

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 07, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Semi-decomposed male body recovered from rivulet in Poonch

SRINAGAR, Oct 7 (Agencies): A semi-decomposed body of a male person was on Saturday found from a rivulet in Poonch district, officials said. They told GNS that the body was sighted lying in nallah Betaar near Dalaan bridge, by some passersby. The police were informed which reached the site and took the body into its possession, they said.

The Police have in the meantime asked the public to reach out with any relevant information to help in ascertaining the identity of the person.

JKBOSE again postpones Class 10th Private Annual and Bi-Annual Examinations in J&K and Ladakh

JAMMU, Oct 7 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) has once again postponed the Class 10th private annual and bi-annual examinations of two subjects, which were initially scheduled for October 7 and 19, 2023, in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The postponement, as per the official document comes as a result of unforeseen circumstances.

In an official communication released by the joint secretary examination of JKBOSE, the concerned senior superintendents of Police have been informed that the examination of subjects viz Social Science and Vocational, pertaining to Secondary School Examination Class 10th Session Annual private and bi-Annual 2023, which were earlier rescheduled on October 7 and 19 of 2023 in UT of J&K and Ladakh, now have been once again postponed due to unavoidable circumstances.

The official communication further noted that fresh examination dates will be notified separately in due course of time. This means that students and educational institutions will have to wait for further instructions on when the postponed examinations will be held.

To ensure that the information regarding the postponement reaches all relevant authorities, the joint secretary

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Tunnel construction in Ramban to Banihal stretch completed: Nitin Gadkari

JAMMU, Oct 7 (Agencies): Union Minister of Road Transport and Highway, Nitin Gadkari on Saturday said that a 250-metre viaduct has been completed in Jammu and Kashmir, which along with Maroge tunnel will reduce the travelling time and bypass slide-prone areas on Srinagar-Jammu national highway.

Gadkari said in a post on X, in Jammu and Kashmir, we have successfully completed the construction of a 250-meter viaduct (2-lane) in conjunction with a 395-



meter (2-lane) Maroge tunnel, at an estimated cost of Rs. 82 Crores. This infrastructure

is situated along with Ramban to Banihal section of NH-44. The 645-meter seg-

ment, as part of the larger project, will not only shorten the travel distance by 200 meters, reducing steep gradients, but also provide an alternative route bypassing the well-known sitta Ram Passi slide area. Furthermore, it facilitates the smooth flow of vehicles, bypassing the challenging Marog Area gradients.

Under the visional leadership of Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji, we steadfastly uphold our commitment to delivering exceptional highway infrastructure

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3 labourers killed, 5 injured in Doda mishap

BHADERWAH / JAMMU, Oct 7 (Agencies): Three labourers were killed and five others critically injured when the vehicle they were travelling in skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge in Dod district of Jammu and Kashmir, police officials said on Saturday.

The labourers boarded the vehicle at Khellani and were on the way to their homes in Marmat area, the officials said. They said the vehicle

met with the accident near Humbal village around 10.40 pm Friday, prompting a rescue operation by local volunteers and police.

Three labourers – Mani Kumar (31), Karan Jeet Singh (40) and Lal Chand (45) – were found dead by the rescuers on the spot, they said.

Five others were rescued in an injured condition and are undergoing treatment in government medical college hospital Doda.

Rain, Snowfall expected in Kashmir on Oct 9: MeT

SRINAGAR, Oct 7 (Agencies): The weather office in Srinagar has predicted rain and snowfall over Kashmir mountains from Monday due to the fast moving Western Disturbance.

This disturbance will be of short duration and the weather is expected to clear up from Wednesday.

The meteorological department (MeT) is expecting precipitation over higher reaches from Monday.

"Rain/ snowfall over higher reaches likely at scattered places of Jammu and Kashmir during October 9 evening/night with main activity on October 10 (70-80% chance)," the MeT said on Saturday.

An independent weather forecaster said that snowfall is expected in some higher reaches, including Zojila, Mughal Road, Sinthan Top, various other parts of the Pir Panjal Range, and the higher elevations of Gurez, Baramulla, Anantnag, and Kupwara districts.

"Snowfall is not expected in the plains," he said.

The MeT said after two days of wet weather, mainly dry weather is expected from October 14-20.

"A brief spell of rain/snowfall over higher reaches can't be ruled out, although chances are less," MeT said.

This year, Kashmir has witnessed long dry weather and above-normal temperatures leading to dropping levels in Jhelum and other water bodies. On

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Lt Governor flags off Walkathon 'Walk for Wildlife', as part of Wildlife Week 2023 at Srinagar



SRINAGAR, Oct 7: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha flagged off Walkathon 'Walk for Wildlife', as a part of Wildlife Week 2023 from Police Golf Course to Nishat Bagh, Srinagar.

Prominent Citizens, wildlife conservation & eco club members, volunteers, NCC cadets, students in large numbers participated in the 5 km long Walkathon organized by Department of Wildlife Protection to spread awareness on

wildlife conservation. In his address, the Lt Governor reaffirmed the commitment of the J&K Administration to the cause of wildlife conservation, protection of the unique and rich ecological heritage and pursue economic growth and preserve the environment by striking the right balance.

He called for community-led conservation of biodiversity and protection of wildlife. It is our collective responsibility to strengthen the ecological integrity, restore

the original glory of our rivers, lakes and protect our forests from smugglers and poachers, he said.

Every citizen, every youth should become Wildlife and Environment Mitra and also spread awareness in the society on adopting sustainable lifestyle, the Lt Governor added.

The Lt Governor shared the efforts of the UT administration, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, for the integrated development of wildlife habitats and promotion of eco tourism and green economy.

Hangul Breeding Centre in Tral, languishing since 2008 has been revived and completed this year. Hangul population has seen an increase and two more RAMSAR sites were added in 2022. Last year more than 13 lakh

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Crime Branch produces chargesheet in fake caste certificate case



SRINAGAR, Oct 7 (Agencies): Crime Branch Srinagar has produced a charge sheet against a teacher and two revenue officers for producing a fake backward caste certificate, officials said today.

"Special Crime Wing (Crime Branch) Srinagar produced charge sheet of case FIR No. 25/2012 before the Hon'ble Court of Anti-Corruption Court Anantnag on 05.10.2023 against three accused persons for their involvement in commission of offences punishable under section 420,467,468,471,201,120-B RPC, 5(2) PC Act," a spokesman said.

He said the case was registered in Crime Branch Kashmir on a complaint from then Zonal Education Officer Kulgam, wherein, it was alleged that one Rashid-Ul-Hassan Gojjar

S/o Gh. Hassan R/o Arigatnoo Tehsil Kulgam has been appointed as teacher through Service Selection Board in terms of order No. 2034 of 2007 dated 17/10/2007 under reserved category i.e ST category.

"The said teacher submitted his joining report on 07/11/2007 in the office of ZEO Kulgam and produced requisite certificates/documents including ST, PRC and DOB Certificates."

On analyzing the certificates, it was found that the caste of appointee in DOB certificate was reflected as "Wagay" which contradicted with caste of Gojjar reflected in his PRC & ST certificates.

On receipt of this complaint in CBK, a preliminary verification vide PV No 42/2010 P/S Crime Branch Kashmir, was initiated into the matter.

"During the probe, it was revealed that the actual caste of the appointee is "Wagay" and he in league with revenue officials managed to change his caste from "Wagay" to "Gojjar". Subsequently, a formal case vide FIR No. 25/2012 U/S 420,120-B r/w 5(2) PC Act was registered in P/S Crime Branch Kashmir and investigation was taken up," added the spokesman.

During the course of investigation, the statements

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In a First, Jammu set to witness stalwart cricketers on field in upcoming legends league cricket

JAMMU, Oct 7 (Agencies): Nearly after more than three decades, the people of Jammu are set to witness stalwart cricketers on field in an upcoming Legend League Cricket season, which is scheduled to be played across five cities in India including the 'city of temples'.

The three Legends League Cricket matches will be hosted at the Maulana Azad Stadium in Jammu.

As per the official communiqué received here from the Legends League Cricket officials, the upcoming season of the league has been



announced which is to be played across five cities in India including Jammu, Ranchi, Dehradun, Vizag and Surat.

"The second season of the franchise edition of Legends League Cricket

will have 19 matches and is all set to start from November 18 to December 9," read the communiqué.

Three matches shall be played at the Maulana Azad Stadium

established in 1966 and located along the banks of the Tawi River and has a seating capacity of 20,000.

The last international match played at the venue was held on December 19, 1988 between India vs New Zealand. The stadium also serves as one of the home grounds of the Jammu and Kashmir cricket team.

Besides Jammu, Legends League Cricket will travel to four additional venues with Ranchi hosting the first five matches.

The official

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CEO SMVDSB for synergy between all stakeholders in the run up to Navratras

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATRA, Oct 7: To assess security and operational preparedness of Shrine area for hassle-free pilgrimage prior to onset of Shardiya Navratra, Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, presided over a joint meeting today at Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra with security agencies and local authorities for a comprehensive review of the preparations for the upcoming Navratra festival scheduled to start from October 15 and continue till October 23, 2023.

The meeting was attended by Addl. Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB; SSP, JKP, Reasi; Commandant, CRPF; Jt. Chief Executive Officers, SMVDSB; SP, Katra; Sub Divisional Magistrate, Bhawan & Katra; Dy. CEOs; Asstt. CEO, SMVDSB; SDPO Katra and officers from Army, IB, CID, Fire Services, SMVDSB and other intelligence agencies.

The Chief Executive Officer underscored that Navratras are inches closer and the Board is expecting heavy influx of the devotees at the Holy Shrine besides, at the base camp Katra, thus stressed on synergy between all



stakeholders during the Navratras Festival. He also exhorted for action on diverse fronts for hassle-free pilgrimage during the coming days.

Laying focus on the smooth regulation of Yatra as per the directions of Chairman, SMVDSB (Lt. Governor, JK-UT), CEO said that apart from deployment of security personnel, CCTVs will be acting as watchdogs enroute Bhawan and Katra. Besides, the stakeholders shall ensure that the pilgrims before embarking on the Yatra, wear their valid RFID card at all times as they are linked with various facilities during the yatra and no pilgrim shall be allowed to start the yatra without a valid RFID card. He further enjoined representatives of security agen-

cies deployed at all entry points to remain more vigilant so that no pilgrim without frisking and registration enters the track for their pilgrimage.

He directed SDM, Katra upon verification and census of pony porters so as to check any suspicious element on the track by the concerned agencies and robust extensive checking at different places of Katra for overcharging of fare.

Furthermore, the Chief Executive Officer also reviewed in detail various components of the Disaster Management measures including fire fighting preparedness to ensure quick and most effective response from all stakeholders in wake of any emergent situation. He directed that the SDRF personnel in sync

with DMTF shall monitor the vulnerable places and jointly conduct simulating exercises to deal with crowd management well for effective Yatra management on ground. Besides, directed the concerned quarters at Bhawan for regular announcements and monitoring of the beats by the joint teams of stakeholders as per practice in vogue for the decongestion of the holding areas.

A slew of directives were also issued by the Chair to the concerned quarters for movement of vehicles, sanitation and drinking water arrangements and illumination of dark spots at Katra town, besides, physical and systematic improvements wherever required after critical

examination. The Chair taking a note of haphazard parking causing traffic bottlenecks especially during Navratras directed the concerned agencies to carry out a special drive and to tow away unauthorized vehicles in and around Katra town.

In the meeting, representatives of security agencies highlighted major challenges for the deployed security forces in coming days for managing the expected influx of pilgrims on Navratra. The Chair directed that drones shall be used for the real-time monitoring to keep an eye on each and every movement by the security agencies besides, deployment of additional forces in and around Katra and on the track enroute Bhawan to ensure foolproof security and effective Yatra management.

SSP Reasi and Commandant, CRPF presented a detailed security grid in place and discussed various security measures going to be placed during the Navratra at Katra and enroute to Holy Shrine, besides deployment of QRTs (quick response teams) and a multi-tier security grid comprising police, CRPF and other paramilitary forces.

Dogra Front protests against 2.5 lakhs backdoor appointments in J&K

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 7: Dogra Front and Shiv Sena today staged a protest in Jammu city in response to a recent revelation made by the Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir. The Chief Secretary disclosed that a shocking 2.5 lakh 'undeserving' candidates had secured government jobs in the union territory through backdoor channels in the past. This revelation has raised significant concerns regarding the integrity of the recruitment process.

Led by President Ashok Gupta, the members of Dogra Front and Shiv Sena organized the protest rally to voice their strong condemnation of the 2.5 lakh backdoor appointments that had taken place during previous administrations.

During the protest, Gupta pointed out specific instances during the NC regime, particularly when Akbar Lone held the position of Speaker, where individuals were appointed to roles within the secretariat through these irregular channels. He also mentioned that Tara Chand Sharma, during his term as Speaker in 2008, had appointed four individuals

through similar backdoor means.

To underscore the gravity of the situation, Gupta revealed that they possess documents obtained from reliable sources, including an affidavit from the then IGP in the State Vigilance Department, Alok Puri. This document confirms the names of individuals and assembly speakers who were involved in these backdoor appointments.

The revelation of 2.5 lakh backdoor appointments paints a distressing picture, wherein deserving and qualified youth were denied opportunities, and the administration of Jammu & Kashmir was populated by individuals lacking competence and merit.

Gupta called for the public disclosure of the names of those who secured jobs through these irregular means and advocated for their removal from their positions. He stressed the importance of filling these positions based on merit by inviting job applications from eligible candidates. The protest was attended by several party members, including Ashish, Ashu, Rahul, Kishore, Prem, Kalu, Abhishek, Atulya, Vikas, Seema, and many others.

Youth Festival Sangam-23 commenced at Bharderwah Campus

TOP NEWS REPORT

BHARDARWAH, Oct 7: Bhardarwah Campus, University of Jammu in collaboration with the Indian Army based at Bhardarwah is organizing five days Youth Festival "SANGAM 2023", which commenced at Bhardarwah Campus this morning.

The SANGAM 2023, with the tagline "Peace and Unity" was inaugurated by Brig. Sameer K Palande Commander 9-Sector in presence of Rector Bharderwah Campus Prof. Rahul Gupta, Deputy Commissioner Doda Mr Vishesh Pal Mahajan, SSP Doda Abdul Qayoom ADC Bharderwah Dil Mir Choudhary, ASP Bharderwah Vinod Sharma teaching facility, non-teaching of Bharderwah Campus besides



a large number of Civil and Military dignitaries, of the Civil Administration, Police Department, Prominent Citizens of Bhardarwah, Principals and Teachers Of Colleges/ Schools were also present on occasion.

The Mega event will witness the participation of more than 500 students and teachers from 24 Colleges including Bhardarwah Campus, University of Jammu.

Students from different educational intuitions

showcased their skills in dancing and singing on the day of opening Ceremony of the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Brig. Sameer K Palande Commander 9-Sector congratulated the Army and Bhardarwah Campus for organizing this colorful bonanza. "The cultural programme presented by the students depicted mutual harmony and brotherhood which is an integral part of the culture of

the Chenab region," he said adding that the people of this region especially the youth should rise above the communal politics and secure a bright future for themselves and for this region. "Youth festival is an appropriate platform to showcase talent. We hope the festival is successful and every year we can increase the stature and scale of the programme. The university has put in all efforts to make the programme successful," he added.

Rector Bharderwah Campus Prof. Rahul Gupta and CO 4RR Col Yogesh Chouhan in their welcome address congratulated the youth of Chenab Valley for embracing education and knowledge leading to self-development and enriching society.

Rector Bharderwah Camus said that Bharderwah Campus since its inception in 2006, has seen tremendous growth over the years.

The Proceedings of the inaugural function was conducted by Arif Haleem Khateeb ERO and Liaison Officer Sangam-2023.

A total of twenty five competitions viz Debate, Sketching, Clay Modelling, Photography, Athletics, Chess, Badminton for girls, Quiz, Painting, Marathon, Volleyball, Kabaddi and Cricket etc will be conducted during the five days of Youth Festival. Several educational and motivational lectures will be also delivered by various dignitaries including Rector, Bhardarwah Campus, University of Jammu.

Short Term Finishing Course by Jammu University for Government School Children concludes

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 7: The four-day short term finishing school organised by the Skill Development and Career Planning, SIIEDC, University of Jammu in collaboration with the Directorate of Social Welfare from 4th October concluded today. A composite group of girls and boys from various government schools who are residents of remodelled child care institutions Palash (Children's Home for Boys) and Parisha (Children's Home for Girls) in Jammu, Udhampur and Kathua were given training in life skills by various experts in the area.

Speaking on the occasion, Vivek Sharma, JKAS, Director General, Social Welfare Department, Jammu said that the department is committed to bringing wel-



fare measures for all the underprivileged sections of the society across gender, age groups and regions. She congratulated the University for taking lead in collaborating with the welfare department to bring the teaching and training resources to these children. She said it would make a tangible effect on their approach to life and success and expressed that more such collaborative programs shall be organised in the future. She also shared that

Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare Ms Sheetal Nanda is taking many path breaking initiatives to ensure the upliftment of all underprivileged sections of the society.

Prof Alka Sharma, Director SIIEDC shared that the University is actively engaging in providing skill training across the different sections of the society. She shared that many such initiatives are being undertaken by the University under the dynamic guidance of Prof

Umesh Rai, Vice chancellor Jammu University. She further stressed on the importance of such courses which are not only essential for honing one's personality but also emerge as important markers to attain employment at national and international levels. She expressed hope that SIIEDC shall continue to collaborate with the Social Welfare Department to bring these trainings to those most in need of it.

Dr Garima Gupta, Coordinator Skill Development and Career planning apprised the audience of the various activities that were taken up during the training. She shared that experts from Central University and freelance acclaimed trainers conducted the sessions for the students on various aspects of commu-

nication skills, confidence building, self-awareness, body language and public speaking. All the students actively participated in the activities and found the experience enriching and uplifting as they shared in their feedback and suggested that such programmes should be offered at regular intervals in the university campus.

The program concluded with the distribution of certificates to the participants and was well managed by Dr Jasleen Kaur, the co-coordinator of the course. The vote of thanks was presented by Dr Anil Gupta, Coordinator Entrepreneurship Development Vertical. Dr Shailu Sehgal, Associate Professor and member Skill Vertical and Sh Manoj Kumar JKAS, were among those present in the function.

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

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Fresh e-NIT No. 101 of 2023-24 Dated 05-10-2023
(Single Cover System)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (In lac)	Cost of defc (in)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time Allowed for completion	Class of Contractor	Head of Account
1.	Construction of Lane and Drain from the H/o Sanjeev Gupta to the H/o Sunny Singh in W.No.10, Katra (Under IDMT of MC Katra) (6 th time)	2.91	600	5820	30 days	D	IDMT of Municipality Katra
2.	Construction of Lane and Drain from the H/o Shanker Dass to Shankru W.No.10, Katra (Under IDMT of MC Katra) (5 th time)	1.99	600	3980	30 days	D	IDMT of Municipality Katra
3.	Construction of Lane and Drain from the H/o Khem Raj Raina to the H/o Vijay Raina , W.No.07, Katra (Under IDMT of MC Katra) (5 th time)	0.97	600	1940	30 days	D	IDMT of Municipality Katra
4.	Repair & Renovation of lane and drain with tile near shop of Jagdish Padha to G.H. School, W.no. 1, M.C Katra (10 th time)	2.48	600	4960	45 Days	D	UDS 2023-24
5.	Repair and Renovation of Drain near house of Ajay Gupta opposite Higher Secondary School, W.No. 06, Katra (9 th time)	0.90	600	1800	30 Days	D	Own Sources of Municipality Katra
6.	Repair and Renovation of Lane and Drain from house of Sat Paul to Banarsi Dass, W.No. 08. (9 th time)	1.74	600	3480	30 Days	D	Own Sources of Municipality Katra
7.	Repair and Renovation of Lane from Nathu Sweets to Hotel Holiday upto Bus Stand, W.No. 01. (8 th time)	2.15	600	4300	30 days	D	Own Sources of Municipality Katra
8.	Repair of Lane and gola upto house of Sh. Sansar Chand, W.No.12. (8 th time)	1.37	600	2740	30 days	D	Own Sources of Municipality Katra
9.	Repair of Lane from Gurudwara to backside of Hotel Vishal, W.No. 03. (8 th time)	2.60	600	5200	30 days	D	Own Sources of Municipality Katra

Position of AAA:- Recorded.
Position of T.S :- Recorded
Position of funds :- Available with Municipal Committee Katra
AA Issuing Authority :- Municipal Committee Katra
Project Authority :- Municipal Committee Katra

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

1	Date of Publishing of Tender Notice	06-10-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 06-10-2023 to 13-10-2023, 1700 Hrs
4	Bid submission Start Date	06-10-2023
5	Bid Submission End Date	13-10-2023 up to 1700 Hrs

6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	14-10-2023 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Katra.
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of **challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0659 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Katra** uploading a copy of treasury challan and **EMD/Bid Security in the shape of CBRTFDR (The date of Treasury Challan/ Bid Security/Affidavits between date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date) duly debited to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Katra** as mentioned in the bid documents.
- The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.
- The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division, Katra .
- The earnest money of the unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Treasury Challan.
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder need not make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential-submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **Financial-bids of Responsive bidders** shall be opened online in the **Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Katra** . The date for same shall be intimated separately.
- The bids for the work shall remain **valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids**.
- The bidder shall be disqualified from bidding for any contract with this office for a period of 03 Years from the date of notification, if :-**
 - Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period after issue of letter of acceptance.
 - In case contractor fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract. No:- 4837-42

Dated:- 05-10-2023
DIP/J-9201/23
(Er. Ashwani Kumar)
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Katra

EDITORIAL

MONETARY
ECONOMY

A monetary economy is one in which money is wildly used and accepted as a medium of exchange. It is a monetised economy.

Unlike in barter economy, in an organised market of a monetary economy, money buys goods and goods buy money but goods do not buy goods directly. In short, in a money economy goods are exchanged indirectly goods are sold for money and money purchases goods.

In a monetary economy, money serves as a means of payment. It is the general and permanent abode of purchasing power. Thus, all transactions are measured and recorded in terms of money.

Money serves as a unit of account in a monetary economy. Money being a common denominator of value, the price system has emerged as a distinct characteristic of monetary economy.

As compared to the barter system, exchange process is more efficiently organised in a monetary economy when money is used as a medium of exchange. The use of money in the process of exchange has far-reaching consequences when it reduces the amount of information required in concluding a transaction.

All the inconveniences of barter like want of double coincidence, want of a means of sub-division, want of efficient store of wealth etc., are automatically eliminated in a monetary economy, cost and time involved in searching for a double coincidence is saved.

Further, the use of money and consequent emergence of the price mechanism simplifies the process of transactions by condensing the complex signalling, mechanism of prices into simple assimilable forms of information.

Money serves as an indispensable factor of production in a monetary economy for enabling its output to increase and diversify. A higher level of output and more varieties of goods and services are enjoyable by the people in a monetary economy as compared to a barter economy.

Indeed, the flow of money and credit enables and encourages entrepreneurs to innovate and accelerate "the process of growth."

Monetary economy has a greater degree of liquidity than a barter economy. Money being the most liquid asset, it serves as a link between the present and the future in a monetary economy. There is an absence of any such link in a barter economy.

Further, unlike the barter system, a monetary economy contains banking institutions. There are commercial banks and the Central Bank as the apex financial institution.

There exists a capital market too for long-term credit activities. Credit is the edifice of modern commerce which rests on the institution of money, especially bank money.

A distinguished feature of a monetary economy is that it is covered with a veil of money. There is a circular flow of money side by side and corresponding to the real flow of economic transactions. In fact, there is a continuous flow of money payments and spending among households and the government sector of a modern monetary economy.

Money matters much in a modern capitalist economy. It is the embodiment of Adam Smith's "Invisible Hands". Money is the bloodstream of the organic composition of a modern monetary economy.

It serves as a great wheel of circulation and a great instrument of commerce. Every fabrication of the modern economic society in its present complex form may be attributed to money that has served as a means of valuing, distributing and contracting for commodities of various kinds. No doubt money has conferred inestimable benefits to modern man's living and progress.



By: Kanka Pandita

Like every year during these days, the prevalence of cases of Dengue fever remain very high particularly in Jammu and Kashmir. Although health authorities are taking adequate preventive measures to reduce this incidence but it continues unabated primarily due to lack of its awareness in the public to encourage its prevention rather than to cure it.

This mosquito borne viral disease spreading like a wildfire during monsoon season and dying down with season change which this year it seems otherwise. Dengue can be cured with proper medical treatment but this time hospitalization

BEWARE OF DENGUE

rate due to it seems to be increasingly high. At present there are no vaccines available against it or nor any specific medicines for treating this infection precisely. Dengue fever spears no one

Transmitted from the bite of a mosquito, basically Dengue infection not contagious and does not spread from touch or sneeze but one should remain careful around people infected with it. With flue like symptoms lasting for 5 to 10 days depending upon the health status of an individual, it is clinically expressed mostly in three phases. Firstly its febrile phase showing high fever for 2 to 3 days followed by critical phase lasting for next 3 to 4 days which is quite severe mainly causing plasma leakage from blood arteries in to bodily cavities like abdomen or chest and finally ending up by convalescent phase that is actually a recovery period.

Five important symptoms of Dengue infection are persistent high fever, severe headache, tendency to vomit, rashes and pain behind eyes, at joints etc. It is clinically diagnosed after proper laboratory investigatory tests. Only alarming condition during dengue infection is sudden drop in platelet count from normal range of 1,50,000 to 4,50,000 to as low as 50,000 platelets per microliter of blood. It is easily treatable and not at all fatal but it is always important to get it checked instead of self-diagnosing it. Second time infection of Dengue must be taken seriously as it is comparatively dangerous and requires hospitalization because immunity produced by the body against this infection is only short lived.

Treatment of a dengue infection varies from person to person mainly depending upon the individual health status of infected person,

involves healthy balanced vitamin C rich diet which should also include fruits, green vegetables and fluids like coconut water besides symptomatic medicines as prescribed by the medical practitioner. Some herbal dietary elements those act as immunity boosters have also shown encouraging results in handling dengue cases.

Avoid mosquito bites by using insect repellents, using mosquito nets, wearing protective full sleeved clothes, dismantling water storages in and around homes to reduce mosquito habitation, proper aeration and ventilation, undertaking regular fogging exercises are some of the important steps one can easily take to prevent the spread of dengue infection so as to make our society dengue free.

(Author is a columnist and influencer studying medicine at NCR - Delhi)

To Enhance Your Public Speaking Skills



By: Vijay GarG

Public speaking is a valuable skill that can open doors to numerous opportunities in both personal and professional life. Whether you're giving a presentation at work, speaking at a social event, or addressing a large audience, improving your public speaking skills can boost your confidence and effectiveness as a communicator.

Becoming a proficient public speaker is achievable with dedication and practice. Whether you're a seasoned speaker looking to refine your skills or a novice starting from scratch, these seven

strategies will help you build confidence and become a more effective communicator.

Practice, Practice, Practice:

The adage "practice makes perfect" holds true for public speaking. Regularly practicing your speeches or presentations allows you to become more comfortable with the material and delivery. Practice in front of a mirror, record yourself, or rehearse with friends and family to gain valuable feedback.

Master Your Material:

Knowing your content inside and out is essential. Understand the topic thoroughly, and organize your speech logically with a clear beginning, middle, and end. This familiarity will make it easier to handle questions or unexpected situations during your presentation.

Overcome Nervous-

ness:

It's normal to feel nervous before speaking in public, but learning to manage those nerves is crucial. Try deep breathing exercises, visualization techniques, or mindfulness to calm your anxiety. Remember, a little nervousness can be a positive energy boost.

Engage Your Audience:

Captivate your audience by making your presentation interactive. Use anecdotes, ask questions, and encourage participation when appropriate. Engaging with your audience creates a connection and keeps them interested in what you have to say.

Work on Your Body Language:

Non-verbal communication plays a significant role in public speaking. Maintain good posture, make eye contact with your audience, and use gestures and facial

expressions to emphasize key points. A confident demeanor can enhance your credibility.

Use Visual Aids Wisely: Visual aids, such as slides or props, can enhance your presentation, but use them sparingly and effectively. Ensure that your visuals complement your speech rather than overshadow it. Avoid cramming too much information onto slides and maintain a clear, concise design.

Seek Constructive Feedback:

Continuously improving your public speaking skills requires feedback. After each presentation, ask for constructive criticism from peers, mentors, or even your audience. Use their input to identify areas for improvement and refine your skills.

(Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational columnist Malout Punjab)

Civil Defence organizes workshop on 'Role of Educational Institutions in DM & CD'

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 7: The Civil Defence, Jammu, in collaboration with the Directorate of Homeguards, CD & SDRF J&K, Jammu, successfully organized a One-Day Workshop at the Civil Defence Control Room. The workshop focused on the theme "Role of Educational Institutions in Disaster Management & Civil Defence" and saw enthusiastic participation from NSS Students representing various colleges.

Dr. S.K Pandita, Head of the Department of Disaster Management at the University of Jammu, graced the event as the chief guest. The welcome address and introductory speech were delivered by Deputy Superintendent of Police Anita Pawar, Deputy Controller Civil



Defence, Jammu. During her speech, she acknowledged the cooperation of the College authorities in hosting the workshop and encouraged all NSS students to actively engage in serving their communities during both man-made and natural disasters. The workshop, held at the Conference Hall of the Civil Defence Con-

rol Room in Jammu, witnessed the participation of approximately 70 students. Distinguished speakers at the event included Dr. Ronika Sharma, Professor & Head of the School of Education at MIER College of Education, Jammu, and Dr. S. K Pandita, the chief guest and a notable speaker, who presented their insights on the work-

shop's topic. Furthermore, the event was graced by the presence of Professor Mala Bhasin, Head of the Botany Department at Govt. Degree College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, Dr. Mohd Majeed, NSS Program Officer at Govt. Degree College for Women, Parade Ground Jammu, and Dr. Gurpreet Kour, NSS Program

Officer at Govt. Women Degree College Parade Ground Jammu. To express appreciation and gratitude, mementos were presented to the esteemed speakers and participant colleges. R. Vijay Magotra, Deputy Chief Warden of Civil Defence Jammu, extended a vote of thanks to all participants, concluding the successful event.

Significant Ekadashi Fast: Indira Ekadashi to bring spiritual significance on Oct 10: Rohit Shastri

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, OCT 7: In a spiritually significant event, the revered Indira Ekadashi fast is approaching on Tuesday, October 10, 2023. Falling within the Ashwin Krishna Paksha, this Ekadashi holds deep importance for devotees seeking divine blessings. Mahant Rohit Shastri Jyotishacharya, President of Shri Kailash Jyotish and Vedic Sanathan Trust, underlined the sanctity of this auspicious day.

Indira Ekadashi is a special occasion in the religious calendar, allowing devotees to invoke blessings from Lord Vishnu and pay homage to their ancestors. Fasting on this day is believed to purify the soul and alleviate the suffering of one's forebears in the afterlife. Particularly significant during Pitru Paksha, a



fortnight dedicated to honoring ancestors, this fast carries profound spiritual benefits. Mahant Rohit Shastri Jyotishacharya explained that by observing the Indira Ekadashi fast, devotees can attain spiritual benefits such as the absolution of sins and liberation of their ancestors. This fast encourages individuals to transcend material desires, fostering a life guided by religious principles and ultimately leading to salvation. Observing Ekadashi involves the discipline of mind, senses, and behavior, emphasizing the importance of

balance in life. It is a practice open to both men and women, with guidelines encompassing physical and mental purity.

On Ekadashi, devotees chant the mantra "Om Namo Vasudevaya" and commit to living a life of purity and righteousness. Beyond its religious significance, Ekadashi fasting promotes mental and physical health by encouraging self-restraint and rejuvenation.

During Ekadashi, it is essential to abstain from Tamasic foods, practice celibacy, avoid alcohol, and refrain from cutting hair and nails. Wearing leather items and black-colored clothing is discouraged, and harming others is considered a grave transgression.

Observing Ekadashi is not only an act of devotion but also an opportunity for spiritual growth and personal well-being.

Yoga Camp at National Model Academy Smart High School promotes health, awareness among students

TOP NEWS REPORT

MAJALTA, Oct 7: A yoga camp was organized at the National Model Academy Smart High School, Kail Pardai, with the primary objective of promoting awareness about yoga among students. The camp featured various yoga techniques and exercises aimed at enhancing the physical and mental well-being of the participants.

Yoga instructor, Yash Pal Khajuria, enlightened the students about various yoga asanas and pranayams, emphasizing their numerous benefits. He emphasized that yoga is a holistic approach to maintaining harmony within the body. The program commenced with the traditional chanting of Om and the



Gayatri Mantra. School Principal, Rajrani Sambyal, delivered an insightful session to the children, explaining the intricacies of yoga and elaborating on its physical, mental, and spiritual advantages. Dr. Neeraj Kesar, the school's administrative officer, highlighted the importance of yoga in main-

taining good health. He stressed that practicing yoga regularly contributes to both physical and mental development, making it the simplest route to overall well-being. The yoga camp saw active participation from all the teachers and non-teaching staff of the school, who joined the students in various

yoga exercises. Dr. Neeraj Kesar encouraged all participants to incorporate yoga into their daily routines for a healthier and more balanced life. The event served as an enriching opportunity for students to gain insights into the ancient practice of yoga and its profound benefits for the mind and body.

Symposium, Debate Competition at GMHSS Chatroo promotes wildlife conservation

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Oct 7: Govt Model Hr Sec School Chatroo, in collaboration with the Wildlife Department Range Chenab, recently organized a symposium and debate competition centered around the theme of "The Need for Wildlife Conservation." The event was meticulously supervised and managed by Irfan Ahmad, Lecturer in Sociology, and Naseer Ahmad, Senior Lecturer in Urdu, along with a dedicated team comprising Javid Ahmed (Teacher), Mr. Sanjeet (Senior Lecturer in Chemistry), Manoj Badyal (Senior Lecturer in Physics), Rafia Majid (Senior Lecturer in Education), and other supporting staff.

The occasion commenced with a warm welcome extended to



the Wildlife Department's distinguished guests, delivered by Lecturer Irfan Ahmad. The event featured active student participation in both painting and symposium competitions, where students passionately expressed their views on the importance of wildlife conservation.

The competition witnessed exceptional talent, and the following students were recognized for their outstand-

ing contributions: In the Symposium Competition, first prize was bagged by Jaffar Hussain, Class 11, second and third prizes were bagged by Sadia Rashid and Rahul Kumar respectively. In the Painting Competition: First Prize was bagged by Rayees Ahmed, Class 9, second and third prizes were bagged by Maimona Banoo, Class 9 and Maroofa Banoo Wani, Class 10 respectively.

Throughout the event, students demonstrated their enthusiasm and dedication in advocating for wildlife conservation. They highlighted the numerous advantages of preserving wildlife and emphasized the urgency of this crucial endeavor.

The Range Officer of Wildlife, while addressing the gathering, shared valuable suggestions on conserving the diverse flora and fauna of the region. Sanjeet Sharma also addressed the audience, emphasizing the importance of wildlife preservation.

The event concluded with Naseer, Senior Lecturer in Urdu, extending a vote of thanks to all participants and attendees, acknowledging their vital role in making the symposium and debate competition a resounding success.

Delegations from Senior leaders call on JDU Party President to address public issues

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Oct 7: In a proactive move to address the concerns of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, a delegation led by JDU State General Secretary Vivek Bali and District President Jammu Raj Kumar met with Party President G M Shaheen today. During the meeting, they discussed various organizational matters and brought to his attention the pressing issues faced by different segments of society in the region.

The delegation of Senior Leaders, under the leadership of Vivek Bali and Raj Kumar, expressed their concerns about the proposed reorganization of assembly constituencies. They emphasized that the recommendations lack logic and could adversely affect the electors at large, with specific implications for certain communities.

Party President G M Shaheen acknowledged the concerns raised by the delega-



tions and called upon them to strengthen the party's presence at the grassroots level by intensifying their mass outreach programs. He emphasized that the Janata Dal United is a mass movement with a longstanding history in Jammu and Kashmir. The party has consistently weathered challenges and remains committed to serving the people, striving for a dignified life for all, regardless of caste, creed, region, or religion.

Vivek Bali, in his remarks, urged party cadres to enhance their public outreach and maintain active politi-

cal engagement within their respective areas. He stated, "I urge you to remain active and strongly connected with the grassroots. Our primary responsibility is to serve the people by ensuring that their issues and grievances are effectively communicated to the relevant authorities for swift resolution."

The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment from the Janata Dal United to address the concerns of the people and to work diligently towards creating a more inclusive and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir.

Team Mask Force Chairman applauds Govt's decision to withhold Imposition of Property Tax

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 7: Team Mask Force Chairman, Vijay Sharma, issued a press release today expressing his warm appreciation for the decision taken by the Jammu and Kashmir Government to suspend the imposition of Property Tax across JKUT. Sharma commended the administration for heeding the appeals made by various organizations within JKUT and acknowledged the dedication of LG Manoj Sinha in prioritizing the concerns and aspirations of the people.

Sharma called upon LG Manoj Sinha to initiate a comprehensive dialogue involving all relevant stakeholders to address the issue of Property Tax in JKUT. He emphasized the importance of formulating a well-considered policy on Property Tax through extensive consultations with all concerned parties. Sharma believes that this inclusive approach will not only benefit the regions but also contribute to their overall develop-



ment and prosperity.

In addition, Team Mask Force Chairman Vijay Sharma welcomed LG Manoj Sinha's decision to address the concerns of individuals who have received erroneous and inflated bills in JKUT. He highlighted the plight of numerous individuals who have been adversely affected by these inaccuracies, causing undue hardship to them and their families.

Sharma expressed his optimism that the government's willingness to engage with the public and rectify issues related to Property Tax will strengthen the bond of trust between the administration and the people of JKUT. He reiterated his commitment to working collaboratively with all stakeholders to ensure a fair and just resolution to this matter.

Master Kuldeep Singer apologise for his misconduct during Jagran at RS Pura



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 7: Mahant Rajesh Bittu, Chairman of Religious Tourism and Heritage Cultural, along with Master Kuldeep Singer, clarified the circumstances leading up to the uproar caused by the viral video from a Jagrata event in RS Pura. He explained that the video came to his attention after being viewed by Rajesh Gupta of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, who subsequently contacted him to take cognizance of the situation. In response to this, they initiated necessary actions to address the issue.

Mahant Bittu shared that during the Jagrata event, some individuals

requested the singer to perform a song, which ultimately led to the video of a person dancing to that song going viral. He emphasized the importance of respecting religious sentiments and urged all organizers of religious programs, including Jagratas, to maintain the dignity and sanctity of such events.

Master Kuldeep, the singer involved in the video, expressed his deep regret for any offense caused to religious beliefs. He clarified that he had no intention of disrespecting the religion and stressed that he himself is a devout follower. He explained that he was compelled by some

individuals to sing the particular song, which resulted in the video going viral.

Sahil Mahajan, Managing Director of Maa Bawe Wali Records, who was also present at the press conference, emphasized the need for vigilance to prevent such incidents from occurring in the future.

The press conference was attended by several dignitaries, including Sahil Mahajan (Managing Director, Maa Bawe Wali Records), Sonu Taneja (CMD Skkrda Event India), V Kaith (Music Director and President of Saaz aur Awaz Association), Darshan Pataka (Jagran Association President), and Ved Raj (Singer).

Amitabh Bachchan is 'scared' of wife Jaya Bachchan, says 'she's stricter with me'

Veteran Bollywood mega-star Amitabh Bachchan, who is known for sharing personal anecdotes on the show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati', opened up on how his wife and actress Jaya Bachchan is strict towards him, saying he is scared of her.

In episode 40 of the 15th season of the quiz-based reality show, host Big B welcomed Jaya Patel from Simga, Chhattisgarh to the hot seat.

Talking to the contestant, Amitabh said: "So, you're a teacher. Well, a teacher, how are they? Are they strict, lenient?"

She replied: "Sir, I'm strict while teaching. But I have two names. I'm Juhi and Jaya. So, when I'm Jaya, I'm strict. And when I'm Juhi, I'm normal. Sir, I had a question too."

The actor said: "I know what



you're going to ask."

The contestant laughed and asked: "Sir, how has your experience with the name Jaya been?", referring to Jaya Bachchan.

To this, the 'Sholay' actor said:

"Well, my experience... (goes speechless)... It's Jay-Ju. She's strict and lenient too."

"I'm saved. I have to go home. I don't want to be thrashed. So, when she's strict it's better if you stay in. Stay locked in your

room or go out for a while. When she's lenient, it's great. That's how she is towards her kids and everyone else," said the 80-year-old actor.

He further said: "She's stricter with me. Why did you ask me this? When I will watch this show with her, she will scold me."

"It scares me so I don't talk much about my personal life," added Amitabh.

Jaya Bachchan is an MP in Rajya Sabha from the Samajwadi Party. She is known for movies like 'Sholay', 'Chupke Chupke', 'Kora Kagaz' and 'Silsila' amongst others.

She was recently seen in the romantic drama 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani', starring Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt in the lead. 'Kaun Banega Crorepati 15' airs on Sony.

Emma Stone says starring in silent movie is her 'favourite thing'



Actress Emma Stone wants to make a silent movie when the Hol-

lywood strikes are over. The 34-year-old actress features in

director Yorgos Lanthimos' new 30-minute short film Bleat, which has no dialogue and is accompanied by a live music ensemble and full chorus. Emma admitted it was a 'dream come true'.

"I'm being serious. It's my favourite thing to not have to speak. I often think we could cut many lines of dialogues because I think people can say a lot more without speaking," she said at New York Film Festival for the film's premiere. Stone and Lanthimos were able to discuss the project due to an interim agreement amid the SAG-AFTRA strike.

Paris Hilton's memoir to be adapted into TV series

American socialite-model Paris Hilton's memoir has been taken up by network A24 for a TV series adaptation. Elle Fanning and Dakota Fanning are attached to executive produce the series under their Lewellen Pictures banner. No writer or actor is currently on board the project.

Hilton, the heir to the Hilton Hotel fortune, started out as a model and eventually moved into TV with the hit reality series The Simple Life. She also released the album Paris in 2006 and previously published the book Confessions of an Heir-



ess. Her acting credits include House of Wax

and Repo! The Genetic Opera.

With the release of Mission Raniganj: The Great Bharat Rescue, people of the Holy City recall the courageous act of engineer Jaswant Singh Gill

Celebrating the real-life hero, Amritsar-based engineer late Jaswant Singh Gill's story of courage and determination, several Amritsarites will be hosting special screening of the film Mission Raniganj: The Great Bharat Rescue, which was released in theatres on Friday. Starring Akshay Kumar, the biopic is based on the true life events of Er Jaswant Singh Gill, who single-handedly saved the lives of 65 coal miners trapped in a mine in Raniganj, West Bengal, in 1989. While very few might know that he received the President's



Medal for his feat, the film turned his story into

a cinematic experience. Akshay Kumar held

a special screening of the film a day before its release in Mumbai, which was attended by Er Jaswant Singh Gill's family, including his son Dr SS Gill. "It was overwhelming to see the response, as we received a standing ovation by all present. There were members of the film fraternity, CBFC and others, who had never heard about him and were completely bowled over by his story," shared Dr Gill.

The screening was also attended by Twinkle Khanna, Ritesh and Genelia Deshmukh, among others. Dr SS Gill shared that among

the attendees were some of the survivors of the Raniganj rescue mission and their families. Anand Paswan, one of the miners who was rescued in the operation, shared his emotional response after the screening of the film. "It was almost as if we were reliving the entire experience through the film. To watch what happened with us during those hours on screen was a very emotional experience and we are eternally grateful to Er saab (Jaswant Singh Gill), who made sure no one was left behind," he said.

Singer Madonna pokes fun at Pope Francis with hoodie design

After a string of run-ins with Catholicism, Queen of Pop Madonna has poked fun at the Pope by wearing a hoodie showing him with flaming wings.

In a nod to her famous quote 'I would like to see the Pope wearing my t-shirt', Madonna has been sporting a black hoodie embroidered with an image of the Catholic leader wearing a Madonna-branded robe with the red in the picture inspired by the Jewish mysticism movement Kabbalah.

The top was custom designed by Seks and also shows Pope Fran-

cis with a set of flaming wings!

The fashion choice follows Madonna's 2022 request for a meeting with the Pope, which appears to have never happened. The Like a Virgin singer has had her ups and downs with Catholicism over the years, with her behaviour deemed 'blasphemous' by the church after she strapped herself to a cross and wore a crown of thorns during a 2006 performance in Rome.

On behalf of then Pope Benedict XVI, the late Cardinal Ersilio Tonini said, "This is a blasphemous



challenge to the faith and a profanation of the cross. She should be excommunicated." Madonna's controversial 1989 music video for Like a Prayer was banned by the Vatican for its burning crosses and erotic depiction of Jesus with Pope John Paul II urging her fans to boycott her 'Blond Ambition' tour in the wake of the promo's release. The mum-of-six has been busy rehearsing for her much-hyped Celebration Tour, which was postponed after she was hospitalised over the summer with a bacterial infection.

Dia Mirza learnt how to ride a bike at 40



Actress and beauty queen Dia Mirza revealed how her upcoming project pushed her to forget about her fears of riding a bike.

She actually learnt it at the age of 40! Recalling her childhood, Dia shared, "As a child, I would hold my father tight as he rode his bike and feel the wind in my face, and dream of riding a bike someday."

The actress said, "When I was offered this role in my upcoming film, I knew I would finally get to live my dream of riding a bike."

Kim Kardashian used sex hotline to prank men as a teenager

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian loved to prank men using a sex hotline when she was a teenager.

The 42-year-old reality star revealed that she and her sister Kourtney Kardashian, 44, would go to a local mall when they were growing up and use the phone to contact random men through an adult hotline only to stand them up and take random photos of them, reports ace-showbiz.com.

"We would talk to these guys, we were like 15, and then they would be like, 'Ok, yeah. Meet me at Blockbuster at the mall.' We'd see the poor guy, stand him up, and we'd take a Polaroid. We had a book of Polaroids of these guys that



we would stand up at the mall," Kim said on this week's episode of 'The Kardashians'.

She then got in touch with her sister to see if she could remember the hotline she used and after Kourtney recited the number from memory, Kim decided to give them a call.

A voice could be heard saying, "This is (censored), where naughty is nice" and Kim was connected to a random man via the chatline.

Kim said: "Hi, this is Samantha," and learned that the stranger lived in Ventura County but could not get his name. The reality star then hung up the phone but was seen jotting down the number for future reference.

Tara Sutaria shares 'A whole new world' for Guy Ritchie's 'Aladdin', fans are impressed



Tara Sutaria has won the hearts of netizens with her latest Instagram post. The actor showcased her sing-

ing skills and her voice is winning praise from industry friends and fans alike. Tara posted a video

where she is seen singing 'A whole new world' from Disney film 'Aladdin'.

The actress had auditioned for the part of Jasmine in Disney's live action film 'Aladdin' before she made her Hindi debut.

In the caption she wrote, "Found a video of me singing A Whole New World for Disney's live action version of Aladdin! I was selected for the role of Princess Jasmine (along with beautiful Naomi Scott who played her eventually) and rehearsed for the songs and scenes for a few months in London with the wonderful Disney team and the enormously funny Guy Ritchie who directed the picture."

This was just a year prior to my first Hindi film's release!"

Arman Malik to Lisa Laydon to Kishu Shroff all praised Tara on her singing ability in the comments section along with many other fans and impressed netizens. Armaan Malik said, "People need to know more about Tara - the singer!", while Lisa Haydon wrote, "You suit this so much beautiful voice", whereas Kishu Shroff said, "A real life Princess."

Tara Sutaria started her journey with Disney, becoming its ambassador in India.

From dancing to singing to acting to cooking, the actor loves to surprise her fans on social media with her videos showcases her many talents.

On the work front, Tara is all set to be seen in her solo lead thriller, 'Aurva'.

'Momentous achievement': PM Modi hails India winning 100 medals at Asian Games

NEW DELHI, Oct 7 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday lauded India's performance at the Asian Games in China's Hangzhou as it clinched a historic 100 medals. Congratulating the athletes who brought laurels to India, PM Modi said their performance at the games was awe-inspiring.

"A momentous achievement for India at the Asian Games! The people of India are thrilled that we have reached a remarkable milestone of 100 medals. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to our phenomenal athletes whose efforts have led to this historic milestone for India," he said in a tweet.

PM Modi also said he looked forward to hosting the Asian Games



contingent on October 10, where he will interact with the athletes.

India, today, achieved a historic tally of 100 medals, including 25 gold, 35 silver and 40 bronze.

This morning, the Indian contingent won three back-to-back gold medals in archery and women's kabaddi to take the country's medal tally past the triple-figure mark.

Archers Jyothi

Vennam and Praveen Ojas won gold in their respective individual compound events, while the women's kabaddi team defeated Chinese Taipei in a thrilling final match to take the yellow medal and make it 100 for India.

In the 2018 Asian Games, India won a total of 70 medals in Jakarta-Palembang. This time, at Hangzhou, they went a notch higher, touching the three-figure mark.

Government forced 'digitalisation' in MGNREGA, using it as tool to discourage demand: Congress



NEW DELHI, Oct 7 (Agencies): The Congress on Saturday alleged that the Narendra Modi government has "forced digitalisation" in MGNREGA in the name of transparency, using it as a tool to discourage demand for the programme among those who genuinely need the scheme.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh's attack on the government came after a media report claimed that six months into the financial year, the flagship rural employment programme, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), has run out of funds.

In a post on X, Ramesh said that on the one hand, 48 per cent of all vehicle

sales in India between April and Sept this financial year were of SUVs, and in the same six-month period, Rs.60,000 crore budgeted under MGNREGA for the whole year has been exhausted.

"This not only clearly indicates the deepening rural distress and rising inequality across the country, but also demonstrates the Modi government's priorities which is indirectly suppressing demand for MGNREGA work by inordinately delaying wage payments," Ramesh said.

"To make matters worse, the Modi government has forced digitalisation in the name of transparency, while actually using it as a tool to discourage demand for MGNREGA among those who genuinely need the programme," he alleged.

Congress last week accused the Centre of carrying out a 'planned euthanasia' of MGNREGS by 'inordinately delaying' the funding of social audits, claiming this results in compromising the process, which is used by the government to deny funds to the states.

"Give False Promises, Assume Power, Then...": Anurag Thakur Attacks Congress

NEW DELHI, Oct 7 (Agencies): Union minister Anurag Thakur has hit out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, alleging that his model of giving "false" promises to assume power and then not fulfilling the guarantees has failed in the states ruled by the grand old party.

His criticism comes in the wake of Rahul Gandhi and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, during their recent visits to poll-bound Madhya Pradesh, giving several guarantees if their party is voted to power in the state.

The Congress has announced free and subsidised power, implementation of the old pension scheme, farm loan waiver, 1,500 per month to women and some other guarantees.

"These guarantees failed in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, they (Congress leaders) are not able to show their face there. There was an outcry in Madhya Pradesh when their government was in power," Thakur told reporters on Friday night here in response to a question.



He alleged that the Congress government in these states failed to waive farm loans and provide unemployment allowance as announced by the party earlier.

"They only come to give a lollipop and false guarantees during elections. In Himachal Pradesh, they gave a guarantee of transferring 1,500 per month into every woman's bank account, but not a single rupee was given even after 10 months," Thakur said while citing other promises like purchase of cow-dung and giving employment.

The Congress governments in Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka have stopped spending money on development, he said.

"I want to ask Rahul

Gandhi - what model is this? Give false guarantees and get power, then don't fulfil the guarantees and also stop development. This model of Rahul Gandhi has failed," the Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting said.

Thakur, who is also the Youth Affairs and Sports Minister, congratulated the Indian men's hockey team for winning a gold medal in the Asian Games, and said this is the highest number of medals won by the country in these games.

The Indian contingent claimed the unprecedented 100th medal at the Asian Games as the women's kabaddi team beat the Chinese Taipei 26-25 in a thrilling encounter, an achievement hailed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Swaminathan narrowed gap between scientific knowledge and its practical application; was true 'kisan vaigyanik': PM Modi

NEW DELHI, Oct 7 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi has described Green Revolution pioneer M S Swaminathan, who died recently, as a true "kisan vaigyanik" (farmers' scientist) for the impact his work has had in the farm fields outside the laboratories.

In a tribute, Modi said the renowned agronomist narrowed the gap between scientific knowledge and its practical application.

"A lot of people call him a 'krishi vaigyanik' — an agricultural scientist. But, I have always believed that he was even more. He was a true 'kisan vaigyanik' — a farmers' scientist. In his heart there was a farmer," he said.

Citing the famous Tamil book 'Kural' to pay respects to Swaminathan, Modi said, "It is written there that 'If those who have planned have firmness, they will attain what they have desired the way they have desired.' Here was a stalwart who decided early on in his life that he wants to strengthen agriculture and serve farmers." The book describes farmers as the pin that holds the world together because it is the farmers who sustain everyone and Swaminathan understood this principle very well, Modi said.

Lauding his vision, the Prime Minister said the world is today



talking about millets as super foods but he had encouraged discourse around millets since the 1990s and emphasised on the need for sustainable farming and the delicate balance between human advancement and ecological sustainability.

Swaminathan put special emphasis on improving the lives of small farmers and ensuring that they also enjoy the fruits of innovation, Modi said, adding that he was particularly passionate about improving the lives of women farmers.

The Prime Minister also recalled his personal association with Swaminathan after he took over as Gujarat Chief Minister in 2001 when the state was not known for its agricultural prowess, with droughts, super cyclone and earthquake impacting its growth trajectory.

Swaminathan appreciated the

state's initiatives like the soil health card and gave valuable inputs, Modi said.

"His endorsement was enough to convince those who were sceptical about the scheme which would eventually set the stage for Gujarat's agricultural success," he said.

Swaminathan was offered a faculty position in the US but he rejected it as he wanted to work in and for India, Modi said.

In the challenging circumstances the country faced such as food shortages, Swaminathan stood as a colossus, guiding the nation towards the path of self-sufficiency and self-confidence, the Prime Minister said.

In the early 1960s, India was grappling with the ominous shadows of famine and it is then that Swaminathan's unyielding commitment and foresight ushered a new era of agricultural prosperity, he said.

His pioneering work in agriculture and specific sectors such as wheat-breeding led to a significant increase in wheat production, thus turning India from a food-deficient to a self-sufficient nation, earning him the well-deserved title of "Father of the Indian Green Revolution", the Prime Minister said.

"Five decades after the Green Revolution began, Indian agriculture has become far more modern and progressive. But

the very foundations laid by Prof. Swaminathan can never be forgotten," he said, while lauding his pioneering research in combating parasites affecting potato crops.

Modi said he also stands tall as a paragon of innovation and mentorship and when he won the World Food Prize in 1987, he used the prize money to establish a not-for-profit research foundation.

"He has nurtured countless minds, instilling in them a passion for learning and innovation. In a rapidly changing world, his life reminds us of the enduring power of knowledge, mentorship, and innovation. He was an institution builder as well," the Prime Minister said.

"We must also keep reaffirming our commitment to the principles he held dear, championing the cause of farmers and ensuring the fruits of scientific innovation reach the roots of our agricultural expanse, fostering growth, sustainability, and prosperity for generations to come," he added.

Swaminathan (98) passed away on September 28 at his residence in Chennai.

He was a recipient of Padma Shri in 1967, Padma Bhushan (1972) and Padma Vibushan (1989). He was a nominated member of Rajya Sabha during 2007-2013.

BRO to employ drones for faster, accurate geological survey in road construction projects

CHANDIGARH, Oct 7 (Agencies): The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) will be employing specially equipped drones to carry out geological surveys in mountainous regions for undertaking road construction works.

A requirement has been projected for reconnaissance and survey drones to provide a soft strata heat map of different sediment types and bedrock, along with likely slide-prone zones, to enable more accurate survey and planning of road alignments.

The drones, along with their sensors and data collection and analysis paraphernalia, will be developed indigenously by the industry and the requirement has been listed in the 10th edition of the Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC) issued by the Ministry of Defence this

week.

According to the DISC statement, BRO is involved in construction of roads on green field alignments. During initial surveys in thick vegetation, it is difficult to identify the rock strata and slide-prone areas.

A drone-based application to ascertain geological data and slide-prone areas will enable more accurate assessment of the requirement at the state of formulating the detailed project report (DPR).

Drone-based geological survey will become an inherent part of the DPR process and will be used extensively during selection of alignment and avoiding hard rock and slide-prone stretches to enable faster construction, the statement adds.

Mandated to develop infrastructure in border regions and remote



areas, BRO has since its inception in 1960, constructed more than 55,000 kilometres of roads, over 450 permanent bridges with a total length of over 44,000 metres and 19 airfields. It is also responsible for regular road maintenance and snow clearance.

BRO is engaged in massive developmental works in frontier areas in the northern as well as north-eastern sectors. In September, the defence minister had inaugurated 90 infra-

structural projects in 11 states and union territories along the Indo-China border, which include roads, bridges and tunnels.

Border infrastructure development got an impetus after the border clashes with China in eastern Ladakh in 2020. In the past three years BRO has completed around 300 projects valued at approximately Rs 8,000 crore. Another 60 projects are expected to be completed shortly.

Greater emphasis is

also being made on construction of tunnels under mountain passes that remain closed for months during winters due to heavy snow. Tunnels are the most cost effective and efficient means to ensure year-round connectivity.

In the first 60 years of its existence, BRO had constructed just two tunnels. However, in the last three years alone, four strategic tunnels have been completed and another 10 are expected to be complete within 1-2 years.

New construction techniques, materials and methodology is also being explored by the BRO. This includes 3D printing for constructing buildings, which is faster and longer lasting. The world's largest 3D constructed accommodation project is being executed by BRO in Chandigarh.

NewsClick rejects allegations levelled in FIR against it as untenable, bogus

NEW DELHI, Oct 7 (Agencies): The NewsClick portal has rejected as untenable and bogus allegations levelled in a Delhi Police FIR against it, and said the proceedings initiated are "nothing but a blatant attempt to muzzle the free and independent press in India".

In an FIR filed under the anti-terror law UAPA against NewsClick, the Delhi Police has alleged a large sum of funds came from China to disrupt India's sovereignty and cause disaffection against the country as part of a "larger criminal conspiracy".

It claimed the foreign fund was fraudulently infused by Neville Roy Singham, an active member of the propaganda department of the Communist Party of China. The Delhi Police sent a copy of the FIR to the portal on Friday.



On X on Friday night, the portal said, "NewsClick has not received any funding or instructions from China or Chinese entities. Further, NewsClick has never committed or sought to encourage violence, secession or any illegal act in any manner whatsoever.

"A perusal of NewsClick's coverage, which is freely available online, should be sufficient to indicate the veracity of NewsClick's claims."

It said that NewsClick has full faith in the judicial system of the country and is confident that

its stand will be vindicated.

On Monday, the Delhi Police arrested NewsClick founder and editor-in-chief Prabir Purkayastha and its HR head Amit Chakravarty after raids at nearly 88 locations related to premises of portal and its journalists.

"The allegations in the FIR, apart from being ex facie untenable and bogus, have been made time and again, in investigations by three government agencies — the Enforcement Directorate, the Economic

Offences Wing, Delhi Police, and the income tax department," it said.

It said that none of these investigations led to any chargesheets or complaints over the last three years.

In the statement, the portal said that Purkayastha was granted interim protection in these investigations, and the latest FIR has been registered only to circumvent this and carry out "illegal arrests" under the draconian UAPA.

The portal also said Purkayastha was supplied with a copy of the FIR registered by the Delhi Police Special Cell only on Thursday night pursuant to the directions of the Special Judge, Patiala House.

"We immediately moved the High Court of Delhi seeking quashing of the FIR as well as release of Prabir Purkayastha and Amit

Chakravarty from their illegal police custody," it said.

The Delhi Police had registered an FIR under section sections 13, 16, 17, 18 and 22C of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, and 153A, and 120B of the IPC and arrested Purkayastha and human resources head for allegedly receiving foreign funds from China to disrupt India's sovereignty and cause disaffection against the country.

The Delhi Police, meanwhile, is likely to question ten people who are named in the FIR on Monday. This includes senior journalists of the news clicks and contributors.

Police officials said they have called another set of people allegedly connected to the case. At least 20 people have already been over Thursday and Friday.

5000 rockets fired from Gaza strip, Israeli army declares a state of war alert

The Israeli military confirmed an infiltration had occurred in several locations near the Gaza border in southern Israel. It ordered residents to remain indoors.

JERUSALEM, Oct 7 (Agencies): Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip carried out an unprecedented infiltration Saturday into southern Israel and fired thousands of rockets into the country as the ruling Hamas militant group announced the beginning of a new operation.

More than 5,000 rockets were fired from the Gaza Strip into Israel on Saturday, Hamas' armed wing said, declaring it had started "Operation Al-Aqsa Flood".

"We decided to put an end to all the crimes of the occupation (Israel), their time for rampaging without being held accountable is over," the group said.

"We announce Operation Al-Aqsa Flood and we fired, in the first strike of 20 minutes, more than 5,000 rockets."

The Israeli army sounded sirens in Jerusalem after a barrage of rockets was fired from the blockaded Gaza Strip into Israel on Saturday, AFP journalists reported.

The rocket fire that started earlier in the day killed at least one person, a woman in her 60s, in southern Israel and wounded 15 others, according to medics.

Hundreds of residents in the Gaza Strip fled their homes to move away from the border with Israel after barrages of rockets were fired from the coastal enclave into Israel, an agency correspondent reported.

Men, women and children were seen carrying



blankets and food items as they left their homes, mostly in the northeastern part of the Palestinian territory, the reporter said.

Israel began striking targets in Gaza in response, setting the stage for what was likely to be a new heavy round of fighting between the bitter enemies.

Videos posted on social media showed what appeared to be uniformed Palestinian gunmen inside the Israeli border town of Sderot. A video from Gaza showed what looked like the lifeless body of an Israeli soldier being trampled by an angry crowd shouting "God is Great." Another video appeared to show Palestinian militants dragging away a live Israeli soldier on a motorcycle.

Other videos showed a crowd of Palestinian men dancing around and atop an Israeli tank that was on fire. The authenticity of the videos could not immediately be verified.

The elusive leader of Hamas' military wing, Mohammed Deif, announced the beginning of what he called "Operation Al-Aqsa Storm."

"Enough is enough," he said in the recorded message, as he called on Palestinians to join the fight. He said Hamas had fired over 5,000 rockets into Israel.

Salah Aroui, an exiled Hamas leader, said the operation was a response "to the crimes of the occupation." He said fighters were defending the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and the thousands of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

The Israeli military confirmed an infiltration had occurred in several locations near the Gaza border in southern Israel. It ordered residents to remain indoors.

"The military declares a state of war alert," it said in a statement. "In the last hour, the Hamas terrorist organization had begun a massive shooting of rockets from the Gaza Strip into Israeli territory, and terrorists infiltrated into Israeli territory in a number of different locations."

It said Hamas "will face the consequences and responsibility." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and top security officials were convening for an emer-

gency meeting.

Israel has built a massive fence along the Gaza border meant to prevent infiltrations. It goes deep underground and is equipped with cameras, high-tech sensors and sensitive listening technology. The infiltration marked a major accomplishment — and escalation — by Hamas.

The sound of outgoing rockets whooshing through the air could be heard in Gaza and sirens wailed as far away as Tel Aviv and Jerusalem during an early morning barrage that lasted for over two hours. Israel's Magen David Adom rescue agency said a 70-year-old woman was critically injured when a rocket hit a building in southern Israel. Elsewhere, a 20-year-old man was moderately injured by rocket shrapnel, it said.

As the rocket attacks continued throughout southern and central Israel, millions of Israelis were instructed to stay near bomb shelters in their homes and apartment buildings. The army said residents next to Gaza should stay in their homes due to the "security incident."

The launches came

after weeks of heightened tensions along Israel's volatile border with Gaza, and heavy fighting in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Israel has maintained a blockade over Gaza since Hamas, an Islamic militant group that opposes Israel, seized control of the territory in 2007. The bitter enemies have fought four wars since then. There have also been numerous rounds of smaller fighting between Israel and Hamas and other smaller militant groups based in Gaza.

The blockade, which restricts the movement of people and goods in and out of Gaza, has devastated the territory's economy. Israel says the blockade is needed to keep militant groups from building up their arsenals. The Palestinians say the closure amounts to collective punishment.

The rocket fire comes during a period of heavy fighting in the West Bank, where nearly 200 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli military raids this year. Israel says the raids are aimed at militants, but stone-throwing protesters and people uninvolved in the violence have also been killed. Palestinian attacks on Israeli targets have killed over 30 people.

The tensions have also spread to Gaza, where Hamas-linked activists held violent demonstrations along the Israeli border in recent weeks. Those demonstrations were halted in late September after international mediation.

Magnitude 6.2 earthquake jolts western Afghanistan: USGS

HERAT, Oct 7 (Agencies): A magnitude 6.2 earthquake hit western Afghanistan on Saturday morning, the United States Geological Survey said, with the epicentre close to the region's largest city.

The USGS said the epicentre was 40 kilometres (25 miles) northwest of the city of Herat and was followed by an aftershock with a magnitude of 5.5 on the Richter scale.

An agency journalist in the city said residents and shopkeepers fled buildings when the quake hit around 11:00

am (0630 GMT), but that there were not yet reports of casualties or structural damage.

In June last year, more than 1,000 people were killed and tens of thousands made homeless after a 5.9-magnitude quake — the deadliest in Afghanistan in nearly a quarter of a century — struck the impoverished province of Paktika. Afghanistan is frequently hit by earthquakes, especially in the Hindu Kush mountain range, which lies near the junction of the Eurasian and Indian tectonic plates.

2 Indian trainee pilots killed as plane crashes in Canada's British Columbia



OTTAWA, Oct 7 (Agencies): Two Indian trainee pilots died in a plane crash in Canada's British Columbia province on Saturday, officials said.

The pilots, Abhay Gadroo and Yash Vijay

Ramugade, were from Mumbai.

The twin-engined light aircraft, Piper PA-34 Seneca, crashed into trees and bushes behind a motel in the city of Chilliwack, Canadian police officials said.

Apart from Indian nationals, another pilot was also killed in the incident. "The scene is contained and there were no other reported injuries or risks to the public in the area," the Canadian police said in a statement.

The cause of the aircraft crash is still unknown and the Transportation Safety Board of Canada has started an investigation into the incident.

Spain's first private rocket successfully lifts off

MADRID, Oct 7 (Agencies): A Spanish company launched the country's first private rocket on Saturday in a step towards bringing Spain into the exclusive club of space-faring nations.

The launch of the small MIURA1 rocket took place at 02:19 am (0019 GMT) from a military base in the southern region of Andalusia, according to the company, PLD Space.

The company hailed the launch as "successful" and said it had achieved all its "technical objectives".

The rocket rose to 46 kilometres (29 miles) above the Gulf of Cadiz.

After five minutes of flight, the spacecraft landed in the Atlantic Ocean, where the company said it would send a team to recover it.

The launch of the 12-metre (39-foot) rocket was first suspended in May because of strong wind, and then a second time in June because some of its umbilical cables — which provide power and fuel to the rocket — did not release in time.

The rocket is the first step in the development of MIURA5, a 35-metre-high, two-stage mini-launcher vehicle designed to place satellites weighing less than 500 kilograms (1,100 pounds) into orbit from 2025.

According to PLD Space, 70 per cent of the components developed for MIURA1 will be used for MIURA5.

Under a deal signed with the French National Centre for Space Studies, the mini-launcher will take off from the Kourou Space Centre in French Guiana.

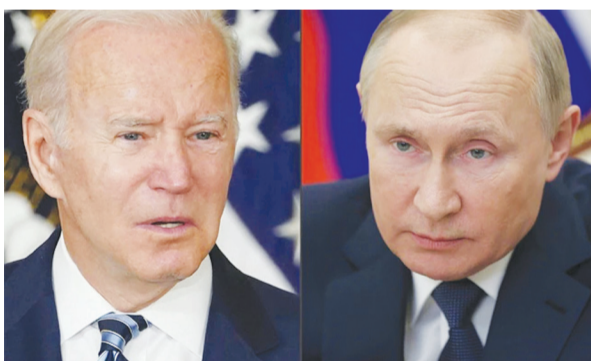
Founded in 2011 by two Spanish academics, PLD Space is one of several European start-ups to have embarked on the development of a mini-satellite launcher in response to the fast-growing market for launching micro-satellites into orbit. Compared with large launchers such as SpaceX's Falcon 9 or ArianeGroup's Ariane 6, small rockets offer a number of uses, including the ability to carry a single satellite, and they can be launched more quickly.

"Pattern Of Harassment...:" US Expels 2 Russian Diplomats In Retaliation

WASHINGTON, Oct 7 (Agencies): The US expelled two Russian diplomats, weeks after Moscow ordered two Americans to leave, the latest tit-for-tat expulsions as relations continue to worsen between the two countries.

The move came after Russia ousted the two US diplomats for contacts with a former consular employee who had been accused of collecting sensitive information. The US has called those allegations baseless.

"The Department will not tolerate the Russian government's pattern of harassment of our diplomats," State Depart-



ment spokesperson Matthew Miller said in a statement.

The unidentified Russian diplomats were given seven days to depart the US. That was the same amount of time given to US diplomats Jeffrey Sillin and David Bernstein, who were ordered to leave Russia last month.

Sillin and Bernstein

were accused of contact with a former employee of the US consulate in Vladivostok who later pleaded guilty to gathering confidential information.

Russia and the US have engaged in a series of reciprocal expulsions dating to well before Russia's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

The Key Nuclear Secrets Trump Allegedly Leaked

The alleged disclosure is only the latest in a string of cases that raise grave questions about Trump's willingness to keep the nation's secrets.

WASHINGTON, Oct 7 (Agencies): Former President Donald Trump has repeatedly been accused of leaking US secrets, but the latest allegations against him involve key details about some of the most sensitive weapons in the US nuclear arsenal.

Trump gave key details on the US Navy's elite submarine fleet - including the number of nuclear warheads they can carry and how close they can get to Russian vessels without being detected - to Australian billionaire Anthony Pratt, who passed the information on to dozens of friends and contacts, according to ABC News and The New York Times.

The alleged disclosure is only the latest in a string of cases that raise grave questions about Trump's willingness to keep the nation's secrets - an issue that's only going to remain front and center given his commanding lead in the polls to secure the Republican nomination to challenge President Joe Biden again next year.

"Very few people in the US government know the exact configuration of the nuclear subs," said Joe Cirincione, a security analyst who held the highest clearance level when he worked in Congress on nuclear weapons issues. If true, Trump's disclosure gets to the heart of US capabilities, he said.

"I never knew the exact payload of our nuclear subs nor the details of our anti-submarine warfare capabilities," Cirincione said. "I did not have a need to know.



The Australian billionaire didn't have a need to know either."

Trump is already battling a federal indictment on 40 counts of allegedly holding on to classified documents at his Florida mansion after he left office, disclosing details of war plans to civilians, and obstructing government efforts to get the documents back.

Those documents - which included assessments from the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency - were reportedly left unattended in a bathroom and on a ballroom stage.

And early in his presidency in 2017, reports said Trump revealed sensitive intelligence information from Israel to Russia's foreign minister and ambassador.

In a social media post, Trump called the submarine allegations "false and ridiculous," arguing that he was only telling Pratt that the US makes the best military equipment in the world. He called the claim a bid to interfere with the election.

He was interviewed at least twice this year by US law enforcement agencies, according to ABC.

"Sharing top secret details not only threatens that stealth advantage but puts the lives of Sailors at risk and undermines our national security," Representative Joe Courtney, a Connecticut Democrat, told Bloomberg News.

Experts on US submarine technology said Trump's disclosures, if true, could expose key details about its submarines' tactical abilities. The US Navy refuses to confirm or deny the presence or number of nuclear weapons on certain vessels. And telling others how close subs can get to adversaries could erode US attack submarines' tactical advantage as they evade and stalk adversaries.

"The sub silencing data is very hush," said Hans Kristensen, director of the Federation of American Scientists Nuclear Information Project. "People have gone to jail for revealing that kind of information."

Rand's Martin said he doubts whether the secrets will disadvantage the Navy. The number of warheads on a US submarine likely wouldn't surprise rivals such as Russia, he said, and the US is always working to make submarines quieter in ways that might render Trump's information out of date.

While the US military will take actions to mitigate the damage, Martin said, "they shouldn't have to be doing that every 10 minutes."

As Typhoon Koinu Approaches, China Warns Of Big Waves, Wind And Rain



SHANGHAI, Oct 7 (Agencies): China warned on Saturday of big waves, heavy rain and strong wind as Typhoon Koinu approaches the southern province of Guangdong and Hainan island.

Waves of up to nine metres were expected in the South China Sea under

the impact of the storm on Saturday and Sunday, the State Oceanic Administration said as it issued an orange alert, the second highest in a four-coloured warning system.

Koinu, which means "puppy" in Japanese, is heading west along China's southern coast at a speed of 5-10 kph, the National Meteorological Centre.

It is expected to weaken into a strong tropical storm from late on Monday.

Koinu had killed one person and injured almost 400 people in Taiwan, causing some of the most extensive damage on remote Orchid Island off the island's east coast.

Gaganyaan mission: Crew safety test to be undertaken shortly, says ISRO

CHENNAI, Oct 7 (Agencies): The preparations for the Gaganyaan mission are in full swing. The project envisages a demonstration of human spaceflight capability by launching a 3-member crew to an orbit of 400 km for a 3-day mission and bringing them back safely to earth, by landing in Indian sea waters.

The Crew Module (CM) for the mission is in different stages of development. The first development flight Test Vehicle (TV-D1) is in the final stages of preparation. The Test Vehicle is a single-stage liquid rocket developed for this abort mission. The payloads consist of the Crew Module and Crew Escape Systems (CES) with their fast-acting solid motors, along with CM fairing (CMF) and Interface Adapters.

This flight will simulate the abort condition during the ascent trajectory corresponding to a Mach number of 1.2 encountered in the Gaganyaan mission. CES with CM will be separated from the Test Vehicle at an altitude of about 17 km. Subsequently, the abort sequence will be executed autonomously commencing with the separation of CES and deployment of the series of parachutes,



finally culminating in the safe touchdown of CM in the sea, about 10 km from the coast of Sriharikota, the ISRO said.

Private participation or role of KCP Ltd

Meanwhile, as a part of the ongoing works relating to the mission, the Chennai-based heavy engineering unit of KCP Ltd on Saturday officially handed over the crew module structure for the Integrated Air-Drop Test.

R Hutton, Acting Director of ISRO's Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC), received the module from Indira Dutt, chairman and managing director of KCP Group, and lauded the engineering prowess of the firm, whose association with ISRO spans over three decades.

On the sidelines, Hutton said the integrated air-drop test is one of the important exercises in evaluating the various systems of Gaganyaan.

"What we are seeing today is a single-wall crew module. In the original module, it will

be a dual wall. The purpose of this module is to validate the parachute system that we will be using for deceleration. There will be different kinds of parachutes that we will be using at different altitudes and at a specific sequence. Using this module, we will be validating the end-to-end sequential performance of the parachute system."

To a query, Hutton said, when the crew module is orbiting the earth, it will be traveling at 7.5 km per second and that speed has to be brought down to 8.5 meters per second for a safe touchdown. This is the physiological limits of the crew members. For the test, this crew module will be dropped vertically by an Indian Air Force Chinook heavy-lift helicopter from an altitude of about 4 km.

According to the firm, this crew module structure weighs 3.1 tonnes, measures 3.1 metre in diameter, stands 2.6 metre tall, and is made using a light alloy of

aluminum and 15CDV6 steel. The KCP will be manufacturing another crew module for ISRO which will be delivered by March 2024 after incorporating any necessary changes that the space agency suggests.

Meanwhile, ISRO announced that it was gearing up for the first Test Vehicle Abort mission-1, which will carry an unpressurized crew module. It has completed its integration and testing and is ready to be shipped to the launch complex in Sriharikota.

"This unpressurized crew module version has to have an overall size and mass of the actual Gaganyaan Crew Module (CM). It houses all the systems for the deceleration and recovery. With its complete set of parachutes, recovery aids, actuation systems and pyros. The avionics systems in CM are in a dual redundant mode configuration for navigation, sequencing, telemetry, instrumentation and power. The Crew Module in this mission is extensively instrumented to capture the flight data for evaluation of the performance of various systems. The Crew Module will be recovered after touchdown in the Bay of Bengal, using a dedicated vessel and diving team from the Indian Navy," the ISRO said.

Will decide on making caste census public after getting report from panel in Nov: Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah

MYSURU (KARNATAKA), Oct 7 (Agencies): With pressure mounting on his government to make public the state's socio-economic and educational census, popularly known as the 'caste census', Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said a decision will be taken once he receives the report next month.

The CM's statement comes days after the Bihar Government released data of its caste survey.

Earlier this week, Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes chairperson K Jayaprakash had said he would submit the caste census report to the state government in November.

"When the Kantharaj headed commission gave the report, the then Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy did not take it, now there is a different chairman for the commission. I have asked him to submit the report filed by Kantharaj as it is. He has said that the report will be given in November, let's see," Siddaramaiah told reporters here.

Asked about the demand for separate categorisation of the most backward classes, as it is done in the other state, the CM said, "the



government cannot do it on its own, a report should be there for it... Once the backward classes commission report comes, we will think over it." The then Siddaramaiah-led Congress government in 2015 had commissioned the social-economic and educational survey, at an estimated cost of Rs 170 crore in the state, the findings of which have not been made public yet.

The state Backward Classes Commission under its then chairperson H Kantharaj was tasked with preparing a caste census report. According to some analysts, successive governments have been shying away from releasing it as the findings of the survey are allegedly contrary to the "traditional perception" of the numerical strength of various castes in Karnataka, especially the dominant Lingayats and Vokkaligas, making it a political hot potato.

Political parties in the state have indulged in blame game for not accepting the survey and not making it public.

Officials have also cited the then member-secretary of the State Commission for Backward Classes not signing the final report, as the "technical hurdle" that has hindered the release of the report.

They said the caste census report is currently with the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes, and once it submits it, the cabinet would take a call.

Responding to a question on the alleged statement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi accusing the Congress and its allies of trying to divide society with caste census, Siddaramaiah said, "No (it will not divide the society), definitely not... Facts are different and what he is saying is different." For poverty alleviation programmes and to build

an equal society, it is required to know about social, economic and educational conditions of various communities, he said, "Our society is by and large with a caste system. To get rid of inequalities and to bring everyone to the mainstream, we need to have statistics, so socio economic and caste survey is required." The Chief Minister also reiterated that the state government will not give any new licenses to open liquor shops.

He was responding to a query about Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar batting for a policy change, saying nobody can stop people from consuming liquor, following his (Siddaramaiah) statement that the government will not open new liquor outlets.

"He (Shivakumar) has said that drinking cannot be stopped. Has he said that the government will permit new liquor shops? He has expressed his opinion, we will take a decision in the cabinet.

In my view, there is no need to give new licenses.... public opinion is also important. According to me there is no such proposal as of now, we are not going to give new licenses to liquor shops," he added.

Boy pretending to hang himself accidentally dies in Uttar Pradesh's Ballia

BALLIA, Oct 7 (Agencies): A 13-year-old boy, pretending to hang himself while playing with his friends, accidentally died in a village here, a police official said on Saturday.

Anand (13), the deceased, was playing with his younger brother and some other children when the incident in Madhopur village in Rasra police station area, the official said.

Some children were playing among themselves on Friday evening when Anand had a dispute with his younger brother David, said Circle officer of Rasra Mohammad Fahim Qureshi.

Anand took the help of a sack kept nearby and climbed a tree, and made a noose from a towel and hung it from a branch in the tree, the CO said.

However, Anand's foot slipped and he lost balance and died, he added.

The children present there raised an alarm, and some villagers reached the spot but by then Anand had died, Qureshi said.

Anand was a student of class 5 in a private school in Amhar area. At the time of the incident, Anand's parents were away at work.

The body of the deceased has been sent

for post-mortem examination, police said. Village head Pramod Kumar told PTI that Anand has two brothers and a sister.

Kumar told that Anand's father Chhote Lal and his mother Ramavati Devi work as labourers.

The financial condition of Chhote Lal's family is not good, and the family lives in a tin shed house, he said.

Speaking to agency, Rasra MLA Uma Shankar Singh expressed sadness over the incident. Singh said that he will soon meet the victim's family and work on providing financial assistance to them.

Ex-MLA, 7 Others Injured In Car-Bus Collision In Maharashtra



AKOLA (MAHARASHTRA), Oct 7 (Agencies): A former MLA was among eight people injured in a collision between a car and bus on the national highway in Maharashtra's Akola district on Saturday, police said. The accident occurred on the highway near Kurankhed village in the district around 12 pm, an official said.

Former Buldhana MLA Vijayraj Shinde (58) was travelling towards Amravati with four of his supporters when their car collided with a bus heading to Akola, he said.

The former legislator, three of his supporters and four passengers from the bus sustained injuries in the accident, the official said, adding that the injured have been admitted to a private hospital in Akola.

The police have initiated a probe into the incident, he said.

Coast Guard rescues 10 fishermen trapped in damaged boat off Tamil Nadu coast

CHENNAI, Oct 7 (Agencies): A fishing boat crew of 10 men, who were stranded in the Palk Bay after the vessel's hull was damaged, the Coast Guard said here on Saturday.

The boat that sailed from Navoor harbour in Nagapattanam, early on October 5, suffered a crack in the hull at night on the same day which led to an emergency situation onboard with uncontrolled ingress of water and failure of engine, the CG said.

As soon as information was received in the early hours of Friday



from the State Fisheries Department authorities in Rameswaram, the Coast Guard station at Mandapam deployed ICGS (Indian Coast Guard Ship) C-432 on rescue mission, a defence press release said. The distressed fishing boat with 10 crew members were located

about 20 nm (nautical miles) north east of Pamban in the Palk Bay and they were swiftly rescued.

The Coast Guard said it safely handed over the crew members and the boat to the Fisheries Department officials near the Pamban fishing harbour, Rameswaram.

FROM PAGE 1

Tunnel construction in Ramban to Banihal stretch completed: Nitin Gadkari

to Jammu and Kashmir. This transformative development not only contributes to the regions' economic growth but also enhances its appeal as a premier tourist destination.

Rain, Snowfall expected in Kashmir on Oct 9: MeT

September 25, rain broke the dry spell in Kashmir as upper reaches, including the ski resort of Gulmarg, received the season's first snowfall.

Lt Governor flags off Walkathon 'Walk for Wildlife', as part of Wildlife Week 2023 at Srinagar

migratory birds were sighted, the Lt Gov-

ernor said. The Lt Governor appreciated the initiatives taken by the Department of Wildlife Protection for mitigation of man-animal conflict, safety of human lives, their property and livestock.

The Lt Governor also released a short film "J&K: Wildlife Chronicles" and a poster of the Wildlife Protection department.

Sh Aftab Malik, Chairman, DDC Srinagar; Sh A.K. Choudhary, Special DG Crime; Sh Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Sh Roshan Jaggi, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests; senior officers and citizens from all walks of life were present.

Crime Branch produces chargesheet in fake caste certificate case

of witnesses were recorded. The relevant records were obtained from the concerned department.

"The investigation conducted has revealed that the accused No. 01 (beneficiary) in connivance with other two accused revenue officers (now retired), has managed to get his caste changed by virtue of a mutation No. 391/1 at Tehsil

Office Kulgam," said the spokesman. "The accused officials abused their official positions and in furtherance of criminal conspiracy, prepared and acted on a false and fake mutation and thereby for their ulterior motives issued fake Schedule Tribe Certificate in favour of accused beneficiary, who used the same to get himself selected/ appointed as Teacher in District Kulgam under ST Category, as such committed offences U/S 420, 467, 468, 471, 201, 120-B RPC, 5(2) PC Act."

In a First, Jammu set to witness stalwart cricketers on field in upcoming legends league cricket

communiqué stated that Dehradun will host three matches at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium followed by Vizag hosting the remaining three league stage matches.

The final leg of Legends League Cricket Season 2 will be hosted by Surat at the

Laibhai Contractor Stadium, it read. "Legends League Cricket has chosen these venues in an effort to give fans in these cities an experience like never before with over 100 international cricketers playing there," the handout stated.

It further added that where the last season had teams competing in 15 matches across major venues in the country including Eden Gardens, Kolkata and Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi, this season will have 19 matches across five venues. LLC season 2 promised to be bigger and better in every aspect.

Co-Founder and CEO, Legends League Cricket, Raman Raheja, as per the communiqué, said, "I am delighted to say that Legends League Cricket is spreading its wings to the city of Jammu for the upcoming season. This move to Jammu is our commitment to take cricket to every corner of the nation, and it is special for us as the city will witness a tournament like this for the first time. The euphoria around legends was amazing in the stadiums as well across cities where we played in India last year. For the first time in history, one had 80 plus legends being present in one city like Jodhpur. We had full house occupancy in almost all the matches. We expect a similar response from the audience here."

Commissioner, Legends League Cricket, Ravi Shastri, said, "The game is getting bigger each day at Legends League Crick-

et. With more and more players joining, we must keep the fire burning and give fans the chance to witness the best competitive cricket across the new venues. I would say that Legends are going to rock this season."

JKBOSE again postpones Class 10th Private Annual and Bi-Annual Examinations in J&K and Ladakh

examination has urged the Senior Superintendent Police Telecommunication Kashmir Division to disseminate wireless communication to all the police stations in the Kashmir Valley.

"It is requested to disseminate the specified information to all Station House Officers of Kashmir Division not to issue any question papers of these specified subjects to any Examination Superintendent," it reads.

This repeated postponement of exam has raised concerns among students and the parents, as it has added to the uncertainty surrounding the examinees.

"Students were eagerly awaiting to appear in these two subjects as the exam of two papers was already postponed in past. Not further postponement of exams has left the students disappointed," a parent said.

Will seek withdrawal of tax notices to online gaming companies: Delhi Finance Minister Atishi

Says GST Council decisions in the past, including 28 per cent tax on online gaming industry, have adversely impacted the industry

NEW DELHI, Oct 7 (Agencies): Delhi Finance Minister Atishi on Saturday said tax evasion notices worth Rs 1.5 lakh-crore to online gaming companies will finish them and vowed to seek their withdrawal at the GST Council meeting during the day.

She said the sector employed over 50,000 youths and attracted Rs 17,000 crore foreign investments, therefore, it is important to withdraw the notices to protect the industry.

An "unstable, erratic tax environment" will deter foreign investors



in the online gaming industry and impact the overall start-up ecosystem in the country, she said.

GST Council decisions in the past, including the 28 per cent tax on online gaming industry, adversely impacted the industry, she said.

The GST Council, chaired by Union

Finance Minister and comprising state ministers, will meet here on Saturday.

In the previous meeting on August 2, the Council had approved amendments to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) laws to provide clarity on the taxation of casinos, horse racing and online gaming.

After a tepid Q2, Westlife Foodworld set to see revival in third quarter sales

NEW DELHI, Oct 7 (Agencies): After several months of repressed demand, Westlife Foodworld, the operator of McDonald's restaurants in West and South India, is expected to see a revival and improvement in its sales during the third quarter of FY 2024.

The fast food operator was hit by a slowdown in sales due to high inflation in the June quarter. However, it is on a path of sustained growth with the success of its new strategy of value meal, sustained traction in the chicken business in the South and the ability to provide an all-day menu across breakfast, snacks and meals, said analysts from Prabhudas Lilladher.

The broker also cut the company's estimates for the current and next financial year by 8% and lowered the stock to 'hold' rating from 'accumulate'. Despite this, the broking firm increased the target price to Rs 958 from Rs 932.

The broker also added that Westlife Foodworld is looking at

the makeover of McCafe with more food options and accelerated innovations to drive sales in the ongoing quarter. This strategy will focus on its core segments of burgers, chicken and coffee, and this is expected to provide sustained traction in the festive season.

In June this year, McDonald's introduced Rs 179 value meals which continues to bring in incremental footfalls led by the increase in order frequency for the same.

"However, WFL does not have any plans to dilute pricing in value meals," noted Prabhudas Lilladher.

WFL is also looking at increased menu innovations in the burger and chicken category in the coming quarters.

"McCafe is exploring a new look, new price points and menu innovations to compete with other standalone café chains," said the analysts.

Second quarter troubles
Meanwhile, the company is likely to report an underwhelm-

ing set of numbers for the second quarter due to a fall in demand, triggered by high inflation.

"Demand has come under stress in the second quarter due to inflationary pressure with QoQ dip in consumer frequency of eating out which is likely to impact SSG," said analysts from Prabhudas Lilladher.

Inflation-weary customers pulled back their restaurant spending during the second quarter, just as they spent less than expected at fast-food chains.

Even as the fast-food chains pulled back the consumers with value means and discounts trying to draw in customers across the income spectrum, there is still a dip in consumer frequency.

Generally, the fast-food sector fares better than the rest of the hotel industry during times of economic uncertainty.

However, Westlife is observing an increase in competition from the unorganized sector first time

post covid.

With inflation remaining at elevated levels consumers seem to be downtrading and moving towards lower-valued meals offered by the unorganized sector.

Westlife Foodworld reported a smaller-than-expected rise in first-quarter profit as higher expenses took the shine off increased sales.

The April-June quarter results for fiscal 2023-24 (Q1FY24) on July 27, reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 288.3 crore, compared to Rs 235.7 crore in the corresponding period last year.

Whether this quarter's results are an indication of faltering giants or simple hiccups, only time will tell.

India is reeling under rising prices of essentials including tomatoes and cheese, prompting restaurants to roll out new strategies to protect margins and increase sales amid high inflation.

Stable interest rate to aid home sales

The monetary policy committee of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its October review meeting maintained status quo for the fourth straight occasions.

NEW DELHI, Oct 7 (Agencies): The RBI's decision to keep repo rate unchanged at 6.5% is likely to keep housing demand strong in the upcoming festive season. The monetary policy committee of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its October review meeting maintained status quo for the fourth straight occasions. "Continuation of pause in the repo rate was much needed albeit looming inflationary pressure arising from - rising crude prices and rupee depreciation.

By pausing the policy rate, RBI continues to maintain its focus on growth, which is facing headwinds primarily from the external factors like slowdown in global growth, high energy prices and geopolitical tensions; and remains cautious of inflationary pressure as well," said Shishir Bajjal, Chairman & Managing Director, Knight



Frank India.

The momentum in residential sales so far has sustained even as an inflationary environment forced RBI to raise repo rate upwards by 250 bps between May 2022 and February 2023. Despite the 250 basis point increase in repo rate, the transmission to bank lending rates is not complete, as per the monetary policy panel. The average lending rates on fresh

and outstanding rupee loans rose by 196 bps and 112 bps, respectively, during May 2022-August 2023.

This has been affecting homebuyers, especially of affordable segment, as the interest on home loans has surged to about 9% from less than 7% in April 2022. The industry was concerned that another rate hike, coupled with high real estate prices, may discourage

buyers from making a big ticket purchase.

Surendra Hiranandani, Chairman and managing director, House of Hiranandani, said the monetary policy committee's decision to maintain the current repo rate is prudent and encouraging for the housing market.

"The Indian real estate market has witnessed a notable growth of 9.5% since early 2023. The REPO rate decision, coupled with the upcoming festive season, will only bolster this growth further.

Festive season embarks a surge in the demand and sales of properties connected to longstanding traditions and characterised by their auspicious origins. Additionally, the steadfast repo rate plays a crucial role in relieving pressure within the sector and spurring growth in infrastructure and construction," said Hiranandani.

ADIA invests another Rs 5,000 crore in Reliance Retail for 0.59% stake

NEW DELHI, Oct 7 (Agencies): Abu Dhabi Investment Authority will invest Rs 4,966 crore in Reliance Retail Ventures (RRVL) for 0.59% additional stake in the company, the retail arm of Reliance Industries said in a statement.

This investment values RRVL at a pre-money equity value of Rs 8,381 lakh crore, which makes it among the top four companies by equity value in the country. ADIA had earlier invested Rs 5,512.50 crore into RRVL in 2020 and picked up 1.2% stake in the company.

"We are pleased to further deepen our relationship with ADIA with their continued support as an investor in Reliance Retail Ventures Limited... ADIA's investment in RRVL is a further testament to

their belief in the Indian economy and our business fundamentals, strategy and execution capabilities," said Isha Mukesh Ambani, executive director, Reliance Retail Ventures Limited.

Hamad Shahwan Aldaheri, executive director of the private equities department, ADIA, said: "Reliance Retail has demonstrated strong growth and adaptability in a market that is evolving at an unprecedented pace.

This investment aligns with our strategy of supporting our portfolio companies that are transforming their respective end-markets. We are pleased to partner with the Reliance Group, and increase our exposure to India's dynamic and fast-growing consumer sector."

Earlier, Qatar Invest-

ment Authority (QIA), the sovereign wealth fund of Qatar, had committed an investment of Rs 8,278 crore in RRVL, to acquire 0.99% stake. QIA had valued Reliance Retail at Rs 8.28 lakh crore. RRVL, through its subsidiaries and associates, operates India's largest retail business with an integrated omnichannel network of over 18,500 stores and digital commerce platforms across grocery, consumer electronics, fashion & lifestyle, and pharma consumption baskets. RRVL has digitised over 3 million small and unorganised merchants. This will enable these merchants to use technology tools and an efficient supply chain infrastructure to deliver a superior value proposition to their own customers.

Why diabetics maybe twice at risk of death from heart disease

SEOUL, Oct 7 (Agencies): Low-muscle mass is associated with a two-fold risk of death from cardiovascular disease in individuals with diabetes, finds a study.

The study showed that the association is independent of frailty, glycaemic control and the microvascular complications retinopathy (damage to the blood vessels of the retina) and nephropathy (kidney disease).

Sarcopenia -- age-related loss of muscle mass and strength -- was known to be associated with cardiovascular disease (CVD) and mortality in individuals with diabetes.

However, it wasn't clear to what extent the relationship was being influenced by their blood sugar control or by complications of their diabetes.

The research presented at the recent Annual Meeting of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) showed that people with low muscle mass were 44 per cent more likely to die of any cause during follow-up than those with normal muscle mass.

They were also twice as likely to die from CVD



as those with normal muscle mass.

Further analysis showed that low muscle mass was linked with all-cause mortality and CVD mortality, irrespective of HbA1c (a measure of blood sugar control) and microvascular complications.

"Our results suggest that the increased risk of death in individuals with diabetes who have low muscle mass isn't mediated or influenced by frailty, poor blood sugar control or microvascular complications but due to the loss of muscle itself," Dr Jae Myung Yu and Dr Shinje Moon, from the Hallym University, in Seoul, Republic of South Korea.

They pressed the need for more research to determine just how sarcopenia increases the risk of death.

Meanwhile, "it is important to consider body composition when treating obesity

and managing weight in people with diabetes", they noted.

For the study, they used data from the 1,514 adults with diabetes (older than 20 years) in the US.

About 55.6 per cent females had low muscle mass. The participants with low muscle mass had an average age of 63.5 years and an average diabetes duration of 14.5 years.

About 1,318 participants (48.3 per cent female) had normal muscle mass. Their average age was 54 years and average diabetes duration was 10.4 years.

The participants were followed up for an average of 9.3 years. There were 413 deaths from any cause during this time (106 low muscle mass and 307 normal muscle mass). About 147 of these deaths were from CVD (42 low muscle mass, 105 normal muscle mass.)

Careful about processed food

A new WHO report flags the ill-effects of consumption of ultra-processed and packaged foods in India

NEW DELHI, Oct 7 (Agencies): MANY reports and surveys, including the National Family Health Survey 2020-21 (NHFS-5), have thrown up alarming data on the rising incidence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in India like hypertension, obesity, diabetes and cancer. It is in this context that the WHO report released last month, 'The growth of ultra-processed foods in India: An analysis of trends, issues and policy recommendation', assumes significance.

A major reason behind the increase in NCDs, apart from the lack of physical activity, is the change in dietary habits and availability of processed, easy-to-cook or pre-cooked food. In real terms, almost all food is processed to some extent except for raw fruits and vegetables. A food classification system called NOVA classifies foods into four groups, according to the level of processing.

Group 1 includes minimally processed or unprocessed foods through drying, pasteurisation and freezing, etc, without adding salt, sugar, oils or fats to the original food.



Group 2 includes ingredients obtained directly from group 1 foods or from nature, like oils and fats, sugar and salt.

Group 3 has processed foods using preservation methods like canning and bottling by adding salt, sugar or other substances to group 1 foods. The aim is to enhance the shelf life and taste.

Group 4 contains ultra-processed food having ingredients rarely used in home kitchens. These include artificial food additives, preservatives, colours, emulsifiers, texturing agents, taste enhancers, etc. These foods are highly addictive and unhealthy. The list includes soft drinks, sweet or savoury packaged snacks, chips,

salted and fried savouries like namkeen, mathris, chocolate, ice cream, mass-produced breads, buns, biscuits, cakes, breakfast cereals, processed meat, instant soups, noodles, etc.

The WHO report on India has flagged five ultra-processed foods -- chocolate and sweet confectionery items, including biscuits; soft drinks, squashes, packaged juice, energy drinks; salty snacks like chips and Indian savouries; readymade sauces, instant noodles, soups, frozen and processed meat products; and breakfast cereals like corn or other flakes and muesli.

Most of these foods have extremely high levels of sugar, salt,

artificial sweeteners and are made using hydrogenated oils or trans-fats.

Increased use of ultra-processed food has been linked to a high risk of obesity, type 2 diabetes, hypertension and some cancers. These foods can also cause food addiction, depression and anxiety.

A UK study (2008-2014) found that increasing consumption of ultra-processed food has led to a higher intake of carbohydrates, free sugars, total fats, saturated fats and sodium, and a significant decrease in healthy nutrients like protein, fibre and potassium, raising the risk of hypertension, obesity and diabetes.

Ultra-processed foods also contain preservatives. Their use has been linked to metabolic perturbations, alterations to the gut microbiota, inflammation, and colon carcinogenesis (cancer) in mice. Artificial sweeteners like sucralose and saccharine generate inflammation in the body, raising risk of cardiovascular diseases.

The consumption of such foods is rising because these are highly palatable, aggressively marketed, have

large portion sizes and are ready-to-consume. Coupled with rising sedentary lifestyles, this is a recipe for disaster.

The way forward
India is one of the first countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region to develop a National Multisectoral Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Common NCDs. However, we need to have data-based studies on the size of the ultra-processed food market. There is a paucity of data about traditional foods like mithai and street foods cooked in hydrogenated oils.

We need to move towards a nutrition-based tax model, focusing on higher taxes for products with sugar, salt or fat beyond recommended levels and lower taxes for the healthier options.

India needs to have labelling and packaging guidelines with health warnings. Some countries have come up with health star rating, nutrition-based colour coding, etc.

The huge unorganised food processing sector in India must be brought under regulatory control. Public awareness campaigns are much needed.

India script history, touch 100-medal tally at Asian Games

Claim gold in women's kabaddi for country's 100th medal

HANGZHOU, Oct 7 (Agencies): The Indian women's kabaddi team survived by the skin of its teeth as it beat Chinese Taipei 26-25 in a dramatic final to regain its title for the country's 100th medal at the Hangzhou Asian Games here on Saturday.

This was India's third gold in women's kabaddi which was introduced at the 2010 Asian Games. India won gold in the 2010 and 2014 editions but settled for a silver in 2018 after losing to Iran in the final.

This time the Indians faced Chinese Taipei, an emerging kabaddi nation, in what turned out to be an edge-of-the-seat summit showdown.

The two sides were tied 34-34 in the group league match and both knew that it was going to be a tough final.

India were well ahead at 14-9 at the half time, courtesy of a super raid from Pooja, who was one of the stars of the intense final that also saw the team's coach being cautioned with a green card.

The next 15 minutes saw a nerve-wracking display of tremendous game from both sides



with the lead getting exchanged quite a few times.

Chinese Taipei narrowed down India's lead to 16-14 soon after resumption. With less than five minutes remaining on the clock, Chinese Taipei made a crucial video referral as the scoreline read 19-17 in India's favour.

From there, Chinese Taipei were on the ascendancy. There were just two Indian players on the field when a Chinese Taipei player made the raid. One Indian player was out as she touched the backline and the other failed to get hold of the opposition raider.

Chinese Taipei took four points—two from the raid and

two for sending India All Out—and that took them ahead at 21-19.

Pooja then got one point from her raid to reduce the margin to 20-21. The next Chinese Taipei raider could not get any points and the onus was on India to make things even.

At this point, captain Ritu Negi took a masterstroke of a decision as she stopped Pushpa from going for a raid. She sent Pooja instead who did a marvellous job as India got two points to lead 22-21.

It was not over yet and the match got more intense as the two teams were locked 22-22, 23-23 and then 24-24.

At that stage, raider Pushpa won a point for India as 53 seconds were left on the clock. Chinese Taipei took a review but that was turned down, sealing the fate of the match in favour of India.

Chinese Taipei won a point through their raider to reduce the score to 25-26. The Indians played out the remaining few seconds before jumping into each other's arms in celebration.

"We worked really hard after losing the gold in the 2018 Asian Games. We waited for five year but our hard work paid off," said captain Ritu Negi who was also a part of the silver-winning team at the 2018 Asian Games.

India had lost to Iran in the final in Indonesia.

"Our players were a bit nervous towards the end but they kept themselves under control and ultimately pulled off the win," coach Edachery Bhaskaran said.

"Chinese Taipei are now a very strong side. They have trained in India in the past and will keep on improving. We also have to work harder and maintain our hold."

Asian Games: Pravin Ojas, Abhishek Verma clinch gold, silver in men's compound archery



HANGZHOU, Oct 7 (Agencies): Archers continued to add to the country's medal rush, with Pravin Ojas Deotale and Abhishek Verma clinching gold and silver medals respectively in the men's compound archery at the 19th Asian Games on Saturday.

Pravin defeated Abhishek to bag the gold medal by a margin of 149-147.

With these medals, India has now aggre-

gated 9 medals, including 6 golds in compound archery. This is the best performance registered by India in the compound archery event.

With the medals in archery and other events on Saturday, India achieved its quest of aggregating 100 medals this Asiad.

India's medal count in the Hangzhou Games currently stands at 100 -- 25 gold, 35 silver and 40 bronze.

Earlier, India's Jyothi

Surekha Vennam bagged a gold medal in the women's compound archery, taking the country a step closer to the 100-medal mark this Asiad.

The rising Indian archer defeated South Korea's Chaewon So by a margin of 149-145.

Aditi Gopichand also secured silver in the women's compound archery, defeating Indonesia's Ratih Zilizati Fadhly by a margin of 146-140.

World Cup 2023, IND vs AUS: Steve Smith open to moving away from 'favourite' No.3 spot when Travis Head returns

CHENNAI, Oct 7 (Agencies): Steve Smith has said that he doesn't mind moving away from the No.3 spot if needed when Travis Head makes his return to the Australian lineup during the World Cup.

Head suffered a fractured hand during the series against South Africa but was retained in the World Cup squad. In his absence, Mitchell Marsh opened the batting for the Aussies during the series against India ahead of the World Cup.

Without Head in the side, Smith was entrusted in the No.3 spot, where he has consistently batted since 2019 in the 50-over game. The Australian star has scored 3880 runs in 81 matches while batting at No.3 and has an average of 53.88.

Marsh has also excelled in the number three role for Australia and has been in fine



form in India.

If Head does make a return, this could potentially push Marsh to No.3 and Smith a bit lower down the order. This is a move that has been welcomed by the Australian star batter.

As quoted by the West Australian, Smith provided an update on Head, saying that he has still got a long way to go before being fully fit.

"He's still got a fair way to go before he's potentially even fit, if he is fit," Smith said.

Smith went on to say that while No.3 has

been his favourite position, he is ready to bat lower down the order if Head makes his way back into the side.

"It'll be interesting. Fingers crossed 'Heady' can come up," Smith said.

"Mitch is batting really nicely up top in the couple of games he's played, Davey's there obviously."

"Three is my favourite position but I'll bat wherever I suppose if Heady comes back. We'll see how we go."

"We'll cross that bridge I suppose if it comes up."

Asian Games: Sai Akula, Greeshma Dontara Sign Off At 5th, 6th Place In Ladies Artistic Single Free Skating

HANGZHOU, Oct 7 (Agencies): Indian skaters Sai Samitha Akula and Greeshma Dontara finished at the fifth and sixth position respectively in ladies artistic single free skating at the Asian Games in Hangzhou on Saturday. Sai was leading with 32.69 points at one stage before ending her campaign with 49.64 points. Greeshma too had identical scores following her routine at Qiantang Roller Sports Centre. Chinese Taipei duo of Hsiao-Ching Hung (94.38) and Chih-



Ju Chang (79.51) won the gold and bronze medals, while Miki Fujikura (83.47) of Japan secured the silver. Karthika Jaga-

deeswaran, Heeral Sadhu and Aarathy Kasturi Raj had clinched a bronze in women's 3000m relay before Anand Kumar Velkumar,

Siddhant Kamble and Vikram Ingale grabbed the third spot in men's 3000m relay event.

Roller sports made its debut in the Asian Games in 2010 when Anup Kumar Yama bagged bronze in men's single free skating event before combining with Avani Panchal to finish third in the pairs skating event.

Disappointment for India in Ju-Jitsu at Asian Games

India cut a sorry figure in ju-jitsu competition with all three participants -- Uma Maheshwar

Reddy, Kiran Kumari and Amarjeet Singh -- suffering losses and bowing out of the Asian Games on Saturday.

While Uma Maheshwar Reddy lost by submission to Thailand's Sooknatee Suntra in the men's 85 category round of 32, Kiran Kumari lost to Mongolia's Bayaramaa by submission in the women's 63kg category round of 16.

Later, Amarjeet Singh lost to Mongolia's Bayarkhuu by advantages in men's 85kg category round of 32.

Asian Games 2023, Men's cricket: Bangladesh beat Pakistan in rain-curtailed thriller to win bronze

HANGZHOU, Oct 7 (Agencies): The Bangladesh men's cricket team secured the bronze medal at the Asian Games on Saturday after a nail-biting six-wicket victory over Pakistan in Hangzhou. The victory was accomplished using the DLS method, following a rain-affected match.

Rakibul Hasan's boundary off

the final ball brought the score to 65 runs in five overs, clinching third place for Bangladesh, popularly known as the Tigers. As the rain cut short the match, Yasir Ali had substantial input with a score of 38 runs off 16 balls.

Afif Hossain also contributed 20 runs off just 11 balls. Pakistan's innings, impacted by the

rain, ended prematurely at 48 for one after five overs. The revised target for Bangladesh, as per the DLS method, was set at 65 in five overs.

Before the stoppage, Pakistan's Mirza Baig had scored an unbeaten 32 runs from 18 deliveries.

Following a delayed start due to rain, Bangladesh won the

toss and elected to field first.

This is only the second medal win for Bangladesh in the Games, with the first bronze being won by the women's cricket team, the Tigresses. Incidentally, the Tigresses also defeated Pakistan to win their medal, marking two victories over the same country across both competitions.

World Cup 2023: Pakistan bowlers deliver to set up 81-run win over Netherlands

HYDERABAD, Oct 7 (Agencies): Netherlands' star all-rounder Bas de Leede did all he could, but Pakistan put up an improved bowling effort to pick up an 81-run victory in their World Cup opener here on Friday.

De Leede took four wickets with his medium-pace as a resolute Netherlands limited Pakistan to 286 all out in 49 overs.

The Dutch were in the run chase till opener Vikramjit Singh (52 off 67) and de Leede (67 off 68) were in the middle but the end of their 70-run stand for the third wicket led to their downfall. They were eventually bowled out for 205 in 41 overs.

Pakistan's bowling, which was found wanting in the warm-up games, delivered in the middle-overs.

Haris Rauf (3/43) hurried the middle-order duo of Teja Nidamanuru and Scott Edwards to strike twice in the 27th over.

Shaheen Afridi trapped Saqib Zulfiqar in front with a fast and full ball to make it 158 for six and when left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz dismissed De Leede with a beauty, it was game over for the associate team in the competition. Under fire vice-captain Shadab Khan also raised his game with the



ball.

With minimal foot movement, Vikramjit's stroke play against Shaheen in the powerplay was effective as he collected three boundaries off the star pacer. De Leede's six over wide long-ones against the turn off Nawaz stood out in his sublime knock. In the end, de Leede was left to do too much on his own.

Earlier, Pakistan suffered two mini collapses in their innings, one at the top of the order and the other one after a 120-run stand off 114 balls between Mohammad Rizwan (68 off 75) and Saud Shakeel (68 off 52) for the fourth wicket.

While de Leede got the important breakthroughs in the middle-overs, off-spinners Aryan

Dutt (1/48) and Colin Ackermann (2/39) got a lot out of the Hyderabad surface.

Playing their first World Cup game in 12 years, Netherlands used as many as eight bowling options after opting to field.

Dutt opened the bowling for Netherlands alongside Logan van Beek who got his outswing (inswing to the left-handers) going in the powerplay.

Pakistan were in a nervy state after losing Fakhar Zaman (12), skipper Babar Azam (5) and Imam Ul Haq (15) by the 10th over.

Van Beek had the out-of-form Zaman caught and bowled before Ackermann got the prized wicket of Babar whose attempted pull landed straight

into the hands of the mid-wicket fielder.

Paul van Meekran struck on his very first ball as his short ball got big on Imam who pulled it straight to fine-leg, leaving Pakistan at 38 for three.

Rizwan and Saud gave the innings much-needed stability. Shakeel, playing only his seventh ODI, was particularly impressive against the spinners. His effort included nine fours and six via a slog sweep off Roelof Van der Merwe.

De Leede broke the stand by removing Rizwan with a ball that cut back in to sneak through the batter's defence.

From 188 for six, Nawaz (39) and Shadab (32) forged a 64-run partnership to take the team past 250.

Pakistan were on course to reach 300 but De Leede got rid of Shadab and Hasan Ali off successive balls to put the brakes on their scoring.

Brief scores:

Pakistan: 286 all out in 49 overs (Mohammad Rizwan 68, Saud Shakeel 68; Shadab Khan 32, Mohammad Nawaz 39; Bas de Leede 4/62).

Netherlands: 205 all out in 41 overs (Bas de Leede 67, Harris Rauf 3/43, Hasan Ali 2/29).

Indian men's cricket team wins gold at Asian Games



HANGZHOU, Oct 7 (Agencies): The Indian men's cricket team clinched the gold medal on its Asian Games debut after their final against Afghanistan was called off due to rain, and the Rituraj Gaikwad-led side was adjudged winners by virtue of being seeded higher in the continental showpiece on Saturday.

Put in to bat, Afghanistan were 112 for 5 in 18.2 overs when persistent rain halted the proceedings at the Zhejiang University of Technology Cricket Field, and the match never restarted from that point.

The Afghans had a jittery start and were reduced to 12/3 inside four overs after their top-three—Zubaid Akbari (5), Mohammad Shahzad (4) and Noor Ali Zadran (1) -- fell cheaply.

Shivam Dube (1-0-4-1) got the first breakthrough when he had Akbari in his first over. Akbari perished going for a hook shot to a rising delivery by the

Indian pacer.

In the next over, wicketkeeper-batter Shahzad was caught behind off a delivery from left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh (3-0-17-1).

The Afghans committed a harakiri when Zadran was run out after a Ravi Bishnoi throw from deep square-leg helped Jitesh Sharma uproot the stumps.

Shahidullah then revived their innings scoring an unbeaten 43-ball 49 (3x4, 2x6) in a partnership with Afsar Zazai (15).

But India struck back when leg-spinner Bishnoi (4-0-12-1) broke the 37-run partnership, cleaning up Zazai with a wrong one.

From the other end, left-arm spinner Shahbaz Ahmed castled Karim Janat for 1.

That brought skipper Gulbadin Naib to the crease and he shared a 60-run partnership with Shahidullah to give some respectability to the Afghanistan total before their progress was hindered.

The match could not resume and the match referee from Sri Lanka Graeme Labrooy abandoned the match as India sealed their maiden gold in cricket at the Asian Games.

Brief scores: Afghanistan 112/5 in 18.2 overs (Shahidullah 49 not out) vs India. (Match abandoned).

GDC Kathua Inaugurates 50 hours Skill Based Training Program on Mutual Fund

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Oct 7: Career Counselling and Placement Cell, Govt Degree College Kathua in collaboration with Bombay stock exchange ltd launched 50 hours Skill Based Training Program in Mutual Fund. A formal launch of the program was held on 7th October, 2023 at Smart Class room of Govt Degree College Kathua under the overall supervision of Prof. Seema Meer, Principal GDC Kathua. The launch of the program was attended by Prof. Rakesh Singh, Convener Career Counselling and Placement Cell GDC Kathua; Prof. Raj Kiran; Sh Ravi Kumar, Master Trainer Bombay Stock Exchange; Jasbir Badhan, Distt Coordinator; members of Career Counseling and Placement Cell Dr. Anupama Arora, Dr. Pankaj Gupta, Dr. Roshan Lal, Prof. Rahul Sharma, Prof. Shiv Kumar, Prof. Neha Mahajan, Prof. Himani, Dr. Jasvinder Singh, Dr. Verinder Singh, Prof. Nisha and



Prof. Natasha Balloria. Prof. Seema Mir, Principal GDC Kathua stressed on the need of such type of skill courses for the younger generations for self employment which is also the demand of NEP-2020. She congratulated the Convener and members of career counselling and placement cell for taking this initiative by collaborating with BSE. Prof. Rakesh Singh, Convener, Career Counselling and placement cell welcome the participants and in his welcome address he made the students aware about the course and said that this program has been designed to attract bright young graduates/

doing graduation who want to build a career in Banking Industry/ Mutual Fund.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Raj Kiran Sharma who addressed the maiden batch of over 50 students said that this training program is designed for upgrading skills of youth in non conventional economics sector like banking and financial services having high employability potential.

Resource Person of the event Sh. Ravi Kumar highlighted the role of Mutual fund Industry in India and across the world. He made the participants aware that after joining this course they shall be eligible for registration

under National Institute of Security Markets (NISM). NISM certificate is mandatory for any Bank related Job. Moreover various employment opportunities in the financial sector were also discussed in his deliberations.

Jasbir Badhan, Distt Coordinator, in his deliberations discussed various employment opportunities in the financial sector. He asked the students to take benefit from such programs which are offered free of cost to students by BSE. The proceedings of the program was nicely conducted by Prof. Himani Arora and the event was ended with the formal vote of thanks by Dr. Pankaj Gupta.

Shri Ram Universal School celebrates Grandparents' Day with heartwarming event

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 7: Shri Ram Universal School (TSUS) hosted a heartwarming celebration in honor of the grandparents of kindergarten students at the school's auditorium, Shri Sanskriti. The event witnessed a remarkable turnout of grandparents who gathered to witness a delightful program featuring their beloved grandchildren participating in various activities to entertain them.

The distinguished guest for the occasion was Brig Anil Gupta (Retd), a member of the BCCI Sub-Committee responsible for the administration of JKCA. The ceremony commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, a symbol of knowledge and wisdom, by the Chief Guest, accompanied by select grandparents and members of the School Management Committee. In a symbolic gesture, Mr. Sanjeev Gupta, Chairman TSUSJ, and Mrs. Rajni Gupta, Director TSUSJ, presented a potted plant to the Chief Guest, signifying the school's commitment to promoting a Green Policy.



During his welcome note and address to the audience, the school's Principal, Col VK Sharma (Retd), underscored the significant role of grandparents in the lives of children. He highlighted that the tradition of living with one's parents appears to be diminishing, but the enduring love and care that grandparents provide, rooted in their wealth of knowledge and life experiences, remain unparalleled.

The youngest members of the school community, the tiny tots, captivated the audience with their melodious songs and captivating dance performances, earning appreciation from everyone in attendance. To infuse an element of fun into the celebrations, teachers engaged the grandparents with intriguing riddles and engaging games.

Brig Anil Gupta (Retd), the Chief Guest, lauded the remarkable efforts of the students and their mentors in orchestrating such a splendid event. Recognizing the pivotal role that grandparents play in shaping the personalities of young ones, he encouraged them to actively contribute to preserving and perpetuating our rich culture through the minds of the next generation. He commended the school's teaching pedagogy for nurturing respect for culture and heritage, emphasizing the values of equality, patriotism, and societal contribution.

To conclude the event on a grateful note, Ms. Shivani Vaid Sharma, Head Mistress TSUSJ, extended heartfelt thanks to all attendees, acknowledging their valuable presence and participation in making the celebration a resounding success.

'Implement OBC reservation in J&K ULB & Panchayati Raj System'



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, OCT 7: A joint press conference was held today by the O.B.C. Mahasabha, the All India Backward Classes Federation (A.I.B.C.F.), the All Jammu & Kashmir O.B.C. Welfare Forum, and representatives of various O.B.C. castes and communities. The participants expressed their concerns regarding the denial of fundamental reservation rights to the "Other Backward Classes (O.B.C.)" in Jammu & Kashmir despite constitutional provisions under Article 15, 16, and 340 of the Indian Constitution. They also highlighted the Supreme Court's judgment of November 16, 1992, pertaining to the Mandal Commission report, which recommended 27% reservation for OBCs in government services.

Additionally, it was pointed out that OBC representation has been lacking in various elected bodies, including M.P., M.L.A., Municipal Corporations, Municipal Committees, Town Area Committees, and the Panchayati Raj System (D.D.C-Member, Sarpanch-Panch), despite their substantial population. This lack of representation persists despite constitutional provisions under Article

243D-6 and 243-6 for Urban Local Bodies and the Panchayati Raj System. Notably, the Supreme Court of India issued a judgment on May 10, 2022, in Writ Petition number 278, which has been implemented in all states and Union Territories except Jammu and Kashmir.

In 2014 and 2019, Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India, made commitments during public rallies in Jammu & Kashmir that OBCs in the region would receive their constitutional rights to reservation in government services, MLA positions, Urban Local Bodies, and the Panchayati Raj System, in line with their population. However, the OBC communities in Jammu & Kashmir continue to face the same challenges they did before the abrogation of Article 370, as their constitutional reservation rights have not been implemented.

Currently, the Jammu & Kashmir Government has initiated the election process for Urban Local Bodies through the Chief Election Officer of JK-UT. Unfortunately, seats reserved for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and women have been notified without any reservation for JK-OBCs,

despite their 32% population according to the 1931 census. This exclusion has left the JK-UT OBC population without any representation in Urban Local Bodies for decades, perpetuating their marginalized status.

In light of these concerns, we earnestly urge the Jammu & Kashmir Government to conduct the current Urban Local Bodies and Panchayati Raj System Elections with immediate implementation of reservation for "Other Backward Classes (OBC)" in Jammu & Kashmir, in alignment with their population demographics.

The press conference was attended by the following dignitaries: Kasturi Lal Basotra, Chairman O.B.C. Mahasabha, Faquir Chand Satia, President A.I.B.C.F., Mohd Shabir Sambya, President Dhab Welfare Central Committee, I Madan Lal Baldotra, Senior Vice-President All J&K Prajapati Sabha (Kumhar Biradri), Raj Kumar Chalotra, Vice-President Pardesh Vishwakarma Sabha, Balwant Katria, General Secretary, A.I.B.C.F., Kewal Fotra, General Secretary, All J&K Sain Samaj (Barber Community) and Vijay Kumar, Manga Ram, Darshan Lal.

Union Ministry forms team for studying Sea Buck Thorn in Ladakh

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 7: MSME DFO for Ladakh, the field office of Union Ministry of MSME is working for the benefit of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises of Ladakh and is implementing Schemes and activities for the benefit of the sector in the region including organizing Awareness programs for Entrepreneurship Development, PM Vishwakarma Scheme etc.

Union ministry of MSME has formed a team of two assistant secretaries in the Ministry namely Ms Devayani Yadav IAS and Ms Krati Raj IAS with the mandate to study the entire product cycle of Sea Buck Thorn including Cultivation, Reaping, Processing, Manufacturing and marketing products, by products

generated during the processing were also to be studied. The team is visiting Leh, Ladakh on 08.10.2023 and the study is being started from 09.10.2023 onwards. Medicinal value of the Sea Buck Thorn is being studied and analyzed by the team.

The study report of the Assistant secretaries of the Union Ministry is aiming to include the effect of Sea Buck thorn on economy, employment potential, social impact and climatic conditions variations in the UT of Ladakh and its residents. To achieve the objectives of the study the team members are visiting areas under of Cultivation of Sea Buck Thorn presently and the scope of area where these plants can also be grown in future when there is additional demand for the goods produced

from Sea Buck Thorn.

The team members are also visiting the processing facilities presently available in Leh and understand the limitations in those facilities, effect of quality while increasing the scale of operation, increase in time taken from the reaping stage to processing stage. The assistant secretaries after understanding the present method of cultivation, reaping, processing, manufacturing and marketing opportunities available for the produce of the farmers will suggest better methods in all the areas which needs intervention. The team has planned to interact with the farmers, manufacturers, marketing managers, various government departments and policy makers before submitting the final report.

MSME DFO for Ladakh has deputed Rajesh Kumar, Assistant Director as Nodal officer for the team to co-ordinate with various stake holders including Government departments of Ladakh who has already reached Leh and had initial briefing with Directorate of Industries and Commerce which has been nominated as the nodal department from Government of Ladakh to co-ordinate the visit of the team by Shri Sanjeev Kirwar IAS Principal Secretary (Industries), Ladakh. Government of Ladakh noting the importance of the study has also nominated Tudu, Marketing manager from Industries and Commerce department for local coordination and planned interaction with local farmers and other stake holders.

CRPF's exemplary role in upholding Law & Order commended during Women Motor Cycle Campaign in J&K Zone

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 7: The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) stands as one of the most prominent Central Armed Police Forces in India, known for its exceptional contributions in assisting State Governments and Union Territories in preserving law and order and combating insurgency. Renowned for its unique adaptability to various operational requirements and its seamless coordination with State Police, the CRPF has earned the distinction of being highly regarded by both the common people and State administrations. Today, it proudly holds the title of the World's Largest Paramilitary Force.

The CRPF Women Motor Cycle Campaign-2023, conducted in the Jammu & Kashmir Zone, embarked on its journey from Lal Chowk, Srinagar, on October 3, 2023, and has now reached the historic Hari Niwas Palace in Jammu. Under the able guidance of Sh. Sandeep Khirwar, IPS, IG Jammu Sector, and Sh. Rakesh Sethi, DIG Range Jammu, a warm welcome ceremony was organized by the 76th Battalion



CRPF, led by Sh. Tarique Hussain Khan, Commandant-76 Battalion, at Government Higher Secondary School, Satwari, Jammu.

The program's chief guest, Sh. Kavinder Gupta (Former Deputy Chief Minister), extended a warm welcome and heartfelt congratulations to all the distinguished women and personnel involved in this campaign. He highlighted the illustrious history of the CRPF, emphasizing that the Force's legacy is marked not only by the dedication and efficiency of its male personnel but also by the significant contributions of its

female members, who display unwavering commitment to duty across the country. This Women's Rally resonates with the theme of women empowerment, promoting unity and is scheduled to reach Ekta Nagar, Gujrat, on October 31st.

The event saw the participation of several dignitaries, including Smt. Nitu, DIG Srinagar Sector, Sh. Tarique Hussain Khan, Commandant-76 Battalion, Smt. Parveen Sangral, President (Muskan Foundation), Smt. Sagun Manchanda, Mission Coordinator (District Hub for

Empowerment of Women), Sh. Ashok Kumar Sharma, Director of School Education, Sh. Suraj Singh Rathor (Children Education Officer), Smt. Mamta Rajput (District Social Welfare Officer), and local residents of Jammu City, Officers and Jawans of the 76th Bn CRPF, along with their families, participated in the program with great zeal and enthusiasm. Following the successful completion of the program, the CRPF Women Motor Cycle Rally visited the historic "AMAR MAHAL," Hari Palace, Jammu, to learn about its historical significance.