

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 03, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

Dolly Sohi makes a comeback



NATIONAL | 7

Contract for 97 more Tejas fighter jets expected to be signed by year-end: IAF chief Chaudhri

INTERNATIONAL | 8

Egyptian President announces re-election bid for third term



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BRIEFLY

Father killed, son injured as their newly-purchased tractor turns turtle in Kupwara

SRINAGAR, Oct 3 (Agencies): A man was killed and his son left injured after their newly purchased tractor turned turtle while the duo was on way to their home Dhani Karnah in Kupwara district on Monday evening, official sources said.

They said that a Chassis tractor met with an accident at Zarla area in Karnah district on Monday evening, official sources said.

"As the news spread, the locals reached the site and lifted the persons to a nearby health facility, where one Mohammad Ashraf Malik was declared as brought dead on arrival", they said adding the other person identified as Uzair Ashraf is being treated upon at the health facility.

"It has come to fore that the persons atop the tractor is actually a father-son duo which was on way to their home in Dhani Karnah after purchasing the tractor from Srinagar", they said.

Confirming the death of one and injuries to another, a police official said that they are ascertaining the details regarding the incident.

10-year-old girl dies after being hit by dumper in Awantipora

SRINAGAR, Oct 3 (Agencies): A minor girl died after she was hit by a dumper in Reshipora area of Awantipora in south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Tuesday.

An official said that the girl (10) identified as Areeba Arshad was hit by dumper, resulting in injuries to her.

He said that soon after the incident she was shifted to hospital, however, she succumbed to injuries.

The official said that a case has been registered, while driver was arrested and vehicle has also been seized.

Empowerment, full rights to Nari Shakti a topmost priority of J&K Admin: LG Sinha



SRINAGAR, Oct 3: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today flagged off the CRPF Women Bike Expedition 'Yashasvini', from the iconic Lal Chowk,

Srinagar. The expedition will traverse more than 2134 KMs, crossing 40 districts to reach Ekta Nagar, Gujarat on 31st October, on the birth

anniversary of former Deputy Prime Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

In his address, the Lt Governor saluted

the unparalleled bravery, determination and courage shown by the Veeranganas of CRPF in many difficult situations while protecting the integrity and sovereignty of the nation.

Yashasvini, women bike expedition by Veeranganas of CRPF is symbol of resilience and strength of Nari Shakti. It also represents the sacrifice of women power, their self-confidence and today they are achieving many milestones in different fields with grit, determination and dedication, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor shared the efforts of the government to promote women-led development and empowering

Turn to page 9

Army Unit scales Mount Harmukh to commemorate Platinum Jubilee



SRINAGAR, Oct 3 (Agencies): A team of mountaineers from Indian Army's elite unit commemorated their platinum Jubilee by scaling Mount Harmukh, one of the highest peaks of Kashmir.

A team of 15 mountaineers of Indian Army achieved the monumental triumph under Operation 'Jawala' from 26 to 30 September 2023,

army spokesperson said.

"With unwavering determination, these brave men embarked on a daring expedition to reach the summit of Mount Harmukh, standing tall at an altitude of 5142 meters (16870 feet) above sea level. The challenging journey which began on 26 September tested the limits of human endurance and showcased the remarkable resilience of Indian Army," Spokesperson said.

The Expedition was flagged in by Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, GOC Chinar Corps at Kamakeri on 3 October 2023 who praised the team for completing this challenging feat.

"The triumph on Mount Harmukh symbolizes the limits of human endurance and showcased the remarkable resilience of Indian Army," Spokesperson said.

Turn to page 9

All set for LAHDC-K Polls on Wednesday, First since 2019

SRINAGAR, Oct 3 (Agencies): The stage is all set for the polls of the Ladakh Autonomous Council-Kargil (LAHDC-K) on Wednesday.

The alliance parties Congress and National Conference will have a direct contest with BJP for the 26 Council seats, and it is the first polls in Kargil after the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir State into two Union Territories on August 5, 2019.

However, in some Council seats, NC and Congress had fielded candidates against each other, which they described as a "friendly contest." In the last council, the NC had 10 members and the Congress had 8.

There are 85 candidates contesting the

polls, with 22 representing the Congress, 17 from the NC, 17 from the BJP, four from the Aam Aadmi Party, and 24 Independent candidates.

The NC leaders linked the Hill Council poll result with the abrogation of Article 370, saying that the result would be an indication that voters in the region rejected decisions of August 5, 2019.

On the other hand, the BJP, which had three members in the last Council, during their campaign focused on the development in the region after the abrogation of Article 370.

The poll campaign ended on Monday evening.

According to election officials, there are over 95,000 voters, including 46,762 women, who are eligible to exer-

cise their franchise on Wednesday. They said the voting would be conducted through Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), which are being used for the first time in any council elections.

The officials said 278 polling stations have been set up across the Kargil district.

"EVMs and statutory material distribution for elections were dispatched to respective constituencies," an official said on Tuesday.

Security has been beefed up across the district to ensure peaceful polls. The police, along with the central armed police force, have been conducting patrolling in various constituencies for smooth polls.

A senior police official of the union territory of Ladakh said there were

Turn to page 9

2 Army personnel injured in encounter in Rajouri

RAJOURI/JAMMU, Oct 3 (Agencies): Two army personnel were injured in a gunfight with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said on Tuesday.

The encounter broke out between security forces and terrorists on Monday evening following a cordon and search operation in a forest area of the district, they said.

A joint team of the army and Jammu and Kashmir Police had cordoned off the Broh and Soom forest belts in the Kalakote area on Monday following information about suspicious movement, they said.

The terrorists fired at the troops in an attempt

Turn to page 9

Police teams dispatched to Kashmir, Punjab in Cocaine seizure investigation

SRINAGAR, Oct 3 (Agencies): Teams from the J&K Police made visits to various locations in Punjab and Kashmir on Monday in connection with the narco-terror drug case, wherein 30 kg of cocaine was confiscated in the Ramban district on Saturday evening, Tribune reported.

Reportedly, the cocaine had been illicitly transported from Kashmir to Punjab via two drug peddlers who were apprehended in Banihal, Ramban. The J&K Police extended their investigation to the hometowns of these individuals in Jalandhar and Phagwara, Punjab.

During joint raids with the Punjab Police, law enforcement officials detained a resident

of a Jalandhar village, believed to have connections with the arrested suspects from Ramban.

Mohammad Afzal Wani, SHO of Banihal, while speaking to The Tribune stated, "Multiple police teams have been deployed to various locations to probe the drug network responsible for smuggling narcotics into J&K. Given the high-profile nature of this case, further details will be disclosed in the coming days."

It has been revealed that police teams have also been dispatched to northern Kashmir areas, believed to be the origin of the drugs smuggled from Pakistan across the Line of Control (LoC). Authorities are

Turn to page 9

Two earthquakes hit Nepal, tremors felt in Delhi-NCR

NEW DELHI, Oct 3 (Agencies): Earthquake tremors were felt in the Delhi-NCR region on Tuesday afternoon with some people coming out of their residences and offices for safety.

National Centre for Seismology said two earthquakes hit Nepal on Tuesday - the first had 4.6 magnitude on the Richter Scale that hit Nepal at 2:25 pm. The other measured 6.2 on the Richter Scale and occurred at 2:51 pm.

"Earthquake of Magnitude: 4.6, Occurred on 03-10-2023, 14:25:52 IST, Lat: 29.37 & Long: 81.22, Depth: 10 km, Location: Nepal," National Centre for Seismology said in a tweet.

Turn to page 9

QR code scams up in India, over 20K cases registered since 2017: Report

NEW DELHI, Oct 3 (Agencies): As Indians have quickly adopted digital payments, a surge in QR code scams has plagued the country, according to a new report released on Tuesday, which revealed that between 2017 and May 31, 2023, about 20,662 cases (or 41 per cent) related to QR codes, malicious links, or debit/credit card fraud were registered in Bengaluru.

According to the Palo Alto Networks, as most QR codes are visually similar and distinguishing differences is difficult, attackers can compromise a business's website by replacing the genuine QR code with



their own. When individuals scan this altered code, it can automatically redirect them to a phishing URL, where cybercriminals can request user credentials and gain access to email or social media accounts, among other things.

Alternatively, it could

lead users to an untrustworthy app store, urging them to download a malicious application, which typically contains viruses, spyware, trojans, or other types of malware, enabling data theft, privacy breaches, ransomware attacks, and in some instances, even crypto-mining,

the report said. "With QR codes now deeply integrated into our daily lives, related scams have surged in prominence.

Cybercriminals exploit this by surreptitiously replacing QR codes in establishments such as bars, restaurants, lounges, shops, and clubs. This can result in unauthorised UPI payments and potential financial harm," said Vicky Ray, Principal Researcher -- Unit 42 at Palo Alto Networks.

The United Payment Interface (UPI) surpassed 10 billion monthly transactions in August with a

Turn to page 9

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MP Khatana conducts Basti Sampark Abhiyan, highlights PM Modi's initiatives



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 3: As part of the "Basti Sampark Abhiyan" aimed at reaching out to the weaker sections of society and showcasing the accomplishments of Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the past nine years, BJP MP Rajya Sabha Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, along with Rekha Mahajan, BJP President Jammu South, and Lucky Puri, Mandal President Trikuta Nagar, visited five locations: Malik Market, Bathandi, Narwal Bala, Nowabad, and Sagarhi Mohalla in Jammu.

The programs were organized by Chairman Putto Choudhary, and a substantial number of individuals also joined the BJP during the event. Among those

who joined were Mohd. Mushtaq, Ch. Sham Din Panch, Ch. Rehmat Ali, Ch. Naveed Ahmed, Ch. Gulzar Ahmed, Ch. Mumtaz Bibi, Ch. Reyaz Ali, Ch. Razaq, Ch. Nissar, Ch. Kafil, and others.

During the event, BJP MP Er. Gulam Ali Khatana highlighted the various schemes and programs initiated by the Modi Government. He emphasized the government's commitment to uplift disadvantaged communities and mentioned Prime Minister Modi's encouraging words for the ST community during his recent speech. Khatana expressed that PM Modi always prioritizes the welfare of Gujjars and has a special affection for them, as well as the pasmanda among

the Muslims.

Furthermore, Khatana noted that the political reservation for women and STs in J&K represents groundbreaking initiatives by the Modi-led government and will bring about revolutionary changes in India's history.

Rekha Mahajan and Lucky Puri also addressed the gathering, highlighting the beneficiaries of key schemes such as Kisan Samman Nidhi, Jal Jeevan, and PM Awas Yojna, belonging to the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities. They also informed about ST Welfare Schemes, including Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana, Tribal Sub Plan (TSP), and Eklavya Model Residential Schools.

Ancient India was centre of learning. Time has come to reclaim the position of Vishwa Guru: LG Sinha

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Oct 3: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today attended the Founder's Day celebration of Devki Arya Putri Pathshala Srinagar at Tagore Hall.

In his address, the Lt Governor lauded the school for its immense contribution in providing quality education to girls from poor sections of the society since its establishment in 1910.

"Strength of the nation is determined by knowledge, culture and values. Educational institutions should focus on building human values, knowledge, social consciousness to enable the young minds to shape their future life and destiny of the nation," the Lt Governor said.

Ancient India was centre of learning.



Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, the time has come to reclaim the position of Vishwa Guru, he said.

"Learning in schools should foster educational excellence, equal access to build knowledge society and prepare students for global competitiveness," he

added.

At the Founder's Day celebration, the Lt Governor commended the role of the Smt Veena Chandhok, Chairperson of Devki Arya Putri Pathshala, Principal and teachers in guiding the growth of the century-old educational institution.

Society should also

come forward and contribute to such virtuous endeavours and create suitable environment for students to develop their full potential, talents, and achieve their life goals, he said.

Smt Veena Chandhok, Chairperson, Devki Arya Putri Pathshala shared the journey and achievements of the school over

the past 112 years.

Performance by Santoor Maestro Sh Abhay Sopori was one of the key highlights of the event besides the soulful prayers and display of martial arts by the school students.

Yusra Mushtaq, Principal DAPP, Teachers, parents, guardians and students were present.

Kavinder bats for early issuance of printed driving licenses in Jammu region

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 3: Administration should take cognizance of the hardship of the public to get their Driving licenses in physical & printed format, said Kavinder Gupta, senior leader BJP & former Dy. CM, who added that many of the persons are suffering for no fault of theirs.

Kavinder pointed out that in the absence of the printed Driving License, the drivers find it hard to satisfy the traffic officials on the road and the administration must take the necessary steps to ensure that the applicants get their printed driving license as early as possible.

Gupta added that



this absence of driving license has caused severe inconvenience to the persons who have to visit foreign nations for studies, work, travel or other purposes.

Kavinder Gupta stressed that while the Prime Minister Narendra Modi government has ensured many facilitatory steps for the common masses to make their government's departmental offices visits shorter and easier, the onus lies on the head of all those responsible to deliver the services to the nation and its residents. He particularly asked the concerned higher authorities to intervene and take necessary action to sort out the issue at the earliest.

Kavinder Gupta,

former Dy. CM accompanied by RS Pathania, former MLA & BJP Spokesperson and Munish Sharma, Prabhari BJYM were attending to the public grievances at BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Pathania said that many issues of the masses need proper guidance and aid to get them solved. He stressed that generally people, in the lack of awareness and facilities feel incompetent to reach up to the designated government offices, hence BJP has adopted a facilitator's role to provide immediate relief to the public.

Munish Sharma said that a large number of common people visit the party headquarters regularly to present

their issues, with a strong belief in the dedication of BJP leaders to solve their issues.

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

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

Former MLA Rajeev Sharma, BJP Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra and others were also present on the occasion.

Farooq, Omar conveyed condolences

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 3: National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Mr Omar Abdullah expressed grief over the sudden passing away of Mrs Asha Devi Sarpanch and Contested Candidate of DDC Katra 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 and Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu Province 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 Jammu, Babu Rampaul former minister and Central Zone President, Javed Ahmed Rana Zone President Pir Panjal, Abdul Gani Malik Zone President Udhampur Reasi, Sajjad Ahmed

Kichloo Zone President Chenab Valley, Babu Jagjeevan Lal Ex-MLA, Ajaz Jan P.P JammuYNC, Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretary, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Satwinder Kour Dogra P.P Women Wing, Sher Singh, Vikramjeet Singh and Rovin Kumar.

AAP expresses concern over alleged scam in J&K's Sehat Scheme

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 3: Appu Singh, State Spokesperson of Aam Aadmi Party and a member of State Media Coordination Committee, has raised serious concerns about an alleged scam surrounding the implementation of the SEHAT scheme in Jammu and Kashmir. The allegations stem from a complaint filed on October 10, 2022, which outlines several critical issues related to the SEHAT scheme, a flagship program announced by the Prime Minister of India to provide health insurance coverage to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The timeline of events detailed in the complaint is as follows:



the contract.

The contract, signed on December 25, 2020, was for a period of 3 years with provisions for renewal. Termination of the contract by the insurer was subject to specific conditions outlined in clause 27.3.

On September 13, 2021, BAGIC issued an exit notice to the State Health Agency, stating their intention not to continue the contract beyond one year. This move was viewed as a breach of contract terms.

For nearly two months, the State Health Agency took no legal action against BAGIC and did not seek advice from the govern-

ment's law department. On November 12, 2021, the decision was made to invite fresh bids. Subsequently, the process was canceled on December 18, 2021, for administrative reasons. An interim agreement was then reached with BAGIC on December 25, 2021.

However, it is crucial to note that the addendum agreement to the main contract had significant loopholes. The administrative fee was approximately 2.5 crores per month, and 20 crores were paid to BAGIC as the first tranche premium.

Moreover, there was no issuance of an insurance policy, violating

the Insurance Act and IRDAI rules. The cost ceiling of the premium notified by the National Health Authority was rupees 1052 per year per family, while the premium decided was 849 per year per family.

These alleged irregularities have raised concerns about financial losses to the state exchequer and the mismanagement of the SEHAT scheme. The Aam Aadmi Party views this as a case of criminal misconduct that should be thoroughly investigated and prosecuted under the law.

On October 10, 2022, the whistleblower filed a complaint with the CBI. However, it wasn't

until April 19, 2023, that the CBI transferred the complaint to the Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) in Jammu and Kashmir. On May 24, 2023, the ACB responded with what the Aam Aadmi Party describes as a redundant and baseless reply to the special judge (anti-corruption) in Jammu.

In an urgent press conference, Appu Singh expressed the Aam Aadmi Party's faith in the judicial system and the belief that the truth will prevail. She emphasized the importance of institutions like the CBI and ACB in ensuring the well-being of the people of India and vowed to continue raising the voice against alleged scams within the Jammu and Kashmir administration.

Prominent senior leaders of the Aam Aadmi Party in Jammu and Kashmir, including S. Mohinder Pal Singh (General Secretary Communications, Jammu Province) and Anita Choudhary (Joint Secretary, Jammu Province), were present at the press conference.

No terrorism in Srinagar; district peaceful: IG CRPF

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Oct 3: Inspector General of CRPF (Srinagar Sector) Ajay Kumar Yadav Tuesday said that Srinagar is a peaceful district and there is no militancy here.

"Today, we saw LG Manoj Sinha flagging off women bikers to Gujrat from Lal Chowk. Our women cops are taking part with their counterparts in counter insurgency operations,

airport security, road opening parties (RoPs), jail security and other sensitive operations," Yadav told reporters on the sidelines of the flagging off event of women CRPF bikers from Srinagar to Gujrat.

Asked whether there was any terrorism in Srinagar, the IG CRPF said that today a mega flagging off event was held in the heart of Srinagar. "Where is terrorism? District is peaceful. There can be no better

peaceful atmosphere anywhere else," he said.

To a query whether Kashmiri women can also join CRPF, the IG CRPF said: "Yes, Kashmiri women can join the force in any category." About the bike rally, he said that the event is a sign of women power and it sends a message that women can achieve anything they wish. "This is a sign of women empowerment," he said.

EDITORIAL

PARTY SYSTEM

As a land of social and cultural pluralism, India has been a natural home for a multi-party system. Presently there are several major active parties working in India at the national level and in various states. Some parties are national level parties while others are regional or local political parties.

Congress, BJP, BSP, CPI, CPM, NCP and BSP are the National level parties. LJP, Janata Dal (U), Janata Dal (S), BJD, SP, AIADMK, DMK, Telugu Desham, SAD, RLD, RJD, PDP, TDP, AGP, ML, and many others are regional or state level political parties. We can legitimately say that there are almost 50 active political parties, national as well as regional in the Indian Political System. In addition to these there are about 400 other registered political parties.

The party structure in India has been continuously and rapidly changing due to splits, defections, and alliances. Almost every political party has been living through splits. The Congress experienced four big splits in 1969, 1977, 1995 and 1999. In 1999 the Nationalist Congress Party emerged out of a split in the Congress. In fact, several political parties like Trinamool Congress, TMC and several others have come out of the Congress as a result of splits.

In 1964, the Communist Party suffered a split and CPI and CPM emerged on the Indian political scene. In 1977, the party system underwent a big change when Jan Sangh, Bhartiya, Lok Dal, Socialist Party, Congress (O) and Congress rebels combined to form the Janata Party. In 1978, the Congress suffered another split when Congress (U) was formed by rebel Congressmen who were led by Devraj Urs. In 1979, however, the Janata Party suffered a split when Janata (S), i.e., Lok Dal separated itself from this party.

In April 1980, the former Jan Sangh members parted company and formed the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP). In 1988, the Janata Party, the Lok Dal and the Jana Morcha combined to form Janata Dal. In 1990, Janata Dal (S) was formed out of the Janata Dal. During 1991-2001; the Janata Dal suffered at least four splits or mass defections. The SAD, the DMK, the TDP, the LD and several other regional parties have also suffered splits. These have been a source of big political changes in Indian politics. In fact, India Party System has been a continuously changing party system.

The Indian multi-party system initially worked as one party dominant multi-party system. Between 1947-67, the Congress dominated fully the Indian political scene at the national and state levels. It got 354, 371, 361 seats in 1952, 1957 and 1962 General Elections respectively. In 1967 it got 283 seats in the Lok Sabha. A split then came into its way which forced it to depend upon the CPI and DMK for support. Non-Congress governments came to power in several states.

However, it proved to be a short-lived change. In 1971 elections, the Congress again got 352 seats in the Lok Sabha. Between 1971-74, the Congress retrieved its formidable position both at the Union and State levels. However, the emergency rule imposed by it during June 1975 to March 1977, reduced its popularity and it suffered a big defeat in March 1977 elections.

A united opposition (the Janata Party) was successful in defeating it. However, the internal factionalism in the Janata Party again set the stage for the re-emergence of the Congress as the dominant party in 1980 elections. Initially when Indian Party System was working as a one-party-dominant-multi-party system, lack of an effective opposition was its big weakness. In the first four general elections no party other than the Congress was in a position to secure even 50 seats, the minimum constitutional requirement for getting the status of the 'opposition party'.

33% quota hasn't moved needle on women power

By: Shikha Mukerjee

It is a significant legislation, the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, or what is best understood as a straightforward constitutional amendment giving women 33 per cent reserved seats in Parliament and in state Assemblies. It gives the Narendra Modi government yet another opportunity for virtue signalling.

Its significant majority and the near unanimous support of all political parties in the two Houses of Parliament enabled the Bharatiya Janata Party to break the wall that has withstood repeated attacks on its adoption for 37 years, that is from 1996 when United Front Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda first tabled a bill and set the ball rolling.

Tragically, the needle has not moved even after the first step was successfully navigated. The tragedy is not only in the rather hazy time line that is a part of this significant legislation, it is in the proportion of seats that will be reserved for women legislators. The insult to the injury lies in the fact that since 2010, there is a 50 per cent reservation for women in all panchayati raj institutions and in the nagar palikas, that is, municipalities and city corporations. The year is important because the proportion of seats reserved for women was bumped up from the original 33 per cent when the 73rd constitutional amendment was passed in 1992.

India therefore has accepted that women as elected representatives at the lowest tier of government must have a 50 per cent stake in local level policy choices, decisions and in implementation of all programmes for rural and urban citizens. The 33 per cent reser-

vation of seats for women legislators is moving the needle back instead of forward.

There are social and structural problems that reservation for women in panchayats and nagar palikas has revealed. The impact of women on policy making, choices, decisions and implementation has been uneven. In large swathes of the country, power continues to be held and exercised by men, regardless of women's reservation. News reports and academic studies all confirm that a new category of persons have been created after women's reservation in PRI and city corporations and municipalities. This new category even has a name - "Panchayat Pati", the husband of the elected woman panchayat member, regardless of whether she is the pradhan or an office-bearer.

Neither the Constitution nor education nor training has changed much; these "panchayat patis" are routinely sworn in by senior members of the state bureaucracy as the office-bearers of panchayats. Old habits, paternalism and the patriarchal order live on. There is a wilful violation and deliberate encouragement to those who are determined to deny the basic foundational value of respecting the individual as equal, regardless of gender, with rights that are universal for all citizens.

There is a rot that has gnawed away the fundamentals of a rule-based constitutional democracy, where orders ought to be obeyed in letter and spirit and where the mandate of the people reflected in the choice of a representative is respected, without exception.

Two incidents from Madhya Pradesh, where the BJP is in power, reveal the nature of the problem and the crisis of governance when

required to deliver social justice and gender equality. These are not trivial lapses.

A 2022 news report revealed that two male zilla parishad CEOs, both experienced civil servants as they were of deputy commissioner rank, scrambled to cover up two reported incidents -- in Sundrel in Dhar and Gaisabad in Damoh. The two CEOs tacitly consented to making women non-persons, by swearing in the patis, or husbands of the women elected from Scheduled Caste reserved constituencies in the local panchayats.

Warped thinking and values have grown instead of being permanently deleted, like the precedence of family customs over rights. Though Amartya Sen is not a favoured intellectual of the Narendra Modi government, it would have benefited from his wisdom that Martha Nussbaum had summarised as "women's current preferences often show distortions that are the result of unjust background conditions". Having been socialised to accept their status as "passive dependents", the perpetuation of their subordinate role as wives, albeit elected panchayat members, reflects "adaptive preferences" as a survival choice.

The laws do not make India an ugly place to live in. It is the failure of the political class and the governments that they run which makes it a cruel, violent, corrupt, immoral, unjust and unequal, intolerant and irrational country.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is entirely correct when he claims to have empowered women by reserving 33 per cent of the seats in Parliament and the state Assemblies. He is suspect when he claims to have done this for "mothers, sisters and daughters". Women are not archetypes. They are not to be

classified as roles that emphasise their relationship with someone else. Women are individuals, too.

Reservation for women as MPs and MLAs is flattery for a purpose. If the Modi government was seriously committed to social justice and gender equality it would have spent the past nine and a half years in designing policy with incentives that brought more women into the workforce, made them truly empowered in the fullest sense.

Women's condition has changed in 75 years; it has improved in terms of education and participation in elections. In 10 states, including Bihar and Uttarakhand, and three Union territories -- Puducherry, Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep -- 21 lakh more women voted than men in 2019. This is up from the 10 states and UTs where more women voted in 2014.

The significance of this change underlies the promise to reserve 33 per cent seats for women in Parliament and the state Assemblies. Women are now a constituency and matter in 118 Lok Sabha seats.

In misunderstanding the capability of women to act with agency, the Modi government seems to have taken it for granted that a promise that will be fulfilled in the future is sufficient to win the women's vote in the crucial states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Telangana which go the polls soon, and in 2024 when the Prime Minister will be a contestant in the Lok Sabha elections.

The deification of Bharat Mata as the embodiment of renunciation reflects the expectations of the social and political order, that spent more time talking about OBC reservation within women's reservation than about why India needed a constitutional amendment that gave only a 33 per cent guarantee of representation.

Scientists Uncover Brain Signals for Good Memory



By: Vijay GarG

Researchers at the University of Basel found a direct link between activity in certain brain regions like the hippocampus and memory performance, using the world's largest functional imaging study on memory, involving nearly 1,500 participants. The findings, which revealed stronger brain activation in individuals with better memory, could impact future research linking biological characteristics to brain signals.

Individuals exhibit substantial variations in their memory capabilities. A study by the University of Basel has now identified a connection between specific brain signals and these differences in memory per-

formance.

Although it is established that particular areas of the brain are essential for memory functions, it has remained unclear whether these regions demonstrate varying activity levels related to the storage of information in individuals with differing memory performance levels.

Having investigated this matter, a research team led by Professor Dominique de Quervain and Professor Andreas Papassotiropoulos has now published its results in the journal Nature Communications.

In the world's largest functional imaging study on memory, they asked nearly 1,500 participants between the ages of 18 and 35 to look at and memorize a total of 72 images. During this process, the researchers recorded the subjects' brain activity using MRI. The participants were then asked to recall as many of the images as possible -- and as in the general population, there were considerable differences in memory performance among them.

Signals in brain regions and networks

In certain brain regions

including the hippocampus, the researchers found a direct association between brain activity during the memorization process and subsequent memory performance. Individuals with a better memory showed a stronger activation of these brain areas. No such association was found for other memory-relevant brain areas in the occipital cortex -- they were equally active in individuals with all levels of memory performance.

Functional Networks Associated With Individual Differences in Memory Performance

Functional networks associated with individual differences in memory performance.

The researchers were also able to identify functional networks in the brain that were linked to memory performance. These networks comprise different brain regions that communicate with each other to enable complex processes such as the storage of information.

"The findings help us to better understand how differences in memory performance occur between one individual and another,"

said Dr. Léonie Geissmann, the study's first author, adding that the brain signals of a single individual do not allow for any conclusions to be drawn about their memory performance, however.

According to the researchers, the results are of great importance for future research aimed at linking biological characteristics such as genetic markers to brain signals.

Basel-based research on memory

The current study forms part of a large-scale research project conducted by the Research Cluster Molecular and Cognitive Neurosciences (MCN) at the University of Basel's Department of Biomedicine and the University Psychiatric Clinics (UPK) Basel. The aim of this project is to gain a better understanding of memory processes and to transfer the findings from basic research into clinical applications.

(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal PES-1
Educational columnist
Malout Punjab)

Glorious tributes paid to Mahatma Gandhi, Lal Bahadur Shastri



TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Oct 3: Gurmeet Singh, District General Secretary of the Congress party and a Senior Congress Leader, celebrated and organized a tribute event on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri at Rajinder Bazar, Congress Office, Jammu. Mahatma Gandhi, also known as the Father

of the Nation, played a pivotal role in India's independence movement. His birthday, celebrated on October 2nd, is observed worldwide as the International Day of Non-Violence. Gandhi's commitment to peace, truth, and non-violence made him an iconic figure in India's history. He was assassinated by Nathuram Godse on January 30, 1948.

On the same day, Lal Bahadur Shastri, India's second Prime Minister, is also remembered. Born on October 2nd, 1904, in Mughalsarai, Uttar Pradesh, Shastri was a freedom fighter and a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi. He served in various ministerial positions in the government of Jawaharlal Nehru and is known for the slogan "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan"

(Hail the Soldier, Hail the Farmer).

Gurmeet Singh emphasized the significance of Lal Bahadur Shastri's political journey, marked by dedication to the Indian National Congress party. Shastri's tenure as Prime Minister saw notable achievements, including the signing of the Tashkent Agreement to ease tensions between India and Pakistan.

Similar to Gandhi Jayanti, Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti is an important national holiday in India. People pay their respects by offering garlands and flowers at his Samadhi at "Vijay Ghat," New Delhi. Statues of Lal Bahadur Shastri across India are adorned, and educational institutions and government offices organize various events to honor his legacy.

Sikh Noujawan Sabha Bandu Rakh Hockey Club hosts Six-a-Side Open Knockout Hockey Tournament



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 3: Sikh Noujawan Sabha's Bandu Rakh Hockey Club, under the aegis of Hockey J&K, is set to host a Six-a-Side Open Knockout Hockey Tournament (Men) from October 1, 2023, to October 5, 2023, at the Bandurakh Hockey Stadium. The tournament aims to pay homage to Col. Manpreet Singh, Major Ashish Dhanoa, and DSP Humayun Bhat.

A total of 12 teams will be participating in this prestigious tournament. The teams include AKS Club Diagana, Society of Sports Kunjwani, Bandu Rakh Hockey Club, MBS Hockey Club, Hiranagar Hockey Club, Dashmesh Hockey Club, Khalsa Club, Sonipat XI, Pathankot XI, Gurdaspur XI, 157 TA, and Sham Lal Hockey Academy Poonch.

On the second day of the tournament, three matches were played. In the first match, Bandu Rakh Hockey Club faced off against Akali Kour Singh Digiana, with Bandu Rakh Hockey Club emerging victorious with a score of 5-2. The chief guest for the match was Jasbir Singh Jassi, and the guest of honor was S. Tejpal Singh, Vice President of Kashmir Sikh Sangat. The match officials included Harvinder Pal Singh, Gurjeet Singh, and Tejinder Singh, with Tanish Preet Singh, Mankamal Singh, and Gurpreet Singh Nishkani as part of the technical team. Goal scorers for Bandu Rakh Hockey Club were Kirandeep (2), Rohit (2), and Krishna (1), while Onkar Singh and Raminder Singh scored for AKS Digiana.

In the second match, Dashmesh Club Guru

Nanak Nagar played against Society for Sports Kunjwani Bandu Rakh, with Dashmesh Club Guru Nanak Nagar winning 3-1. SHO Sattari, Sumeet Sharma, was the chief guest, and Harjinder Pal Singh, Chowki Officer Chatha, was the guest of honor. Devinder Singh and Gurjeet Singh officiated the match, with Harvinder Pal Singh as the physical education teacher in the technical team. Sukhjinder (2) and Jasjit (1) scored for Dashmesh Club, while Sanamjot Singh scored for Society for Sports.

The third match featured Hiranagar Club and MBS Simbal, with MBS Simbal Camp winning 7-1. S. Bhopinder Singh, SHO Miran Sahib, was the chief guest, and S. Harbans Singh, President of Gurdwara Shri Guru Singh Sabha Bandu Rakh, was the guest of

honor. The match was officiated by Jagjit Singh and Tanish Preet Singh, with Harvinder Pal Singh, Mankamal Singh, and Gurjeet Singh (CISF) in the technical team. Goal scorers for MBS Simbal Camp were Jasprit Singh Jimmy (3), Mandeep Singh (1), Sukhpreet Singh (2), and Jaswinder Singh (1), while Rameshwar scored the solitary goal for Hiranagar.

The final match of the tournament is scheduled for October 5, 2023. The successful execution of the program was carried out under the supervision of Ravinder Singh Raju, President of Bandu Rakh Hockey Club, and Tejinder Singh, General Secretary of Bandu Rakh Hockey Club. Technical members included Harvinder Pal Singh, a physical education teacher, and Tarandeep Singh Sanju.

Nasir expresses concerns over negligence of Labor Deptt

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 3: Nasir Meer, while addressing the audience, aimed to shed light on critical issues related to the apparent negligence of the Labor Department.

In his address, Nasir Meer pointed out that the Labor Department seems to be in a state of inaction, with a lack of inspections being carried out to ensure compliance with labor laws and regulations.

He further elaborated that organizations are violating the provisions of the Employ-

ment State Insurance Act, and regrettably, no actions are being taken by the relevant department to rectify these violations.

Additionally, Nasir Meer highlighted instances of non-compliance with the Minimum Wages Act, particularly in private schools where deserving individuals, such as teachers, are often paid minimum salaries. These educators, often referred to as nation builders, deserve fair compensation for their invaluable contributions to society.

Nasir Meer appealed to the authorities, urging them to pay close attention to the wages of private school teachers, recognizing their pivotal role in nation-building. Furthermore, Nasir Meer emphasized that workers are not receiving bonus payments or overtime allowances as required. Additionally, organizations are failing to properly administer provident funds to their employees.

Addressing concerns about women's rights, Nasir Meer called for a significant change in maternity leave policies.

He argued that organizations should provide a minimum of 6 months of maternity leave to new mothers without threatening their job security with premature termination after only a month or two of leave.

Nasir Meer concluded his address by expressing his determination to take action if the Labor Department fails to address these issues promptly. He warned of potential legal actions, including filing a Right to Information (RIT) petition, alongside peaceful protests on the streets.

Kishtwar District Hospital faces doctor, para-medical staff shortage: Ajeet Bhagat

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Oct 3: The District Hospital Kishtwar is currently grappling with a severe shortage of doctors and para-medical staff, causing inconvenience to a substantial number of patients on a daily basis. This concerning issue was brought to light by Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Senior Leader, Ajeet Bhagat.

Bhagat has earnestly appealed to the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, as well as the Chief Secretary and Divi-



sional Commissioner of Jammu, to promptly address this pressing concern by allocating the necessary medical personnel to District Hospital Kishtwar.

In addition to the healthcare staffing

crisis, Bhagat has also raised several other critical issues. He highlighted problems related to the shortage of drinking water, non-implementation of central sponsored schemes, including those for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), handicapped pension, old age pension, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Pradhan Mantri Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), agriculture, horticulture, self-employment

schemes, as well as the need for enhanced wages for Special Police Officers (SPOs), ReT teachers, daily wage laborers, and addressing the understaffing in schools.

Ajeet Bhagat has urged the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Secretary, Divisional Commissioner of Jammu, and the Deputy Commissioner of Kishtwar to promptly investigate these issues and take necessary measures to resolve them for the welfare of the people in the region.

DPS Jammu, DPS Katra, DPS Nagbani unite for Swachhta Hi Seva 2023 campaign on Gandhi Jayanti

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Oct 3: In response to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for 'Ek Tareekh, Ghanta, Ek Saath' – a national call to action for one hour of citizen-led Shramdaan for Swachhata (cleanliness) on October 1st, 2023, at 10:00 am, the staff and students of DPS Jammu, DPS Katra, and DPS Nagbani under the directive of Dr. Kuwarani Ritu Singh, Founder Member Trustee/Pro-Vice Chairperson of DPS Jammu, Katra, and Nagbani, came together to participate in a remarkable initiative on cleanliness at Bawe Wali Mata, Bahu Fort, Jammu.

The purpose of this campaign was twofold: to instill the values of cleanliness and sanitation in the hearts of our students and to offer a heartfelt Swachh-jali (tribute) to Mahatma Gandhi on the eve of his Jayanti.

The students embarked on a Swachhata rally, carrying impactful slogans that resonated with the importance of cleanliness. They tirelessly cleaned the area using broomsticks, presented a thought-provoking nukkad natak (street play), and engaged with the general public to raise awareness about cleanliness.

Dr. Kuwarani Ritu Singh, extended her guidance and support to all three schools for this noble event. Under her guidance the stu-



dents and staff of all three DPS Schools also launched a cleanliness drive in their respective schools and took the swachhata pledge under directions of Dr. Kuwarani Ritu Singh Ji, to minimize carbon footprints, reuse plastics, ban single use plastic, plant more trees, and take actions such as, using khadi certificates and banners for sustainable future. During the Swachhata Campaign, students also discussed the concept of creating art exhibits and installations from the waste they collected, emphasizing the "waste to wealth" principle.

Earlier, the schools also organized a special assembly to mark the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. Students and staff members paid floral tributes to the Mahatma. Class II students of DPS Jammu presented a heart-warming group song, including Babu's favourite bhajan, "Vaishnav Jan ke tene kahiye." The school Environment Club Secretaries-Ekaumjit Singh, and Tehzeeb Kour led the entire campaign, while Ayn Bhola, delivered a compelling speech highlighting the significance of cleanliness and also suggested the need for laws to penalize those who litter, urinate, or throw garbage in public spaces.

Before going in public, all 3 DPS Schools car-

ried out the cleanliness drive in their respective schools and took the swachhata pledge under directions of Dr. Kuwarani Ritu Singh Ji, to minimize carbon footprints, reuse plastics, ban single use plastic, plant more trees, and take actions such as, using khadi certificates and banners for sustainable future. During the Swachhata Campaign, students also discussed the concept of creating art exhibits and installations from the waste they collected, emphasizing the "waste to wealth" principle.

It is noteworthy that nine years ago, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had initiated the Swachh Bharat Mission, and citizens from all walks of life enthusiastically embraced the call for cleanliness, making it a national behaviour. As a prelude to Gandhi Jayanti, the Prime Minister issued a unique call to action during the 105th episode of Mann Ki Baat, appealing all citizens to dedicate one hour of Shramdaan for Swachhata at 10:00 am on

October 1st. The three DPS schools of Jammu, Katra, and Nagbani successfully completed this challenge at the serene Bawe Wali Mata, Bahu Fort, Jammu on Sunday, October 1st, 2023, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

The esteemed management of DPS Jammu, including M.K Ajatshatru Singh, President-RCT, Dr. Kuwarani Ritu Singh, distinguished Founder Trustee/PVC, S.S Sodhi Director, extended their heartfelt congratulations to all the participants and the school staff for carrying out the Swachhata Campaign successfully and for nurturing the right values in the young children.

Principal-Ms. Ruchi Chabra appreciated the budding eco-warriors and encouraged them to continue organizing such cleanliness campaigns in future also. She thanked the parents for their support and cooperation in making this event a resounding success.

Headmistress Meenu Gupta also applauded the efforts and commitment of all involved.

GK Educational Trust celebrates Gandhi Jayanti

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Oct 3: GK Educational Trust, a trusted training partner of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the Ministry of Skill Development, proudly celebrated Gandhi Jayanti in Kathua. The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of students, marking a memorable occasion of learning and community service.

On the momentous occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, the staff and students of GK ITRP MKK Kathua came together to organize a Swachhata drive as part of the Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign, a step towards a 'Garbage Free India.' The students actively engaged in the clean-



liness drive, passionately contributing to the cause while raising awareness about the significance of cleanliness in our lives.

GK Educational Trust has been unwavering in its commitment to creating opportunities and improving the lives of individuals in the community through

skill development programs. Mr. Ammar, the Director of GK Educational Trust, Ms. Pritpal Kour, Centre Incharge, and other dedicated staff members graced the occasion with their presence, demonstrating their strong support for this noble cause.

Gandhi Jayanti, celebrated on October

2nd every year, is a day to honor the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, a visionary leader who championed the principles of non-violence, truth, and social equality. It serves as a poignant reminder of our duty to follow his path and work towards a better, cleaner, and more skillful India.

Bollywood films like 'Thank You for Coming' and Dhak Dhak explore themes of camaraderie, sexuality and liberation through women's eyes

Come Friday, a reverse Cinderella is in search of her hero, the morning after her engagement party, for a very peculiar reason! Karan Boolani's directorial Thank You for Coming has Bhumi Pednekar, Shehnaaz Gill, Dolly Singh, Kusha Kapila and Shibani Bedi enacting positive roles in this modern-day comedy!

Girl squad films in Bollywood are few and far between. The few that have ventured in the 'daring' category, exploring themes of camaraderie, sexuality and liberation, still struggle to gain acceptance. No Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants or Sex and The City, yet the list of female buddy dramas in the Hindi film industry is by and by getting more outings. Here's a look at a few among them and how they fared.

Relationship issues
Veere Di Wedding
Shashanka Ghosh-directorial Veere Di Wedding (2018) explores female friendship. The plot follows four friends — Kareena Kapoor Khan, Sonam Kapoor, Swara Bhaskar and Shikha Talsania. The film explores issues with relationships, including sexual. The film that wasn't screened in Pakistan and Kuwait for its explicit language and sexuality, didn't meet critics' approval. It reportedly did decently well commercially though, reportedly earning Rs 139 crore, given it was made on a budget of Rs 28 crore.

Buddy comedy



Jahaan Chaar Yaar
Writer-director Kamal Pandey's Jahaan Chaar Yaar (2022) stars Swara Bhasker, Shikha Talsania, Pooja Chopra and Meher Vij. It is about four friends finally making their Goa trip a reality. This female buddy comedy didn't impress the critics on account of weak writing and it failed at the box-office too.

Bold take
Lipstick Under My Burkha
Alankrita Shrivastava's bold outing Lipstick Under My Burkha (2017) won the approval of critics and did decently at the box-office. The film charts the journey of four women — Ratna Pathak, Konkona Sen Sharma, Aahana Kumra and Plabita Borthakur — and their search for freedom. The film won approval on account of realistic portrayals of the female lead characters and effectively battled for normalising women's sexuality on the silver screen.

Humour and hope
Angry Indian Goddesses
Oscar nominated Pan Nalin's Angry Indian Goddesses (2015), touted as India's first female buddy film, moved beyond the fun and frolic, weaving in themes of discrimination and bringing to screen women of substance. Sandhya Mridul, Tannishtha Chatterjee, Sarah-Jane Dias, Anushka Manchanda, Amrit Maghera, Rajshri Deshpande and Pavleen Gujral are part of the ensemble cast. The film might not have done magic numbers at box-office, but touched the viewers with humour and hope!

Connecting link
Lajja
The 2001 film Lajja, directed by Rajkumar Santoshi, focuses on the fight of four women, Vaidehi (Manisha Koirala), Maitili (Mahima Chaudhary), Janki (Madhuri Dixit) and Ramdulara (Rekha), all names of goddess

Sita, to expose societal ills. Vaidehi becomes the connecting link between the women. The film didn't do well commercially in India, but fared better overseas. It was lauded for fabulous performances by the leading ladies.

Female camaraderie
Parched
Written and directed by Leena Yadav, Parched (2015), tells the story of four women in a desert village, which is riddled with social evils, including child marriage, dowry and marital rapes. Tannishtha Chatterjee, Radhika Apte, Surveen Chawla and Lehar Khan lead this story of women pushing for change. Female desire and camaraderie are central to this film.

Coming Up
Taapsee Pannu joins hands with Viacom18 Studios for a girls' road trip story titled Dhak Dhak. Tarun Dubeja directs this story of four women, who set out on a road trip to the highest motorable pass in the world on their bikes. This journey of self-discovery has Ratna Pathak Shah, Dia Mirza, Fatima Sana Shaikh and Sanjana Sanghi. The film will be released in October. In what seems like forever in works, Jee Le Zaraa is on the lines of Dil Chahta Hai and Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara. Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt are supposed to drive this Farhan Akhtar's travel buddy drama, but there is no confirmation when it will go on the floors.

Salman Khan completes 35 years in Hindi cinema, says 'I love being the larger-than-life action star'



Bollywood superstar Salman Khan, who has completed 35 years in Hindi cinema, says he loves being the larger-than-life action star.

As he is all set to celebrate his 35 years with 'Tiger 3', Salman said: "People who have loved me since my debut, made me

realise on social media that I have completed 35 years in cinema! It is a very special moment for me, filled with nostalgia, love, so much joy and also the pain when things didn't go as per plan. But I have loved every minute of my journey in the Hindi film industry."

He added, "I'm glad to celebrate this personal milestone with the release of Tiger 3! I know that my fans love to see me doing action and I hope Tiger 3 is the perfect gift that they have been waiting for!"

Salman is elated with the response that the first video asset, Tiger Ka Message from 'Tiger 3', garnered.

Yash Raj Films released Tiger Ka Message last week, a video that is a precursor to the trailer of the film.

Salman Khan is back to reprise his role as super agent Tiger aka Avinash Singh Rathore in Yash Raj Films' 'Tiger 3'.

He says playing such larger than life characters are fun.

Salman said: "I love the action genre, I love being the larger-than-life action star. It's fun! I love doing big action spectacles and Tiger 3 is as big as it can get. The story of the film is something that I loved a lot and I'm certain that we will catch everyone by surprise with it."

'Tiger 3', directed by YRF's homegrown film-maker Maneesh Sharma, is set to release on Diwali.

Dolly Sohi makes a comeback

Actress Dolly Sohi is set for a comeback with the show Parineeti. The actress said, "I made a comeback with Parineeti, as the track demands my presence and the story revolves around me. I play the role of Gurpreet Kakkar, female protagonist Parineet's (Anchal Sahu) mother. The current show will air more twist and turns after my characters gets kidnapped and is hospitalised."

Dolly is known for playing prominent roles in shows like Bhabhi, Kumkum Bhagya and was last seen in Piya Abhimani. The actress said, "I previously completed my shoots for the show Jhanak in Kolkata and Kashmir. And after I returned back to Mumbai, I was informed about my character making a comeback on



Parineeti. I could easily manage because we are yet to start shooting for Jhanak in Mumbai."

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan's Paris Fashion Week appearance garners mixed reactions

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan made headlines at the Paris Fashion Week with her dazzling runway appearance, where she drew a mix of reactions from the audience. Known for her recent role in Mani Ratnam's Tamil epic drama 'Ponniyin Selvan,' the former Miss World and Bollywood icon walked the runway alongside international model and media sensation Kendall Jenner, Chinese actor Gong Jun, and acclaimed British actress Helen Mirren during the L'Oreal Paris show. The runway was set against the backdrop of the iconic Eiffel Tower.

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan's choice of attire, a golden shimmering gown, caught the eye of



many. Her blonde highlights added an extra touch of glamour to her radiant appearance. The gown featured a captivating see-through cape elegantly fastened at the shoulders, and she complemented her look with exquisite diamond rings, earrings, and golden high heels.

However, her appearance generated mixed reactions online, with some social media users making critical comments about her look. Some wondered about changes in her appearance, while others felt the dress choice didn't suit her body type.

On a positive note, many supporters came forward to applaud her memorable performance at the show. Her delightful interaction

with Kendall Jenner, captured in a viral video, was celebrated across the internet.

The video depicted Aishwarya Rai and Kendall Jenner sharing smiles and even sharing a dance on stage.

In addition to Aishwarya's appearance, Paris Fashion Week also saw the debut of Navya Naveli Nanda, the daughter of Shweta Bachchan. Navya gracefully walked the runway in a stylish red mini dress, marking her entry into the world of high fashion.

Interestingly, there have been rumors circulating about her dating 'Gully Boy' actor Siddhant Chaturvedi, adding another layer of intrigue to her public profile.

Oprah Winfrey was mistreated due to her weight



Television personality Oprah Winfrey has opened up about her weight loss journey, recalling an unpleasant experience when she was at a higher weight. While hosting an Oprah Daily panel on the obesity and weight crisis, she said it happened when she was shopping. "It's that thing where people are like, 'Let me show you the gloves. Would you like to look at the handbags? Because we know that there's nothing in here for you',” Oprah said of her past shopping experiences to the panel's attendees. "There is a condescension. There is stigma."

Oprah also revealed that she dieted a lot because her, 'body always seems to want to go back to a certain weight'. "You all know I've been on this journey for most of my life.

My highest weight was 237 lbs. I don't know if there is another public person whose weight struggle has been exploited as much as mine over the years," she shared.

Oprah added that she was 'shamed in the tabloids every week (for) about 25 years' for 'not having the willpower' amid her weight journey.

"This is a world that has shamed people for being overweight forever," she said.

Beyoncé's concert film to be distributed globally by AMC



A film based on US popstar Beyoncé's hit 'Renaissance World Tour' is set to be distributed globally by a unit of AMC Entertainment, as cinema chains look to fill content gaps stemming from Hollywood strikes. Beyoncé's film is a theatrical production of the singer-songwriter's global tour this summer, spanning 57 concerts across 40 cities in North America and 14 across Europe.

The film follows a similar release by popstar Taylor Swift, whose Eras Tour concert film will be distributed in cinemas in North America, starting October 13.

Khatron Ke Khiladi 10 fame Smriti Kalra talks about her role in Darran Chhoo

Smriti Kalra, who is known for her work in shows like Suvreen Guggal, Karol Bagh and Dil Sambhal Jaa Zara, is all set to be seen alongside actor Karan Patel in Darran Chhoo. Talking about the title of the film, she says, "You might wonder what this title Darran Chhoo means. Let me divide my film's name into three parts — Darr-Run -Choo, Toh dar se kaho bhage, aur choo mantar hojaye. And this is what the film is about — facing your fears and once you do, your fear just vanishes.

The actress, who made her Bollywood debut with Cash, adds, "This philosophy is what I follow in my life and hence I agreed to be a part of this project, so that I can reach



out to one and all with this message in a relatable, light, non-preachy way. Darran Chhoo is a family entertainer with

a message that we all need to hear. We shot extensively in Bhopal, so you will get to see a lot of Bhopal in this film.

Jammu Sanskriti School Excels at 13th District-level Speedball Championship 2023

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 3: Jammu Sanskriti School recently shone bright at the 13th district-level Speedball Championship-2023, which was held at DHSS and organized by the J&K Sports Speedball Association. The school's enthusiastic team participated across various age groups, including Under-10, Under-12, Under-14, and Under-17, showcasing their prowess in this fast-paced sport. A total of 16 students represented JAMMU SANSKRITI SCHOOL, and their remarkable performances led to the school bagging an impressive tally of 10 medals. Among these, there were 4 Gold medals, 2 Silver medals, and 5 Bronze medals. In the Under-10 category, Akalkirat Singh



secured a Gold medal, while Sehajvir Singh and Eklavya Mohan earned Bronze medals. In the Under-12 division, Rayanshdeep Singh clinched the Gold medal, with Ishaan Sharma and Navyam Mehra taking home Bronze medals each. The Under-17 age group saw Rehaan and Prafful Kumar winning Gold medals, while Raghav and Akshit

claimed Bronze medals in the Super Solo category. The Principal of JAMMU SANSKRITI SCHOOL expressed her pride and appreciation for the students who participated in this sports competition. Mrs. Rohini Aima, who also serves as the Chairperson of the school, lauded the students' dedication and hard work. She extend-

ed her commendations to Mr. Sunny Nanda, the school's Sports Coach, for his guidance and training, which played a significant role in the students' outstanding achievements. These medals not only reflect the students' talent and determination but also highlight the school's commitment to nurturing all-round excellence in its students.

Gandhi Jayanti celebrated with zeal at GDC Chatroo



TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, OCT 3: On the occasion of the 154th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the Indian nation, the NSS unit of Government Degree College

Chatroo celebrated Gandhi Jayanti with great enthusiasm. The program commenced with a floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi by all the faculty and students of the college. Dr. Haq Nawaz delivered

a speech highlighting Gandhi Ji's contributions and emphasized that Mahatma Gandhi advocated peace and non-violence during a time marked by ultra-nationalism, severe inequality, and oppres-

sion in colonized societies. Mohd Amir, a 5th-semester student who represented Government Degree College Chatroo at the divisional level at GCW Parade Jammu, also shared his thoughts on this theme. Furthermore, a pledge for a 'Nasha Mukh Bharat' (Drug-Free India) and non-violence was administered to the faculty and all the students of the college. The entire program was coordinated by Dr. Jaswant Singh, the Physical Education Director of the college. The event concluded with a cleanliness drive within the college campus, reinforcing the values of Mahatma Gandhi in today's context.

Mahant Bitta releases new devotional song "Shukran Kara Bawe Wali Da"

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 3: Mahant Shri Bitta, esteemed spiritual leader of Bahu Fort Mandir, released a new devotional song titled "Shukran Kara Bawe Wali Da." This soulful composition, dedicated to the divine, is a heartfelt expression of devotion.

The melodious rendition of "Shukran Kara Bawe Wali Da" is sung by the talented artist Aman Sharma, with soul-stirring lyrics penned by Munish Jammu Wala. The enchanting music for the song is composed by Chandan Jassu, and the video editing is skillfully handled by K. K. Malhotra. The project is brought to life under the guidance of Asst. Director Prerna Sharma and produced by Mahant Shri Bitta Ji, Bahu Fort Mandir. This release is presented under the esteemed label of the YouTube channel "Maa Bawe Wali Records." The grand unveiling



of this devotional masterpiece was celebrated during a program organized by Maa Bawe Wali Records, with Sh. Sahil Mahajan, the Managing Director, at the helm. Mahant Shri Bitta Ji expressed his views on the occasion, emphasizing the significance of devotional music in Jammu and Kashmir. He highlighted that the melodious tunes dedicated to Gods and Goddesses resonate throughout the region during various religious rituals

and gatherings, including Jagrata, Langar, Seva, Pooja, and other sacred ceremonies. He urged the people of Jammu and Kashmir to extend their support and encouragement to local artists, enabling them to flourish and attain greater heights in their respective fields, which, in turn, will be a source of pride for all citizens of the region. Sahil Mahajan added that the youth of Jammu and Kashmir should actively participate in

religious activities and rituals. Such engagement, he believes, will provide them with spiritual guidance and steer them away from negative influences, including substance abuse, thereby ensuring a brighter and more enlightened future. Furthermore, Sahil Mahajan reassured artists from the region that Maa Bawe Wali Records and its dedicated team are always ready to provide support and assistance whenever needed.

Gandhi Jayanti celebrations culminates with Swachta Abhiyan at GDC Udh

TOP NEWS REPORT

UDHAMPUR, Oct 3: In the continuum of activities under Azadi Ka Amrut Kaal, during the year of G20 presidency of India, the Committee for Peace and Conflict Studies, Govt. Degree College Udhampur, organized "Swachta Abhiyan" as Swachh-chaanjali along with a series of programmes under "Gandhi Jayanti" Celebrations on the eve of 154th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Various activities related to Mahatma Gandhi Ji's life and his philosophy started from 12 Sept '23 to 30 September under the direction of J and K Higher Education Department. A series of events commenced with screening of movies related to the life and works of Mahatma Gandhi besides focus on Nasha Mukh Bharat and Bhraashachar Mukh J&K. It was followed by students making reels

related to Gandhian philosophy of life as well as display of his messages through placards. Slogan writing, competition and symposium remained as a major source of attraction in which a large number of students participated. Many activities like Collage making competition, Book reading of "My Experiments with truth" and "All Men Are Brothers" to motivate and re-instate the Gandhian principles of truth and non-violence, group discussion on Gandhiji's contribution to education, online quiz on "Gandhian Philosophy of Life" etc. were organized by Committee for Gandhian Centre for peace and conflict studies. Student volunteers of the committee for Gandhian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies actively participated and conveyed the message of "Satya, Ahimsa and swachta". Intra-college Declamation competition (Stage

1) followed by district level declamation competition (stage 2) were organized in which students participated with great enthusiasm and energy. Students from different colleges actively participated in the event. The programs were conducted under the patronage of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta and overall convenship of Prof Imtiaz Shahid. The Programme commenced with the formal welcome address by convenor Prof Imtiaz Shahid where he explained in detail on the theme of the event "Truth and Non-violence". Speaking on the occasion Prof (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta, Worthy Principal GDC Udhampur deliberated upon the significance of Gandhian Philosophy and importance of such events in college which encourage and inculcate Gandhian values and principles among

the students. The series of activities concluded with the "Swachtha Abhiyan" within and around the college campus to culminate the month-long activities on Gandhian Philosophy. The Members of Yuva Soch Yuva Bharat contributed with Wall painting in the Swachhchaanjali Abhiyan at Municipal Park, and a Skit on Swachhcha in the Cultural program organized by District Administration and 91.9 Red FM on 2nd October at Subash Stadium under the supervision of Dr. Pankaj Sharma. The program was coordinated by Dr Firdous Ahmed Itoo, Dr Swarn Singh, Prof. Shaji Khan, Dr. Anita and Dr Jasmeet Kour, members of the committee for Gandhian Centre For Peace And Conflict Studies., Govt Degree College, Udhampur. The Swachhcha Pakhwada concluded with the formal vote of thanks by Dr. Anita Sharma.

Rich Harvest School excels in National Urban Games

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 3: Rich Harvest School athletes delivered outstanding performances at the recently concluded National Urban Games, showcasing their remarkable talent and dedication. The U-14 Cricket team emerged as champions, displaying exceptional skills and teamwork as they secured the top position and a well-deserved trophy. The U-17 Cricket team also made a commendable effort, securing the 2nd position and earning a trophy for their achievements. Our avid skaters showcased their prowess by winning an impressive total of 4 medals, including 1 gold, 2 silver, and 1 bronze, demonstrating



their dedication and skill on the skating rink. In the discipline of Pencak Silat, our participants exhibited outstanding martial arts abilities, claiming a remarkable total of 10 medals. These included 4 gold, 4 silver,

and 2 bronze medals, further emphasizing their commitment to excellence. In the realm of Badminton, our talented athletes added to our medal tally by securing 1 gold medal, further highlighting their

prowess and competitive spirit. Anita Bhatia, Head of the Institute, extended her warmest congratulations to all the winners and expressed her best wishes for their continued success in future events.

Samvedna Society organizes Aadhaar enrollment camp at SBI

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 3: Samvedna Society, under the leadership of Chairman Keshav Chopra, organized an Aadhaar enrollment camp at the State Bank of India Talab Tillo Branch, offering a convenient one-stop location for Aadhaar-related services. The camp was inaugurated by SBI Regional Manager K.J. Raina, accompanied by Branch Head Malti Ganjoo. The Aadhaar Camp provided a range of essential services, including new enrollment, biometric updation, correction of Aadhaar details, mobile number updation, photograph changes, and unlocking the biometric lock in Aadhaar, among others. During the event, K.J. Raina expressed the State Bank of India's



commitment to serving the common man, emphasizing the bank's dedication to going the extra mile to assist its customers. Raina extended his gratitude to Chairman Keshav Chopra and the Samvedna Society for organizing the Aadhaar camp, acknowledging its value to the community. Keshav Chopra, in his

remarks, highlighted Samvedna Society's mission to offer doorstep services related to Aadhaar and various other services catering to children, senior citizens, and individuals with disabilities. He reassured the community that Samvedna Society would continue to host such camps in the future, furthering their commitment to the

welfare of the residents. The camp saw the presence of several key individuals, including Operational Manager of Aadhaar Seva Kendra Jammu, Peer Mubashir Shah, as well as Vikas Kumar, Amit Singh (Operator), Smriti Anand, Satish Dutt, and other dedicated members who actively contributed to the event's success.