Cost of Tender Document for e-NIT No. & date.

No: ED-III/TS/ 2294-97
Dated: 22.09.2023

DIP/J-3157-P/23

Executive Engineer,
Electric Division-III,
Jammu

NMC urges PM Modi to release DA installment, DA arrears

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 26: The President of the National Mazdoor Conference (NMC), Subash Shastri, issued an appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi today, urging the release of the pending 4 percent Dearness Allowance (DA) installment due from July this year, along with 18 months of pending dearness allowance arrears for central government employees.

During an interaction with media representatives in Jammu, NMC's chief, Shastri, emphasized the urgency of the situation. He pointed out that the inflation rate, which stood at 6.89 percent on December 31 of the previous year, had surged to 12.49 percent by June 30, 2023. In light of this alarming increase in prices of essential commodities, Shastri implored the Prime Minister to make a decision regarding this matter at the forthcoming Union Cabinet meeting.

Shastri further explained that the rate of compensation had



been revised every six months based on the average of the consumer price index for previous months. This pending installment of DA, along with the 18 months of arrears, represents the biannual increase as recommended by the 7th pay commission, which was accepted by the Central Government in 2016.

Shastri argued that with the rising prices of essential goods, there was no justification for the Central Government to withhold this DA installment and arrears. He called on the Prime Minister to promptly appoint a Chairman and

other members of the 8th Pay Commission and commence discussions with representatives of both Central and State government employees and pensioners' organizations. Shastri believes that the establishment of the 8th Pay Commission will bring clarity and resolution to the ongoing uncertainty among employees and pensioners on this issue.

In addition to the DA and pay commission matters, Shastri urged the Prime Minister to restore the old pension scheme in place of the National Pension System (NPS) as a confidence-building mea-

sure. He highlighted that several states, including Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Karnataka, and Sikkim, had already reinstated the old pension scheme in favor of NPS employees. Shastri expressed hope that the NDA Government at the center would take positive steps in this direction, recognizing the significance of this issue in the upcoming 2024 general elections.

Shastri also called upon the Prime Minister to designate both Jammu and Srinagar as B-1 Cities, a move that would facilitate increased funding for

infrastructure upgrades and the modernization of civic amenities in both capital cities.

Furthermore, the NMC chief pressed for the immediate allocation of a special package of Rs. 2,000 crore per annum to regularize 61,000 casual and seasonal laborers working in various State Government Departments. Shastri also advocated for the regularization of daily wage earners who had completed seven years of service by March 2023, proposing an increase in their monthly emoluments to Rs. 18,000 per month.

Notable individuals who spoke at the occasion included Rajan Babu Khajuria, B.S Jamwal, Surinder Kumar, Ramesh Sharma, Ram Singh, Rakesh Padha, Ashok Khajuria, Gara Ram, Suraj Parkash, Darshan Baba, Madan Lal Bhagat, Sukhdev Singh, Mushtaq Ahmed, Lal Singh, Chaman J.P. Sharma, Banarsi Lal, Vinod Kumar, and several others.

CBC Regional Office Jammu Observes Vigilance Awareness Week 2023

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 26: The Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, marked the commencement of Vigilance Awareness Week 2023 at the Media Centre of the Regional Office in Jammu. The program's focal point was to raise awareness about the Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers (PIDPI) Resolution. Preceding Vigilance Awareness Week 2023, the Central Vigilance Commission had conducted a campaign highlighting specific preventive vigilance initiatives for all Minis-



tries, Departments, and Organizations.

In his opening remarks, Shri Devinder Singh, DySP of the Anti-Corruption Bureau in Jammu, underlined the organization's com-

mitment to strong values and ethics, always striving for excellence. He shared real-life experiences exemplifying the highest standards of honesty and courage. Kamal Sangra, Inspec-

tor at the Anti-Corruption Bureau in Jammu, emphasized the importance of instilling three core values in every organization: transparency, disclosure, and good corporate gov-

ernance practices. He presented several case studies showcasing acts of honesty by individuals and detailed the applicability of various laws in our daily operations.

In his presidential address, Gh Abbas, Joint Director of CBC/ PIB, stressed that eradicating corruption from society requires active participation from the general public. He emphasized that the success of any government department hinges on wholehearted participation from the public at large. The vote of thanks was delivered by Ms. Ayushi Puri, Deputy Director of CBC J&K Ladakh.

EDITORIAL

MARKETING ENVIRONMENT

The market environment is a marketing term and refers to factors and forces that affect a firm's ability to build and maintain successful relationships with customers.

The marketing environment surrounds and impacts upon the organization. There are three key elements to the marketing environment which are the internal environment, the micro environment and the macro environment. Marketers build both internal and external relationships.

The term market refers to the aggregate of all demand for a particular product or service, arising from the aggregate of all consumers, existing and potential, for the product. But the market for products is not homogeneous but too heterogeneous. This is due to the consumers, who constitute the market and vary widely in their characteristics, who constitute the market for a given product is not totally homogenous characteristics, it facilitates the effective tapping of the market.

Diversity in the product market may be due to differences in buying habits, ways in which the product is used, motives for buying and other related factors. Moreover, no buyers are identical in all respects. However, large groups of potential buyers have certain characteristics of distinctive significance to marketing and each such group constitutes a market segment. By grouping consumers, distribution, pricing, promotion and other marketing programmes can be effectively framed for these segments. Market segmentation is gaining importance in this context.

To sum up, it will be appropriate to say that "The marketing environment is a sum total of factors, elements and forces that impact an organization and develop its ability to build and maintain successful relationships with customers. There are basically three levels of the environment."

Marketers must be equipped with trends and changes which brings hurdles as well as opportunities. With the help of tools like market research and market intelligence, they must gather all the latest information and know how about the changes and alteration in environment. By carefully examining the environment, marketers can adopt their strategies to meet new market place challenges and opportunities.

The market environment is a marketing term and refers to factors and forces that affect a firm's ability to build and maintain successful relationships with customers.

This factor includes marketing agents, distributors, wholesalers, retailers etc. who aid the company in the distribution of its products and services. They are considered as internal factor as they aid the business of the company. In fact, without them the distribution of the product will not take place and hence business itself will come to a standstill. Their success depends upon the success of the firm and as such they can most definitely be treated as internal to the firm. Hence clear understanding and communication with them on all matters related to their activity is very essential.

The employees are the most important factors which contribute to the success of any plan. The management should make a continuous study about the attitude and willingness of the employees in achieving the goals of the organisation.

When you talk about the staff as a controllable internal factor what is referred to is the staff of the entire company and not just the staff of the marketing department. A well-motivated staff with the right kind of attitude will definitely add to the success of the firm and take it along the correct path.

It's time for a retirement age for India's politicians

By: Mohan Guruswamy

In the last question to Yudhishthira at the lakeside, the Yaksha asks: "What is the greatest wonder?" Yudhishthira replies: "Day after day countless people die. Yet the living wish to live forever. O Lord, what can be a greater wonder?" This wisdom seems to elude our political leaders. The waning days of a leader's life are always plagued with questions of the individual's health and, by implication, longevity.

The nearness of the end of life, in effect, makes the leader, however powerful he or she might seem, a lame duck leader. The term "lame duck" is an Americanism that refers to an elected official who is approaching the end of his or her tenure, and especially an official whose successor has already been elected.

A "lame duck" status invariably entails a swift loss of political legitimacy and authority, making official power a weak instrument. Most leaders fear this more than death itself.

Not long ago the official website of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said he went hiking in the mountains north of Tehran just one month after undergoing prostate surgery. It reported: "The septuagenarian ayatollah, who is known to be fond of walks and hiking, was accompanied by his entourage on the hike early on Friday morning." It also quotes the top leader as saying that the hike was arranged on the recommendations of his physicians as "physical exercise is beneficial to the recovery process".

Ayatollah Khamenei, who has the final say on all state matters, has been Iran's top leader since 1989. He is a powerful defender of Iran's

theocracy established by his predecessor, the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. The purpose of this little peep into the ayatollah's otherwise strictly guarded privacy is meant to send a message — that nothing has changed and that he is still the man to do business with in Iran.

The ayatollah's hike brings to mind Mao Zedong's famous swim in the Yangtze, also when he was well into his 70s. In the early 1960s, after the chairman's disastrous "Great Leap Forward", China faced an economic catastrophe and a famine that was taking millions of lives. Mao had to contend with mounting criticism from within the party and Beijing swirled with rumours about his health.

The Great Helmsman then retreated to Hangzhou to plot his strategy to regain political legitimacy and full authority. He came up with the "Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution" to deal with his rivals and once again seize full control of the Communist Party. But first he had to show that he was well and kicking. Mao resurfaced in Wuhan in the summer of 1966 to stage one of his greatest acts of political theatre.

On July 16, he "took" a vigorous and well-reported swim in the Yangtze river by the Wuhan Bridge. It was to signal that Mao was in robust health and that his rivals had better take note. Although Mao was in his early 70s, party propagandists claimed that the chairman had swum nearly 15 km in a record 65 minutes. Even if the speed was believable, the crude cut-and-paste photograph that was shared made sure that outside China, it was taken as political buffoonery and a sign that China was soon to descend into a new madness.

Then why go to this extent when

all that it usually does is to raise more questions? That has more to do with the desires of those close to the leadership to retain the power that closeness confers and the jockeying for better positioning after a succession that also happens simultaneously.

Yuri Andropov became general secretary of the CPSU and President of the USSR after the death Leonid Brezhnev in November 1982. Andropov was the first Russian leader to realise how precarious the economic position of the USSR actually was and how untenable its claims to be a superpower were. Andropov also realised how former US President Ronald Reagan's "Star Wars" programme was actually an elaborate hoax to drive the USSR into economic ruin by trying to develop costly weapons to match those that weren't there. In August 1983, Andropov called off the Soviet space weapons programme.

But earlier that year Andropov suffered a total renal failure. It was one of the most closely guarded secrets of the Cold War. The Soviet leader had to be tethered to a dialysis machine and was actually living in a Moscow hospital.

This made a mountain hike or a swim in a river in full flow an impossibility. No one is still quite sure when Andropov actually died. He officially died on February 9, 1984.

He didn't go gently, but in the end the night takes us all. Closer to home we have the case of former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee. He was diagnosed as stricken with Alzheimer's soon after he lost the 2004 elections. But Alzheimer's is not a sudden onset ailment. All through the preceding few years there were signs of a fading memory. He kept calling Jaswant Singh Yashwant Sinha, and vice

versa. He forgot Pramod Mahajan's name at a public meeting. He would suddenly go blank during meetings. But clearly there were many vested interests in keeping the charade going. Ranjan Bhatnacharya and Brijesh Mishra were the obvious beneficiaries. Pecuniary and otherwise.

There were many others in India and abroad who were entirely too happy with the situation. The Americans fawned upon Brijesh Mishra. Lal Krishna Advani was happy as the succession line was made clear with him being named deputy prime minister. All that was needed was to keep the play going till the 2004 elections, which the BJP expected to win, with Vajpayee as its flag-bearer. Now consider this too. Not long after the 2004 debacle, the then defence minister, George Fernandes, was also detected to be suffering from Alzheimer's.

Now think of this alarming situation. The Prime Minister and the defence minister, the top two in the nuclear command chain, are afflicted with Alzheimer's. Yet they are vested with war and holocaust powers? It was also the same in the case of US President Ronald Reagan.

That's why I like Narendra Modi's announced 75-year age cut-off for politicians. I would actually prefer a 70-year cut-off. Narendra Modi is now 73.

He is at a chronological age which is past the average Indian life expectancy and his electoral life is very finite given present trends.

It's time for him to say: "Chal Khusrau ghar aapnay, saanjh bhayee chahu des." (Let us, Oh Khusrau go back now, the dark dusk settles in the four hours corners.)

India becoming a stronghold of coarse grains

By: Vijay Garg

On coarse grains, the saying 'Man is not strong, time is strong' is completely true. During the Green Revolution, the coarse grains which were limited to the plates of the poor, are today being served in the plates of foreign guests. In the recently concluded G-20 summit and other meetings of the group held across the country before that, the desi touch was given everywhere, from welcoming the guests to the food and drinks in the hotel. Foreign leaders were served dishes made from coarse grains like jowar, millet and ragi. Foreigner guests enjoyed snacks made from coarse grains with desi tea. This also led to international branding of Indian millets. To make people aware about millets, 2023 has been declared as 'International Year of Millets'. Earlier in 2018, India had celebrated the Year of Millets at the national level. Millets include coarse and small grained grains. Major coarse grains include Jowar, Bajra, Ragi, while small grains include Kutki, Kangni, Kodo and Sawan. In these Many nutrients including calcium, iron and fiber are found in it. That is why coarse grains have been given the status of superfood. Today, coarse grains are being sold in big shopping malls in attractive packaging. These grains are eaten with

great enthusiasm in many countries of the world. Given the abundance of nutrients and amazing ability to fight diseases, millets are important for the nutritional security of the country. That is why the medical world is advocating the inclusion of coarse grains in the diet. Now the government has also banned processed food made from coarse grains. The products are planned to be included in breakfast and lunch plates. The processed products will be made according to the age and taste of the local people. It is noteworthy that the main diet of 42 percent of the country's population is starchy food and 60 crore people are severely malnourished. By including food made from coarse grains in the diet, the problem of malnutrition will automatically be solved. Due to their health benefits, millets are now becoming a part of diets across the world. Many countries have replaced wheat with coarse grains. Have given place in your routine food. Coarse grains contain good amount of iron. Being gluten free, it is beneficial for the body and also helps in controlling diseases like diabetes. Coarse grains are mostly cultivated by small and marginal farmers. Now new entrepreneurs are joining these farmers and trying to deliver coarse grains to the common people. Millets require less water to grow and their crops can easily withstand seasonal fluctua-

tions. This carbon absorption are helpful. The maturity period of these crops is also less as compared to wheat and paddy. That is why millets provide a ray of hope in times of climate change. Prime Minister Modi has mentioned the role of coarse grains in increasing the income of farmers in the Mann Ki Baat programme. He has also advocated making it a movement and making India the global hub of millets. In this series, dishes made from coarse grains have been included in the canteen of Parliament House. Considering the nutritional properties of coarse grains, it has been included in the diet of soldiers after 50 years. Coarse grains have made a comeback. The Yogi government of Uttar Pradesh is giving 100 percent subsidy to those setting up processing units of coarse grains. Separate sales centers will be set up for coarse grains in the mandis. The Rural Development Department will extend it from blocks to gram panchayats and the haat markets there. The food made from these will be included in the catering of hotels. To ensure that children also have knowledge about coarse grains, coarse grains will be included in the curriculum of primary schools. midday meal, nutrition, Coarse grains have been included in the public distribution system. Self-help groups will be trained to prepare millet products. In view of the increasing diffi-

culties and costs in wheat and paddy cultivation due to climate change, the government is working on a plan for nationwide government procurement of coarse grains at support prices and distributing them under the public distribution system. Millets are cultivated in 130 countries of the world and these grains are the traditional diet of 500 million people of Asia and Africa. Now Modi government is making coarse grains a global brand. For this, exhibitions based on millets are being organized in many countries of the world. NABARD has prepared an action plan to promote the export of coarse grains. For this, it has created a capital fund of Rs 600 crore for agricultural and rural startups. It is being used to promote millet based startups. For this, NABARD has formed a company called 'Nabventure'. In the financial year 2022-23, India has exported coarse grains worth \$ 754 million, which The target is to increase it to \$100 crore by 2025. India exports 55 percent of its coarse grains to the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. All these steps will have a positive impact in the coming years.

(Vijay Garg Retired
Principal Educational
Columnist Malout
Punjab)

Babu Rampaul asks party cadre to launch door to door campaign

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 26: To activate and instill more energy in the functioning of NC workers of Ward No 8 & 9, a meeting was organized by Dr. Vikas Sharma, Zonal Secretary and Coordinator Jammu District (Urban) in which Former Minister and President Central Zone JKNC, Babu Rampaul was the chief guest and District President Jammu (Urban), Chander Mohan Sharma was the guest of honour.

Addressing the meeting, Babu Rampaul said that we will have to conduct a door to door campaign and tell the public about the achievements of our party vis a vis what the present government has done for the public in the last 10 years. The present government only put the burden on the people and did nothing, he said adding that we will have to work day and night to ensure victory of our candidates in the local body elections taking the ideology of National Conference at the grass root level to every house.

Rampaul further said that after August 5, 2019, the situation has grown from bad to worse to jeopardize the living of people by first impos-



ing property tax, smart meters installation and now prepaid meters with inflated power bills coming in thousands but the administration is not ready to pay heed to the grievances of people.

He said that when NC government will come to power, we will reverse all the anti-public steps taken by the present dispensation and work for the convenience of the people.

Former Minister also said people are being cheated under Smart City narrative and the condition of Jammu city is bad. There are potholes all over the streets, drains are broken and when it rains, the entire city turns into flood hitting the normal life of commoners. Is this what Smart City is like, he

asked, adding that Smart City is not made by installing Signs Boards, but by providing all kinds of facilities to the people, he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Chander Mohan Sharma alleged that the political party in power has totally spoiled the earning pattern of locals of Jammu as all the Govt works including contracts of sand, bajri, wine shops, and parking spots have been allotted to the people from outside JK UT jeopardizing the living standard of general public Jammu and Kashmir and drastically dwindling their livelihood.

Dr Vikas Sharma while speaking on the occasion said that all the important positions in the UT Govt sector and universities have delib-

erately been given and occupied by officers from outside JKUT under a well knit conspiracy to make the lives of people here quite miserable with none to listen to their genuine grievances, he added.

Dr Vikas urged upon the youth, retirees and the women to play an active role in the upcoming polls and vote for peace, progress, identity with dignity and to ensure democracy survives at any cost.

Others who spoke on the occasion include, Satpaul Shabotra, Sandesh Shan, Surjit Kumar, Narinder Kumar, Amar Bhagat, Munir Ahmed, S.Gurmeet Singh, Shakur Ahmed, Tilak Raj, Banshi Lal Rajwal, Sukdev Sagotra and others.

Warwan Festival: Marwah Forest Division organizes trekking event

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Sep 26: Marwah Forest Division, in conjunction with the Warwan Festival, conducted a thrilling trekking event on 24th September 2023. The event saw participants trekking from Dasbal to Hajjika Nalla, exploring the scenic beauty of the region.

The trekking event was inaugurated by the esteemed presence of Dr. Devansh Yadav, IAS, Deputy Commissioner of Kishtwar, and the Joint Director of Tourism. Sh. Vijay Kumar, SFS, Divisional Forest Officer of Marwah Forest Division, highlighted the potential of trekking routes in the Warwan Valley, especially for nature lovers.

He shared that the division has explored two forest trekking routes - one from Nowpachi to Inshan and another from Dangdorun to Brahma Peak. Additionally, trekking events have been organized for school children, promoting outdoor activities and connecting them with nature.

During the briefing, DFO Sh. Vijay Kumar also emphasized the rich ecological diversity of the Warwan Valley, specifically mentioning



the abundance of high altitude medicinal plants and highland pastures. He acknowledged the immense potential of these resources for the livelihoods of the local people.

Joining the trekking event was Sh. Om Parkash, IFS Retd PCCF UT of J&K, a renowned Field Taxonomist. He enlightened the participants about the significance of Seabuck Thorn (Hippophae rhamnoides), also known as Leherberry plant, and its local name as Kandphal in the Warwan Valley. Sh. Sharma emphasized the abundance of the Seabuck Thorn plant along the banks of the Marsudar River, from Sukhnai to Hyan. He highlighted its antioxidant properties and rich source of Vitamin C. The leaves of the plant are also used

in tea, and the fruits are known for their high Vitamin C content.

Sharma advocated for the conservation and cultivation of the Seabuck Thorn plant, suggesting the establishment of nurseries for its propagation. DFO Marwah shared that Marwah Forest Division, specifically in the Marwah Range at Kud and Mallikbhata Nurseries, has already raised 2000 saplings of Sea-

buck Thorn under the Biodiversity Management Plan for the year 2022-23.

The trekking event was a resounding success, providing participants with an immersive experience of the natural beauty and biodiversity of the Warwan Valley. It showcased the potential of the region for adventure tourism and the importance of preserving the unique flora and fauna.

World Pharmacist Day celebrated in Doda

TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Sep 26: The Jammu Kashmir Govt. Pharmacist Association in Doda celebrated World Pharmacist Day in a grand manner. Pharmacists from various districts of Doda, including ISM (AYUSH), NHM, and Health and Medical Education, actively participated in the event. During the celebration, retired pharmacists and in-service senior pharmacists were honored for their exceptional service to the department and society.

Among those who were recognized for their outstanding contributions were Krishan Lal Bhagat, Aftab Ahmed, Sanjeev Bhan, Asgar Ali Wani and

Rehmatullah Malik. The primary objective of this celebration was to motivate and encourage the pharmacist community to continue providing their best medical services to humanity. Emphasis was placed on the important role of pharmacists in delivering quality healthcare and medical services to both rural and urban areas with dedication.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Sh. Hushiar Singh Rukwal, President of JKMEF Doda. Attendees collectively pledged to work hard and carry out noble deeds to ensure good health services for all of humanity and strengthen healthcare systems across the world.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor announces culmination of its North Regional 'Great 4X4 Expedition by Toyota'

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 26: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) successfully concluded its 'Great 4X4 Expedition by Toyota' in the North region, a noteworthy drive with a blend of thrilling off-road adventures. The northern expedition is the latest in the series of 'Great 4X4 Expedition by Toyota' that began with a zonal expedition in South India and continued through the Western regional drive, captivating 4X4 enthusiasts and showcasing Toyota's commitment towards creating unforgettable experiences. This experiential drive unfolded from September 22nd - 24th 2023, in the picturesque landscapes of Hoshiarpur, showcasing the indomitable spirit of adventure and off-roading excellence that defines Toyota's 4X4 SUVs.

A formidable convoy of outstanding 4x4 SUVs, featuring the iconic Hilux, the legendary LC300, the beloved Fortuner, and the cutting-

edge Hyryder AWD (All Wheel Drive), set out on the exhilarating adventure. These Toyota 4X4 SUVs, celebrated for their extraordinary off-road prowess and state-of-the-art technology, shone brightly throughout the journey, showcasing unrivalled performance, and infusing the entire driving experience with a heightened sense of excitement, thanks to their distinctive product strengths and features.

Toyota with its motorsport legacy continues to serve as an inspiration, offering an array of renowned QDR (Quality, Durability and Reliability) products, which has won the hearts of millions of customers. This fusion of motorsports excellence and off-road prowess remains the cornerstone of Toyota's unwavering dedication to 4X4 auto enthusiasts.

On the successful completion of the North zonal 'Great 4X4 Expedition', Atul Sood, Vice President of Sales and Strategic Marketing,

Toyota Kirloskar Motor said, "At Toyota, we firmly believe that our motorsports heritage inspires us in creating world-class cars that excels both in on-road and off-road drives. As we commemorate the successful conclusion of the North regional 'Great 4X4 Expedition by Toyota', TKM expresses heartfelt appreciation to all the participants, supporters, and partners who have been integral in this extraordinary journey.

Towards our sustainability and carbon neutrality initiatives, we also undertook eco-efforts, where all the participants enthusiastically took part in a tree plantation drive at the drive location. With great anticipation, we look forward to the forthcoming East regional event of the 'Great 4x4 Expedition by Toyota', which is expected to take place in the coming month. We are confident that our event in the East region will further fuel the spirit of adventure in our customers, thereby creating life-enriching memories."

Ashok Sharma re-elected as President BVP Bhoma Shah Branch Sunderbani

TOP NEWS REPORT

SUNDERBANI, Sep 26: The Sunderbani Bhoma Shah Branch of the Bharat Vikas Parishad (BVP) recently conducted its election for the positions of Branch President, Secretary, and Treasurer for the year 2023-24. The election was held under the supervision of Dr. Somji, a senior member of the BVP, who served as the Returning Officer, and Sh. Ashok Gupta, Prant Vice President Sanskar, who acted as the Observer.

In a unanimous decision, the members of the Sunderbani Branch re-elected Ashok Sharma as the President, Rohan Sharma as the Secretary, and Sunil Sharma as the Treasurer. The oath of office was administered to the newly elected President, Secretary, and Treasur-



er by Prof. B.B. Sharma. Prant President Bharat Bhushan Sharma and General Secretary Prant Shiv Ram Sharma congratulated the elected team and encouraged them to work diligently to strengthen and invigorate the organization further. The presence of M.L Padha K.A.S, the Branch President of Tridev Shastri Nagar (Jammu), was also noted during the election, along with other

members of the BVP and the JK Prant body.

"We are delighted to announce the successful completion of the election for the positions of President, Secretary, and Treasurer in the Sunderbani Bhoma Shah Branch," said the Prant President Bharat Bhushan Sharma. "We have full confidence in the leadership abilities of Ashok Sharma, Rohan Sharma, and Sunil Sharma, and we

believe that they will contribute significantly to the growth and development of the organization."

The elections witnessed active participation from branch members, including Drashan Lal, Rajinder Kumar, Adarsh Bandhu, and others. The entire process was conducted in a transparent and democratic manner, ensuring fairness and equality for all candidates.

Dimple alleges BJP's defeat, deferral of elections in J&K

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 26: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of admitting defeat in the elections and deferring elections in Jammu and Kashmir. He claimed that this decision was made during a BJP core group meeting, where security threats were used as excuses.

Speaking at a press conference held at the Press Club, Dimple revealed that, according to sources, a verdict on the petitions filed by Mission Statehood regarding Article 370 and 35-A is expected from the Supreme Court in October. He appealed to all political parties to unite for the sake of democracy and hold elections at all levels in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We call upon all politi-



cal parties, including the National Conference, Congress, PDP, Awami National Conference, Apni Party, and other Jammu and Kashmir based parties and organizations, to come together on a common platform to fight for the restoration of democratic principles," said Dimple.

Expressing his disappointment, Dimple claimed that the BJP is afraid and running away from holding elections at the municipal, Panchayat, and local body levels

in Jammu and Kashmir. He argued that deferring these elections indicates that the BJP is already admitting defeat even before stepping into the electoral arena.

Dimple emphasized the urgent need for corporations, local bodies, and panchayat elections to address the issues faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370. He accused the BJP of contradicting itself by claiming total peace on one side, while using security scenario

excuses to defer the elections on the other side. He raised concerns that this decision, driven by fear of defeat, could create problems for BJP in the upcoming 2024 parliament elections.

"Without the elections and an elected government, Jammu and Kashmir continue to suffer. The traders, transporters, and people are grappling with issues of poverty, unemployment, lack of development, problems with smart meters, illegal settlements, and the Thandi Khoi toll plaza," stated Mr. Dimple.

Dimple called for immediate action to hold the deferred elections in Jammu and Kashmir, underscoring the importance of democratic representation for the well-being and progress of the region.

Parent Teacher Meeting held at GMS Sangli Katwalt



TOP NEWS REPORT

UDHAMPUR, Sep 26: A monthly Parent Teacher Meeting (PTM) was held at Govt Middle School Sangli on Tuesday, under the guidance of Kuldeep Kumar, Headmaster of Govt Middle School Sangli Zone, the meeting aimed to discuss the role of parents in developing life skills among children, along with routine academic and context-specific themes.

The PTM focused on educating parents about various aspects of child abuse and protection, including alternatives to corporal punishments and prevention of child sexual abuse. Additionally, the meeting emphasized the importance of developing life skills among students such as self-awareness, empathy, critical thinking, creative thinking, decision making, problem-solving, effective communication, interpersonal relationships, as well as coping with stress and emotions. Parents and students were also made aware of the significance of practicing healthy habits such as personal hygiene.

The meeting witnessed participation of parents, staff, and students. Among the notable attendees were Ramesh Chander Sarpanch Babil, Girdhari Lal, Ramesh, Gudo, Sham, Nishu, Ajay, Moti Ram, Rinku, Joginder, Chanu Ram, Rekha Devi, Nisha Devi, Geeta Devi, Baldev Singh Premu, Sham Lal, Billo, Mamta Devi, Madhu Devi, Sushma Devi, Ashu Devi, Bam, Shonko, Premu, Rekha, Maina, Kamlesh, Archana Jugnwal (teachers), and Godavari Devi and Diksha Makhan Singh (staff members), among others. Kuldeep Kumar, Headmaster of Govt Middle School Sangli Zone, expressed his gratitude towards the parents and staff for their active participation and contribution towards the academic and personal growth of the students.

Director Gabbar Sangrur, who will soon release his film White Punjab, says he loves exploring the 'pinds' of Punjab and has never harboured dreams of moving abroad

Passionate about filmmaking, director, writer and producer Gabbar Sangrur is in love with the genre of dark comedy. Scope for some punches and an opportunity to bring societal issues on to the screen, Gabbar is ready with his second project as a director — White Punjab.

A film, which is based on gang wars in Punjab, is a dream project for Gabbar. "I had the first draft of the story with me in 2019. To begin with, I wanted to make a Hindi film on it. Gang wars are a reality in Punjab and I wanted to highlight them," says Gabbar. Two infamous broad daylight killings in Punjab brought the issue into focus and Gabbar made up his mind to highlight it in Punjabi. "It was a story of the state. The two murders got national and international attention, so I decided to make it in Punjabi."

Due for a release in October, a multi-starrer, White Punjab marks the debut of singer Kaka, and stars Kartar Cheema, Rabbi Kandola, Dakshjit Singh and Yasmeen in the lead roles. Gabbar started his innings with theatre in his hometown, Leh-ragaga, Sangrur. After completing a Masters degree from the Indian Theatre Department,



Panjab University, he started a group, The Theatre Army, in 2007. Always fond of writing and direction, he also did a certificate course in Urdu.

Setting up his base in Mohali, he started line production and has to his credit English film West Is West and the Punjabi movie Mastaney. Meghna Gul-

zar's Sam Bahadur, Imtiaz Ali's Chamkila and John Abraham's The Diplomat are some of his other upcoming projects as a line producer.

Digital route
He has also written and directed the web series Gangland in Motherland, which was released on YouTube. The obvious next step was big screen and he debuted as a film producer with Jalwayu Enclave. "It was a film set during the Covid time, and has times have been preserved those strange times in the film. It is available on Amazon Prime."

As for White Punjab, he is also the writer and producer of the film. Bollywood is dominated by comedy dramas, but Gabbar knows his genre well, "Films are for entertainment, but what works even better is if they can expose societal ills and work towards finding a solution."

When not working, Gabbar loves to explore the pinds of Punjab. "I am interested in its history and historical sites." And no, unlike most Punjabi, he isn't dreaming of Canada. "I feel fortunate to be born here, and here I will breathe my last," signs off Gabbar, whose next is called Chaa Coffee, a family drama.

Avika Gor collaborates with her Raju Gari Gadhi 3 director for series Mansion 24



Avika Gor, who will be seen next in the web

series Mansion 24, said collaborating with

the Raju Gari Gadhi 3 director Omkar again was interesting.

The actress said, "It is interesting to collaborate with director Omkar again. I worked with him in Raju Gari Gadhi 3, which was a massive success in Telugu. So, I am very happy to work with him again," she said.

Avika added, "In this project, he has multiple stories and multiple actions, and his forte, which is horror and thriller, is what he is bringing to the table for the audience. I am glad that I have the opportunity to be a part of something on a large scale in the Telugu market, and I hope people appreciate this side of me."

Talking about the poster of the series, the actress said, "Yes, the poster is extremely intriguing because you can't really figure out if I am the nice one, the bad one, or the victim. It's confusing, and I love that."

Life comes full circle for singer and composer Jasleen Royal

Singer and composer Jasleen Royal, who has been basking in the glory of her recent hit Heeriye topping the charts and winning hearts globally, recently took to Instagram, sharing a heartfelt video.

In the caption, she wrote, "Life comes full circle."

Reflecting on my journey from the auditions in Mumbai many years ago as a contestant in my teens to being a guest on India's Got Talent—from listening to chartbusters to my songs becoming one with all your love."



Salman Khan unveils teaser of niece Alizeh Agnihotri's debut film 'Farrey'

Actor Salman Khan unveiled his niece Alizeh Agnihotri's much-anticipated teaser of her debut movie 'Farrey'.

Taking to Instagram, Salman shared a teaser of 'Farrey'.

The teaser began with the sound of a clock ticking, students taking exams, filling up their OMR sheets, making 'farrey' and then getting caught.

In the film, Alizeh plays a student.

'Farrey' is a word used by students for small chits of paper bearing answers, that they sneak into exam halls.

Sharing the teaser, he wrote, 'Main toh yeh F word ki baat kar raha tha, aapne kya socha!#FarreyTeaser Out Now!'

As soon as Salman posted the video, fans and followers



flooded the comment section with heart and fire emojis.

One of the users wrote, "Kiyaa bhaini maine socha tha Tiger 3 ka trailer aiyega."

Another commented, "Waiting For Tiger 3." The thriller, directed by national award-winning film-

maker Soumendra Padhi and stars Alizeh, Zeyn Shaw, Sahil Mehta, Prasanna Bisht, Ronit Bose Roy and Juhi Babbar Soni.

Padhi is known for his much-acclaimed film, 'Budhia Singh: Born to Run', which received a national award.

Apart from that, Padhi also helmed the web series 'Jamtara' seasons 1 and 2 which streamed exclusively on the OTT platform Netflix.

Earlier today, Salman shared the title of Alizeh's debut film 'Farrey' and wrote, 'Subha subha ek Naya' word seekha. Char baje bataunga.'

Alizeh Agnihotri is the daughter of actor and producer Atul Agnihotri and Salman Khan's sister Alvira Khan Agnihotri.

Farrey is set to release on November 24, 2023. Meanwhile, Salman is gearing up for the release of 'Tiger 3', which will hit the theatres this Diwali. The film also has Katrina Kaif. In October, Salman will be seen hosting the 17th season of 'Bigg Boss'.

Alia Bhatt to star in Vasan Bala's 'Jigra', film to release in 2024



National Award winner Alia Bhatt is set to star in and produce "Jigra", a film directed by Vasan Bala, the makers said on Tuesday.

Backed by Dharma Productions and Eternal Sunshine Productions, the movie will hit the screens on September 27, 2024.

Karan Johar's Dharma

Productions shared the film announcement on its official X page.

"@aliaa08 is back to put up a courageous fight like no other for her #Jigra! JIGRA, directed by Vasan Bala - releasing in cinemas on 27th September 2024," the banner said in the post.

"Jigra" marks Bhatt's second production ven-

ture via Eternal Sunshine Productions after 2022's "Darlings", which was released on Netflix. She was last seen in the streamer's "Heart of Stone", her Hollywood debut.

From debuting in Dharma Productions' 2012 film "Student of the Year" to now producing a film with the studio, Bhatt said life has come full circle for her.

"Every day is a different day... exciting, challenging (and a little scary)... not just as an actor but also as a producer as we bring this film to life, and I CANNOT wait to share more as we move forward. JIGRA - in cinemas on 27th September 2024," she wrote on social media.

Bala, known for "Monica, O My Darling" and "Mard Ko Dard Nahin Hota", penned a description of the film on his official Instagram account.

"She made a promise and she will fulfill it... whatever the obstacle... whatever the cost... #Jigra," the filmmaker wrote.

Johar, Apoorva Mehta, Bhatt and Somen Mishra are credited as producers on the upcoming project.

Falaq Naaz says no character is big or small for her



Falaq Naaz, who recently proved herself in Bigg Boss OTT 2, says that it's very different to work in a reality show.

Talking about the difference between working in a reality show and a daily soap, she says, "The difference between reality shows and daily soaps is huge. In a daily soap, you play a character and go to the shoot every day. You dwell in that character for 12 to 13 hours. You are not yourself; you are the character you're playing. You don't know who you are, like, for example, if I am Falaq, I won't remain Falaq. I will continue to be in that character and I will live that character."

However, no work is small, she says, adding, "It's not important whether a character is big or small. That's what I have learnt in my career so far. I have followed this from the beginning, and it's important for actors to understand how important the character is and how extensive the character's graph is."

Soundous Moufakir eliminated from KKK 13

The Moroccan model Soundous Moufakir, who has got eliminated from the stunt based reality show Khatron Ke Khiladi 13, called it a roller coaster ride.

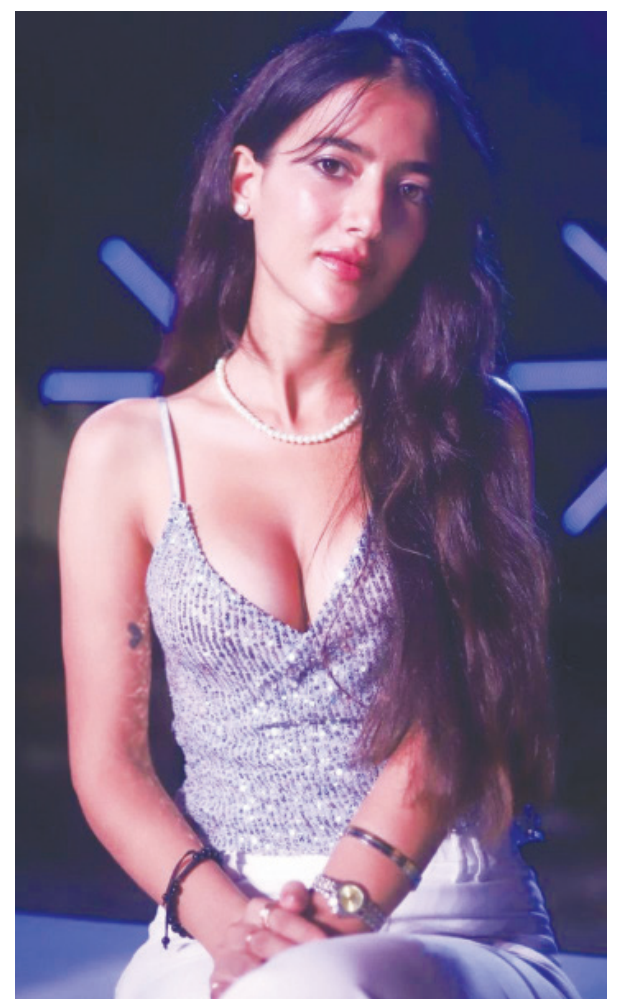
The competition in Khatron Ke Khiladi 13 is getting intense with every episode as the khiladis are outperforming themselves.

In its Challenger's Week, the contestants were seen fighting tooth and nail against ex-contestant and challenger Divyanka Tripathi to ensure they don't land in the elimination round.

The last week witnessed daredevils Nyrraa M Banerji and Soundous competing against each other in pulling off one of the longest stunts of this edition. The two had to brave their fear of water, height, and electric shock for 40 minutes. Despite giving her best, Soundous lost the stunt to Nyrraa.

Her phobia of rats and electric shock was triggered throughout the season, but she got over it with the support of the other contestants and action maestro Rohit Shetty.

Talking about her elimination, she said, "Being part of Khatron Ke Khiladi 13 has truly



been a roller coaster ride for me. No matter how intense the situation became, I never backed down from any stunt, and I'm proud that I didn't lose to my fears."

Soundous, who was also a part of dating reality show Splitsvilla shared, "Conquering my fear of rats and electric

shocks was a remarkable personal achievement. It was not at all easy to find strength during those challenging moments. The friends I made during this show will forever hold a special place in my heart."

Khatron Ke Khiladi 13 airs on Colors.

PM Modi pays homage to Dev Anand on 100th birth anniversary

The cinema icon, who starred in films like 'Hum Dono', 'CID' and 'Guide' among others was conferred with the Padma Bhushan in 2001 and Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2002

NEW DELHI, Sep 26 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday paid homage to cinema legend Dev Anand and said his films not only entertained but also reflected the aspirations of India.

Dev Anand, the star of movies such as "Hum Dono", "Tere Ghar Ke Samne", "CID" and "Guide", would have been 100 on Tuesday. He passed away in 2011 at the age of 88.

"Dev Anand Ji is remembered as an evergreen icon. His flair for storytelling and passion for cinema were unmatched. His films not only entertained but also reflected the changing



society and aspirations of India. His timeless performances continue to influence generations. Remembering him on his

100th birth anniversary," PM Modi wrote on X alongside photographs with the screen icon.

Dev Anand made his debut as an actor in 1946 with "Hum Ek Hain" before establishing himself as a leading star with movies like "Paying Guest", "Baazi", "Jewel Thief", "Johnny Mera Naam", "Amir Garib", "Warrant" and "Hare Rama Hare Krishna", which he also directed.

For his outstanding contribution to Indian cinema, Dev Anand was honoured with Padma Bhushan in 2001 and Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2002.

'Free and open Indo-Pacific is India's stance': Rajnath Singh



NEW DELHI, Sep 26 (Agencies): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday, reiterated New Delhi's stance on growing Chinese hegemony saying "India stands for a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific".

A 'free and open Indo-Pacific' is a term used by nations to express their stand against China's attempts to create 'no sail' zones in the South China Sea and 'no fly zones' over it.

The Minister was delivering the inaugural address at the 13th Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs' Conference (IPACC) in New Delhi which is being attended by 30 delegates from Indo-Pacific countries.

He called for collective wisdom and concerted efforts to deal with the complexities of the Indo-Pacific region, while tapping its full potential, to ensure a future marked by prosperity, security and inclusivity.

Indo-Pacific is no more

a maritime construct, but a full-fledged geo-strategic construct, and the region is facing a complex web of security challenges, including boundary disputes and piracy.

India's stand for a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific Region in the pursuit of shared security and prosperity.

He defined 'Neighbourhood First' as the cornerstone of India's culture. India's approach to the region is defined by its 'Act East Policy', Rajnath Singh added.

He reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision on engagement in the Indo-Pacific being based on five principles—Respect, Dialogue, Co-operation, Peace and Prosperity.

Rajnath Singh added that India's efforts towards building robust military partnerships with friendly countries underscore its commitment to not only safeguard national interests,

but also address global challenges faced by all.

Climate change-related concerns of small island nations of the Indo-Pacific need to be given the importance they deserve, as these bear the brunt of climate change as an existential crisis.

He termed the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982 as a good example of international agreement that establishes the legal framework for maritime activities and addresses the issues arising from overlapping 'concerns' of different nations.

Nations must identify and seek to expand their 'Circle of Influence' to promote national interests on the global stage.

This, he said, may involve building partnerships, participating in regional organisations and employing diplomatic, economic or military tools strategically.

The IPACC and the parallelly organised Indo-Pacific Armies Management Seminar (IPAMS) and Senior Enlisted Leaders Forum (SELF) are one of the largest brainstorming events of land forces in the region. The Indian Army and the United States Army are co-hosting the event.

Bandh in Bengaluru against Cauvery water release to TN evokes partial response

BENGALURU, Sep 26 (Agencies): The Bengaluru bandh called by various organisations over the Cauvery river water dispute evoked partial response on Tuesday with most of the public services functioning normally.

Farmers and Kannada organisations, backed by the opposition BJP and JD(S) had made the call for shutdown in protest against the release of Cauvery water to neighbouring Tamil Nadu.

Normal life was affected in the city as fewer people ventured out.

"Karnataka Jala Samrakshana Samiti," an umbrella outfit of farmers' associations and other organisations led by farmer leader Kuru-buru Shanthakumar, has given the call for today's dawn-to-dusk (6 am to 6 pm) Bengaluru bandh.

Shanthakumar and other leaders of the 'Karnataka Jala Samrakshana Samiti' were detained by the police at the Mysuru Bank circle, as they were trying to hold a protest march towards Town Hall.

Several activists of Kannada organisations were also whisked away by the police at Town

Hall, as they gathered there to stage a protest. Farmers' leaders and Kannada activists hit out at the government for allegedly using police force to curtail the protests and bandh.

City police have taken adequate security measures to respond to any violence that may happen during the protests. About 100 platoons have been deployed.

Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda said that prohibitory orders under Section 144 are in place across the city from midnight on Monday to Tuesday midnight in the wake of the bandh.

Also, according to existing restrictions and court orders, there is no permission for any bandh or procession in the city, he said, "No one can forcefully implement the bandh by using force, other than in cases where someone wants to observe it voluntarily."

Meanwhile, a Karnataka bandh, a state-wide shutdown, has been called, on September 29 by 'Kannada Okkuta', an umbrella organisation for Kannada organisations, led by activist

Vatal Nagaraj. They are not supporting today's bandh.

Bengaluru Urban district Deputy Commissioner Dayananda K A has declared a holiday for all schools and colleges in the city on Tuesday, in view of the bandh.

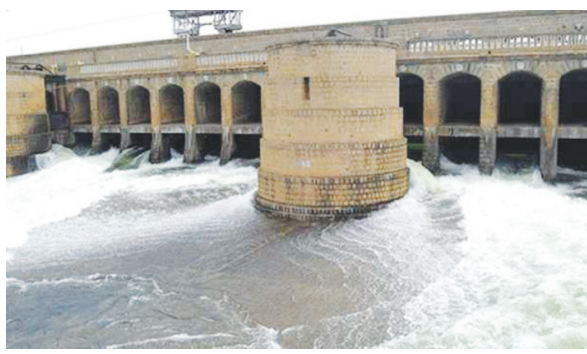
Though cab services, autos and hotels/ restaurants were seen operating, drivers and hotel operators said not many people were coming out to utilise the services.

Similar is the case with Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses and Metro rail services, as the usual rush was not seen at bus and metro stations.

Ola-Uber Drivers' Association and Hotel Owners' Association have said that their services will be normal today.

They have extended support for the September 29 Karnataka bandh called by pro-Kannada organisations, stating that in the midst of financial difficulties, they cannot afford to lose two days of work.

Most private companies and firms, including those in the IT sector,



asked their employees to work from home.

Some malls in the city have decided to remain shut. Many shops and establishments were also seen not functioning as usual in the morning hours.

The opposition BJP and JD(S) which have been targeting the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government for allegedly failing the state by releasing Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu, have supported today's bandh, and have announced that they will take part in the agitation.

With protests intensifying, Siddaramaiah and deputy chief minister D K Shivakumar on Monday had said the government will not curtail them but underlined the importance of maintaining peace.

Protests have continued in various parts of Karnataka, following the

Supreme Court's refusal to interfere with orders of the Cauvery Water Management Authority and Regulation Committee, directing the state to release 5,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu.

Farmers' organisations and pro-Kannada outfits have been staging protests in Cauvery river basin districts—Mysuru, Mandya, Chamara-janagara, Ramanagara, Bengaluru and other parts expressing their anger and urging the state government not to release water to the neighbouring state.

Karnataka has been maintaining that it is not in a position to release water, taking into account its own need for drinking water and irrigation for standing crops in the Cauvery basin areas, as there has been water scarcity due to deficit monsoon rains.

UP woman chops off man's private parts after he refuses to get intimate with her friend

KANPUR, Sep 26 (Agencies): In a shocking incident, a woman in Kanpur chopped off the private parts of her boyfriend after he refused to get intimate with her friend.

Inspector Sanjay Pandey said the injured man had been referred to Kanpur for treatment.

The incident, according to police reports, took place at a village in Chaubeypur police circle where the man was in a relationship with a married woman of the village.

On Monday night, the



woman invited him to meet one of her friends. The friend began pressing him to have sex with her and when he refused, she chopped off his private parts.

The profusely bleeding youth reached home

and his family admitted him to the Chaubeypur CHC from where he was referred to a medical facility in Kanpur.

The police official said a case was being registered and action would be taken.

After dispute with woman, man opens fire killing her dog in Uttar Pradesh

BARABANKI (UP), Sep 26 (Agencies): A man allegedly opened fire after a dispute with a woman in which she had a narrow escape but her dog died, police said on Tuesday.

The incident took place on Sunday in Vijay Nagar locality when Kalpana Chaturvedi

was walking her dog, they said.

Police said she had some dispute with Arvind Verma Bhullan, a lawyer, who abused and threatened her.

Bhullan then opened fire which killed the dog, while Kalpana had a narrow escape, the police FIR on the matter

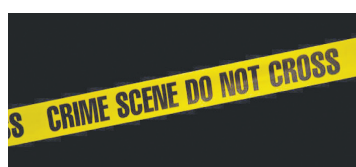
said. The woman said that she fled from the spot to save her life.

City police station in-charge Sanjay Maurya said an FIR under IPC 307 (attempt to murder) and other relevant sections were registered against the lawyer.

Woman shot dead in Greater Noida by 2 unidentified motorcycle-borne men

NOIDA, Sep 26 (Agencies): A woman was shot dead allegedly by two unidentified motorcycle-borne men in Greater Noida on Tuesday, police said.

The woman, around 40 years old, worked as a domestic help and was on her way from Dadri to Surajpur when the incident took place around 8:30 am, they said.



"The woman identified as Rajkumari had reached a little distance from her home when the two unidentified men came on a motorcycle, opened fire at

her and fled. The woman was rushed to a hospital but was declared dead by doctors," a police spokesperson said.

Rajkumari's daughter informed police that her mother had a dispute related to money with her sister, the police official said.

"Rajkumari's sister lives in a village in Palwal district of Haryana and the two siblings fre-

quently fought over the matter. She also threatened Rajkumari," the official said, citing her daughter's statement.

Deputy Commissioner of Police, Greater Noida, Saad Mian Khan, said an FIR is being registered at the local Dadri police station and police teams are working to crack the case soon.

Girl kidnapped, raped in moving car in UP, kin allege police inaction

KUSHINAGAR, Sep 26 (Agencies): The police in Uttar Pradesh's Kushinagar have registered a case against unidentified people for kidnapping and raping a minor girl in a moving car.

According to sources, after a video of the girl being tied by a scarf and dragged inside a moving car surfaced on social media, police registered a case in a hurry and began investigating the matter.

However, the girl's family members said the incident took place on September 9 and they approached the nearby



police station, but no action was taken.

The girl's family members said only when the video of the incident went viral, the in-charge of the Kaptanganj Police Station and other officials, realising the seriousness of the matter, hastily registered a

case and initiated proceedings, and made an arrest.

Additional Superintendent of Police (Kushinagar) Ritesh Kumar Singh said today police had arrested a few people in the case and were investigating the matter.

Man Raped Girl, 8, After Luring Her With Toffee In UP, Police Case Filed

MATHURA, Sep 26 (Agencies): An eight-year-old Dalit girl was allegedly raped by an unidentified man in a village here when she was returning home from a relative's place, police said on Tuesday.

The incident took place at 8:30 pm on Sunday in the Mahavan police station area, they said.

According to a police complaint lodged by the girl's father, she had gone to the relative's place in their village on Sunday. When she was returning home, an unidentified man lured her to a secluded place on the pretext of giving her a toffee and raped her before fleeing. Additional Superintendent of Police, (Rural) Trigun Bisen said.

The girl managed to reach home. She was bleeding and was immediately taken to the district hospital, where she was administered first aid and later referred to S N Medical College, Agra. She is doing better now, he said.

On the basis of the complaint lodged by the girl's father, Bisen said, an FIR has been registered in the matter and efforts are on to trace the accused.

Odisha couple killed over witchcraft allegations

BHUBANESWAR, Sep 26 (Agencies): In a shocking incident, a couple in Odisha's Gajapati district were hacked to death over allegations of practicing witchcraft.

The victims were identified as Kapilendra and Sasmita Mallick, natives of Ghodapanka village under the Adaba police limits.

"Today morning, some people informed us that my brother-in-law has been hacked in his house by miscreants. While going to their home, we found our sister was also lying in a pool of blood on the road," a relative of the couple said on Tuesday.

Before she died, Sasmita claimed that two miscreants had hacked Kapilendra in front of her, after which they chased her and attacked her with a sharp weapon.

The family also claimed that she revealed the names of the murderers. They demanded immediate arrest and stringent action against miscreants.

According to locals, the couple were asleep at their home on Monday night when the miscreants broke into the house attacked the victims.

On February 11, Kapilendra was also shot at over the same witchcraft allegations. He had returned home just two months ago after fully recuperating from the gun injuries.

"The husband and wife have been killed by some villagers accusing the couple of practicing witchcraft. As many as 16 persons have been detained. During initial investigation, we have identified four accused killers out of the detained persons," said a police official.

South Korea vows to retaliate against any North Korean provocations in Armed Forces Day ceremony

President Yoon Suk Yeol says if North Korea uses nuclear weapons, its regime will be brought to an end by an overwhelming response

SEOUL, Sep 26 (Agencies): South Korea's president vowed to retaliate immediately against any potential provocations by North Korea in his Armed Forces Day speech on Tuesday, as thousands of troops prepared to march through the capital in the country's first such military parade in 10 years.

The show of force comes as concerns grow that North Korea is seeking Russian help in expanding its nuclear arsenal in return for supplying Moscow with conventional arms exhausted by its war with Ukraine.

"Based on battle-ready combat capabilities and a solid readiness posture, our military will immediately retaliate against any North Korean provocation," President Yoon Suk Yeol said at a ceremony after reviewing soldiers and advanced conventional weapons systems at a military airport near Seoul.

"If North Korea uses nuclear weapons, its regime will be brought to an end by an overwhelming response" from the



South Korean-US alliance, he said.

Yoon said he would strive to build "a strong military that instills fear in the enemy."

Later Tuesday, about 4,600 South Korean soldiers, accompanied by more than 300 US combat troops, were to parade through the streets of Seoul along with tanks, missiles and other weapons to display their readiness. South Korea last held such a parade in 2013.

Worries about North Korean-Russian military ties flared earlier this month when North Korean leader Kim Jong Un

travelled to Russia's far eastern region to meet with President Vladimir Putin and visit key military sites.

North Korea reportedly wants to receive Russian technologies to help its development of spy satellites, nuclear-propelled submarines and powerful long-range missiles. Such weapons would pose a major security threat to South Korea and the US.

Yoon didn't mention North Korean-Russian ties in his speech Tuesday. But in an address to the UN General Assembly last week, he said

South Korea "will not sit idly by" if North Korea and Russia agree to such weapons deals in violation of UN Security Council resolutions that ban all weapons trading with North Korea.

US officials have also said that North Korea and Russia would face consequences if they go ahead with such deals.

Also Tuesday, senior diplomats from South Korea, Japan and China met in Seoul to discuss the first summit of their leaders in four years, according to South Korean officials.

Yoon said last week that Chinese Premier Li Qiang and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida had expressed their support for a trilateral summit in South Korea.

Yoon's moves to strengthen South Korea's military alliance with the US and boost Seoul-Washington-Tokyo security cooperation have caused concerns that Seoul's relations with China, its biggest trading partner, will be undermined. But Yoon says Seoul-Washington-Tokyo cooperation won't marginalize any particular nation.

20 dead, 300 injured in gas station explosion in Nagorno-Karabakh

YEREVAN, Sep 26 (Agencies): Separatist authorities in Nagorno-Karabakh on Tuesday said that at least 20 people were killed and nearly 300 others injured by an explosion at a gas station.

The breakaway region's health department said that 13 bodies have been found and seven people have died of injuries after the explosion at the gas station outside the regional

capital of Stepanakert late Monday.

It said that 290 people have been hospitalized and scores of them remain in grave condition.

The explosion occurred as thousands of Nagorno-Karabakh residents are fleeing the region for Armenia after Azerbaijan's swift military operation last week to fully reclaim the region after a three-decade of separatist rule.

Imran Khan get another 14 days judicial remand in Cipher case

ISLAMABAD, Sep 26 (Agencies): A Pakistan special court on Tuesday extended judicial remand of former Prime Minister Imran Khan for another 14 days in the Cipher case, blighting the chances of his early release.

Khan, the chief of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, was arrested last month after a case was filed against him for allegedly violating the Official Secrets Act by disclosing a cable (a.k.a. cipher) sent by the country's embassy in Washington last year in March.

It is for the third time



that Khan had been sent to jail on remand. The previous 14-day remand ended today.

The special court judge Abul Hasnat Zulqernain conducted hearings in the District Jail Attock, where Khan has been detained since August 5 after his arrest following conviction in the Toshakhana case.

After the hearing, the court ordered to keep him in judicial custody until October 10 to complete the probe.

The court also extended remand of former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi for the same period. Qureshi has also been accused under the same law. Though the Islamabad High Court on Monday ordered authorities to shift Khan to the Adiyala jail in Rawalpindi but the directive was not implemented. Earlier, the authorities allowed to conduct hearing of the case in the jail due to security concerns.

Pakistani raid on a militant hideout near Afghanistan leaves 3 militants dead, says military

ISLAMABAD, Sep 26 (Agencies): Pakistani troops on Tuesday said they had killed three militants in a former Pakistani Taliban stronghold near the border with Afghanistan, triggering a shootout that killed three militants, the military said on Tuesday.

A militant commander was among those killed in the shootout late on Monday in Khyber, a district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, according to a military statement.

The military did not provide any additional details, saying only the targeted militants had attacked Pakistani troops in the past.

The Pakistani Taliban — also known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan or TTP — are a separate group but allied with the Afghan Taliban, who two years ago



seized Afghanistan as US and NATO troops were in the final stages of their pullout from the country after 20 years of war.

The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan has emboldened the Pakistani Taliban, who have stepped up attacks against police and troops.

Overnight Russian airstrike damages Ukrainian grain port and vehicles, 2 injured

KYIV, Sep 26 (Agencies): An overnight Russian airstrike on the key Ukrainian grain exporting port of Izmail injured two people and damaged infrastructure, the governor of the Odesa region said on Tuesday.

A port building, storage facilities and more than 30 trucks and cars were damaged in the attack, which lasted more than two hours, Oleh Kiper said on the Telegram messaging app.

The Ukrainian military reported shooting down 26 of the 38 Iranian-made attack drones it said were launched by Russia.

Moscow has intensified its air attacks on Ukrainian ports on the Danube River, including



Izmail and Reni, after it quit a grain deal in July that ensured the safe export of Ukrainian grains.

Separately on Tuesday, a Russian missile strike also damaged a local enterprise in the southern Ukrainian city of Kryvyi

Rih, Mayor Oleksandr Vilkul said. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Agency could not independently verify the report. There was no immediate comment from Russia.

A Ukraine drone attack on Rus-

sia's Kursk resulted in power being cut off to about seven settlements in the region, the region's governor Roman Starovoyt said on Tuesday. He said there were no reports of injuries.

Earlier, Russia's defence ministry said its air defence systems had destroyed one Ukraine-launched drone over Kursk around 5:30 am (local time). That followed reports of multiple drones being shot down over the region that borders Ukraine on Monday.

Agency could not independently verify the reports. There was no immediate comment from Ukraine.

No standoff, says Philippines after China removes floating barrier in South China Sea

MANILA, Sep 26 (Agencies): The Philippines on Tuesday said China's coastguard had removed remnants of a floating barrier severed by its Filipino counterparts at a fiercely contested shoal the South China Sea, adding there was no standoff or signs of aggression.

The Philippines on Monday executed what it called a "special operation" to cut a 300-metre barrier installed by China at the Scarborough Shoal, one of Asia's most contested maritime features, a move likely to further strain ties that have deteriorated in the past year.

China's coastguard was measured in its

response to a Philippine vessel that reached its closest point to the rocky outcrop since China seized control of it in 2012, according to Commodore Jay Tarriela, a coastguard spokesperson.

The Philippines coastguard, posing as regular fishermen aboard a small boat, later cut the ball-buoy barrier and took away the anchor, Tarriela told DWPM radio and ANC news channel.

He said four China coastguard vessels were in the area and were "not that aggressive" after seeing media on board a Philippine ship.

The Chinese took away the barriers, a few



hours after discovering it was no longer aligned and blocking the lagoon, Tarriela said.

The Scarborough Shoal, a prime fishing spot located about 200 km (124 miles) off the Philippines and within its exclusive economic zone, is the site of decades of on-off disputes over sovereignty.

China on Monday made no direct mention of the barrier but said coastguard had moved to repel a Philippine

vessel that was "intruding" in its waters.

The Philippines and China have repeatedly sparred over the shoal but under the previous pro-China administration in Manila, tensions had been lowered for several years.

Relations have soured in the past year, however, as President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, who authorised the cutting of the cordon, seeks to establish tighter defence ties with ally the United

States, including access to his country's military bases.

China claims ownership of almost all of the South China Sea, including the Scarborough Shoal, despite an arbitration ruling in 2016 that said that was baseless. China does not recognise the ruling.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Enrique Manalo, speaking to reporters about the removal of the barrier, on Tuesday said the move was consistent with the country's stance on the South China Sea.

"Technically, we had the right to practice our sovereignty and sovereign rights so it would have been consistent with our position," he said.

Prominent Thai activist sentenced to 4 years in prison for royal insults



BANGKOK, Sep 26 (Agencies): A prominent activist and lawyer made famous for his open calls for reform of Thailand's powerful monarchy was on Tuesday sentenced to four years in prison for royal insults, a judge and his lawyer said.

Human rights lawyer Arnon Nampa is widely known for his taboo-breaking speech during pro-democracy protests in 2020 during which he called for public debate on the role of Thailand's powerful king. Arnon had denied wrongdoing.

Thailand's lese-majeste law shields the palace from criticism and carries a maximum prison sentence of 15 years

for each perceived insult of the monarchy, a punishment widely condemned by international human rights groups.

"We are trying to get him bail," his lawyer Krisadang Nutcharus told agency.

The verdict was the first of 14 lese-majeste cases against the outspoken Arnon, one of hundreds of people who have been charged under the law, among the strictest of its kind in the world.

He was a leader in the youth-led pro-democracy movement that swept the capital Bangkok in 2020, drawing hundreds of thousands into the streets.

Protesters had called for former Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha to step down after he came to power in a coup, and for reforming the monarchy and abolishing the royal insult law, known as Article 112 of the criminal code.

As of last month, at least 257 people have been charged with 112 since 2020, according to the legal aide group, Thai Lawyers for Human Rights. The palace typically does not comment on the law.

"Terrorists Found Safe Haven In Canada": Lankan Minister Shreds Trudeau

NEW YORK, Sep 26 (Agencies): Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ali Sabry, reacting to the India-Canada diplomatic row, said terrorists have found safe haven in Canada and their Prime Minister Justin Trudeau came out with the outrageous allegations without any proof.

Speaking exclusively to ANI, Mr Sabry said he is "not surprised" by his remarks since Trudeau keeps making "outrageous and substantiated allegations."

"Some of the terrorists have found safe haven in Canada. The Cana-

dian PM has this way of just coming out with some outrageous allegations without any supporting proof. The same thing they did for Sri Lanka, a terrible, total lie about saying that Sri Lanka had a genocide. Everybody knows there was no genocide in our country," he said.

India-Canada ties hit a new low after Justin Trudeau on September 18 alleged India's involvement in the fatal shooting of Khalistan Tiger Force chief Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada. Nijjar, a designated terrorist in India,

was killed outside a gurdwara in Canada's Surrey on June 18.

India had rejected the allegations as "absurd and motivated".

Taking a dig at Trudeau for honouring a former Nazi soldier in Canada's parliament, he said, "I saw yesterday he had gone and given a rousing welcome to somebody who has associated with the Nazis in the past during the Second World War. So, this is questionable and we have dealt with it in the past. I am not surprised that sometimes PM Trudeau comes out with



outrageous and substantiated allegations."

Last Friday, during Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's speech in the Canadian Parliament, 98-year-old Ukrainian Yaroslav

Hunka, who served in the first Ukrainian division, also known as the SS division "Galicia" during World War II, was honoured by the Speaker of Canada's House of Commons.

Mr Sabry said Trudeau's "genocide" comment had affected Sri Lanka-Canada ties.

"That has actually affected our relationship. The Foreign Ministry has a different take on that. Ministry of Global Affairs has very clearly said that Sri Lanka did not go through a genocide, whereas PM Trudeau as a politician stands up and says that genocide had taken place. That itself is contradictory to each other. That doesn't help," said Mr Sabry.

He also advised the Canadian PM not to interfere in the internal

matters of a sovereign country.

"I don't think anyone should poke their nose into other countries and tell us to how we should govern our country. We love our country more than anyone else. That's why we are in our country. We are not very happy about that statement at all. Indian Ocean identity is very important and we need to strengthen the regional architecture. We have to look after our region. We need to work together. That's how we can create a peaceful environment.

We should not be dictated by anyone else as to how we should conduct our affairs," he added.

Sri Lanka had earlier rejected Trudeau's statement containing "outrageous claims" of genocide relating to the past conflict in Sri Lanka.

The Sri Lankan foreign ministry said such irresponsible and polarizing pronouncements by the leader of a nation breeds disharmony and hatred both in Canada and Sri Lanka, instead of promoting peace and reconciliation.

PCC SC Wing to observe year long Samvidhan Diwas Samaroh

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 26: The Scheduled Caste (SC) Department of JKPCCC convened a meeting today at the PCC HQ Shaheed Chowk in Jammu, chaired by its Chairman, Karan Bhagat, to outline a comprehensive program for the year-long celebration of the 75th year of the Constitution, known as Samvidhan Diwas.

Chief Spokesperson of JKPCCC, Ravinder Sharma, who was a special guest at the gathering, enlightened those present about the significant roles played by the Congress (INC), including Mahatma Gandhi, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, in working together for the welfare and upliftment of the underprivileged, especially the SC/ST/OBC and minority communities. The Congress has consistently advocated for the rights and betterment of marginalized sections of society across all spheres of life.

Various other speakers, including Smt. Gurbachan Kumari Rana (Ex-Minister), Vindo Sharma, Sham Lal Bhagat (Ex-MLC), Shashi Sharma, Praveen Sarwar Khan, Ricky Dalotra, Pawan Bhagat, C.L. Manyal, Sunil Thappa, Shamsher Bhagat, Baldev Raj, Diwan Chand, Capt. Anchal Ram, Lok Nath Dogra, Rattan Lal, M.R. Puri, Madan Pargwaia, Suman Tamotra Ram Rattan Darai, and Krishan Lal, also shared their insights during the meeting.



Karan Bhagat shed light on the various initiatives and measures undertaken by the Congress over the past 70 years to fulfill Dr. Ambedkar's vision of establishing a social democracy and achieving economic equality. He emphasized that the SC Department of the Congress party has decided to organize a year-long Samvidhan Diwas Samaroh to underscore the Constitution's significance and Dr. Ambedkar's socio-political philosophy. This event will also serve as a reminder of how Dr. Ambedkar, as Chairman of the Drafting Committee, and the Congress party collaborated closely in drafting the Constitution.

Bhagat also discussed the challenges posed by the current political climate to the Constitution's integrity without altering its form and how Indian society should respond to this challenge. He elaborated on the steps needed to reclaim democracy from the influence of extremist forces.

Bhagat revealed that the SC Department of JKPCCC would organize a series of rallies in all

90 Assembly Constituencies of JKUT to highlight the policies and programs of the Congress party for SC, ST, OBC, and minority communities. He stressed that the Congress is the only party that has consistently worked to uplift weaker sections of society without polarizing any caste or religion. Since the party's inception, its initiatives and government policies have aimed to empower marginalized groups through decisions such as land redistribution, bank nationalization, and reservations for SC, ST, OBC, and minority communities.

Furthermore, the SC Department plans to appoint Panchayat Incharges across Jammu and Kashmir, forming the "Bahujan Panchayat Congress" to nurture new leadership from the grassroots level. Additionally, the department intends to enroll one lakh "Sambidhan Rakshak" (Constitution Protectors) across Jammu and Kashmir and launch a leadership development mission program to identify youth leaders at the Ward, Panchayat, and Assembly levels in the coming days.

Parliamentary Standing Committee endorses JU's Design Your Degree; recommends to UGC for its inclusion in National Curriculum

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 26: In a major development, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children Youth and Sports that visited J&K on 1st September 2023, and interacted with various stakeholders has appreciated and endorsed the Design Your Degree initiative of the University of Jammu. It is noteworthy to mention here that the Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice-Chancellor University of Jammu had made a detailed presentation before the visiting Parliamentary delegation at Srinagar on 1st September 2023.

The Parliamentary Committee after taking a comprehensive view of Design Your Degree initiatives of the University of Jammu has appreciated the same and also recommended to the University Grant Commission to include the same into the National Curriculum framework. The report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee which was published on 25th September 2023 reads "UGC should also take up the 'Design Your Degree' initiative of the University of Jammu and look after the feasibility and promotion. It may review the National Curriculum framework

in compliance with the recommendation of the National Education Policy and to accommodate new innovative ideas such as 'Design Your Degree.'" Commenting on the development, Vice Chancellor extended heartfelt gratitude to Chairman, DRPSC on EWCY&S, Sh Vivek Thakur for recognizing the value and potential of Design Your Degree. Their endorsement reinforces the dedication of the University in delivering quality education that prepares students of the University for the challenges of the

future. The Vice-Chancellor expressed his gratitude to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor and Chancellor, University of Jammu and Vice Chairman Higher Education Council UTJ&K, Prof. Dinesh Singh for their unwavering support and guidance.

It is also pertinent to mention here that UGC, Chairman Prof Mandala Jagadesh Kumar during the Akhil Bhartiya Siksha Samagam 2023 at IECC Paragati Maidan, New Delhi has also appreciated the innovative initiative - Design Your Degree Program launched

by the University of Jammu and also shared the same on the official UGC Twitter handle. It is further to mention here that the "Design Your Degree" program at the University of Jammu represents a paradigm shift in higher education, empowering students to tailor their academic journey to their individual interests and career goals. Design Your Degree places a strong emphasis on equipping students with practical skills that are in demand in today's growing job market, preparing them for successful careers.

Dogri book 'Heekhiyan' released



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 26: A collection of Dogri poetry titled "Heekhiyan," authored by the renowned Dogri humorist poet Vijay Sharma, was unveiled by Triveni Kala Kunj during a simple yet impressive ceremony in Kathua. The book launch event was presided over by Dr. Usha Monga. Notably, "Heekhiyan" marks Vijay Sharma's 14th publication, and he is also the recipient of the National Award for Children's Literature by Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in 2019. The event witnessed the presence of numerous Dogri and Hindi literary figures, including Vijay Sumbadia, President of Sabras; Naresh Kumar, President of Learning Temple School; Rituraj Sharma; Madan Lal Toofan; Shyamal Khajuria; Shashi Sharma; Balak Ram; and others. In recognition of his contributions, Vijay Sharma was also felicitated by the organization during the program.

Farooq, Omar conveyed condolences

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 26: National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Mr Omar Abdullah expressed grief and sorrow over the demise of Khalid Hussain in a tragic road accident at Poonch Son of Karim Hussain Block Secretary Mankote and conveyed condolences to the bereaved family

In their messages, Dr Farooq Abdullah and Mr 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, Nasir Aslam Wani Provincial President Kashmir and Javed Ahmed Rana Zone President Pir Panjal have also expressed grief and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

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: Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial Secretary, Ch. Liaquet Ali, Surinder Choudhary Central Secretaries, Ajaz Jan Provincial President Jammu YNC, Ch. Naseem Liaqyot

Ali DDC Chairman, Sardar Nirman Singh Central Joint Secretary, Bashir Ahmed Wani, Muzaffar Ahmed Khan Spokesperson Jammu, Zeeshan Rana, Th. Yashvardhan Singh Additional Spokespersons Jammu, Ch. Mumtaz Bazard BDC Chairman Surankote, Ateeqa Begum DDC, Th. Rameshwar Singh DDC Dhangri, Anita Thakur DDC Kalakote, Shahmim Akther DDC Moughla, Dr. Mumtaz Bukhari, Sardar Harcharan Singh Baby, Bagh Hussain Rathore District President Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma District President Rajouri Rural, Shafayat Ahmed Khan District President Rajouri Urban,

FROM PAGE 1

Terrorist, 8 associates involved in Cross-Border Smuggling of Arms arrested in Baramulla

September 22.

Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition, including a pistol, a pistol magazine and eight live rounds were recovered from his possession, the SSP said.

During questioning, Shah disclosed the name of his other associate as Parvaiz Ahmad, resident of Takiya Wagoora.

Accordingly, security forces raided his residence and subsequently arrested him, the SSP said.

Upon his disclosure, two hand grenades were also recovered from his possession, he added.

The next day, the SSP said, during the further course of interrogation of the terrorist, and on his disclosure, a pistol, a pistol magazine and eight live rounds were again recovered from his house at Janbazpora.

Shah disclosed the names of his women associates as Nigeena, resident of Vijipora Hajin, and Aafreena alias Aayat, resident of Patpora Shalteng Srinagar and upon their disclosure, two hand grenades were recovered from their possession, Nagpure said.

On Monday, during further questioning of Shah and Ahmad, they disclosed the names of two more associates as Mudasir Ahmad Rather, resident of Takiya Wagoora, and Showkat Ahmad Malik, resident of Wagila Wagoora, the police officer said.

Upon their disclosure, he said, a Chinese grenade, a pistol, a pistol magazine and eight live rounds were recovered from their possession.

The investigation has revealed that the terrorist along with his five associates were operating on the directions from Pakistan-based handlers and were planning to recruit more terrorists and carry out terrorist activities in Baramulla and nearby areas, the SSP added.

A case under sections of UA(P) and Arms Act has been registered and further investigation is going on.

In another operation, the SSP said, a terror module was unearthed with the arrest of three terrorist associates of LeT outfit.

During checking at Paranepeelan Bridge Uri, security forces noticed two suspected persons coming from Dachi towards

Paranepeelan Bridge and tried to flee while noticing the naka party, but were apprehended tactfully, Nagpure said.

During their search, two Glock pistols, four pistol magazines, two pistol silencers, five Chinese grenades and 29 live pistol rounds were recovered from them.

They were taken into custody and have been identified as Zaid Hassan Malla, resident of Mir Sahib Baramulla, and Mohammad Arif Channa, resident of Stadium Colony Baramulla.

The police said the terror associates were involved in cross-border smuggling of arms and ammunition at the behest of Pakistan-based terror handlers and its further distribution to LeT terrorists for carrying out terror activities.

A case under the Indian Arms Act and UA (P) Act was registered and investigations was taken up.

During the course of investigation, they disclosed the name of their associate as Aftaar Ahmad Lohar, resident of Surankote Poonch, who was subsequently arrested, the SSP said.

India's Vision for Indo-Pacific Emphasises peaceful resolution of disputes: Army Chief

response to them must factor in this". Emphasising the importance of the Indo-Pacific, Gen Pande said the region is not merely a collection of nations but it is a web of interdependencies.

"We are aiming to build trust and strengthen cooperation," he said.

No change in peaceful atmosphere in Kashmir post Kokernag Encounter: DGP Dilbag Singh

killing of two army officers and a police officer," the DGP said, adding that the operation took seven days and was conducted successfully. "We killed dreaded LeT terrorist Uzair Khan with his associate. I am proud of the security forces' teams that took part in the operation as it was difficult to trace and locate the hiding terrorists on a vast mountain."

The DGP said that police and security forces are committed to root out terror from

J&K soil. "We are chasing the remaining terrorists and will eliminate them soon," he said.

The DGP said that police have increased its fight against narco-terror three times. "Look at the arrests, FIRs, and cases registered with regard to narco-terror," he said.

The DGP said that new police station at Katra will facilitate Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrims in a better way. "Old police station here was in shambles and it was decided a few years ago that there was a dire need of setting up a new one and today we are dedicating it to the people," he said.

Leaders extend wishes to former PM Manmohan Singh's on his 91st birthday

Singh was on September 26, 1932. Apart from being an economist, Manmohan Singh served as Reserve Bank of India governor from 1982-1985. He was the 13th PM of India with his tenure from 2004-2014 and was the longest serving PM after Jawahar Lal Nehru and Indira Gandhi.

Serving as the finance minister of India in PV Narsimha Rao's government, Singh has been given credit for economic liberalization in the country in 1991. The reforms made the Indian economy more accessible for foreign investors which increased FDI and reducing government control. It greatly contributed in the country's economic growth.

The liberalization of the Indian economy in 1991 is credited with unleashing competitive markets and enabling the forces of creative destruction leading to benefits that can be witnessed today also.

Manmohan Singh also brought National Rural Employment guarantee act (NREGA) which later came to be known as MGN-REGA.

Right to Information act (RTI) was passed in 2005 under Manmohan Singh government which made the transparency of information between the government and public better.

He is currently a member of Rajya Sabha. External Affairs Minister also wished Manmohan Singh on X where he said "Birthday greetings to former PM Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji. Pray for his long life, good health and happiness."

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi wishing the veteran leader said "Former Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh ji's integrity,

unwavering commitment to nation-building and economic upliftment of the masses will always be an inspiration to me. Wishing him good health and happiness on his birthday."

DMK leader and Tamil Nadu CM, MK Stalin said "Birthday greetings to former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh! As PM, his leadership during the global financial crisis and commitment to inclusive policies reshaped India's future. His composed, intellectual, and humble approach serves as an example, providing valuable lessons for leadership in every era. His legacy of progress and stability endures. Here's to more inspiring years!"

Dheeraj Gupta to discharge function of J&K BOPEE Chairman

(Additional Chief Secretary), Home Department," reads a government order.

J&K Govt removes JMC Councilor for abusing official position

Earlier, it had removed president municipal committee Awantipora Bashir Ahmad Bhat for abusing official powers.

J&K Govt issues social media guidelines for its employees

As per the order issued by Dr Tabassum Jabeen, Director, Family Welfare, MCH & Immunization, J&K, "It has been observed that in the Department of Family Welfare, MCH & Immunization J&K, some employees are misusing the social media platform by posting vulgar, obscene and unnecessary tweets/contents/ comments against the department which defames the working/reputation of the department."

The "Administrator" of the said social media platform as well as concerned employees if they are serving in the department are liable for disciplinary action under the relevant rules.

"All employees working in the Department of Family MCH & Immunization J&K have been enjoined to strictly adhere to the guidelines and legal principles reproduced in the order and issued vide Government order and refrain from indulging in unwarranted debates/discussions and sharing/

commenting. Posting inappropriate posts/content on social media platforms. Violation of these guidelines/rules shall tantamount to misconduct and invite disciplinary action against the delinquent official under the relevant rules."

The penalties for non-compliance outlined in the guidelines include censure, fines, withholding of increments and promotions, reduction to lower positions, and recovery of pecuniary losses incurred by the government due to negligence or breach of orders. In severe cases, employees could face premature retirement or even dismissal from government service, which may disqualify them from future employment.

Three drug peddlers held in Baramulla: Police

that a police party of Police Post Wussan headed by IC PP Wussan under the supervision of SDPO Pattan at a checkpoint established at Sultanpora Crossing intercepted a person. He was identified as Shahid Hussain Dar son of Gulam Hassan resident of Sultanpora Pattan. During checking, 8 bottles of Tusklis-T (Codeine Phosphate) was recovered from his possession. He had been arrested and shifted to police station where he remain in custody.

Similarly, police party of Police Station Uri headed by SHO PS Uri under the supervision of SDPO Uri at a checkpoint at Garkote-Laghama Crossing Uri intercepted a person. He was identified as Shabir Ahmad Janiua son of Abdul Majeed resident of Machi Khurd Uri. During checking, 110 grams of contraband Charas like substance was recovered from his possession. He had been arrested and shifted to police station where he remain in custody.

Meanwhile, police party of Police Station Sheeri headed by SHO PS Sheeri under the supervision of DySP Hqrs Baramulla at a checkpoint established at Zandfaran intercepted a person. He was identified as Javid Ahmad Mir son of Atta Mohd Mir resident of Laridora. During checking, 64 capsules of Spasmo Proxyvon Plus was recovered from his possession. He had been arrested and shifted to police station where he remain in custody.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR under relevant sections of law stands registered at Police Station Pattan, Uri & Sheeri and investigation has been initiated.

Sensex, Nifty end flat amid weak sentiments on Dalal Street

The S&P BSE Sensex ended 78.22 points lower at 65,945.47, while the NSE Nifty 50 settled 9.85 points lower at 19,664.70.

NEW DELHI, Sep 26 (Agencies): Benchmark stock market indices ended lower on Tuesday as investors exercised caution in the wake of weak global cues and increased selling activity by foreign investors.

The S&P BSE Sensex ended 78.22 points lower at 65,945.47, while the NSE Nifty 50 settled 9.85 points lower at 19,664.70. Broader markets were also mixed, reflecting the high volatility on Dalal Street.

It may be noted that both benchmark indices have witnessed a decline of roughly 2.5 per cent over the past week, triggered by the hawkish stance adopted by the US Federal Reserve.

Nifty Auto and Nifty FMCG were among the few sectoral indices



that gained, with heavyweights like Nifty Bank, Nifty Financial Services and Nifty IT slumping in the wake of the prevailing mood in the domestic market.

The top five gainers on the Nifty 50 were Eicher Motors, Hero MotoCorp, Nestle India, ONGC and Bajaj Auto.

On the other hand, the top losers were Cipla, Tech Mahindra, IndusInd Bank, Adani Enterprises and Asian Paints.

Besides the US Fed's hawkish stance, sus-

tained selling by foreign institutional investors in September has also led to weaker sentiments.

Ameya Ranadive, research analyst at Choice Broking, said, "In a broader market perspective, both key indices displayed a bearish trend. If the Nifty index breaches the support level at 19,700, the next support is expected around the 19,600 to 19,500 range. Conversely, immediate resistance for the Nifty is situated at 19,800 to 19,850."

Mercedes on track to continue record sales in 2023 amid surging demand

NEW DELHI, Sep 26 (Agencies): German luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz expects 2023 to turn out to be its best year in terms of sales in India as the demand for high-end cars continues to grow post the Covid pandemic, according to a top company official.

The carmaker, which sold 15,822 units in the Indian market in 2022, its highest ever in the country so far, anticipates the overall luxury car segment to post its best ever performance this calendar year.

In an interaction with agency, Mercedes-Benz India MD and CEO Santosh Iyer said the company reported a 13 per cent year-on-year growth in its sales at 8,528 units in India in the first half of 2023, its best-ever half-yearly sales in the country.

"We are now coming into the third quarter of this year, and we feel the trend should continue which should mean

that we should be able to end this year on a record high once again," he noted.

Iyer said the company expects double digit sales growth this year even as multiple challenges exist in the market.

"There is a lot of uncertainty still coming from the exchange rate... interest rates are further going up. So you know we still have three and a half months to go for the year to get over... so outlook wise we can still be confident it should be around the double digit mark," he stated.

Iyer noted that more and more customers are now opting for costlier trims across its product range, which was not the case earlier.

He said that Mercedes-Benz globally believes that it is more important to provide the right experience and right kind of equipment to a customer than just focus on attaining sales numbers.

"We feel what's more important is to do the right things, get the right products, equipment, get the right customer experience, because that should then drive volumes.

It will be an outcome of what we are trying to do," he noted.

On the overall domestic luxury car market, which roughly accounts for just 1 per cent of the overall passenger vehicle industry currently, he noted that the segment could end somewhere in the region of 45,000 cars this year making it the best so far.

"This year we can see the market growing with everybody participating and that's a great sign for the overall health of the luxury car market," Iyer stated.

He noted that demand is increasing with new set of buyers, including women and salaried employees, also opting for luxury cars.

"There is an increasing trend to reward yourself

with luxury products... the volumes will come, it's just a matter of time," Iyer said.

He noted that in the top 7-8 cities in India the penetration for luxury cars has already crossed 2 per cent and it's a matter of time that the rest of the country also catches up.

When asked about battery electric vehicles, Iyer said the three electric models it sells currently in the market account for around 4-5 per cent of its total sales.

"It's a matter of time that this market matures and we see more adoption," he stated.

Mercedes expects 25 per cent of its sales in India to come from electric vehicles in the next five years.

When asked if the company could bring in more electric cars, Iyer said: "Of course there is a roadmap. We feel we have to be patient here, because a lot of questions are still unanswered from the con-

sumer perspective, and it is a job of us as OEMs to educate consumers."

So it takes some time and three to four years is a reasonable period to do that, he added.

"To go to 25 per cent (share of EV sales) if you're rushing for volumes, even now we can get more products...but I think we want to read the market," Iyer said.

He noted that growth of charging infrastructure and educating the customer about the technology would help in the growth of the overall adoption of the electric cars in the country.

The company has recently announced the extension of its electric vehicle charging network to the customers of other brands as it looks to accelerate faster adoption of electric vehicles in the country.

"We feel that the more the EV ecosystem grows, the more will be the growth of brands," Iyer noted.

Marengo CIMS Hospital spreads increased awareness on miracle of heart transplants

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 26: A change of Heart, changes everything, which is not just philosophical true, but medically as well. Heart Transplantation gives the highest hope to patients with end-stage heart failures.

Dr Dhiren Shah, Director and consultant, Cardio-Thoracic and Vascular Surgery Department, Director Heart and Lung Transplant Program, Director Mechanical Circulatory Support Program, Marengo CIMS Hospital says, "Heart transplantation is no longer an experimental procedure (or a non-imp topic for exam). It is now the therapy of choice for selective patients with end-stage heart disease. It does change the quality of life dramatically for bedridden and terminally ill heart failure patients. And in the

ager. This is really and most satisfying 'Change of the Heart' for any doctor.

This became a possibility only because the family of a brain dead patient made the selfless decision to donate their loved one's organs. A young 21-year-old boy who suffered severe brain injuries in a road accident and did not survive was the donor. His all other vital organs were functioning normally and his family members chose to donate his heart, lungs, kidneys, liver, eyes, and a pair of hands, gifting eight patients a new lease of life. It is worth noting that in addition to these organs, the pancreas, small intestines, and skin can also be donated. Organ donation is not limited by age, as anyone from just a few days old to 100 years of age can potentially donate organs, depending on the condition of their organs.

Dr Dhiren Shah, Director and consultant, Cardio-Thoracic



and Vascular Surgery Department, Director Heart and Lung Transplant Program, Director Mechanical Circulatory Support Program, Marengo CIMS Hospital says, "Heart transplantation is no longer an experimental procedure (or a non-imp topic for exam). It is now the therapy of choice for selective patients with end-stage heart disease. It does change the quality of life dramatically for bedridden and terminally ill heart failure patients. And in the

44 heart Transplants that I have performed, I have seen this and had first-hand experience."

Dr Dhiren Shah further explains the process, "Once we identify that the patient seems to be brain dead, either a Neurosurgeon or a Physician will carry out various tests and lastly one Apnea test is performed to declare the patient as brain dead. After this panel of four doctors who can be a neurosurgeon/physician, intensivist, anesthetist, medical officer, and/or a registered medical officer can certify the person as brain dead after performing two Apnea Tests on the patient. The hospital then informs the SOTTO about this potential organ donor. Now SOTTO, a Government organization, will allocate the organs as per the waiting list on the government listing. Once the patient is declared brain dead, the organs need to be retrieved within 24-48 hours."

'Whirlwind of action': Air India CEO on 'piloting' airline's transformation



NEW DELHI, Sep 26 (Agencies): Air India CEO Campbell Wilson has shared details about the journey of transforming the airline from a state-owned entity into a thriving private enterprise. In an exclusive interview with Business Today, Wilson described his experience at the airline so far as "a whirlwind of excitement and action."

Wilson said that the journey of transforming Air India involved not only the flagship airline but also its subsidiaries, Air India Express, Vistara, and Air Asia India. The transformation effort included significant changes in personnel, systems, and culture, marking a remarkable shift from government ownership to the private sector.

"There's been a lot of transformation that we've undertaken, a lot of people that we've brought into the business; we've deployed a new culture that we're trying to create, but it's been full on, but very, very exciting," he said.

While elements of this transformation have been witnessed in other airlines in the past, Wilson believes that the scale of change at Air India is unprecedented and has not been seen anywhere else in the world.

"I think, certainly, elements of it have been done before. Public sector moving back into private sector merger of airlines. But I don't think that there's been something happening quite of this scale," he added.

Air India's growth roadmap When discussing the future of Air India, Wilson underscored the company's ambitious

vision, which is underpinned by substantial commitments. On the scale of transformation that Air India is trying to achieve, he spoke about the airline's deal to purchase 470 aircraft, in addition to leasing around 36 more, marking just the beginning of its journey.

And that really is just the beginning of what will be the journey of Air India. India's burgeoning aviation market, which ranks as one of the world's largest, is growing rapidly and provides significant opportunities for expansion.

The strategic advantage of India's geographic location and its vast diaspora, which spans several major global markets, further fuel Air India's growth ambitions, he said, adding that the airline is poised to play a pivotal role in connecting various regions and facilitating economic development.

"And that really is just the beginning of what will be the journey of Air India. India is already, by some measures, the third largest aviation market in the world. It is growing at a faster pace than all of the other major markets," he said.

"The opportunity to reach the rest of the world and put India's stamp and the New Air India's stamp on the world is ahead of us, and so we're very excited by it," Wilson added.

Improving performance The positive effects of Air India's transformation are already evident in its performance metrics, Wilson said. He highlighted that load factors, passenger numbers, and punctuality have shown improve-

ments. The market share, which was less than 10 at the time of privatization, has now climbed to approximately 26-27 per cent, Wilson noted.

He also emphasised that progress is occurring step by step, as the airline continues to work towards its goals.

"So whilst a lot of work has been happening behind the scenes over the last 18 months, the next 18 months we'll see a lot of that start to manifest in the public eye and the way the traveller experiences Air India. So I think the transformation will be seen to accelerate in the year and a half ahead," Wilson said.

Airfare dynamics Addressing concerns about airfare levels, Wilson explained that pricing dynamics are influenced by supply and demand. He said Air India offers a range of fares, with some priced below the marginal cost of operation.

Airfare pricing adjusts based on the strength of demand, ensuring that passengers have options that align with their preferences and travel needs, he explained.

Wilson clarified that the highest fares are typically seen when demand is strong, and this phenomenon is not unique to Air India but is common across the airline industry.

India's as an aviation hub

India's potential as an aviation hub was also a topic of discussion during the interview, and Wilson highlighted the country's advantageous geographic position for connecting regions like Europe, Asia, and Australasia.

While India's aviation infrastructure and capacity are growing, Wilson sees the nation evolving into a significant hub over the next five to ten years. This transformation will be driven by increased connectivity, traffic flow, and Air India's expanding network.

Chinese virologist warns 'Disease X' could be next pandemic, kill 50 million people

BEIJING, Sep 26 (Agencies): Another Covid outbreak, akin to the recent deadly pandemic, may be "highly likely", warned Chinese virologist Shi Zhengli, best known as 'bat woman', in a new study. In the study, Shi and colleagues from the Wuhan Institute of Virology evaluated the human spillover risk of 40 coronavirus species. The findings published in the English-language

journal Emerging Microbes and Infections in July reported 20 'highly risky' coronavirus species.

"If a coronavirus caused diseases to emerge before, there is a high chance it will cause future outbreaks," she was quoted as saying by the South China Morning Post (SCMP).

Of the 40 species, six are already known to have caused dis-

eases that infected humans, while there is evidence that a further three caused disease or infected other animal species.

"It is almost certain that there will be future disease emergence and it is highly likely a (coronavirus) disease again," the study warned.

The study was based on an analysis of viral traits, including population, genetic diversity, host species and

any previous history of zoonosis - diseases that jump from animals to humans, the SCMP reported.

Shi and her colleagues also identified important hosts of the pathogen, which include natural hosts such as bats and rodents, or possible intermediate hosts, including camels, civets, pigs or pangolin.

The study comes as the former chair of the

UK Vaccine Taskforce Kate Bingham in a new book warned of a next pandemic that could come from a million unknown viruses and kill about 50 million people.

According to the experts, thousands of different viruses could evolve to spark a pandemic. There is also a risk that viruses could jump between species and "mutate dramatically".

Tiny molecule delivered in skin could help get rid of acne, finds study

NEW DELHI, Sep 26 (Agencies): A new study has found an antibacterial compound that could bring relief to acne when delivered inside a microscopic envelope.

The research, published in the journal Nanoscale, suggests a remedy wrapped in an envelope could soon offer respite to the countless individuals plagued by the skin condition called acne vulgaris.

This ailment, triggered by the skin bacterium Cutibacterium acnes, culminates in the eruption of minuscule pustules.

Although there are techniques to inhibit the bacterium's growth, such as employing antibiotics or hormones to reduce the skin's oil supply that nurtures the

microbes, these approaches often come with undesired side effects.

The treatment at hand is based on the potent antibiotic narasin. Originally employed to safeguard livestock and poultry from infections, this substance exhibits potential as an effective remedy against C. acnes, which has yet to develop resistance against it.

Recent investigations conducted by researchers from the University of South Australia, the University of Adelaide in Australia, and Aix-Marseille Universite in France showcased the antibiotic's efficacy against the target pathogen within controlled laboratory conditions.

The research team unveiled

that nanoparticle delivery substantially heightens the treatment's impact. Encased within minuscule capsules, measuring a mere fraction of the width of a human hair.

Called nano-micelles, narasin can penetrate the skin's layers when compared to its dilution in water.

The team discovered that their specially designed nanoparticle delivery system augmented the solubility of the antibiotic by over 100 times, surpassing a simple water mixture.

This impressive feat was partially achieved through the application of Soluplus, a compound that bolstered the solubility of the nano-micelles and fortified the drug's delivery mechanism.

Pharmaceutical scientist Sanjay Garg, hailing from the University of South Australia, emphasised the effectiveness of the micelle formulation in delivering narasin to acne-inflicted regions, in stark contrast to the compound solution's failure to permeate through the skin's layers.

While the researchers used pig ear skin for their experimental purposes, it is crucial to ensure that the drug effectively infiltrates the hair follicles residing beneath the skin in the case of actual acne.

Researchers are further studying more effective treatments, especially since existing remedies are waning in efficacy due to antibiotic resistance.

IND vs AUS: Jasprit Bumrah back for third ODI, Axar Patel not playing but could be fit for WC warm-up games

NEW DELHI, Sep 26 (Agencies): Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah will be available for the third ODI against Australia after being given a one-match break but all-rounder Axar Patel will be given a few more days to recover from his quadriceps tear ahead of the World Cup, BCCI sources said.

While Ravichandran Ashwin has done decently in his two outings, the team management is still bullish about the fitness of Axar, the left-arm spin bowling all-rounder.

"The team management wants to give Axar full chance of recovery. His forearm and finger bruises have healed but may be in another few days, he would get fit for World Cup. India's first match is on September 8 and hence there is time," a BCCI source said ahead of the match.

"As far as Ashwin is concerned, we now know that he is



match fit and in rhythm. If Axar can't make it, Ashwin walks in," a BCCI source privy to the development told agency on conditions of anonymity.

The final squad announcement is on September 27 and it is understood that Axar still remains the team management's top choice for the reserve spinner's slot ahead

of the Tamil Nadu veteran. It is understood that young batting star Shubman Gill and bowling all-rounder Shardul Thakur have been given a few days rest ahead of the third ODI in Rajkot on Wednesday.

"As per rotation policy of the team, Bumrah, who was given a couple of days off to freshen up is back along with skipper Rohit

Sharma, Virat Kohli, Hardik Pandya and Kuldeep Yadav. Gill, who has been playing continuously gets to cool his heels for 3-4 days along with Shardul Thakur," the source added.

Ruturaj, Mukesh released for Asian Games

India's Asian Games cricket team captain Ruturaj Gaikwad, who played the first two ODIs, have been released from the squad as he will link up with the Hangzhou-bound outfit. Also released is pacer Mukesh Kumar, who came as cover for Bumrah, who was given a break.

It is understood that Washington Sundar is also supposed to leave on the evening of the game or the day after. While the Indian World Cup-bound team won't have any travelling net bowlers, Prasad Krishna, Akash Deep, Arshdeep Singh and Mukesh Kumar will be summoned as and when required.

India vs Australia: The main wicket keeper will be a big point of contention for India, says Sanjay Bangar

NEW DELHI, Sep 26 (Agencies): Former India batting coach Sanjay Bangar has said that the main wicket-keeping position will be a point of contention for India. The Men in Blue are set to take on Australia in the third and final ODI at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Rajkot on Wednesday, September 27.

Speaking to Star Sports, Bangar said who the main wicket-keeper will be remains a point of contention for India. KL Rahul and Ishan Kishan are the two wicket-keeping options in India's 15-member World Cup squad.

"I think who is the main wicketkeeper that will be a big point. If it is KL Rahul then he will bat at No. 5 and Shreyas will take the No. 4 spot. Then, unfortunately, Ishan Kishan and Surya will miss out in the last game," said Bangar.

He went on to say that if Ravichandran Ashwin plays instead of Washington Sundar in Rajkot, it'll mean that captain Rohit Sharma and coach Rahul Dravid trust him more. Ashwin picked three wickets in the second ODI as India beat Australia by 99 runs via DLS in Indore.

"If India plan to field the same team in the last ODI that will play in Chennai, then I think Ashwin will play at No.8. If he is playing ahead of Sundar, who played in the Asia Cup, it means the coach and the captain trust him more," Bangar added.

After being put to bat first by Australia skipper Steve Smith, India posted a mammoth target of 400 runs to chase for the visitors. Shubman Gill and Shreyas Iyer scored centuries while registering a 200-run stand, while KL Rahul and Suryakumar Yadav hit rapid-fire fifties to propel India to 399 for 5 after 50 overs.

In reply, India bundled over Australia for 217 runs in 28.2 overs. David Warner and Sean Abbott scored half-centuries in a rain-marred innings. Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja were the pick of the Indian bowlers, claiming three wickets each.

Having won the first two ODIs of the series, India will take on Australia at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Rajkot.

Asian Games 2023 Hockey: Harmanpreet Singh scores four as India beat Singapore 16-1

HANGZHOU, Sep 26 (Agencies): The Indian men's hockey team registered a comprehensive 16-1 win over Singapore in its second Asian Games 2023 Pool A match at the Gongshu Canal Sports Park Stadium in Hangzhou, China, on Tuesday.

Mandeep Singh (12', 30', 51'), Lalit Upadhyay (16'), Gurjant Singh (22'), Vivek Sagar Prasad (23'), Harmanpreet Singh (24', 39', 40', 42'), Manpreet Singh (37'), Samsher Singh (38'), Abhishek (51', 52') and Varun Kumar (55', 56') scored in India's huge win. Muhammad Zaki Bin Zulkarnain (53') scored the consolation goal for Singapore.

India, who have won the Asian Games men's hockey Pool A championship three times, cemented their position atop the standings with this victory. Each pool's top two finishers advance to the semifinals. India's men's hockey team, currently ranked third in the FIH Rankings, defeated Uzbekistan with a commanding 16-0 victory, while Singapore was defeated by Pakistan 11-0 in their opening match.

With talismanic captain Harmanpreet Singh returning to the playing XI after missing the Uzbekistan match, India launched an immediate offensive, forcing world No. 49 Singapore to defend deep. India continued to advance into the opposing half and opened the scoring with a field goal.

To break the tie, Mandeep Singh redirected a pass from Gurjant Singh. India led 1-0 at the end of the first quarter. India's lead was doubled just minutes into the second quarter. Sukhjeet dribbled inside the Singapore half and passed it to an onrushing Lalit Upadhyay, who converted to put India up 2-0.

Before Singapore could recover from the early blows, India tacked on four more goals, courtesy of Gurjant Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Harmanpreet Singh, and Mandeep Singh, who scored his second goal of the game in the final seconds of the first half. The score at the half was 6-0 in favour of India.

The Indian men's hockey team will play defending Asian Games champions Japan next on Thursday.

Asian Games 2023: Updated List Of All Indian Medal Winners In Hangzhou

HANGZHOU, Sep 26 (Agencies): The Indian contingent is on a roll at the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, as they won two gold medals on Monday. India have so far won 12 medals (2 gold, four silver and six bronze) at the Asian Games 2023.

In the 2018 event, the Indian contingent had bagged its biggest-ever medal haul, earning as many as 70 medals from the event from what was a 570-member strong contingent. In the 2023 edition of the continental tournament, the Indian team is hopeful of crossing their previous best, with a 100+ mark being their target. On Monday, the Indian women's cricket team made history by clinching the country's first

gold medal in cricket at the Asian Games. (Asian Games Medals Tally)

1. Shooting, Women's 10m Air Rifle Team: The shooting team, comprising Mehuli Ghosh, Ramita, and Ashi Chouksey bagged the silver medal after finishing second Women's 10m Air Rifle Team event. They finished with a total score of 1886.

2. Rowing, Men's Doubles Sculls: The pair of Arjun Lal Jat and Arvind Singh won silver in the Lightweight Men's Double Sculls with a timing of 6:28.18s.

3. Rowing, Men's Pair: The duo of Lekh Ram and Babu Lal Yadav helped India finish third, bagging a bronze medal, with a

timing of 6:50.41.

4. Rowing, Men's Eight: Continuing a medal rush in rowing, India bagged another silver medal, this time in the Men's Eight event.

5. Shooting, Women's 10m Air Rifle Individual: Ramita Jindal, having clinched a silver medal in the women's team event, bagged a bronze medal in the individual event in the 10m Air Rifle category with a cumulative score of 230.1

6. Shooting, Men's 10m Air Rifle Team: In what turned out to be a 'world record' performance, the trio of Divyansh Singh Panwar, Rudranksh Patil, and Aishwary Prapat Singh Tomar earned India its first gold medal of the 2023 Asian Games.

With a cumulative score of 1893.7 points, they broke the existing world record for a team in 10m Air Rifle event.

7. Rowing, Men's Coxless Four: The quartet of Jaswinder Singh, Bheem Singh, Punit and Ashish Kumar clinched the third spot in the Men's Four event with a timing of 6:10.81.

8. Rowing, Men's Quadruple Sculls: India win Bronze in Rowing as the quartet of Satnam, Parminder, Jakar and Sukhmeet finish 3rd with a timing of 6:08.61 mins in final.

9. Men's 10m Air Rifle Individual: Shooter Aishwary Prapat Singh Tomar, who combined with two others to earn India its first gold medal of the Asian Games in

the team event, bagged a bronze medal in Men's 10m Air Rifle event.

10. Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol Team: The trio of Adarsh Singh, Anish Bhanwala and Vijayveer Sidhu earned India a Bronze medal in the event with a total score of 1718.

11. Indian Women's Cricket Team: The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side defeated Sri Lanka by 19 runs in the final to help India clinch its first-ever Asian Games gold medal in cricket.

12. Sailing, Girls's Dinghy: Sailor Neha Thakur, representing India in the Girl's Dinghy - ILCA 4 category, secured a silver medal. It was the nation's first medal in Sailing at the 2023 Asian Games.

Asian Games 2023: India's Neha Thakur wins Silver in the Girl's Dinghy ILCA4 event

HANGZHOU, Sep 26 (Agencies): India's Neha Thakur has clinched the silver medal in the Girl's Dinghy ILCA4 event at the ongoing Asian Games 2023. This was India's first medal in sailing and 12th overall at the Hangzhou Games.

Emerging from the National Sailing School Bhopal, Neha, an up-and-coming sailor, showcased her prowess by finishing with a remarkable total of 32 points. However, it was her impressive net score of 27 that granted her the second-place position, tailing closely behind the gold medalist, Noppassorn Khunboonjan from Thailand. With a net score of just one point less than Neha, Singapore's Kiera

Marie Carlyle had to be content with the bronze medal.

In sailing, determining a competitor's net score plays a crucial role in establishing the winner. It takes into account all the races in which a sailor has participated, subtracting the worst score from the total points achieved. This gives the final net score, and the sailor with the lowest net score is declared the winner.

The competition was fierce, particularly in the girl's dinghy ILCA-4 category, which comprised 11 grueling races. Despite the stiff competition, Neha dominated, finishing with an exceptional total of 32 points. However, her journey wasn't completely



smooth. Her performance in the fifth race was not up to her usual standard, bagging only five points. This score was identified as her worst and subtracted from her total points, resulting in her net score of 27.

Following her win, Cabinet Minister Kiren Rijiju took to social media platform, 'X', to

congratulate Thakur after winning the silver medal, calling it a good beginning for India's sailing contingent at the 2023 Asian Games.

"Great performance by Neha Thakur who represented India in the Girl's Dinghy - ILCA 4 category. Heartly congratulations on winning the SILVER MEDAL at the #AsianGames2022.

A good beginning as this is India's 1st medal in Sailing," Rijiju posted on 'X'.

The ILCA-4 is classified as a one-design dinghy class in the laser series, providing a level playing field where the skills of the sailor, rather than the design of the boat, dictate the outcome. This format allows both aspiring sailors and seasoned professionals alike to compete on equal footing, truly testing their abilities and mettle in the demanding terrain of the sea.

Neha's performance, despite the challenging conditions, highlights her potential and establishes her as a promising talent in the sailing fraternity.

Asian Games 2023: Indian squash contingent begins campaign with wins over Singapore and Pakistan



HANGZHOU, Sep 26 (Agencies): The Indian squash team began its Asian Games campaign with convincing wins over Singapore and Pakistan in the men's and women's team competitions on Tuesday.

The women's team, led by 15-year-old Anahat Singh, veteran Joshna Chinappa, and Tanvi Khanna, defeated Pakistan 3-0 in their first Pool B match. Anahat defeated Sadia Gul 11-6, 11-6, 11-3 in 16 minutes in the first singles match.

Joshna took 13 minutes to beat Noor Ul Huda Sadiq 11-2, 11-5, 11-7 in her first match of her sixth Asian Games.

Tanvi's 11-3, 11-6, 11-2 victory over Noor Ul Ain Ijaz completed India's dominance in the previous edition. The

top two teams from Pool A and Pool B advance to the semifinals.

India are paired in Pool B with Malaysia, Macau, China, Pakistan, and Nepal. Top seeds India defeated Singapore 3-0 in the men's event.

Harinder Pal Sandhu, returning to singles after a long injury layoff, had to fight hard to beat Jerome Clement in the first singles match, 11-4, 13-11, 8-11, 7-11.

India's top-ranked player, Saurav Ghosal, who is competing in his sixth Asian Games, was tested by Samuel Kang in the first game before winning 11-9, 11-1, 11-4 in 37 minutes.

Abhay Singh defeated Marcus Phua in straight games 11-7, 11-7, 11-7 to give India a comfortable win ahead of their match against Qatar later on Tuesday. Pakistan, Kuwait, and Nepal are also in India's group. The previous edition's bronze medalist was Ghosal's team.

The team is aiming for the top of the podium after winning gold in 2014.

The men will play Pakistan in Pool A on Wednesday. The match should be more competitive than the women's one-sided competition.

Rampant India eye rare ODI clean sweep against struggling Australia

RAJKOT, Sep 26 (Agencies): Skipper Rohit Sharma would fancy a perfect culmination to Indian team's World Cup preparations as hosts eye a rare clean sweep of Australia in the third and final ODI here on Wednesday.

Never before in the history have India whitewashed Australia in the ODI format. In fact, neither of them have achieved such a result, home or away, irrespective of the number of matches played in a series.

Given how perfectly everything has panned out for the World Cup hosts in the lead up to the mega tournament, it would only be fitting that India finish with a deserving 3-0 score-line.

Dominant Indian team, despite the absence of its front-line players and still tinkering with playing combinations to make sure every member has had game-time under their belt, are in pole position to record a fourth consecutive ODI win before the quadrennial event begins.

If they manage to clinch a 3-0 win, India would also have taken a massive upper-hand over the five-time world champions Australia before the two teams meet again in Chennai on October 8 for their World Cup opener. It will be no exaggeration in saying India have battered Australia in the first two ODIs despite both the rivals making plenty of changes to keep their top guns fresh, while also putting miles in the legs of those who would not usually feature in first-choice XIs. There could, however, be some respite for the Australian bowlers as India have rested their young gun Shubman Gill for the final ODI after his 74 and 104 in the first two games, along with Shardul Thakur. In the 50-overs World Cup year, Gill is the only batter in the format with a thousand runs and counting — 1,230 runs to be precise at a staggering average of 72.35 — and his absence from the final game would certainly be felt.

But India's batting mainstays Rohit

Sharma and Virat Kohli are expected to return and so are the in-form Kuldeep Yadav and Hardik Pandya from a brief resting period during which KL Rahul has led admirably. Facing some tough questions over squad composition, players' form, fitness and availability, India have turned the tide and how. That India would end up with a problem of plenty was something not envisaged when the team embarked on the Asia Cup campaign just a few weeks ago. But the likes of Ishan Kishan, Suryakumar Yadav, Mohammed Shami and even Mohammed Siraj have transformed this Indian outfit into as formidable a unit can get. He took some time to get going and again struggled with his back-related troubles, but Shreyas Iyer utilised perfect batting conditions in Indore to record a century, which will also consolidate his position in the middle-order. Much to the delight of the Indian camp, Rahul has delivered the goods with the bat and

behind the stumps at the most appropriate time. Like Rahul, Jasprit Bumrah too has proven his fitness and form in a few matches after a long injury lay-off. After resting from the second ODI, India's premier bowler is available for selection. Even though the team management appears tilted in favour of injured Axar Patel, oldest member of the Indian squad Ravichandran Ashwin would like to make this opportunity count before the contingent is finalised for the World Cup. For Australia, it is not often that they flop both with the bat and the ball in India with the white ball as miserably as they have in the first two ODIs. The visitors need to gather themselves as the wheels seem to be coming off rapidly following five consecutive defeats in ODIs.

A few months ago, the same side beat India 2-1 with Mitchell Starc haunting the Indian right-handers with his perfect inswingers. With one last game left before the World Cup begins, Australia would

be tempted to play their preferred bowling attack with Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc coming in, even though the batting lacks the firepower of Travis Head at the top and Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne not enjoying a successful year of cricket in India across formats.

Squads:

India: Rohit Sharma (c), KL Rahul (wk), Shreyas Iyer, Ishan Kishan (wk), Suryakumar Yadav, Ravindra Jadeja, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Mohammed Shami, Hardik Pandya, Virat Kohli, Kuldeep Yadav, Ravichandran Ashwin, Washington Sundar.

Australia: Pat Cummins (c), Steve Smith, David Warner, Marnus Labuschagne, Alex Carey (wk), Josh Inglis (wk), Matthew Short, Sean Abbott, Nathan Ellis, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Josh Inglis, Spencer Johnson, Mitchell Marsh, Glenn Maxwell, Tanveer Sangha, Mitchell Starc, Adam Zampa.

POSHAN Abhiyaan concludes in Jammu

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 26: A concluding program on POSHAN Abhiyaan was organized by the Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) in Jammu, Kailash Devi at Fortune Inn Riviera. The program was held as part of the ongoing POSHAN Maah. The Joint Director of Mission POSHAN, Jammu and Kashmir, D.S. Katoch, was the Chief Guest, while Kulbushan Khajuria, Joint Commissioner of JMC, was the Guest of Honor. Renu Bhasin, District Program Officer Jammu, was also present as a special guest, along with other distinguished invitees including Parvinder Kour, Secretary JMC, R.S.



Jamwal, CDPO Dansal, and Mohit Bharti, CDPO Kot Bhalwal. The program was attended by supervisors, Anganwadi workers, and beneficiaries of the POSHAN Project Jammu. During the program, enrolled children of the POSHAN Project Jammu

presented a fancy dress show featuring different vegetables and fruits. A healthy baby show was also organized in all Anganwadi Centres of the POSHAN Project Jammu, with three winners being awarded. Anganwadi workers and artists from the JD Musi-

cal Group showcased traditional Kashmiri and Dogri dances, highlighting the cultural diversity of the region. A video showcasing the activities carried out during the entire month of POSHAN Abhiyaan in various Anganwadi Centres of Jammu was also

screened. Best performing Anganwadi workers and helpers were recognized and awarded certificates of appreciation.

Kulbushan Khajuria, Joint Commissioner of JMC and CDPO Jammu, delivered a lecture highlighting the importance of nutrition (Poshan) in improving the nutritional status of beneficiaries in Anganwadi Centres. Various nutrition items prepared in the Anganwadi Centres and recipes featuring millets were also displayed by the Anganwadi workers.

The Joint Director of Mission POSHAN and DPO Jammu also spoke about the significance of the ongoing POSHAN Maah.

GDC Doda hosts Inter-College Declamation Contest

TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Sep 26: Govt. Degree College Doda, a leading institution, hosted the second phase of the Divisional level Declamation contest on Truth and Non-Violence, coinciding with the Gandhi Jayanti celebrations. This event was organized under the able guidance of Principal Dr. Attar Singh Kotwal and the supervision of Prof. K. K Manhas, Head of the Department of Education.

The program commenced with a warm welcome address by Dr. Jamsheed Ahmad, Head of the Department of English and Convener of the Debate committee at the college. Participants from GDC Kastigarh and GDC Bhaderwah enthusiastically contested the event alongside students from GDC Doda.

In his address, Prof. K. K Manhas commended the Debate committee, led by Dr. Jamsheed Ahmed, and the Career Counselling and Guidance cell

under the leadership of Prof. Mohd Ashraf, HOD History at GDC Doda, for organizing a week-long series of activities in honor of Gandhi Jayanti, including the second phase of the division-level declamation contest.

Dr. Jamsheed Ahmed emphasized the importance of students embracing truth and non-violence as their guiding principles, highlighting their significance in addressing the challenges our nation faces. He encouraged students to strive for the development and peace of our country. This declamation contest is divided into three phases. The first intra-college phase took place on September 22nd in each participating college. Winners from this phase advanced to the second phase, hosted at the leading college at the district level. The third and final phase of this division-level contest is scheduled to be held at GCW Parade Ground Jammu, the Nodal College for Jammu Division, on September 30th, 2023.

GCET's NSS unit initiates massive cleanliness drive in campus & nearby village

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 26: The NSS unit of Government College of Engineering & Technology Jammu recently initiated a two-day massive cleanliness drive in the college campus and nearby village as part of the "Clean India Campaign and Swachhata Hi Sewa" initiative. The drive was conducted under the guidance of college principal Prof. (Dr) Sameru Sharma.

In her message, Prof. Sharma emphasized that cleanliness is essential for maintaining hygienic surroundings, which can be achieved through individual efforts. She highlighted the significance of cleanliness in leading a healthy lifestyle and stressed that it is not solely the responsibility of others but is a collective responsibility to keep both ourselves and the environment clean. She also urged everyone to practice cleanliness on a daily basis.

On the first day, the drive commenced at the college administrative block, following which the volunteers proceeded to clean the



campus grounds, lawns, classrooms, laboratories, and parking areas. During the cleanup, the students and volunteers actively collected solid dry waste, including plastic and polythene, while also pledging to maintain the cleanliness of the campus and raise awareness among others about the importance of such activities.

The event was organized by NSS volunteers Jaanvi Sharma, Prajwal Nagar, Rakshant Balotra, Sunidhi, Divyansh, Jashan, Ishmeet, Sanjeev, Arnav, and Dhanush. The NSS Pro-

gramme officer commended the volunteers for their exceptional use of talent and skills in carrying out high-quality social work. Notable staff members present at the event included Dr. Heera Saini, Mr. Balbir Singh, Er. Jaswinder Singh, Er. Atit Sharma, and Sudershan Kumar.

Dr. Raman Gupta, the NSS Programme Officer, extended special thanks to the esteemed principal for their constant encouragement and inspiration to the volunteers in organizing such drives within the campus.

SKC Govt Degree College Poonch celebrates NSS Day

TOP NEWS REPORT

POONCH, Sep 26: The NSS Unit of Shri Krishan Chander Govt. Degree College Poonch celebrated NSS Day on September 25, 2023 in the College Auditorium. S. Kamaljeet Singh, retired Professor, was the Chief Guest and Dr. Jasbir Singh, Principal of the college, presided over the function.

The program started with presenting bouquets to the chief guest and lighting of the traditional lamp, followed by the National Anthem. Dr. Zakir Hussain Kalis, NSS Programme Officer, presented the NSS Report, highlighting the activities carried out by the NSS Unit of the college.

A colorful cultural program was organized by the NSS Units of the college under the supervi-



sion of Dr. Zakir Hussain Kalis and Dr. Loveleen Kaur, NSS Programme Officers. A large number of faculty members and students witnessed the program. The audiences were enthralled by the comic skit, group songs and dances, and Bhangra performance by the NSS Volunteers.

In the valedictory session, the NSS unit of the college honored the Chief Guest Prof.

Kamaljeet Singh and Dr. Jasbir Singh by presenting mementos as tokens of remembrance. The NSS Best Volunteers, All Rounders, Captains, Vice-captains, and other NSS Volunteers were also awarded with mementos, trophies, and appreciation certificates.

Dr. Jasbir Singh, the Principal of the college, in his presidential address, appreciated

the efforts and hard work of the NSS Volunteers and Programme Officers. He also emphasized that the NSS and NCC are the two powerful pillars of the college and urged the NSS Unit to continue carrying out activities with the same spirit and enthusiasm in the days to come. He assured them of his support and cooperation. The program ended with a formal vote of thanks.

26 Bn BSF organises blood donation camp



TOP NEWS REPORT

HANDWARA, Sep 26: A blood donation camp was successfully organized by the 26th Battalion BSF in association with Associate Hospital GMC Handwara. The event took place at the 26th Battalion BSF Headquarters, with an overwhelming response from both BSF personnel and the local community.

The camp witnessed more than 30 enthusiastic BSF personnel who selflessly came forward to donate blood, demonstrating their unwavering commitment to saving lives and making a positive impact on the community. The initiative was conducted under the banner of Ayushman Bhava, an undertaking

aimed at promoting health and well-being, along with the Seve Pakwara campaign.

The blood donation camp was inaugurated by Second in Command Vijay Singh, 26th Battalion BSF, in the presence of esteemed personalities including Dr Lalal Kumar, CMO, SG, Deputy Commandant Mr. Janak Singh, Deputy Commandant Sushil Kumar, Dr. Manzoor, Assistant Professor at GMC Handwara, and the medical staff of 26th Battalion Hospital. The event also witnessed the participation of employees from Associate Hospital GMC Handwara.

During the inauguration ceremony, Second in Command Vijay Singh highlighted the signifi-

cance of blood donation and how a single unit of blood can potentially save the lives of numerous individuals in need. He commended the BSF volunteers who generously donated blood and reiterated the organization's commitment to serving humanity, not only through protecting international borders but also by actively contributing to the welfare of society.

The successful execution of the blood donation camp was a testament to the dedication and collective efforts of everyone involved. The 26th Battalion BSF extends its gratitude to all the participants, volunteers, and medical staff for their invaluable contributions towards this noble cause.

BLSKS observes World Environmental Health Day 2023

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 26: Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS) conducted a special event to commemorate World Environmental Health Day 2023 and promote the traditional Duggar Culture of Jammu and Kashmir.

The 380th Tuesday Series showcased the Dogri Musical Play titled "Bute Lao Dharti Gi Bachao" in collaboration with Sangam Tru Art Production at New Gandhi Memorial Higher Secondary School in Miran Sahib, Rs Pura, Jammu. The theme of this year's event was "Global Environmental Public Health," aimed at drawing attention to environmental protection, nature, and the planet Earth.

The program was inaugurated by Neelam Gupta, Principal of New Gandhi Memorial Higher Secondary School, Miran Sahib, Rs Pura. Smt. Anamika Bhagat and Suman Bala, senior teachers of the host school, were the esteemed guests of honor. The day was celebrated not only as



World Environmental Health Day but also highlighted the significance of preserving the traditional folk art and culture of the Jammu and Kashmir region and India as a whole.

The musical play revolved around themes like "Bute Lao Dharti Gi Bachao", "Meri Matti Meras Desh", "Hariyali Laye Prithvi Bachaen", and "Hara Bhara Ho Sansaar Humara, Sundar Sundar Pyara Pyara". Skits, Nukkad Natak, and dances were also performed to raise awareness among the audience about pressing environmental issues. The Chief Guest praised the organizers for their efforts in making

the awareness programs vibrant and impactful, showcasing the talents of children in music, theatre, and computer institutions.

As part of the World Environmental Health Day celebrations, the songs on the theme were also shared on social media platforms to benefit a wider audience. Additionally, a skit on drug abuse was presented, and a pledge was administered by Miss Chahat to create awareness among school children and teachers.

Dr. M.L.Dogra, Chairman of BLSKS, directed and produced the cultural program, which aimed to highlight the profound

influence of the environment on our health and well-being. World Environmental Health Day serves as a reminder of the collective responsibility we have to protect everyone's health by addressing global environmental challenges consistently. Dr. Dogra commended the slogans on nurturing nature, going green, and saving green, emphasizing the need to take proactive steps to safeguard the environment for a sustainable future.

K.K Joshi, Vice Chairman, emphasized the importance of environmental health, stating that it underpins our economy, society, and overall existence.

Our natural resources, such as forests, rivers, oceans, and soils, provide us with essential needs like food, clean air, and water. Nature also contributes to various other goods and services that contribute to our health, happiness, and prosperity. Sh. K.K.Joshi highlighted the interconnectedness between humans and the environment, emphasizing the need to cherish and preserve our natural surroundings.

The musical concert featured performances by talented singers, musicians, actors, and students from music and computer institutes, including K.K.Joshi, Raju Bajjal, Vandana Gupta, Rahul Kumar, Sant Dass, Bindia Okheda, Chahat Chadha, Sanjeev Kumar Sodhi, and many others. Their captivating performances enthralled the audience, leaving a lasting impression on everyone present.

Master Deepak Kumar presented the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude for the successful execution of the program.