

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 08, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

3 Residential Houses Damaged in Fire Mishap in Srinagar's Barbarshah Locality

SRINAGAR, Oct 8 (Agencies): Three residential houses were damaged in an overnight fire incident in Barbarshah locality in central Kashmir's Srinagar district, an F&ES Department official said on Sunday.

The officials GNS that an information was around 3:30 am, about breaking out of a fire in Barbarshah chowk. "Men and machinery were soon after rushed towards the spot", the official said, adding, "After strenuous efforts the fire was brought under control."

The incident, the official said, due to congestion in the area, two houses were left with substantial damage even as another house also received damage to some extent.

Air India cancels Tel Aviv Flights till Oct 14

NEW DELHI, Oct 8 (Agencies): Air India on Sunday said it has cancelled its flights to and from Tel Aviv till October 14.

Israel came under attack by Hamas militants on Saturday and since then, both sides are engaged in fighting in which scores of people have died.

"Our flights to and from Tel Aviv will remain suspended till 14th October, 2023, for the safety of our passengers and crew," an airline spokesperson said in a statement.

Govt Clears Appointments Of 12 Executive Directors For Various State-Owned Banks

NEW DELHI, Oct 8 (Agencies): The Government has approved the appointments of 12 general managers as executive directors (EDs) of various public sector banks (PSBs).

According to sources, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet on Saturday approved the appointments of 12 EDs.

As per the government order, Sanjay Rudra, general manager, Bank of Maharashtra, has been appointed ED, Union Bank of India. Another GM from the same bank, Vijaykumar N Kamble will take over as ED of

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"Indian Air force must be one of the best by 2032," says IAF chief

PRAYAGRAJ, Oct 8 (Agencies): Chaudhari, while addressing the 91st Indian Air Force Day on Sunday, said that if India is on the path to becoming a developed nation by 2047 the Indian Air Force must be one of the best by the time we complete 100 years.

"In my first address two years ago, I spoke about my experience with all air warriors, so that the Air Force remains relevant and contemporary. In my last year's address, I spoke about the requirements and transformation, and how hybrid warfare and multi-domain operations highlight the need to redefine, reimagine, and recalibrate ourselves. This year, I would like to focus on making that



vision a reality," he said. Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari said, "In the past nine decades, Indian Air Forces have constantly evolved and transformed as one of the finest air forces of the world, if India is on the path to becoming a developed nation by 2047, then India Air forces must be one of the best, if not, the best by the time we complete

100 years by 2032, the vision has laid down a doctrine, that is to be an agile and adaptable air force that provides decisive air power in furtherance of national interest. In order to make a vision a reality we must play our part diligently, we must reform or become a relic, we must innovate else become mundane, we must transform else become irrelevant."

"The theme for this year is 'Indian Air Force: Air Power Beyond Boundaries'. The theme aptly reflects the inherent global reach of air power and how air power will prove decisive in future conflict. Air force operations extend worldwide, providing rapid mobility and global reach, and this reach allows a nation to project air power beyond boundaries, in the form of rapid deployment, HADR, and peacekeeping missions. We need to understand the nuances of air power, setting to preserve peace if and when necessary to fight and win wars," added the IAF Chief.

While addressing the IAF personnel, he urged them to strive for

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LAHDC-Kargil elections: NC-Congress win tally goes to 8, BJP 1 after 3rd round of counting



KARGIL, Oct 8 (Agencies): The winning tally of National Conference-Congress alliance in the LAHDC-Kargil rose to eight while BJP managed to one seat so far after 3rd round of counting.

As per the latest update available with Greater Kashmir, after the 3rd round of counting of votes, Indian National Congress has managed to win five council seats - highest so far, while as the alliance partner

National Conference has won three seats. Bharatiya Janata Party managed to win only one seat.

The counting of votes for the elections to 26 seats of the 30-member Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Kargil, is underway amid tight security arrangements.

Congress has recorded its wins in Rambirpoa, Pashkum, Choskore, Chiktan and

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LG Sinha extends greetings to air warriors on foundation day

JAMMU, Oct 8 (Agencies): Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday wished Indian Air Force personnel and their families on Air Force Day which is being celebrated in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj.

In a post on X, LG Sinha wrote, "Greetings to Air Warriors & their families on Air Force Day. IAF is a symbol of unflinching courage & distinguished service. I salute @IAF_MCC for their courage, valor & spirit of sacrifice. Your commitment to safeguarding skies & addressing humanitarian challenges is commendable."

"People of Ladakh have spoken": Mehbooba Mufti on LAHDC election

SRINAGAR, Oct 8 (Agencies): Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti on Sunday congratulated the National Conference and Congress for their "victory" in Kargil and said that "people of Ladakh" have spoken.

"Heartening to see secular parties like NC and Congress register their victory in Kargil. It's the first election post-2019 and people of Ladakh have spoken," Mufti said in a post on 'X' following the results



of some seats in the fifth Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Election. Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir National Conference workers celebrated as the party won two seats in the election. The counting of votes is still underway.

"We have a lot of expectations, but let us wait for the results..." National Conference Chief Farooq Abdullah said speaking to reporters about their victory in the LAHDC election.

The counting of votes started for LAHDC elections amid high-security arrangements on Sunday.

This time, 65 percent

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Nepotism allegations cloud SKIMS resident doctor appointments

SRINAGAR, Oct 8 (Agencies): Numerous aspirants have raised concerns regarding the recruitment of senior stipendiary residents at the Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) in Soura, Srinagar. Candidates claim that neither merit nor entrance exams were utilised as criteria for selecting the candi-

dates.

The aspirants have disclosed that on September 21, SKIMS released a selection list for the appointment of 53 stipendiary senior resident doctors. Upon reviewing the list of selected candidates, many aspirants questioned the selection process, particularly in the surgery department, asserting that only

favoured individuals were chosen.

"Among the candidates selected in the surgery department was Dr Masood Tanvir Bhat's son, who is the principal of the Government Medical College (GMC), along with several other favored candidates," they claimed.

According to both

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Police initiates proclamation proceedings against active terrorist in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, Oct 8 (Agencies): Baramulla Police in coordination with Revenue department have initiated proclamation proceedings under Section 82 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) against Abid Qayoom Lone son of Abdul Qayoom Lone resident of Wussan Khoie Pattan who was allegedly involved in several acts of terrorism.

In this regard, FIR No 120/2023 u/s 7/25 I A Act, 18, 20, 23, 38, 39 UA (P) Act, 4/5 Explosive Substances Act stands already registered against him of Police Station Pattan.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Baramulla Amod Ashok Nagpure while sharing the details said that Baramulla Police is committed to uphold the law and to ensure the safety

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Mahajan slams Govt over Unscheduled Power Cuts in Jammu

Seeks LG intervention over missing of several deadlines given by authorities over 24x7 power supply

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 8: Rajiv Mahajan, President of Shri Ram Sena, J&K, has expressed deep concern over the persistent issue of unscheduled power cuts in Jammu City, which has left the citizens living in miserable conditions without access to basic amenities. Despite the government's ambitious plans to transform Jammu into a Smart City, the lack of consistent and uninterrupted power supply has hindered the progress and development of the region.

In a press statement issued here today, Rajiv Mahajan said that the people of Jammu City have been grappling



with the repercussions of irregular power supply for far too long. Not only are they enduring prolonged power outages, but they are also burdened with inflated power bills following the installation of smart meters, he said.

"It is disheartening to witness the stark contrast between the promises of modernization and the daily struggles

faced by the citizens," he added.

Mahajan highlighted that the government has repeatedly set deadlines to ensure 24x7 power supply in Jammu, but these promises have gone unfulfilled, leaving the people in distress. He questioned the meaning of providing 24x7 power supply. Is the government is committed to power 24 hours in seven 7 days a week or we consider that 7 hours out of 24 hours in a day?

He emphasized that the residents of Jammu are diligently paying their electricity bills, and they rightfully expect reliable and uninterrupted power supply in return

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Six suicides in 24 hours jolt UP's hi-tech hub Noida; Cops blame stress

NOIDA, Oct 8 (Agencies): Six suicides in just a single day have shaken Uttar Pradesh's hi-tech city Noida, and the major reason being cited in these cases is mental stress. According to the information received, on October 5 six people living in Noida committed suicide due to mental stress. As per information from the media cell of the Police Commissionerate Gautam Budh Nagar,



Jagbir Singh Rath (50), living in Police Station Beta-2 area, hanged himself from a tree near Gamma-One.

He was a businessman and the reason for his suicide is said to be family dispute. Secondly, a woman Shivani,

aged 22, living in Badalpur police station area, committed suicide by hanging herself from a fan at her house due to mental stress. In the third incident, 17-year-old Lalita, living in Police Station Phase-One area, hanged herself from a fan in her house, again due to mental stress.

In the fourth case, Jitendra alias Jeetu, living in the Jarcha area of the police station,

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Opposition parties dharna on Oct. 10 will send peoples' message for early restoration of democracy: Vikar

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct. 08 : PCC President Shri Vikar Rasool Wani has asked all senior leaders and functionaries of PCC including former Ministers, ex-legislators, DCC Presidents, functionaries of frontal organizations and blocks to attend the proposed peaceful Joint Dharna of main opposition parties and like minded social organizations on 10th Oct. for the restoration of democracy and other burning issues confronting the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a meeting of senior party functionaries, DCC Presidents, Corporators and frontal organizations at the PCC HQ here today, alongwith Working President Shri Raman Bhalla, Shri Vikar Rasool Wani asked the party leaders and workers to join the proposed Dharna on Oct. 10 in order to send a message of united opposi-

tion seeking immediate restoration of democracy and the democratic and constitutional rights to the people of J&K apart from highlighting the burning issues of people of different sections of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that people are suffering under the bureaucratic regime for last more than five years and the Governor's administration claimed the more than 80 % people in Jammu and Kashmir don't want elections and are happy with the present dispensation. In order to counter this kind of narrative, the united opposition through this peaceful dharna want to send a clear and loud message that the people of Jammu and Kashmir want early restoration of democracy and to have their elected government apart from other democratic and constitutional rights and want to get rid of the present bureaucratic system,

sooner the better.

Although the dharna is symbolic and not a show of strength but good number of leaders and workers will attend the joint the people protest on Oct. 10 and thereafter some time the leadership of the INDIA alliance would also be invited here.

Addressing the meeting Working President Raman Bhalla said that people want immediate holding of Assembly elections apart from other elections like ULB and Panchayats etc. on time without any delay. The people of Jammu and Kashmir irrespective of any ideology, religion or region are unanimous on the demand for the restoration of democracy at the earliest and other democratic rights and statehood without any delay.

He said that joint opposition dharna will send out a strong message of the people desire for early elections to the state assembly and

other due elections apart from restoration of other democratic and constitutional rights. He said the UT administration and Centre Govt. are trying to dodge the people of Jammu and Kashmir by delaying and deferring assembly elections and other elections time and again out of the fear of the backlash and defeat of BJP. Ravinder Sharma Chief Spokesperson briefed the meeting regarding the preparations and consultations with the like minded political parties and other social organizations like NC, PDP, CPIM, Panthers Party, Shiv Sena, IDP and others who are like minded and united for restoration of democracy and other democratic rights at the earliest. He said that the senior leadership of all the liked minded parties and their workers will participate in good number although it is symbolic peaceful dharna between 10.30

A.M. on wards. He said that burning issues faced by the different sections of the society including unemployed youth, farmers, students, traders, transporters, daily wagers, temporary employees and all other burning issues of common man shall also be highlighted.

Prominent those attended include Yogesh Sawhney, Vinod Sharma, Trilok Singh Bahwa, Ved Mahajan, Rajnish Sharma, DCC Presidents Krishan Bhagat, Hari Singh Chib, Pankaj Dopgra, Sanjeev Sharma, Rajesh Sadhotra, Shiv Kumar Sharma, Pawan Raina, Vijay Sharma, Akash Bharat, Ch. Dwarka, Gurmit Singh, Pawan aina, Parveen Sarwar Khan, Babal Gupta, Naresh Sharma, Narinder Gupta, Neeraj Gupta, Narinder Sharma, T.S. Tony, Vijay Tagotra, Vijay Shastri, Dr. R.K. Khajuria, Pawandev Singh and others.

Revoke permission for fair in residential colony, Trikuta Nagar residents warn protest



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 8: Residents of Trikuta Nagar's Adarsh Colony in Jammu has strongly condemned the administration for ignoring the written objections and requests of local residents and allowing a fair to be held in one of the residential plots. They demanded immediate cancellation of this permission and have warned of staging a protest if their demands are not met.

While addressing the media persons by local residents of Ward 52 in Trikuta Nagar near the fairground, in the presence of Shiv Sena(UBT) president Manish Sahni, provided them with information about the ground situation.

Inhabitants of the area Pawan Gupta and R Anand revealed that as soon as they received information about the fair being organized on

a residential plot adjacent to the colony, a delegation led by local residents along with Shiv Sena Jammu-Kashmir Chief Manish Sahni submitted a written request along with a verbal appeal to the Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sachin Kumar, on October 3rd, requesting the cancellation of permission for the fair. However, they were surprised when the administration disregarded all objections and issued permission for the fair to hold on October 6th.

Manish Sahni stated that the administration's dismissal of the objections of local residents has proven that there is arbitrary rule and no consideration for the public's concerns. He emphasized that permission for organizing a fair in a residential colony cannot be considered justifiable, especially when it poses risks

related to security, noise pollution, air pollution, potential crimes, and drug-related issues, as mentioned in their written objections.

Sahni pointed out that granting permission for the fair in the colony signals corruption and called upon the Jammu-Kashmir Police, Municipal Corporation, Fire Department, and Traffic Department to investigate the matter thoroughly.

Sahni also made it clear that if the permission is not revoked as requested by the residents, they will peacefully approach DC Jammu again to seek the cancellation of permission. If their demands are not met, they will be compelled to stage a protest, and during this time, if any law and order situation deteriorates, it will be the administration's responsibility, he warned.

Delay in de-notification of Gair Mumkin Khad causing hardship to common man: Abhay Bakaya

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 8: Apni Party Spokesperson and State General Secretary Youth Wing, Abhay Bakaya today said that the Government's delay in de-notification of Gair Mumkin Khad in Jammu and Kashmir has caused hardship to the people.

In a statement issued here, the Gair Mumkin Khad is a land that does not form part of any watercourse or source but has been recorded as such in revenue

records

He said that the government had set into motion the process for delineation and demarcation of Gair Mumkin Khads, but many deadlines have been missed

However, the issue still remains unresolved, and the people are facing difficulties due to the delay

He further said that the delay in resolving the issue has caused inconvenience to the people, and they are eagerly waiting for a solution.



"We hope that the Government will take swift action to resolve the issue of Gair Mumkin Khad and provide relief to the people. The Gair Mumkin Khad lands con-

stitute a major part of the planning in Jammu and Kashmir," said Abhay.

He said that "Therefore, it is essential that the government takes immediate action to resolve the issue and ensure that the people do not face any further hardship. We urge the government to expedite the process of de-notification of Gair Mumkin Khad and provide relief to the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

He said that the prop-

erty holders and the buyers are among the worst affected because of restrictions on the Gair Mumkin Khad that needs to be lifted to ensure that the people do not suffer.

"Jammu is mostly inhabited on Gair Mumkin Khad land since Maharaja time. Hence, the de-notification of the Gair Mumkin Khad land is important to restore the land rights of the property holders and buyers in Jammu and its adjoining areas," he added.

Sham Basson urges for revocation of Order No 156 JK (SWD) Of 2022 to ensure pensions for widows, disabled, elderly

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 8: Corporator Sham Lal Basson, along with concerned residents, raised pressing concerns regarding Order No 156 JK (SWD) Of 2022 dated 08-09-2022 issued by the Social Welfare Department, Civil Secretariat Jammu. The primary issue addressed was the release of pensions in favor of widows, disabled individuals, and the elderly.

The Order No 156 JK (SWD) Of 2022 introduced new rules under the Integrated Social Security Scheme, requiring existing beneficiaries to possess PHH AAY ration cards to avail financial assistance. This new mandate has left more than 90% of pension holders in Jammu City, who possess NPHH ration cards, without these essential benefits. The delay in the issuance of PHH/AAY ration cards by the CAPD department has further exacerbated the situation.

Addressing media persons here today, Corporator Sham Lal Basson emphasized that despite the submission of proforma devised by Hon'ble Mayor JMC to concerned tehsildars for verification, the CAPD department has insisted on the requirement



of PHH ration cards. Camps were organized in various wards with the participation of officers from the revenue department, social welfare department, and CAPD for the preparation of PHH cards.

It is essential to note that most sons registered on ration cards of widows, elderly, or disabled persons are married and living separately, yet ration cards have not been bifurcated. Consequently, more than 90% of widows have been denied the benefits of the scheme due to the lack of a ration card bifurcation process.

Furthermore, the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs UT of J&K has notified "Jammu And Kashmir Food Security Rules, 2021" to include genuine beneficiaries under the Food Security Act. These include households headed by widows, single women, differentially-abled persons, individuals with

disabilities above 40%, terminally ill individuals, households dependent on daily wage labor, and those with elderly members over 60 years of age without regular income support.

Regrettably, the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs has not accepted these cases.

Despite addressing issues such as Property Tax and Smart Meters, the pressing concern of releasing pensions for widows, disabled, and elderly individuals remains unaddressed.

Corporator Sham Lal Basson urged for the revocation or modification of Order No 156 JK (SWD) Of 2022 dated

08-09-2022, excluding the PHH ration card condition. Failure to do so would result in the deprivation of thousands of widows, disabled, and elderly persons from the pension scheme. He warned that if the order is not amended, numerous affected individuals could take to the streets, with the LG Administration bearing responsibility for any untoward incidents.

Speakers at the press conference included Prof. (Retd.) Chaman Lal Shivgotra, Bahadur Lal, Ex-President of Saryara Sabha Bahu Fort Jammu, Prakash Chand (91 years), Sh. Shanker Dass (85 years), and Milkhi Ram (86 years).

Bukhari urges Govt to name Budgam Railway Station in tribute to martyred DySP Humayun Muzamil

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Oct 8: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari has called upon the government to provide a government job to the widow of DySP Humayun Muzamil, who valiantly laid down his life while combating terrorists in south Kashmir's Kokernag last month. He also suggested renaming the railway station in his hometown of Budgam in honor of the heroic DySP.

In a statement, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said, "Deputy Superintendent of Police Humayun Muzamil Bhat, along with two other senior officers, sacrificed their lives for the nation while fighting terrorists in Kokernag on September 13. I strongly suggest that the railway

station in central Kashmir's Budgam district should be named after the braveheart Humayun Muzamil."

Sadly, we often tend to forget the gallant soldiers and officers who lay down their lives for our nation. Therefore, I earnestly propose renaming Budgam's railway station in memorial of the fallen hero, Humayun Muzamil.

"I also appeal to Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha Ji to provide a government job to the widow of the martyred officer, who is a young, educated woman with a young child to take care of." Apni Party President further added, "Sadly, we tend to forget our soldiers and officials who give their lives in the line of duty too quickly. We should always remember these bravehearts."

75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION BHADERWAH xenbhadrawahrn66@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

e-NIT No.:- 32 of 2023-24 Dated:- 06-10-2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited on Percentage basis form approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD Railways and other State / Central Governments for the following work.

S. No	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (in Lacs)	Earnest Money @ 2%	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Time of completion (in days)	Class of Contractor	Position of AAA / TS
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Upgradation of Approach Path to Foot Bridge at Dradhu	1.75	3500	600	30 Days	D	Accord / Accord

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 www.jktenders.gov.in as per below schedule.

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	06-10-2023
2	Period of Downloading of bidding documents	From 06-10-2023 to 16-10-2023, 1600 Hrs.
3	Bid Submission Start Date	06-10-2023 from 1600 Hrs.
4	Bid Submission End Date	16-10-2023 upto 1600 Hrs.
5	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids (Online)	17-10-2023 on or after 1200 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Bhadrawah
6	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 e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Bhadrawah uploading a copy of treasury challan and EMD/Bid Security in the shape of CDR/FDR (The date of Treasury Challan / Bid Security/Affidavits between date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date) duly pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Bhadrawah as mentioned in the bid documents. 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 Bhadrawah. 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.

No.:- EE/PWD/R&B/BHD/DB/2023-24/1792-1803
Dated :-06-10-2023
DIP/J-9257/23

Sd/-
(Er. Rajinder Kumar)
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Bhadrawah

EDITORIAL

LEADERSHIP
STYLES

Leadership style means the pattern of behaviour a leader follows or adopts for influencing the followers or the subordinates working in the enterprise. What style of leadership a leader adopts depends on an array of factors such as his personality traits, value system and experience.

Leadership style varies from person to person at the same point of time and may also vary from one situation to another situation by the same leader.

Behavioural pattern adopted by a leader while influencing his followers is called as a leadership style. What style of leadership a leader adopts depends on an array of factors such as his personality traits, value system and experience. Leadership style varies from person to person at the same point of time and may also vary from one situation to another situation by the same leader.

An autocratic leader exercises strict control over his subordinates. He dominates the group and gives orders with an expectation of fulfillment without any queries. Such a leader believes in maintaining a formal authority relationships, strictly following one-way communication and has least trust and confidence in his subordinates.

Leaders with authoritative behavioural pattern motivate subordinates with the tools of punishments, threats and penalties. In autocratic leadership style, decision-making is centralised with the leader, subordinates are perceived as mere recipients of orders and work environment is tense.

Participative leader also called as democratic leader invites inputs from the subordinates on company issues before taking any decision. Participative leadership involves all team members both in terms of identification of goals as well as devising policies and strategies to achieve such goals. In this type of leadership, ample freedom of opinion is given to subordinates and two-way communication is encouraged. Democratic leaders use rewards and appreciations as tools to motivate their subordinates.

Under free rein leadership also called as laissez-faire, it may be said that virtually there is no leadership. Though the performance standards and objectives are set, subordinates are given full autonomy to decide and plan how to achieve these objectives. The entire decision-making responsibility is passed on to the subordinates with least intervention of leader.

Good leaders use all the three styles of leadership, though, however, only one of them dominates at a point of time.

Authoritarian (Autocratic) style is used when the leader tells his employees what he wants and how he wants it done, without getting the advice of his followers. Some of the appropriate conditions when this style is used are when leader has all the information to solve the problem, he is short on time, and his employees are well motivated.

Some people tend to think that this style is leading by threats and abusing their power. This is not the authoritarian style rather it is an abusive unprofessional style called bossing people around which has no place in a leader's profile.

The authoritarian style should only be used on rare occasions. If leaders have the time and want to gain commitment and motivation from the employees, they should use the participative style.

Participative (Democratic) style involves the leader and one or more employees in the decision-making process (determining what to do and how to do). However, the leader maintains the final decision-making authority. Using this style is not a sign of weakness; rather it is a sign of strength that employees respect and are committed to.

This style is normally used when leader has part of the information, and employees have other parts. A leader is not expected to know everything — this is why he employs knowledgeable and skillful employees. Using this style is of mutual benefit to both, leader and the followers. It allows followers to become part of the team and leader to make better decisions.

In Delegate (Free Reign) style of leadership, leader allows the employees to make decisions. However, the leader remains responsible for the decisions that are made by employees. This style is used when employees are able to analyze the situation and determine what needs to be done and how to do it. The leader cannot do everything. He sets priorities and delegates certain tasks to employees.

Merits of self-care during a 'bad year'

By: Shreya Sen-Handley

Queen Elizabeth II had declared 1992 her 'annus horribilis' making us titter at the time, not only because we were in our teens and everything sounded rude, but because we couldn't even conceive of the possibility of a WHOLE YEAR going belly up.

I know better now.

At the cost of provoking my own Annus Horribilis, 2023, into conjuring further bad luck for me in its few remaining months, let me give you some of my year's 'lowdarks': both my India-based elderly parents were hospitalised this year at different times, in my rush to get to them from the other side of the world, I suffered a severe mid-air seizure, exacerbating pre-existing chronic health conditions. Our beloved dog fell so ill it looked like we might lose her, and the rotten cherry atop the *\$%^cake was the pandemic-propelled decimation of arts funding in the UK, which made many of my cast-iron, signed-and-sealed writing commissions disappear into thin year... I mean air.

Knowing that creatives around the world had been similarly impacted didn't make it better, because, as any artist will attest, it isn't really about our pockets, empty at the best of times, but what it does to our self-worth and state of mind. Nor is the ruin of arts practitioners this year's only setback, with wildfires, earthquakes, wars, cost-of-living crises and epidemics steadily engulfing the

planet.

Funny, in this context, is that my closet-poet doc tells me it's "de-stress or distress" for me. That my survival depends on dialling down the anxiety. But if survival wasn't already a struggle, would I be worried? Yet, pressed for a POA to deal with this Catch-22 conundrum, the doc had no answers.

Nevertheless, chill out we must. Make the best of a bad job. Get our heads down and plough on. That I can do, and have always done, but this unwinding malarkey — how on this storm-tossed earth does one do that? Should I phone a friend? Ask the audience? Can Pink Floyd help me get comfortably numb?

My bestie said looking forward to his retirement sustained him. But the average age of retirement in most countries has been pushed to seventy, which seems too distant a prize to even contemplate! Gone are the days, even in prosperous western states, when you could retire in your fifties with a pension that kept you in clover for the rest of your life. A subject so triggering for France this year, that a million would-be-pensioners fought over it with the gendarmes, up and down the Champs Elysees!

How about a 'mini-retirement' Gary-Neville-style? We cackled when this millionaire footballer waxed lyrical about his 'new' idea; a centuries-old concept everyday folk call a holiday! He might be better acquainted with it in practice, however, as we plebs

could do with a proper break. The average American, often working two jobs, gets ten paid annual holidays, whilst the rest of us, marginally better off, are too beset with health, financial, parental, and other problems to relax.

Our family holidays are unfailingly fun, but rarely rejuvenating because we feel compelled, like Tennyson's Ulysses, to drink life to the lees. Every parent knows that children can never sit still, keeping us on our toes as well! Besides which, most 'responsible' adult minds can't stop ticking, with work ideas, domestic stratagem, and our inner voices loudly attempting to quell 'em.

The antidote, we're told, is a daily dose of 'wellness'. 'Self-care' it's also called, cloaked in a hundred different rigs, by a million, money-raking Instagram influencers ('influencers' you say?). They'll make you chuck your tottering piles of beloved books to 'spark joy'. Or push you to attain nirvana by buying their ghostwritten tomes, nicked philosophies, and snake oil. One fine day, your muff-scented candle purchase from Gwyneth Paltrow's Goop will have you weltering in the very stresspools you tried to escape. Wellness or well less, y'all?

But if turning away from mass-marketed bunkum, we tailored self-care to our individual needs instead, it could work. In recent years I've found that tiny acts of kindness towards myself does, in fact, reduce stress. Like ignoring social dic-

tums that impede comfort. Certain women's garments, for example, that society enforces, I've divested for the most part.

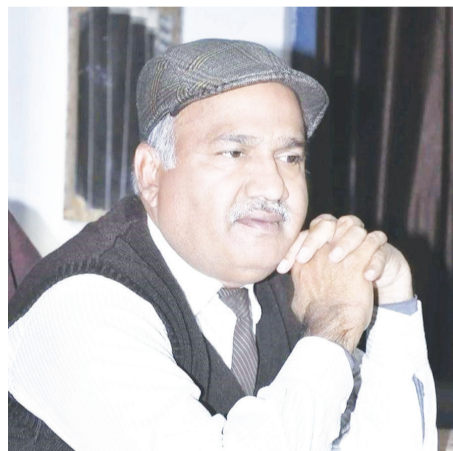
What about the little quirks we all have? Why not allow ourselves those? Children routinely self-soothe, but we restrain ourselves as adults. Pacing helps when I'm anxious, and (mild) rocking when I need to marshal patience, but where I would've stopped myself in company as a younger person, I can no longer be bothered! I have a friend who talks to himself, making elaborate gestures. As he ages, he cares less and less whether people think he's bonkers. What he is, is extremely bright, and can see a situation from so many angles, that he must powwow with himself.

We really must let people be themselves, decompressing as a consequence.

I do bits more every year to look after my mental health my way, as do friends and acquaintances. And you'd make such spiffing contributions too that it would be brilliant if we started a list that was sent around the planet, with each and every human adding their own personal de-stressors to it. We'd become richer (emotionally at least) than the wellness gurus, who could all take a hike!

We'd still need doctors though, and shrinks, and most of all, arts practitioners! We'd also require solutions for our overwhelming problems — like climate change. But slaying our inner demons could be a start.

Digital technology can be a powerful tool for supporting children with special needs



By: Vijay GarG

In an era where technology is reshaping the way we live and learn, the National Education Policy (NEP-2020) paves the way for an education revolution. NEP 2020 envisions a future where education is not just accessible to all, but truly inclusive, regardless of abilities or disabilities. It recognizes the pivotal role of Digital Technology as a catalyst for promoting inclusivity in education. It emphasizes the importance of leveraging digital technology to provide equitable access to high-quality education for

every child. Additionally, NEP 2020 highlights the critical role of teacher training in effectively harnessing digital technology for educational purposes. New technologies can enable the exploration of new learning modalities that disrupt the traditional hierarchies of educational systems and develop genuine alternatives to rigid, passive learning approaches for children with special needs (CWSN) or Divyang. Extensive use of technology in teaching and learning, removing language barriers, increasing access for Divyang students, and educational planning and management is one of the fundamental principles of NEP 2020 and it also initiates for development a rich variety of educational softwares, made available for students and teachers at all levels, will be accessible to a wide range of Divyang students in all major Indian languages. ICT is recognized as a key enabler of inclusive education, and the NEP 2020 emphasizes the importance of

using ICT to provide access to quality education for all children.

Incorporating digital technology into the education of CWSN is not merely an option but a necessity in the modern education landscape. NEP 2020's focus on inclusivity and equity aligns perfectly with the potential of technology to empower children with special needs. It not only promises to bridge the educational disparities but also offers tailor-made support to cater to their unique requirements. It represents a significant step forward in building a more equitable and accessible education system for all. Digital technology can be a powerful tool for supporting children with special needs in their development and it can help them to develop their communication, social, and cognitive skills. It has the potential to revolutionize education for children with special needs. Students with disabilities exhibit a diverse range of abilities and needs,

thus requiring a variety of instructional and assessment methods and strategies. By equipping educators with the skills and knowledge needed to effectively integrate digital tools, we can create a more equitable and inclusive educational system where every child, regardless of their abilities, has the opportunity to thrive. To provide CWSN with access to quality education, support their learning, and create a more inclusive learning environment, teachers need to be skilled in identifying the ICT needs of CWSN, selecting and using appropriate ICT tools and resources, adapting and developing educational materials using digital technology, integrating it into the classroom curriculum, and assessing and evaluating learning using digital technology.

(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist Malout
Punjab)

JKMEF highlights several issues facing by healthcare employees

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 8: The Jammu Kashmir Medical Employees Federation (JKMEF), led by Sushil Sudan, President, and a member of the Pharmacy Council of India, highlighted several pressing issues faced by healthcare employees.

Firstly, the Federation raised concerns regarding the delay in the release of the Promotion List. Despite the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) being conducted three months ago, the promotion list has not yet been made public. The Federation urges the authorities to promptly release the promotion list to provide clarity to eligible employees.

Secondly, the Federation emphasized the need for a resolution to the 2211 Head Salary Issue. Female multipurpose health workers have been experiencing prolonged delays in receiving their salaries, causing financial hardship. The Federation implores the government to address this issue urgently and



ensure a consistent and timely salary disbursement process.

Additionally, the Federation called for compassionate treatment for terminally ill employees. While acknowledging the Directorate of Health Services' initiative to relocate employees who have completed five years of service, the Federation urges the government to consider the special circumstances of terminally ill and nearing superannuation employees when making reassignments.

Furthermore, the Federation stressed the importance of timely General Provident Fund (GP Fund) disbursement. It is vital that the final GP Fund payment

be disbursed within 15 days after an employee's superannuation to enable retired employees to fulfill their social and domestic obligations promptly.

Lastly, the Federation advocated for the appointment of a permanent director within the Health Department. The absence of a permanent director has resulted in inefficiencies in departmental management, leading to dissatisfaction among both the public and employees. The Federation believes that appointing a permanent director will contribute to better governance and improved healthcare services.

The Jammu Kashmir Medical Employees

Federation earnestly implores the government to attentively consider and address the genuine grievances of healthcare employees.

Participants in the Press Conference included: S. Parfulat Sintigh, Bharat Bhushan Bhagat, Bahadur Singh, Sunil Chauhan, Mukhtiar Kohli, Madan Sharma, Daleep Choudhary, Surjeet Rajan, Kulwant Singh, Ajay Sharma, Saurav Bakshi, Subhash Choudhary, Pawan Singh Jamwal, Rajinder Sharma, Vishal Gorkha, Rajesh Kumar, Vikas Sabharwal, Ajeet Choudhary, Gagan Singh, Ajay Phool, Tuffail Hussain, and Govind Ram Sharma.

Oppressed classes upliftment special focus of PM Modi: MP Khatana

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 8: Bharatiya Janata Party MP Rajya Sabha Er. Gulam Ali Khatana today said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has special focus to uplift the discriminated against and oppressed sections of the society. He said that many revolutionary steps have been initiated by the PM Modi led government including political reservation to STs, reservation to economically weaker sections, abrogation of article 370 and hard blow to dynastic politics.

Addressing a large gathering at Village Dhok Waziran in Nagrota area, MP Gulam Ali Khatana said that all parties exploited scheduled caste and scheduled tribes for past last 70 years and did nothing for their upliftment. He said that some even used family lineage to exploit the innocent masses especially ST



community in J&.

A large number of people also joined BJP on the occasion including Kajal Chouhan, Prachi Chohan, Varun Kumar, Ajay Kumar, Raj Kumar, Aryan, Arun vaid, Bittu, Rahul Kumar, Choudhary Makhan, Raju and others.

MP Khatana further said that BJP government has ensured that benefit of welfare schemes reach to the

needy and poor and multiple checks have been ensured so that pilferage comes to minimum. He said that special focus is on providing potable drinking water and electricity to every household and in near future this dream will come true.

He said that for landless and poor a policy for 5 marla plot to landless has been formalized and houses under

PMAY are being constructed on these plots. He said that neighbouring country has been trying to disturb peace in the union territory but our forces are prepared to defeat their nefarious designs.

Khatana urged the people to keep any eye on anti-social elements especially drug smugglers as drugs are capable of destroying a whole generation.

Unnat NGO displays candles, Lipan arts at the Butterfly festival

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 8: First Annual Jammu Butterfly Festival was organized in the Environment Park Raika of Jammu, through which all those things were displayed by Unnat NGO and asked people to use only the things made in their own country. The program was presided over by Unnat President Sudarshan Abrol.

An Unnat NGO set up a stall at the festival in which candles were displayed. Neena Abrol, General Secretary of Unnat NGO said that our only objective is to buy and use the things being made in our country.



Candles have been made in view of the upcoming Diwali. The income earned from selling things will be spent for the welfare of the people living in the orphanage. Paintings from Gujarat which are

known as Lipan Arts were also displayed.

The organization comprises dedicated members such Dr Anuradha-Treasure, Preeti Gupta, Kanchan Sharma and others.

Dr. Nasir elected as new District President NHM Doda

TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Oct 8: In an effort to address their long-pending and legitimate demands and to unite all employees on a common platform, a district-level convention cum meeting of National Health Mission (NHM) employees of District Doda was held at Town Hall Doda on Sunday.

The District-Level Convention was organized under the banner of the All Jammu and Kashmir NHM Employees Association and saw a significant turnout of approximately 200 employees, including Medical Officers, Paramedics, and Management Staff from various medical blocks, as well as staff from GMC Doda and ANMT School Doda.

The convention commenced with a welcome speech by Sh. Faizan A. Trambo (Former District President), who extended a warm welcome to all the participants and presented the agenda points related to the organization of the convention and the union's past activities.

During the convention, various issues were brought to the forefront, including policies for



regularization, transfer policies for those residing outside the district, the implementation of equal pay for equal work, and salary enhancements, including outsourced DEOs and timely payment of NHM employees.

Speakers at the program emphasized that NHM employees working under different NHM schemes have been making commendable contributions to the overall healthcare system in Jammu and Kashmir, especially in the most remote and inaccessible areas. Despite their dedication and service, there is no mechanism in place to regularize their employment, which is disheartening. NHM employees are considered the backbone of the health department, having devoted their

prime years to serving the people under NHM.

Furthermore, speakers pointed out that the prolonged denial of NHM employees' legitimate demands infringes upon their basic rights and the right to equal wages for equal work, as guaranteed by the Indian Constitution.

During the convention, employees urged the LG Administration and other senior officials of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory to fulfill their genuine demands, ensuring they no longer suffer and can live a life of dignity and equality.

Speakers who shared their views during the convention included Dr. Hamid Parray, Dr. Manjeet Singh, Dr. Sadeeq Wani, Dr. Farhat Abass, Dr. Shazia Shakeel, Sh. Arshad Zaffar (BAM),

and Dr. Younis Saleem (President, CHOs Association).

At the conclusion of the convention, a district-level body was formed through proper elections. Dr. Nasir Masood was elected as the new District President, Dr. Younis Saleem as Vice President, Dr. Manjeet Singh as General Secretary, Dr. Shazia Shakeel as Spokesperson, Mohd Rafiq as Cashier, and Sh. Arshad Zaffar as Coordinator. Additionally, Dr. Hamid Parray, Dr. Farhat Abass, Sh. Jahangir Mehta, Sh. Faizan Elahi, Dr. Sadeeq Wani, Sh. Umar Anayat, Ms. Nargis Jahan, Dr. Faheem Wani, Sh. Pinku Sharma, and Dr. Vijay Kumar (CHO) were nominated as members of the District Advisory Committee.

Ajeet Bhagat criticizes Govt's Inaction on SC/ST, Weaker Sections' rights in J&K

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Oct 8: Ajeet Bhagat, a senior leader of the National Conference, has expressed strong dissatisfaction with the current administration in Jammu and Kashmir, led by the Lt. Governor, for its failure to safeguard the rights of Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and other vulnerable sections of society.

Bhagat pointed out that in the previous elections, SC, ST, and other backward communities had overwhelmingly supported the ruling government at the Centre, but the BJP has not adequately protected their interests. He criticized the Jammu and Kashmir administration for its apparent lack of concern regarding the pressing issues faced by these sections of society.

He emphasized that the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989, has not been extended to Jammu and Kashmir, despite the region having a substantial SC/ST population. Bhagat stressed the need for increased efforts to promote economic empowerment and emancipation among these marginalized groups to enable them to contribute more effectively to society.

Bhagat also pointed out that over 60 percent of the funds allocated for central-sponsored schemes aimed at the welfare of SC, ST, and other backward communities in Jammu and Kashmir remain unutilized due to poor monitoring mechanisms. He criticized the Back to Village program, terming it an ineffective use of public funds. Additionally, he noted that the administration

has failed to address urgent issues such as unemployment, farmers' concerns, and the plight of daily wage laborers raised during the program's first three phases.

Ajeet Bhagat called on the administration to review the outcomes of the previous three phases before proceeding with the so-called mega outreach program. He reiterated the National Conference's commitment to protecting the rights of SC and ST communities and encouraged them to prepare for upcoming Assembly elections, ULB (Urban Local Bodies), and Panchayat elections.

Bhagat urged party members to conduct outreach programs in their respective areas, informing the community about the unfulfilled promises made by the BJP in 2014 and reiter-

ating the National Conference's dedication to safeguarding the rights of SC and ST communities.

He criticized the government's claims of unprecedented development in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A, calling them baseless. Bhagat argued that the situation has deteriorated, leading to increased suffering for the common people due to the government's flawed policies.

He further highlighted the rising poverty rates in the state and the denial of justice to SC and ST communities. Bhagat criticized the BJP's empty slogans and unfulfilled promises to these vulnerable sections of society and called on party members to tirelessly work to strengthen the National Conference.

Luv Gurjar arrest will end drugs menace to a great extent: Kesri

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 8: Shiv Sena Hindustan held a press conference in Arnia addressed by President Pt Rajesh Kesri against the increasing drugs in the society. Addressing media persons, Kesri said drugs menace in Arnia Block, Block RS Pura Block Ramgarh can't be uprooted until and unless Luv Gurjar is arrested who is kingpin in supplying drugs in these blocks. The police is after him for many years but he is so nasty that he roams around in all the three districts. He is escaping arrest because he keeps roaming in different districts.

Kesri demanded Police administration of three districts to make collaborate and coordinated efforts to arrest Luv-Gurjar so that drug addiction can be eliminated in these districts. He said once Gurjar is arrested, his entire racket and all his associates were



automatically caught. It is a matter of great embarrassment for our society that despite our religious fervour, faith and daily practice, our people, particularly our youth, have fallen victim to the use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances on a large scale, something vehemently unsanctioned by all the religions we follow here, added Kesri.

Kesri further said that Kashmir is going the Punjab way in terms of high prevalence of narcotic drug users, then we are stepping into dangerous territory and need to do all we can,

to save our vulnerable youth from sure destruction of their physical and mental health and indeed of their lives. Lack of requisite parental watch and care, lack of awareness among parents and society in general and apparently, less than adequate crackdown by the law enforcing agencies against the drug traffickers and dealers are other important causes and contributing factors, added Kesri.

Kesri stated that the government through its information department will need to do much more to warn the people

in general and youth in particular about the adverse health effects and penalties under the relevant laws, that is the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS Act) and Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include Balveer Kumar, Balwant Fauji, Vijay Kumar, Rajkumar, Rajesh Kumar, Rajesh Honda, Suresh Kumar, Sanjeev Sharma, Raj Kumar Baba, Darshan Devi, Poli Devi, Jyoti Devi, Neeru Devi.

Shehnaaz Gill wants filmmakers to take risks with her: I want to work on my craft

Shehnaaz Gill just saw the release of her film Thank You For Coming. Her co-stars Dolly Singh, Shibani Bedi and Kusha Kapila have also talked about themselves.

Actor-reality TV star Shehnaaz Gill, who currently stars in comedy film Thank You For Coming, says she aspires to have a versatile filmography. The actor, a known name in Punjabi movies, shot to fame with her stint on the 13th season of reality show Bigg Boss in 2019 and made her Bollywood debut with Salman Khan's Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan earlier this year.

Shehnaaz Gill shares her wish. The 29-year-old actor said she is often approached with roles which are closer to her real self and she now wants to break the cycle. "Don't judge a book by its cover, read me carefully. They (makers) are thinking of me in a certain way. I feel they want to show my real-self on screen but I can't be doing only this kind of role. Like, recently I heard a script, in which I'm playing a beautiful girl who is an internet sensation.

We're now on WhatsApp. Click to join.

"This is my reality and I want to break this notion in films. I want to do something different on screen. I would like filmmakers to take risks and present me in a different way. I'm willing to do a workshop and all. I believe my talent just gives me a chance



to do different things," Gill told agency in an interview.

As an actor, she wants to develop her own process for playing a character, which includes preparation and improvisation. "I believe actors should improvise. When you have the script, you should not learn it by heart, just understand the character, do a workshop and play the part accordingly. I want to work on my craft and analyse the script," Gill said.

Her latest release Thank You For Coming follows the story of Kanika Kapoor (Bhumi Pednekar), a single woman in her 30s, and her quest for true love and

pleasure. The coming-of-age comedy is directed by Karan Boolani from a script penned by Radhika Anand and Prashasti Singh.

The film has a crucial message regarding sex education, according to Gill. "I believe in narrations. When I heard this script, I liked it and felt, 'This is something different, let's do it.' Sex education is very important. This is really very important," she added.

Thank You For Coming actors Dolly Singh, Kusha Kapila and Shibani Bedi star in pivotal roles in the film, which hit the screens Friday. Kapila, who

previously acted in movies such as Sukhee, Selfiee, and Ghost Stories, said it was the first time she received a bound script. "Many times, when we get the film, we don't get the script. We are just called for an audition and are not told anything. There are times when you don't get to see the film before the release.

"This is the first time we were invited for a table reading and we got a bound script, so I knew what I was going to do. We would earlier get synopsis, character sketch only and nothing beyond that. So this is a milestone for me," Kusha Kapila, 34, said.

Shibani Bedi said she realised her character has an important part in the story after reading the script. "When we heard the script, we felt it was more than just a side character. Every character is important, adding something to the story and has a beautiful arc. Besides, it is really funny," the 37-year-old actor said.

Dolly Singh, 30, said she could relate to the story of Thank You For Coming. "After giving two to four rounds of auditions, then you get an idea about the story and the character. I was like, 'This is so funny. When I was finalised and I got the script, which was written by two girls, it felt as if it was my story,' she added.

Thank You For Coming is produced by Rhea Kapoor and Ekta R Kapoor.

Salman Khan 'felt like a child' on the set of 'Tiger 3', says it has 'massive action scenes'



With the release of 'Tiger 3' approaching soon, actor Salman Khan has been piquing the audience's interest in different ways.

After sharing a special 'Tiger 3' message, Salman has now dropped an interesting update about what fans can expect from the action scenes in the film.

"People have seen Ek Tha Tiger, Tiger Zinda Hai and films from the YRF Spy Universe. So, it was important to give

them something very new visually, something that was amazingly unique. The team has really pushed the envelope of action with Tiger 3. It had to be spectacular. There was no other option," he said.

Salman shared that he felt like a child on the set looking at the massive action scenes that were elaborately planned for him to shoot.

"The team has tried and executed things that have never been

seen in an Indian film. I loved being a part of these massively mounted action sequences and I was like a child when I was doing those scenes! We will tease you with many such big moments when we unveil the trailer of Tiger 3, which is going to be our next marketing asset of the film," he added.

The trailer for 'Tiger 3' will be out on October 16.

Excited about the film's release, Salman said, "Expect the unexpected from the trailer & the film and get ready for an action entertainer that will have a really intense storyline. For me, Tiger 3's story is what hooked me instantly. I couldn't believe what Adi and the team had come up with! This is definitely Tiger's most dangerous mission and he has to risk his life to stand a chance."

Helmed by Maneesh Sharma, 'Tiger 3' will be released this Diwali in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu. The film also stars Katrina Kaif in the lead. Reportedly, it also stars Emraan Hashmi as an antagonist. However, no official announcement of Emraan's casting has been made yet.

Bhumi Pednekar blames Covid-19 pandemic for lack of women-led films: 'There was cost-cutting on female centric movies'

Bhumi Pednekar believes that Veere Di Wedding was the last women-centric film to do well at the box office. Bhumi's Thank You For Coming released recently.

Bhumi Pednekar has said that the last female-centric movie that worked well at the box office was Kareena Kapoor Khan and Sonam Kapoor's Veere Di Wedding (2018), adding that the Covid-19 pandemic-induced lockdown led to cost-cutting on women-centric films. Bhumi was speaking with agency ahead of the release of her new film Thank You For Coming. Rhea Kapoor has produced the film; she was also the producer of Veere Di Wedding.

Bhumi told the news agency that Veere Di Wedding was the last such film that worked at the box office and highlighted the fact that the same producers have made Thank You For Coming. She said, "After Veere Di Wedding we had more such stories. Then lockdown (due to COVID-19) happened and then obviously there was cost-cutting on female-centric films. Then, we saw Rhea Kapoor, who made this kind of film (Thank You For Coming) again."

Veere Di Wedding made around ₹130 crore worldwide, when it released in 2018. Last year, Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Gangubai Kathiawadi was a surprise hit at the box office. The film led by Alia Bhatt, scored a little more than ₹200 crore at the global box office, according to a Sacnilk report.

She added that good films will always work. "It is all about whether



the film is good or bad. I remember when I had done Saand Ki Aankh, which is a female-led film, compared to another film, which released on the same day, and it did overall business of ₹350 crore. While my film did ₹45 crore but our film was running in theatres for 100 days. The beauty of cinema is that good work will always be remembered and watched for generations," she added.

Bhumi also talked about the theme of her new film and insisted that it is not man versus woman, but rather a take on how patriarchy is ingrained in both men and women. She said, "Orgasm is a metaphor for a larger scheme of things that the film talks about. The film is against patriarchy, it is not about man versus woman, because patriarchy is not gender specific. Women and

men both are patriarchal. That's the thought of the film. The film is about sisterhood, womanhood... Every film has a thought or a premise, so this is the premise of the film."

"If we had not kept this tone of the film... We would not have been honest to what we have made. If we are making a film about female pleasure and if we are only shying to talk about it, then what's the point?"

Bhumi features in the lead role in Rhea Kapoor's latest production, Thank You For Coming. The film also stars Shibani Bedi, Shehnaaz Gill, Kusha Kapila, and Dolly Singh.

She hopes Thank You For Coming helps diminish the stigma around sexual liberation of women. "Till the time, Shubh Mangal Saavdhan had not been released people would shy to talk about the topic of erectile dysfunction. It was an issue in families but one would not be able to talk about it, I believe that film eased the conversation."

"I feel with this film (Thank You For Coming), female orgasm, female desire, and all this is one part of the film, these are small themes in the film, but there are more important things that the film comments about. It is a normal thing," she added.

Directed by Karan Boolani, Thank You For Coming tells the story of a single woman, Bhumi as Kanika Kapoor. Kanika is in her 30s and the film traces her quest for true love and pleasure - an endeavour in which her close group of friends helps. Radhika Anand and Prashasti Singh have written the film.

Actor Avinash Tiwary of Bambai Meri Jaan fame enjoys dark themes



Actor Avinash Tiwary, who is currently being appreciated for his performances in web series Bambai Meri Jaan and Kaala, has said he wouldn't deny that he enjoyed dark themes.

"I wouldn't deny the fact that I enjoy dark themes but I also enjoy all kinds of movies," Avinash said.

The actor added, "I have a comedy next. I did a film called Tu Hai Mera Sunday, which is about five friends. I think it's funny, it has its heart in its place and at the same time it was fun.

Laila Majnu also was not dark... But apart from that, yes, Khakee, Bambai Meri Jaan, Kaala and Bulbbul too I would like to believe have a certain kind of darkness. So, let me put it this way, this is a facet I have been able to project right now."

Avinash began his career with the television series Yudh in 2014. It was in 2016 that he made his Bollywood debut with Tu Hai Mera Sunday. Later, he was seen in Laila Majnu, Bulbbul and Khakee: The Bihar Chapter.

Nimrat Khaira to bring Sikh Maharani Jind Kaur to life on silver screen

Here's an announcement that has left fans of Punjabi cinema buzzing with excitement. Punjabi singer and actress, Nimrat Khaira, has unveiled her dream project. Nimrat Khaira is all set to take on the role of the legendary Maharani Jind Kaur, a fearless and iconic figure in Sikh history. With this much-anticipated biographical film, titled 'Maharani Jind Kaur,' the talented artist is poised to transport audiences back in time and bring the courageous queen's journey to life on the big screen.

Taking to her Instagram handle, Nimrat Khaira shared the official announcement, igniting a wave of anticipation among her followers. The poster of the film features an ancient fort, setting the stage for a historic and grand cinematic experience. In her caption, Nimrat expressed her profound excitement for the project, describing it as her 'dream role' and a labor of love. She wrote, in cinemas 2025 MAHARANI JIND KAUR Rs My dream role, this project is very close to my heart,



something I couldn't be more happy and prouder to be part of."

For those unacquainted with history, Maharani Jind Kaur was the formidable last queen of the Sikh Province. She wielded immense power and responsibility, reigning from 1843 to 1847. As the youngest wife of Maharaja Ranjit Singh,

the visionary founder of the Sikh Kingdom, and the mother of Maharaja Duleep Singh, her legacy is an indelible part of Sikh heritage.

Nimrat Khaira's portrayal promises to encapsulate the unwavering courage and determination that defined Maharani Jind Kaur's life.

Behind the scenes, 'Maharani Jind Kaur' boasts an impressive lineup of talent. The film is being presented by Panj-aab Records and Amor Films Production. Amarjit Singh Saron, who also penned the screenplay, helms this monumental project. Harwinder Sidhu, in collaboration with Amarjit Singh Saron, takes on the role of producer, ensuring that every aspect of this cinematic masterpiece is executed with precision and dedication.

With the grandeur of Sikh history as its backdrop and Nimrat Khaira's talent and passion driving the narrative, 'Maharani Jind Kaur' is undoubtedly one of the most eagerly anticipated films of 2025.

As audiences prepare to embark on this epic journey through time, the silver screen is set to come alive with the remarkable tale of a queen who left an indomitable mark on history. Stay tuned for what promises to be a cinematic experience like no other, celebrating the life and legacy of the extraordinary Maharani Jind Kaur.

Indian Navy implements '360-degree appraisal' to improve promotion evaluation

The Indian Navy has institutionalised a '360 Degree Appraisal Mechanism' as the present system has an inherent limitation of a "top-down" approach.

NEW DELHI, Oct 8 (Agencies): The Indian Navy has institutionalised a '360 Degree Appraisal Mechanism' as the present system has an inherent limitation of a "top-down" approach.

In a press statement, the Navy informed about the new "transformative" mechanism for various promotion boards that has been finalised with a focus on having an "agile and adaptive human resource management framework."

The statement further noted that the women and men in Navy are central to the force's



'Ship First' approach and will continue to remain its greatest asset in the foreseeable future.

It said the present appraisal mechanism of periodic confidential reports by senior offi-

cers has an inherent limitation of a "top-down" approach as it does not cater for or quantify a leader's impact on subordinates.

The new appraisal mechanism is aimed to "address this shortfall

by encompassing large-scale surveys from suitably identified peers and subordinates for every officer being considered for promotion".

"The survey comprises a spectrum of questions, encompassing aspects

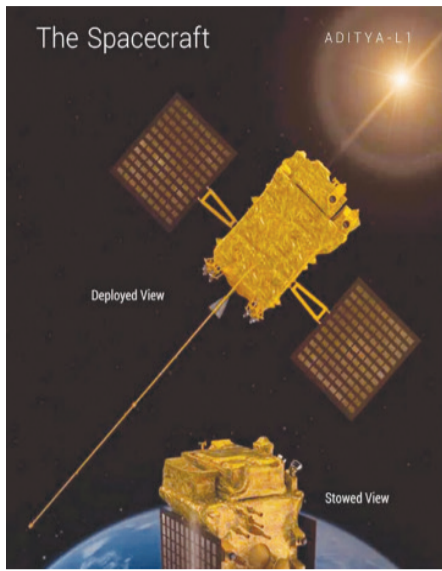
such as professional knowledge, leadership attributes, suitability in war/crisis and potential for holding higher ranks," the Navy said.

"Inputs, thus obtained, are suitably quantified for independent analyses by a nominated Board of Officers, headed by a Flag Officer.

This will also be provided as feedback to the officers to effect behavioural changes and improvements," it said.

The Navy said similar appraisal systems are in vogue in various national and international learning organisations.

ISRO's Aditya L-1 Solar Mission Spacecraft Performs Key Move To Stay On Intended Path



NEW DELHI, Oct 8 (Agencies): Aditya-L1 spacecraft which is carrying out India's first solar mission last Friday performed a trajectory correction manoeuvre (TCM), for about 16 seconds, ISRO said on Sunday.

ISRO, in its X timeline, wrote that the manoeuvre was needed to correct the trajectory evaluated after tracking the Trans-Lagrangian Point 1 Insertion (TL1I) manoeuvre performed on September 19.

"TCM ensures that the spacecraft is on its intended path towards the Halo orbit insertion around L1 (its destination). As Aditya-L1 continues to move ahead, the magnetometer will be turned on again within a few days," ISRO wrote on X.

In its latest, India's space agency also maintained the spacecraft is healthy and on its way to its destination.

So far in its journey, the spacecraft has undergone four earth-bound manoeuvres and a Trans-Lagrangian Point 1 Insertion (TL1I) manoeuvres, all successfully. In the process, the spacecraft successfully escaped the sphere of Earth's influence.

Aditya-L1 has also commenced collecting scientific data. The sensors of

the STEPS (Supra Thermal and Energetic Particle Spectrometer) instrument have begun measuring supra-thermal and energetic ions and electrons at distances greater than 50,000 km from Earth.

This data would help scientists analyze the behaviour of particles surrounding Earth. The figure below displays variations in the energetic particle environment, collected by one of the units.

After the successful soft landing of Chandrayaan-3 near the South pole of the moon, the ISRO launched the country's maiden solar mission -- Aditya-L1 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on September 2.

It carried seven different payloads to have a detailed study of the sun, four of which will observe the light from the sun and the other three will measure in-situ parameters of the plasma and magnetic fields.

Aditya-L1 will be placed in a halo orbit around Lagrangian Point 1 (or L1), which is 1.5 million km away from the Earth in the direction of the sun. It is expected to cover the distance in four months' time. Aditya-L1 will stay approximately 1.5 million km away from Earth, directed towards the Sun, which is about 1 per cent of the Earth-Sun distance.

The Sun is a giant sphere of gas and Aditya-L1 would study the outer atmosphere of the Sun.

ISRO had said Aditya-L1 will neither land on the sun nor approach the sun any closer.

This strategic location will enable Aditya-L1 to continuously observe the sun without being hindered by eclipses or occultation, allowing scientists to study solar activities and their impact on space weather in real time. Also, the spacecraft's data will help identify the sequence of processes that lead to solar eruptive events and contribute to a deeper understanding of space weather drivers.

Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann dares Opposition leaders Sunil Jakhar, Sukhbir Badal, Raja Warring for open debate

CHANDIGARH, Oct 8 (Agencies): Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Sunday dared the BJP, Congress and Shiromani Akali Dal presidents to come for an open debate on November 1 on issues pertaining to the state.

CM Mann said: "It's my open invitation to Punjab BJP chief Sunil Jakhar, SAD president Sukhbir Badal and Punjab Congress chief Raja Warring that instead of squabbling daily over different issues, let us debate in front of media and Punjab residents."

"Let us debate on who looted Punjab, and issues relating to brothers, nephews, brothers-in-law, friends, toll plazas, youth, farmers, businesses, shopkeepers and canal waters... Let us have a live



debate. November 1 being Punjab Day will be best suited. You will get enough time to prepare for your arguments. I am already fully prepared," Mann posted on X, formerly Twitter.

Meanwhile, Sunil Jakhar took to 'X' to reply to Mann's challenge. He said, "We are

ready for the debate anytime; however, first tell us under what pressure, or for which political interests you compromised on interests of the state on the SYL issue."

The Mann Government has been facing criticism from the Opposition parties over the

SYL issue.

Reacting to Mann's tweet, Leader of the Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa said: "Such a debate should not be held at any government institution (Vidhan Sabha) but at a common open space. The debate should be held under the chairmanship of a

retired Supreme Court judge or a personality acceptable to all political parties."

PPCC chief Raja warring asked the Chief Minister to answer all questions in the interest of a productive debate. The people of Punjab must be made aware of the facts and the current situation prevailing in the state, he said.

Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Badal also accepted Mann's challenge. "Bhagwant Mann your challenge is accepted. November 1 is still far away. I am coming to your residence in Chandigarh on October 10..." Sukhbir posted on X in Punjab.

Badal has announced that the Shiromani Akali Dal will "gherao" Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's official residence over the SYL canal issue on October 10.

Flash flood: ITBP rescues 56 people in North Sikkim's Chungthang, search continues for 81 missing

GANGTOK/GUWAHATI, Oct 8 (Agencies): "In another rescue operation, 56 civilians (52 Male & 4 Female) were successfully rescued via the ropeway made by the ITBP Rescue Team in Chungthang, North Sikkim," it tweeted.

The search for the 81 people who went missing in the flash flood continued. So far, 30 bodies have been found, officials said.

The flash flood triggered by a cloudburst in the early hours of Wednesday affected 41,870 people in four districts of the Himalayan state, with Mangan bearing the brunt of the calam-

ity as a population of around 30,300 was hit by the disaster, according to the Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA).

The other three affected districts are Gangtok, Pakyong and Namchi.

Nineteen of the deaths were reported from Pakyong, six from Gangtok district, four from Mangan, and one from Namchi, the SSDMA said.

Special radar, drones and Army dogs have been deployed for the search operations, officials said.

So far, 2,563 people have been rescued from different

areas and 6,875 people have taken shelter in 30 relief camps set up across the state, most of which have been cut off from the rest of the country.

The deluge also damaged more than 1,320 houses and washed away 13 bridges in the four districts of the picturesque Himalayan state.

More than 3,000 tourists stranded in Lachen and Lachung in Mangan district are safe, officials said.

In Guwahati, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa said on Sunday that an Indian Army personnel of Assam, who went missing following the flash flood, has

been confirmed dead.

"A tragic loss for Assam as it loses a braveheart in Mitul Kalita of Indian Army, from Baksa District, in the unfortunate flash flood in Sikkim," Sarma said on X.

Nine army men have been killed in the Sikkim flash flood, which was triggered by a cloudburst in the early hours of Wednesday.

Kalita served in the technical department of the army in Alipurduar.

"My prayers for the departed soul & condolences to the bereaved family in this hour of grief," Sarma said.

CBI searches residences of West Bengal minister Firhad Hakim, TMC MLA Madan Mitra

KOLKATA, Oct 8 (Agencies): The CBI conducted searches at the residences of senior West Bengal minister Firhad Hakim and TMC MLA Madan Mitra in Kolkata on Sunday morning in connection with its investigation into the alleged irregularities in recruitments made by the civic bodies in the state, officials said.

Hakim, the minister of urban development and municipal affairs, is also the mayor of Kolkata. He is a senior leader of the TMC and has significant sway in the party's organisation.

A team of CBI officers reached his residence in south Kolkata's Chetla area along with a large contingent of central forces, officials said.

"Two CBI officers are questioning him," a senior official told agency.

As the searches began, Hakim's sup-



porters gathered outside his house, and began a protest.

A CBI team also searched the residence of Mitra, a former minister and the MLA of Kamarhati in North 24 Parganas district, in the Bhabanipur area, around 3 km from Hakim's residence in Chetla.

Both Hakim and Mitra were arrested by the CBI in 2021 in the Narada sting operation case.

Mitra was also arrested by the CBI in 2014

in the Saradha chit fund scam.

On Thursday, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) searched multiple locations, including the residence of Food and Supplies Minister Rathin Ghosh, in connection with the recruitment case.

It is alleged by the central investigating agencies that around 1,500 people were illegally recruited by different civic bodies in the state, between 2014 and 2018, against monetary considerations.

Manipur: CRPF personnel among 2 injured in grenade attack near minister's house

IMPHAL, Oct 8 (Agencies): Two persons, including a CRPF personnel, were injured in a hand grenade explosion near the residence of Manipur minister Khemchand Yumnam in Imphal West district, police said on Sunday.

The incident happened at Yumnam Leikai around 10 pm on Saturday, they said.

Two persons, who were on a motorcycle, hurled the grenade, which fell a few metres away from the main gate of the minister's resi-



dence, they added. The CRPF personnel, identified as Dinesh Chandra Das -- a resident of West Bengal, received splinter injuries on his hand.

The other injured person was a woman, and she also received

splinter injuries on her right foot.

Yumnam is the minister of rural development and panchayat raj.

Chief Minister N Biren Singh visited the spot where the explosion happened. He condemned the attack.

Probe agency ED attaches 10 properties worth Rs 55 crore in hawala operator case

MUMBAI, Oct 8 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached ten immovable properties worth approximately Rs 55.17 crore in the name of Dubai-based hawala operator Pankaj Kapur, diamond trader Vijen Girishchandra Jhaveri, and their family members in connection with a money laundering case involving Surat-based hawala operator Afroz Fatta.

The probe agency began investigations on the basis of a complaint filed by ICICI Bank in Surat and an FIR registered by Surat Police, alleging that RA Distributors Pvt. Ltd. and eight other companies submitted forged Bills of Entry (BoEs)



and remitted funds to three UAE-based and fifteen Hong Kong-based entities.

The probe revealed that proceeds of crime to the tune of Rs 58.14 crore and Rs 2.81 crore were received by Pankaj Kapur

and Vijen Girishchandra Jhaveri in the UAE and Hong Kong, respectively.

The proceeds of crime were remitted abroad from the entities controlled and managed by Mumbai-based diamond trader

Madan Lal Jain and Afroz Fatta on the basis of forged BoEs and documents, the ED said in a statement.

Ten immovable properties belonging to Pankaj Kapur, Vijen Girishchandra Jhaveri and their family members have been provisionally attached under Section 5 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, for allegedly indulging in criminal activities, it added.

In this case, the ED has already issued nine provisional attachment orders attaching the properties to the tune of Rs 60 crore. The total value of the movable and immovable properties attached in the case till date is Rs 115 crore.

Israel-Palestine conflict: 500 killed, hostages held as violence escalates; PM Netanyahu vows 'mighty vengeance'

In Gaza, black smoke, orange flashes and sparks lit the sky from explosions

JERUSALEM/GAZA/SDEROT, Oct 8 (Agencies): Israeli forces clashed with gunmen from the Palestinian group Hamas on Sunday, 24 hours after the militants launched a surprise attack on Israel in which nearly 500 people were killed in the deadliest day of violence in Israel for 50 years.

The biggest incursion into Israel in decades could undermine US-backed efforts to forge regional security alignments that could threaten Palestinian aspirations for statehood and the ambitions of the group's main backer, Iran.

Hamas fighters began their attack at dawn on Saturday with a huge barrage of rockets into southern Israel, giving cover to an unprecedented, multi-pronged infiltration of fighters into Israel from Gaza, a narrow strip that is home to 2.3 million Palestinians.

Hamas fighters killed at least 250 Israelis in clashes through the day and escaped back into Gaza with dozens of hostages. More than 230 Gazans were killed when Israel responded with one of its most devastating days of retaliatory strikes.

"We will take mighty vengeance for this wicked day," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Saturday.

Israeli troops battled Hamas gunmen through the night in parts of southern Israel. An Israeli army spokesperson said on social media



the situation was not fully under control.

The escalation comes against a backdrop of surging violence between Israel and Palestinian militants in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, where a Palestinian authority exercises limited self-rule, opposed by Hamas that wants Israel destroyed.

The West Bank has seen stepped-up Israeli raids, Palestinian street attacks and assaults by Jewish settlers on Palestinian villages. Conditions for Palestinians have worsened under Netanyahu's hard-right government. Peace-making has been stalled for years.

'WE WARNED YOU'
Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh said the assault that began in Gaza would spread to the West Bank and Jerusalem. Gazans have lived under an Israeli blockade for 16 years.

In a speech, Haniyeh highlighted threats to Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque, the continuation of an Israeli the

blockade on Gaza and Israeli normalization with countries in the region.

"How many times have we warned you that the Palestinian people have been living in refugee camps for 75 years, and you refuse to recognise the rights of our people?" Bodies of Israeli civilians surrounded by broken glass were strewn across the streets of Sderot in southern Israel near Gaza.

The bodies of a man and woman were sprawled across the front seats of a car.

Terrified Israelis, barricaded into safe rooms, recounted their plight by phone on live television.

Senior military officers were among those killed in fighting near Gaza, the Israeli military said.

Netanyahu's office said his security cabinet had approved steps to destroy the military and governmental capabilities of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, another militant group, "for many years", including cutting electricity, fuel supplies

and the entry of goods into Gaza.

In Gaza, black smoke, orange flashes and sparks lit the sky from explosions. Israeli drones could be heard overhead.

Gaza's dead and wounded were carried into crumbling and overcrowded hospitals with severe shortages of medical supplies and equipment. The health ministry said 232 people had been killed and at least 1,700 wounded.

BIDEN OFFERS SUPPORT TO NETANYAHU
Western countries, led by the United States, denounced the attack

At the White House, President Joe Biden went on national television to say Israel had the right to defend itself, issuing a blunt warning to Iran and other countries: "This is not a moment for any party hostile to Israel to exploit these attacks to seek advantage. The world is watching."

The United States has been seeking a deal to normalise ties between

Israel and Saudi Arabia, seen by Israelis as the biggest prize yet in their decades-long quest for Arab recognition.

Palestinians fear any such agreement could sell out their dreams of an independent state.

Osama Hamdan, the leader of Hamas in Lebanon, told agency that Saturday's operation should make Arab states realize that accepting Israeli security demands would not bring peace.

Across the Middle East, there were demonstrations in support of Hamas, with Israeli and U.S. flags set on fire and marchers waving Palestinian flags in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen. Iran and Hezbollah, Iran's Lebanese allies, praised the Hamas attack.

Hamas deputy chief Saleh al-Aroui told Al Jazeera the group was holding a large number of Israeli captives, including senior officials.

He said Hamas had enough captives to make Israel free all Palestinians in its jails.

Hamas said the attack was driven by what it called escalated Israeli attacks on Palestinians in the West Bank, Jerusalem and against Palestinians in Israeli prisons.

That Israel was caught completely off guard was lamented as one of the worst intelligence failures in its history, a shock to a nation that boasts of its intensive infiltration and monitoring of militants.

"Everything Turned To Sand": Powerful Afghan Earthquake Kills Over 1,000



KABUL, Oct 8 (Agencies): The death count from a series of earthquakes in western Afghanistan rose sharply Sunday to more than 1,000 as rescuers scurried for survivors among the ruins of villages razed to the ground.

Saturday's magnitude 6.3 quake -- followed by eight strong aftershocks -- jolted hard-to-reach areas 30 km (19 miles) northwest of the provincial capital of Herat, toppling rural homes and sending panicked city dwellers surging into the streets.

"Unfortunately, the casualties are practically very high," deputy government spokesman Bilal Karimi said early Sunday, as the extent of the damage became clear.

"The death toll is more than 1,000 people. We are waiting to see how the final figures will turn out," he told AFP.

As night fell Saturday in Sarboland village of Zinda Jan district, an AFP reporter saw dozens of homes ruined near the epicentre of the quakes, which shook the area for more than five hours.

Men shovelled through piles of crumbled masonry as women

and children waited in the open, with destroyed homes displaying personal belongings flapping in the harsh wind.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said more than 600 houses were destroyed or partially damaged across at least 12 villages in Herat province, with some 4,200 people affected.

"In the very first shake all the houses collapsed," said 42-year-old Bashir Ahmad.

"Those who were inside the houses were buried," he said. "There are families we have heard no news from."

'Everything Turned To Sand'

Nek Mohammad told AFP he was at work when the first quake struck at around 11:00 am (0630 GMT).

"We came home and saw that actually there was nothing left. Everything had turned to sand," said the 32-year-old, adding that some 30 bodies had been recovered.

"So far, we have nothing. No blankets or anything else. We are here left out at night with our martyrs," he said as darkness began to fall.

The WHO said late Saturday "the number of casualties is expect-

ed to rise as search and rescue operations are ongoing".

In Herat city, residents fled their homes and schools, hospitals and offices evacuated when the first quake was felt. There were few reports of casualties in the metropolitan area, however.

Afghanistan is already suffering in the grip of a dire humanitarian crisis, with the widespread withdrawal of foreign aid following the Taliban's return to power in 2021.

Herat province -- home to some 1.9 million people on the border with Iran -- has also been hit by a years-long drought that has crippled many already hardscrabble agricultural communities.

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.

More than 1,000 people were killed and tens of thousands left homeless in June last year after a 5.9-magnitude quake -- the deadliest in Afghanistan in nearly a quarter of a century -- struck the impoverished province of Paktika.

"Places Hamas Is Hiding... We'll Turn Them Into Rubble," Warns Israel PM

JERUSALEM, Oct 8 (Agencies): Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned Palestinians living near Hamas sites in Gaza to leave as he vowed to turn its hideouts into "rubble" following its surprise attack.

"All the places in which Hamas is based, in this city of evil, all the places Hamas is hiding in, acting from -- we'll turn them into rubble,"



he said.

"I'm telling the people of Gaza: get out of there now, because we're

about to act everywhere with all our force," he said in a brief televised statement.

Major Airlines Cancel Dozens Of Flights To Tel Aviv After Hamas Attack

PARIS, Oct 8 (Agencies): Major airlines cancelled dozens of flights to Tel Aviv this weekend after Palestinian group Hamas launched a surprise large-scale attack against Israel. On the arrivals board at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport American Airlines, Air France, Lufthansa, Emirates, Ryanair and Aegean Airlines were among those pulling flights.

However, airport authorities did not stop commercial air links with



Eilat, Israel's second international airport and tourist destination on the Red Sea.

"Given the current security situation in Tel Aviv, Lufthansa is cancelling all flights to and from Tel Aviv up until and including Monday,

a spokesman for the German carrier told agency.

The airline was "monitoring the security situation in Israel," he added.

Brussels Airline, part of the Lufthansa group, also cancelled its Tel Aviv flights.

Air France said it had halted Tel Aviv flights "until further notice".

"Commercial measures are in place, allowing customers to postpone or cancel their trip free of charge", an Air France spokesman said.

Air France-KLM group's low-cost carrier Transavia announced it was cancelling all flights from Paris and Lyon to Tel Aviv up to and including Monday.

Spanish airline Iberia announced that its

budget subsidiary Iberia Express was cancelling its Tel Aviv flights.

Italy's flag-carrier ITA Airways cancelled its flight until Sunday morning at the earliest "to protect the safety of passengers and crew".

Spanish airline Iberia announced that its budget subsidiary Iberia Express was cancelling its Tel Aviv flights.

In Warsaw, Polish carrier LOT said it had cancelled its flights from the Polish capital on Saturday.

Biden dials Netanyahu, says US backs Israel's 'right to self-defence'

WASHINGTON, Oct 8 (Agencies): US President Joe Biden held talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and affirmed full support for Israel's right to self-defence amid the "surprise attack" by Hamas.

Netanyahu also thanked Biden for the "unreserved support" and stressed that a "prolonged campaign" was necessary.

"US President Joe Biden called Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and emphasised that the US stands alongside Israel and fully supports Israel's right to self-defence," the official handle of Israel PM

posted on X.

"PM Netanyahu thanked US President Biden for the unreserved support and made it clear that a forceful, prolonged campaign, which Israel will win, is necessary," it added.

President Biden also posted on X, condemning the "appalling Hamas terrorist attacks" and expressed his condolences. "Today, I spoke with the Israeli PM about the appalling Hamas terrorist attacks in Israel. I offered our support and reiterated my unwavering commitment to Israel's security. We express our heartfelt condolences to the families who have lost loved



ones," Biden stated. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken also expressed "unequivocal condemnation" of the Hamas attacks. "We unequivocally condemn the appalling attacks by Hamas terrorists against Israel. We stand in solidarity with the government and people of

Israel and extend our condolences for the Israeli lives lost in these attacks," Blinken posted on X.

Earlier in the day, the US said that there is never any "justification for terrorism", adding that Washington stands firmly with the Government and people of

Israel.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas chaired a meeting with some top defence officials and said the Palestinian people had the right to defend themselves against the "terror of settlers and occupying troops", a news agency quoted him as saying. He directed officials "to provide protection for the Palestinian people and provide all that is necessary to bolster the resilience of the Palestinian people in facing the crimes committed by the Israeli occupation and settler gangs", it reported.

Hezbollah bombards Israeli positions in disputed area along border with Syria's Golan Heights



BEIRUT, Oct 8 (Agencies): Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group fired dozens of rockets and shells on Sunday at three Israeli positions in a disputed area along the country's border with Syria's

Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

Hezbollah said in a statement that the attack using "large numbers of rockets and shells" was in solidarity with the "Palestinian resistance." It said the

Israeli positions were directly hit.

Israel's military fired back at the Lebanese areas, but there was no immediate word on casualties.

The Israeli army said it shelled the areas where the fire came from on the Lebanese side of the border.

Chebaa Farms was captured by Israel from Syria during the 1967 Mideast war, but Lebanon considers it and the nearby Kfar Chouba hills as Lebanese territories. The Golan Heights were annexed by Israel in 1981.

Congress alone can serve J&K people to best of their ability: Wani, Bhalla

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, OCT 8: JKPCC President Vikar Rasool Wani along with JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla today led huge Save Constitution Rally which started from Gadigarh and culminated at Reen Palace Karan Bagh where huge public gathering was addressed by them along with Former Minister Yogesh Sawhney, Former MP Tarlok Singh Bajwa, NSUI National President Neeraj Kundan, Refugee Cell Congress Chairman Amrit Bali, SewalDal Chairman Vijay Sharma Babbi, SC Cell Chairmen Karan Bhagt, TS Tony, Shashi Sharma, Pankaj Dogra, Bushan Lal Dogra, Jatinder Singh Chib. Save Constitution Rally was organized by SC Cell Vice Chairman Pawan Bhagat.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include Happy Randhawa, Happy Randhawa, Raj Kumar Panch, Parshotam Lal Naib Sarpanch, Kewal Krishan, Ashok Kumar, Mangat Ram, Sudesh Kumar Panch, Ravi Kumar, Bal Krishan, Kunti Devi Sarpanch Hakkal, Mittu Panch, Tarsem Lal, Sunil Thapa, Girdhari Lal, Tarun Kumar, Abhijot, Nikhil, Aarav, Ravi, Harsh besides others.

Speaking on the occasion, JKPCC President Vikar Rasool Wani said democracy, Constitution and the country are in danger under the BJP government. "Congress knows how to rule and run the government. Congress can develop the country better. BJP government assured people to bring black money, provide employment for youths but failed," he said, while



addressing huge gathering at Reen Palace. He said the BJP had formed government on the basis of catchphrases. "They assured people of 'achche din' and to bring black money, but failed. They talk about Hindutva. We were taught to respect all religions," he said.

Wani said Congress follows principles in politics, while BJP leaders try to destroy peace and brotherhood across the country. "People have to decide and chose between fake and true leaders in Lok Sabha election. He said that Congress has emerged a vibrant force in J&K and the joining of more and more important leaders from political parties that Congress would win with thumping majority in forthcoming ULB elections. The Congress party worked for decades to foster social tranquility, brotherhood by uniting people. The top leadership of the party has been trying to provide opportunities to people of all hues, communities and beliefs without any discrimination.

Bhalla speaking on the occasion said that it is the Congress alone which has served the people to the best of their ability, as that the party feels duty bound to the wellbeing of the

people in J&K. He said Congress has always taken care of urges and aspiration of every section of the erstwhile State and it will continue to safeguard their interests. Congress will become number one party in J&K in the upcoming elections. Winds of change are sweeping through J&K. In a big boost to the Congress party's prospects, more and more people are aligning with us to take the message of love and prosperity forward. This is evident that the voice of the people of the UT is in favour of the Congress and that our march is on the right track, towards power," Bhalla said.

Yogesh Sawhney, former Minister slammed NDA Govt at the Centre for depriving the members of the Scheduled Caste (SC) and other underprivileged classes of even their basic rights, not to talk of other rights. He asserted that the underprivileged communities are being totally ignored and deprived under the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) proxy Govt in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that after being voted to power in J&K during the Assembly elections, Congress Govt will do away with the discrimination met to

the aforesaid people by the incumbent dispensation in terms of deprivation of their fundamental rights and social justice.

NSUI National President Neeraj Kundan in his address said that Congress has always been the messiah of the underprivileged especially the SC community people. He exuded confidence that all SC people will vote en masse for the Congress candidates in the upcoming Panchayat and ULB polls and thereafter in the Assembly polls whenever these are held. He alleged that BJP Government has totally failed to come up to the expectations of the people. He said there was no governance on the ground while public was deprived of basic facilities. The Government has also failed to protect reservation in promotions to the category employees.

SC Cell Vice Chairman Pawan Bhagat and Congress Refugee Cell Chairman Amrit Bali said it appears BJP does not want elections because it fears defeat if polls are held. It does not mean that they should compel people to suffer without an elected Govt. LG Govt has failed to hold fair selection process for the unemployed youth in Jammu and Kashmir.

Celebrating a 160-Year Legacy: Ram Leela will stage at Dewan Mandir from Oct 15

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 8: Continuing a rich cultural legacy that spans over 160 years, Yudhvir Sethi, Vice President of J&K BJP and Chairman of Shree Sanatan Dharam Natak Samaj Dewan Mandir Club, is thrilled to announce the upcoming Ram Leela scheduled to begin on the auspicious first day of Navratra, October 15, 2023.

In a press conference held today, Yudhvir Sethi, flanked by Anil Masoom, Club President, and General Secretary, along with the distinguished Director Sat Paul Sharma, shared their excitement for the upcoming Ram Leela. He emphasized that Ram Leela is an age-old tradition that show-



cases our culture in a dramatized form, and it is essential to preserve it in all its authenticity.

He said the Ram Leela has been a cherished tradition, captivating audiences for more than 160 years from the same stage. He asserted that the Ram Leela Club had witnessed the performances of renowned Bollywood actors like Om Parkash, Om Puri, and PrithviRaj Chouhan. This year, the Ram Leela promises to introduce

new artists and scenes, refreshing the experience for attendees.

The talented cast set to perform in Ram Leela includes Laxman Puri, Vijay Sharma, Sahil Gupta, Sanjana, Sanjeev Kermi, Kannav Chopra, Subash Jamwal, Rakun, Rakesh Dogra, Amit Khajuria, Pawan Sharma, Raj Kumar, Ram Paul, Litchee Sharma, Sachin Sharma, Ajay Kumar, Sanjeev Anand, Rishu, Ramesh Kumar, Jitender

Sharma, Abhi Sharma, Rajesh Kumar, and many more. The music for the event will be composed and scored by Vishal Gupta and Chanchal Sharma, with Kuldeep Verma. The lighting design will be overseen by Ashok Gupta, while the sets will be created by Sardar Harbhajan Singh, Ajay, Rahul, and Kala.

Yudhvir Sethi extended a warm invitation to the residents of Jammu City to attend the Ram Leela and show their support for the talented artists of the Ram Leela Club. Their presence will undoubtedly boost the morale of the performers, ensuring the continuation of this cherished cultural tradition, he added.

Command Level Football Competition held at APS Miran Sahib

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 8: The heart-pounding Command Level Football Competition held at the renowned 3 Mahar Ground has concluded with immense excitement and fierce competition among 6 prestigious Army schools from western command. The competition saw spirited performances from young athletes, but it was APS Patiala that emerged triumphant, securing the coveted first position.

The event, which took place from 3 Oct to 8 Oct 2023, was a testament to the commitment and talent of these young footballers who showcased their skills and sportsmanship on the field. The tournament brought together schools from various regions of India, fostering camaraderie and a spirit of healthy competition.



The final match was an intense battle between APS Patiala and APS Dhaura Kuan, where in both teams demonstrated remarkable skill and determination. In the end, it was APS Patiala that secured the first position, showcasing its exceptional teamwork and prowess.

The event was graced by the presence of Maj Gen Gaurav Gautam, GOC 26 Inf Div, Chairman School, Brig RBV Mukkundi, SM, Commander 162 Inf Bde, Col Rahul Singh, CO 4 JAK

LI, Col Manpreet Singh Marwah, CO 3 MAHAR, Lt Col Rahul Vyas, SO to Chairman,

Lt Col PS Lata, SO School, Lt Col Ratna Malik, SO Education and Ms Ritu Sharma, Principal APS Miran Sahib. Trophies and certificates were distributed to the winning team and individual performers by GOC & he also announced special felicitation for all the teams.

Maj Gen Gaurav Gautam, GOC 26 Inf Div, expressed his delight at the success of the com-

petition, saying, "This Command Level Football Competition aimed to provide a platform for young talents to shine, and it did just that. The dedication and sportsmanship displayed by all the participating schools was truly commendable."

The success of this Competition would not have been possible without the support of the organizing committee, volunteers, 3 MAHAR, 4 JAK LI and the enthusiastic audience. APS Miran Sahib extends its heartfelt gratitude to all those who contributed to make this event a memorable and successful one.

The school looks forward to host more such events in the future, promoting sportsmanship, talent, and camaraderie among students from varied corners of the nation.

FROM PAGE 1

"Indian Air force must be one of the best by 2032," says IAF chief

excellence.

"First and foremost, I would like to urge you to strive for excellence in everything you do. This is non-negotiable. We must hold ourselves to the highest standards in every facet of our operations, training, maintenance, and administration," he said, adding, "We must strive to be leaders in technology and innovation. We must invest in cutting-edge research, development, and acquisition to build technological superiority. Innovation must become a part of our DNA, enabling us to easily adapt to emerging threats and challenges."

"The force structure that we need to develop must be future-ready. Joint planning and integrated application of combat power will be the sine qua non of future wars. Developing unique tactics, carrying out realistic training, and incorporating relevant lessons learned will go a long way," he added.

LAHDC-Kargil elections: NC-Congress win tally goes to 8, BJP 1 after 3rd round of counting

Taisuru seats.

The National Conference (NC) has won the Bhimbat, Padum and Yourbaltak. Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) has won Stakchay Khangar constituency.

The hill council election in Kargil was the first local poll in Ladakh since it split from Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019 to become a union territory.

The new council is scheduled to be in place before October 11.

"People of Ladakh have spoken": Mehbooba Mufti on LAHDC election

of voters turned up in the Kargil district as per the cumulative figure of 3rd round of voting for the 5th LAHDC elections.

Earlier last month, the Ladakh administration announced a new schedule for elections to the fifth LAHDC in the Kargil region, following a directive by the Supreme Court.

This notification came after the Supreme Court, while restoring the National Conference's party symbol for the upcoming election, also set aside the Union Territory administration's previous election notification since National Conference candidates had not been able to file nominations. As per the notification, elections to 26 seats of the 30-member LAHDC were held on October 4.

Police initiates proceedings against active terrorist in Baramulla

and security of general public.

"We are working closely with other agencies to follow due process and bring such elements to justice," SSP Baramulla said.

He said these proceedings have been initiated against the terrorist who is evading his arrest as open non-bailable warrant issued on August 17 of 2023 could not get executed against him.

"Accordingly, proclamation notice under section 82 of CrPc issued by the Court of Additional Sessions Judge Baramulla dated September 21 of 2023 has been posted and circulated at his residence and other prominent places in his respective native villages along with revenue officials," he said.

He said the directions have been issued that the said wanted terrorist shall surrender before investigation officer or court of law otherwise further proceedings will be initiated accordingly against him.

The Police Party was headed by SDPO Pattan assisted by SHO PS Pattan and In-charge Police Post Wussan.

The Police said the exercise was carried

out in presence of Executive Magistrate, Pattan and Sarpanch, Lumerdar, Chowkidar of respective village.

Baramulla Police also used drum beating to inform the general public about the ongoing efforts to apprehend the said active terrorist who is required in connection with investigation of above-mentioned terror related case.

"In addition to these efforts, Baramulla Police is actively engaging community to ensure terror free District. Recent initiatives also include the introduction of community policing programs and heightened security measures," SSP Baramulla said.

The proclamation proceeding and property attachment are part of a comprehensive effort to address terrorism and maintain the rule of law.

"We urge the public to remain vigilant and report information that may assist in the apprehension of these active terrorists,".

Mahajan slams Govt over Unsheduled Power Cuts in Jammu

but the authorities sitting at the helm of affairs are not showing serious towards the hardships being faced by Jammu people in absence of basic amenities.

Rajiv Mahajan appealed to the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, to intervene and issue the necessary directives to ensure consistent and regular power supply in Jammu City. It is imperative that the government takes immediate action to alleviate the suffering of its citizens and uphold its commitment to providing essential services which are their fundamental right.

Nepotism allegations cloud SKIMS resident doctor appointments

aspirants and senior SKIMS officials, neither exams were conducted nor was merit taken into account for candidate selection. Instead, candidates were chosen solely based on their performance in interviews. Aspirants further claim that the interviews

were brief, consisting of just three simple questions, leaving them surprised when the results revealed the significant influence of nepotism in the selection process. They argue that selection should have been based on either examinations or merit, yet neither of these criteria was utilised.

Some candidates who appeared on the selection list were not even seen during the interview, raising questions about the basis of their selection, they said.

The aspirants have called upon the Lieutenant Governor to initiate a high-level investigation into the matter and to scrutinize the operations of SKIMS.

They have pointed out that the selection committee comprised the Director, Dean, Medical Superintendent, Director of Finance, and the expert Head of the relevant department. However, they allege that the concerned Heads of Departments were absent during the interviews, casting doubt on the fairness of the process for appointing 53 senior resident doctors at SKIMS.

Six suicides in 24 hours jolt UP's hi-tech hub Noida; Cops blame stress

hanged himself from a fan in his house. Again, mental stress was cited as the reason. In the fifth incident, an unidentified man aged 20 years committed suicide due to stress by hanging himself from a tree branch near Sector 54 of Police Station Sector 24 area.

In the sixth case, a youth Sonu, aged 21 years, living in Kasna area, consumed poison due to mental stress. Efforts are being made by the police to further ascertain the cause of death, but in all the cases that have come to light till now, only mentally disturbed people have taken the extreme step. Earlier on September 25, the bodies of a divorced couple were found in their flat.

Both had committed suicide. Empty bottles of medicines containing poison and a suicide note were found near them. On September 19, a girl attempted to commit suicide by jumping in front of a metro train. The incident took place at Noida's

City Center metro station at around 9.30 a.m., and the girl lost one of her hands. On September 12, a mentally ill woman committed suicide by jumping from the 17th floor of a high rise society. Former president of the Noida IMA Dr. NK Sharma, while talking to IANS said that due to nuclear families and western culture, suicide cases are increasing, especially among the youth. He said, "Today's youth and children want everything immediately. When they get depressed or are in a bad situation, they are not able to mention it to the people around them. That is why the number of youth committing suicide is increasing." According to him, in most suicide cases one thing that is seen is the loneliness of the person. Today, whoever is stressed or mentally disturbed, there is no one around to take care of them, neither does anyone know about their problems nor does anyone inquire about their wellbeing.

Govt Clears Appointments Of 12 Executive Directors For Various State-Owned Banks

UCO Bank.

Besides, sources said, Bhavendra Kumar, currently Chief General Manager with Canara Bank, has been elevated to become ED of the same bank.

Bibhu Prasad Mahapatra, Chief General Manager of Punjab National Bank, has been elevated as ED of the bank, while Ravi Mehra, general manager, has been promoted to become ED of Punjab & Sind Bank. Rajiv Mishra, Chief General Manager with Union Bank of India, will take over as ED of Bank of India, and Brajesh Kumar Singh, Chief General Manager of Bank of Baroda, will join Indian Bank as ED in March. At the same time, Rohit Rishi, Chief General Manager in Indian Bank, will take over as ED of Bank of Maharashtra next month.

In addition, the government has approved the appointment of Lal Singh as ED, Bank of Baroda; Shiv Bajrang Singh as ED, Indian Bank; Mahendra Dohare as ED, Central Bank of India; and Dhanaraj T as ED, Indian Overseas Bank.

GST Council decides to levy 18 per cent GST on corporate guarantee for subsidiaries, cut tax on molasses to 5 per cent

Flour, containing at least 70 per cent millets, will attract zero per cent GST if sold loose

NEW DELHI, Oct 8 (Agencies): The GST Council clarified that guarantees provided by corporates to their subsidiaries will attract an 18 per cent GST, while no tax will be levied if a personal guarantee is given by a director to the company.

The council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising state ministers, also cut the GST rate on molasses to 5 per cent from 28 per cent.

It also ceded the right to tax Extra Neutral Alcohol (raw product for making alcohol for human consumption) to the states.

Accordingly, ENA used for human consumption will be exempt from Goods and Services Tax (GST), while ENA for industrial use will be taxed at 18 per cent.

Briefing reporters after the 52nd GST council meeting,



Sitharaman said the reduction in GST on molasses will benefit sugarcane farmers and enable their dues to be cleared faster because more money will be left in the hands of the mills.

"The council and we all feel that it will also lead to a reduction in the cost of manufacturing cattle feed, which will be a major development," she said.

Revenue Secretary Sanjay

Malhotra said the council has decided that when the corporate guarantee is given by a director to a company, then the value of service will be deemed to be zero and hence, no GST will be applicable.

"When a corporate guarantee is given by a company to its subsidiary company, then it will be deemed that the value is 1 per cent of the corporate guar-

antee. So, it will attract GST at 18 per cent on 1 per cent of the total amount guaranteed by the parent company," Malhotra said.

The GST Council also decided to levy a lower 5 per cent tax on millet-based flour when sold in pre-packaged and labelled form.

Flour, containing at least 70 per cent millets, will attract zero per cent GST if sold loose and 5 per cent if sold pre-packaged and labelled.

The council also decided to cap the maximum age of GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) President and members.

The GSTAT President will have a maximum age cap of 70 years, while the limit for members will be 67 years.

This is a change from the earlier age limit of 67 and 65 years, respectively, for the GSTAT President and members.

TCS to consider share buyback on October 11



BENGALURU, Oct 8 (Agencies): The country's largest IT services company Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) will consider the buyback of equity shares on October 11. It will be announcing the second quarterly results on the same day. In its BSE filing on Friday, the company announced that the Board of Directors will consider a proposal for buyback of equity shares of the Company, at its meeting to be held on October 11, 2023.

Earlier in 2022, TCS bought back shares worth Rs 18,000 crore at Rs 4,500 apiece. In 2020, the company announced share buyback to the tune of Rs 16,000 crore at Rs 3,000 per share. TCS had approved a proposal to buy back up to over 5.3 crore equity shares. In October 2022, Infosys completed its Rs 9,300 crore share buyback plan at Rs 1,850, which was a premium of 30%. Another IT company Wipro completed

its Rs 12,000 crore share buyback earlier this year.

As per analysts, TCS is expected to outperform its tier-1 peers and it will deliver sequential growth both in profit after tax and revenues. In the first quarter, TCS reported a 16.8% YoY increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 11,074 crore. Its revenue for the first quarter stood at Rs 59,381 crore, a 12.6% increase compared to Rs 52,758 crore in the same quarter last year.

Disney in talks with Adani, Sun TV to sell India assets: Report

Disney is exploring various options, including selling some of its Indian operations or a combination of assets from the unit.

NEW DELHI, Oct 8 (Agencies): Disney has initiated preliminary discussions with billionaires such as Gautam Adani, owner of the Adani Group, and Kalanithi Maran, owner of Sun TV Network, as well as private equity firms regarding the potential sale of its streaming and television business in India, reported Bloomberg News.

According to the report, Disney is exploring various options, including selling some of its Indian operations or a combination of assets from the unit.

However, it is worth noting that these discussions are in their early stages, and there is no guarantee the deal will be reached, added the report. It also did



not provide any details regarding a potential deal value.

Stiff competition The reports have surfaced at a time when Disney faces growing competition from Reliance Industries, specifically its streaming platform JioCinema, led by Mukesh Ambani.

Ambani has been aggressively promoting his streaming service, including offering free access to the Indian Premier League cricket tournament, which Disney previously held the digital rights to.

Disney's India streaming operations, which were its largest globally in terms of users last year, reported a loss of \$41.5 million on revenue of \$390 million for the year ending March 2022, according to the last disclosed results.

In an effort to regain its footing in the Indian market, Disney has chosen to provide free cricket content on smartphones, with the expectation that this strategy will boost advertising revenue and offset the impact of subscriber attrition.

TVS boosts ties with BMW, to manufacture German auto giant's electric two-wheeler at Hosur plant

CHENNAI, Oct 8 (Agencies): Two-wheeler major TVS Motor will manufacture BMW's latest electric two-wheeler CE 02 in its Hosur (Tamil Nadu) plant for the global market. Completing their 10th year of partnership, TVS has manufactured 150,000 units of BMW Motorrad's 310cc series of motorcycles and has played a crucial role in making the German auto giant a global market leader in the super-premium segment.

At present, TVS' Hosur manufacturing plant produces around 12% of BMW's volumes globally. TVS manufactures three BMW Motorrad models - BMW G310 R, BMW 310 GS and BMW G310 RR - which are sold in over 100 countries. The success of CE 02 may further push TVS' manufacturing share in BMW's global volume, according to the two companies.

KN Radhakrishnan, Director & CEO, TVS Motor Company, said on Friday that manufacturing of the new EV is a remarkable feat for them as they have jointly designed and developed this product with BMW. The 310 series was different as it was completely designed by BMW



and only the manufacturing part was completed by TVS Motor.

"In this next stage of our partnership, we are creating opportunities to jointly design and develop common platforms. Through our collaborative efforts we've achieved five extraordinary products in the 310cc series, including recent TVS Apache RTR 310. Taking our relationship to the next level, we have started the production of our first jointly designed, developed and industrialized EV together, the BMW CE 02, at Hosur Plant today," said Radhakrishnan.

The CE 02 will come at a price tag of €8500 and is expected to hit the European market by

April-May 2024. It will also come to India at a later stage as the two automakers believe it has a huge potential here despite the unique two-wheeler being as expensive as some of the base trim of compact SUVs.

Radhakrishnan is confident that the bike will appeal to young urban consumers. The Chennai-based company, which at present is India's second-largest electric two-wheeler maker, had in August launched its premium EV 'X' at a price tag of Rs 2.50 lakhs.

Markus Schramm, Head of BMW Motorrad, said that their strong synergies with TVS have led to the development of impressive offerings in the sub-

500cc segment.

He added that since the launch, BMW G 310 R and BMW G 310 GS single-cylinder models continue to enjoy unrivalled popularity and have become a key pillar of BMW Motorrad's worldwide success.

"The extension and expansion of this partnership towards future technologies and sustainable mobility solutions including the unique and fully electric masterpiece BMW CE 02 is therefore a consistent step to also shape the future together with TVS Motor Company," said Schramm.

He also said that BMW will continue to develop and manufacture heavy engine and ultra-premium products on their own as that is their core strength. He, however, did not rule out the possibility of developing entry-level or mid-level products with TVS in future.

Schwamm believes 2023 will be another record year for BMW Motorrad. In 2022, the company had achieved the best sales result in its history with 2,02,895 motorcycles and scooters sold globally.

Researchers find 'long colds' may exist, as well as long Covid

LONDON, Oct 8 (Agencies): A new study from Queen Mary University of London, published in The Lancet's EClinicalMedicine, discovered that people may endure long-term symptoms -- or 'long colds' -- after acute respiratory infections that tested negative for Covid-19.

Some of the most common symptoms of the 'long cold' included coughing, stomach pain, and diarrhea more than 4 weeks after the initial infection. While the severity of an illness appears to be a key driver of risk of long-term symptoms, more research is being carried out to establish why some people suffer extended symptoms while others do not.

The findings suggest that there may be long-lasting health impacts following non-Covid acute respiratory infections such as colds, influenza, or pneumonia that are currently going unrecognised. However, the researchers do not yet have evidence suggesting that the symptoms have the same severity or duration as long Covid.

The research, funded by Barts Charity, compared the prevalence and severity of long-term symptoms after an episode of Covid-19 vs. an episode of another acute respiratory infection that tested negative for Covid-19. Those recovering



from Covid-19 were more likely to experience light-headedness or dizziness and problems with taste and smell compared to those who had a non-Covid-19 respiratory infection.

While long Covid is now a recognised condition, there have been few studies comparing long-term symptoms following SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus infection vs. other respiratory infections.

The study is the latest output from COVIDENCE UK, Queen Mary University of London's national study of Covid-19, launched back in 2020 and still in follow-up, with over 19,000 participants enrolled. This study analysed data from 10,171 UK adults, with responses collected via questionnaires and statistical analysis carried out to identify symptom clusters.

Giulia Vivaldi, researcher on COVIDENCE UK from Queen

Mary University of London and the lead author of the study, said: "Our findings shine a light not only on the impact of long Covid on people's lives, but also other respiratory infections. A lack of awareness--or even the lack of a common term --prevents both reporting and diagnosis of these conditions.

"As research into long Covid continues, we need to take the opportunity to investigate and consider the lasting effects of other acute respiratory infections.

"These 'long' infections are so difficult to diagnose and treat primarily because of a lack of diagnostic tests and there being so many possible symptoms. There have been more than 200 investigated for long Covid alone."

Professor Adrian Martineau, Chief Investigator of COVIDENCE UK and Clinical Pro-

fessor of Respiratory Infection and Immunity at Queen Mary University of London, said: "Our findings may chime with the experience of people who have struggled with prolonged symptoms after having a respiratory infection despite testing negative for Covid-19 on a nose or throat swab.

"Ongoing research into the long-term effects of Covid-19 and other acute respiratory infections is important because it can help us to get to the root of why some people experience more prolonged symptoms than others. Ultimately this could help us to identify the most appropriate form of treatment and care for affected people."

Victoria King, Director of Funding and Impact at Barts Charity said: "Barts Charity swiftly supported COVIDENCE UK in response to the outbreak of COVID-19 to help inform of its risk factors and impacts. These findings highlight not only the long-term symptoms experienced by people after Covid infection, but by people after other acute respiratory infections as well. As we learn more about long Covid symptoms and their possible treatments, studies like this help to build greater awareness around other prolonged respiratory infections that may be going unrecognised."

Even dads can get postpartum depression, finds study



NEW DELHI, Oct 8 (Agencies): Postpartum Depression (PPD) not only impacts mothers but fathers as well. In fact, it is estimated to affect between 8 and 13% of fathers.

A recent pilot study conducted at the University of Illinois Chicago suggests that fathers should be screened for this condition. It was published in the journal BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth.

With mothers' consent, researchers interviewed and screened 24 fathers, revealing that 30% of them screened positive for postpartum depression using the same tool typically employed for mothers.

Dr Sam Wainwright, the lead author of the study, conducted at UI Health's Two-Genera-

tion Clinic, emphasised the importance of checking in on new fathers.

"Many fathers experience stress, fear and the challenges of balancing work, parenting and partnership responsibilities," he said. "Men often struggle silently, with no one inquiring about their well-being."

"A woman who is at risk for postpartum depression is much more likely to experience it if her partner is also depressed," added Dr Wainwright.

The researchers saw nearly 90% of the participants identified as belonging to racial or ethnic groups facing structural racism and social determinants that can worsen mental health.

However, fathers were frequently over-

looked in this process. The researchers initiated conversations with fathers to gauge their well-being.

Wainwright explained that they often heard statements like, "I'm really stressed, but I don't want my partner to know because I'm here to support her."

These conversations also sparked a broader research initiative aimed at understanding fathers' experiences, especially regarding their mental and physical health. Wainwright believes that well-baby visits may not be the only opportunity to reach fathers.

Wainwright acknowledged the medical community's challenge in connecting with young men who are often hesitant to seek medical care. However, reaching out to them as they transition into fatherhood presents a significant opportunity.

In fact, some of the men in the postpartum depression study who lacked a primary care physician have now sought medical care from Wainwright, and others have requested mental health services.

Extra security arrangements made for India-Pakistan match on Oct 14, nothing to worry: Police

The face-off between the neighbours on the cricket field is expected to draw a huge crowd

AHMEDABAD, Oct 8 (Agencies): Amid reports of an email threatening attack on Narendra Modi Stadium, the Ahmedabad police said that extra security cover will be in place at the ground for next week's India-Pakistan contest and that there is no reason for the public to fear.

The massive stadium here is one of the venues of the ongoing cricket World Cup.

Additional Commissioner of Police Chirag Koradia said that extra security arrangements have been made for the India-Pakistan match on October 14. The face-off between the neighbours on the cricket field is expected to draw a huge crowd.

He said there is no reason for the public to fear because of the email, in which an unidentified sender reportedly threatened to harm the prime minister and blow up the Narendra Modi Stadium.

"Compared to other matches, more intense security arrangements have been made for the upcoming India-Pakistan



match," said Koradia.

During the first match, played on October 5, police made sufficient security arrangements and carried out checkings of hotels, dhabas, and guest houses as well as vehicles. Entry gates were armed with CCTV cameras and every movement was closely observed, he said.

"There is no reason to fear because the police have made elaborate arrangements. Whatever mail or threat, Ahmedabad police are competent and adequate preparation has been made," Koradia said.

The official said the police will put in place the bandobast from October 11. "We are fully prepared for that. There will be bandobast at the stadium gates, checkings will be carried out on vehicles, hotels and guest houses, and we will keep a watch on certain elements," he said.

As per reports, the Mumbai police received an email in which an unidentified sender issued threats to harm the prime minister and blow up the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. The sender also

demanding Rs 500 crore and the release of notorious gangster Lawrence Bishnoi from jail.

For the opening match of the ICC Cricket World Cup on October 5, about 3,500 police personnel were deployed at the stadium in Motera area and other parts of Ahmedabad amid a threat issued by Khalistani separatists.

Ahead of the opening match, the Gujarat police had registered an FIR against Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, the chief of the banned outfit Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), for threatening to turn the Cricket World Cup into "World Terror Cup".

The cybercrime branch of the Ahmedabad police said that people from across the country had received Pannun's threat via a pre-recorded voice message sent from a foreign number.

Pannun has already been designated a terrorist by India in 2020 and faces 22 criminal cases in Punjab. SFJ was banned by the Indian government in 2019.

BCCI to release 14,000 tickets for India-Pakistan World Cup clash



MUMBAI, Oct 8 (Agencies): The hype around the mega World Cup clash between arch-rivals India and Pakistan has forced the BCCI to release 14,000 tickets for the contest to be played on October 14 in Ahmedabad. India and Pakistan will clash at the world's largest cricket stadium in Ahmedabad for which

the demand for tickets has been at its highest.

The Narendra Modi Stadium is expected to be a full house as the two rivals will be taking on each other in India after their 2016 World T20 clash in Kolkata, which the hosts won.

"BCCI announces the release of 14,000 tickets for the highly anticipated India vs Pakistan match

to be held on October 14, 2023, at Ahmedabad," the board said in a statement.

"The sale of tickets for the match will commence from 12 PM IST onwards on October 8th, 2023. Fans can purchase tickets by visiting the official ticketing website," the statement added.

The venue, which has a capacity of hosting more than 1,30,000, witnessed 47,000 people attending the opening match here last Thursday between England and New Zealand, which was the highest number of attendance recorded for a World Cup opening game.

While hosts India start their World Cup campaign on Sunday against Australia in Chennai, Pakistan did well to record a win over the Netherlands on Friday at Hyderabad.

Suresh Raina Recalls Sachin Tendulkar's Advice During World Cup 2011 Quarterfinal Against Australia

NEW DELHI, Oct 8 (Agencies): Former Indian batter, Suresh Raina, recalled the message that legendary compatriot and cricketer Sachin Tendulkar gave him during the quarterfinal against Australia in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011. During this match, Raina played a crucial role, forming a 74-run partnership with Yuvraj Singh in a chase of 261, contributing a valuable cameo of 34 runs. Raina also talked about India's ICC Cricket World Cup chances at home. India will start its World Cup campaign against Australia in Chennai on Sunday.

"I am writing this from Delhi and the whole country is excited ahead of India's first game against Australia on Sunday. When India are playing at home, we know how much expectation there is but the team must try and play the situation. We won the World Cup here in 2011, Australia won in Australia in 2015 and England won on home soil four years ago. There is a very good opportunity here for India to win the World Cup in front of their own fans and I am confident they can do it," said Raina in his column as quoted by ICC.

The southpaw said that he is confident for different reasons, like a bowling line-up well aware of home conditions, experience of spinner Ravichandran Ashwin and fitness, and performances of Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj. He is also very confident if the top three batters, skipper Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill and Rohit Sharma can bat for 25-30 overs, a lot of runs will be made. "I have that confidence for several reasons. We have a very good bowling line-up who know how to bowl in the conditions. Ravi Ashwin, who was part of our winning squad in 2011, is now in the squad and adds that experience, and having Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj firing again after their injuries is massive. Our pace attack complements each other well and Bumrah, in particular, is looking sorted now. He has recovered well and he is a very important player in this World Cup," said Raina. "With the bat, Virat Kohli will anchor the show and look to bat through the overs. We also have a very solid opening pair. Shubman Gill averages over 60 in ODI cricket and Rohit Sharma has scored three double centuries in this format - and hit five centuries at the last World Cup. If the top three can bat 25-30 overs, we can easily put a lot of runs on the board," he added.

Raina said that though India will get confidence with its Asia Cup win recently, the World Cup will bring a different pressure. "Winning the Asia Cup will give the team confidence but the World Cup will bring a different pressure. The whole of India wants India to win this trophy. It is different to 2011, too. Back then, there was nowhere near as much social media. Nowadays, every player has Twitter, Instagram, Facebook - every player will feel that pressure," he said. "But as professional athletes, they have to ignore that and just enjoy the World Cup, enjoy playing in front of these fans and thrive on the support. Diwali is coming and there will be lots of celebrations, so they just need to enjoy each and every game. One mistake can leave you out of a World Cup, especially when you get

to the latter stages. They need to be very focused, very mentally strong and enjoy this format," he added.

Raina said that the match against Australia, a strong all-round team that has won five WCs, has awareness of Indian conditions due to the Indian Premier League (IPL), will be great. He expects Australia to come hard. However, he warns that it is not always possible to start well in a World Cup.

Raina cited the WC opener between defending champions England and New Zealand at Ahmedabad as an example, where Kiwis chased down 283 set by England with nine wickets in hand. "Sunday's match in Chennai will be a great game. Australia are five-time champions and are a very strong all-round team. Most of their players have played in the IPL so they know the wickets and the Indian players," he said.

"Australia will come hard at India and everybody wants to start well, but it is not always possible. Look at England - they went from looking like they were going to score 340/350 but they kept losing wickets, and New Zealand didn't have any problems chasing it down. That shows the quality in this World Cup," he added.

Now, Raina came to the advice he got from legendary Sachin Tendulkar during the 2011 WC quarterfinal against Australia, where a knock of 34* and a 74-run stand with Yuvraj helped India chase down 261 runs. "On a personal level, any World Cup match between India and Australia brings back memories of the quarter-final in 2011, a game full of pressure. Australia were the holders and the favourites to win it again," he said.

"We were chasing 261 and when [MS] Dhoni was out, I joined Yuvraj Singh at 187 for five. We had to dig in, we had to take responsibility and play the ball, not the occasion and that's what me and Yuvi did. In a quarter-final against the reigning champions, you need to bring your a-game and we delivered."

"I remember the stadium being full of fans shouting and screaming and before I went in to bat, I was sitting with Sachin [Tendulkar]. He told me to go out there, take the chase deep, stay calm and breathe. He told me I could do it and I had already played 100 ODIs by that time, so I knew how to play those crucial knocks. I was very calm and composed and I thought 'Let's do it for India'," he concluded.

Raina hopes India will produce a similar result but also expects Aussies to compete hard. He also considers England and NZ as main challengers but cautions against writing off Afghanistan because of their spin attack.

"Hopefully, this weekend will bring a similar result but I do think Australia will also compete for the trophy. I see them, New Zealand, England and India as the main challengers - but don't overlook Afghanistan," he said.

"They have spinners who can bowl 30 overs really well so if they can score 260-290, those bowlers can change the game in two overs. They have some good batting all-rounders and they are playing with a purpose, they are a united team who have courage and play with enjoyment. I think they will impress everyone."

Rampant South Africa crush Sri Lanka by 102 runs to make emphatic start in World Cup

Aiden Markram (106 off 54 balls) smashes a century off 49 balls to create the record of fastest ton in World Cups

NEW DELHI, Oct 8 (Agencies): A rampant South Africa crushed Sri Lanka by 102 runs here on Saturday to begin their World Cup campaign with a huge win, after setting the record for the highest total by any team in the history of the competition.

Aiden Markram (106 off 54 balls) smashed a century off 49 balls to create the record of fastest ton in World Cups, while Quinton de Kock (100) and Rassie van der Dussen (108) crossed triple figures, as the Proteas made 428/5.

In reply, Kusal Mendis dazzled at the top with a rapid 76, Charith Asalanka top scored with 79 in the middle-order and Dasun Shanaka found form to hit 68.

But the target was way beyond Sri Lanka, who did well to make 326 in 44.5 overs, keeping South Africa on the park for as long as they could.

In fact, the contest ended with the distinction of featuring most runs scored in a World Cup game -- 754 runs were scored here at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

After Marco Jansen (2/92) cleaned up Pathum Nissanka (0) in the second over, Mendis unleashed a flurry of spectacular sixes on both sides of the wicket to provide Sri Lanka with the early impetus.

With South African pacers spraying their deliveries on his pads, Mendis dispatched each of them far into the stands to raise a 25-ball fifty.

The senior Sri Lanka batter seemed to be waging a lone



battle as Kusal Perera (7) and Sadeera Samarawickrama (23) failed to match their partner in his endeavour.

In the absence of any support from the other end, Mendis fell after a 42-ball blitz that saw him hit eight sixes and four boundaries for his 76 runs.

He tried cutting a delivery from Kagiso Rabada (2/50) too close to the body and was caught behind.

Samarawickrama followed Mendis soon, chipping one towards midwicket with Jansen moving quickly in front to take a clean catch, off Gerald Coetzee (3/68).

Asalanka also took a bit of time to settle in, but to his credit, recovered well to hit four sixes and eight fours to make 79 off 65 balls, as by then, it had become abundantly clear that Sri Lanka were only looking to reduce the margin of defeat.

While Dhananjaya de Silva perished for 11, Sri Lanka captain Dasun Shanaka failed to get a move on for a large part of his

innings.

But Shanaka too hit his straps, smoking a six and five fours on the trot off Coetzee to bring up his fifty.

Shanaka's innings ended when Keshav Maharaj (2/62) cleaned him up for 68 off 62 balls (6x4s, 3x6s).

Towards the end, Kasun Rajitha swung his bat to a good effect, getting 33 from 31 balls (4x4s, 1x6s).

In the first half, de Kock (100 off 84 balls; 12x4s, 3x6s), Van der Dussen (108 off 110 balls; 13x4s, 2x6s) and Markram (106 off 54 balls; 14x4s, 3x6s) powered South Africa past the highest World Cup total ever, held by Australia, who had made 417/7 against Afghanistan in the 2015 edition.

After De Kock and Van der Dussen set the platform for a massive score with their second-wicket stand of 204 runs, Markram pulverised Sri Lanka.

All three South African centuries—De Kock, Van der Dussen and Markram—also recorded

their maiden World Cup hundreds.

A total of 39 fours and eight sixes came collectively from the Proteas trio.

Heinrich Klaasen hit another three fours and a six for his 20-ball 32 and David Miller clobbered three fours and two sixes for his unbeaten 21-ball 39.

Making the most of a favourable pitch against a depleted and erring Sri Lankan bowling line-up, South African batters motored on at a high scoring rate in the middle-overs to wrest control.

An early blow was dealt when Dilshan Madushanka pinned Temba Bavuma (8) in front of the wicket, but that was the only moment of joy for the Sri Lankans.

De Kock and Van der Dussen, who came together a mere 10 balls into the contest, were separated only after putting their team in a commanding position with the fourth highest-ever partnership for any wicket for South Africa in the World Cup.

De Kock, set to retire from ODIs after the tournament, was in his elements in getting a hundred.

On the other hand, Van der Dussen celebrated his 50th ODI with a fifth ton of his career, cracking 13 fours and two sixes in the process.

Markram began with two cracking straight drives for four off Madushanka and brought out every conventional stroke in his book to break the record set by Ireland's Kevin O'Brien (50 balls for 100) in 2011.

Virat Kohli All Set To Beat Anil Kumble, On Cusp Of Breaking Massive World Cup Record



NEW DELHI, Oct 8 (Agencies): India cricket icon Virat Kohli is all set to feature in his 4th ODI World Cup, having first featured in the 2011 edition which he won under the leadership of MS Dhoni. As Kohli gets

the 2023 World Cup campaign underway, he would be on the cusp of going past Anil Kumble in an elite list of World Cup players. At present, Kohli and Kumble jointly hold the record of taking the most number of catches in ODI World Cup history for India.

Both Kohli and Kumble have grabbed 14 catches each for India in World Cups. While Kumble needed 18 matches to hit the mark, Kohli required 26.

Back to the grind after a couple of days' leave, Virat Kohli's extended net session was the focal point of Team India's first training session in the city ahead of its World Cup opener against Australia on Sunday.

Closed door sessions are prevalent among football teams, where managers don't want anyone to get a whiff of tactical preparedness of a team.

But it is not very common among cricket teams where tactical stuff is way more set but on Wednesday, Indian team decided to bar media from watching the session.

The biggest talking point will be bowling composition and whether India will field an extra seamer in Mohammed Shami or use local hero Ravichandran Ashwin depending on the surface used for the game.

With Hardik Pandya bowling 6-7 overs per game and at times even full quota, the temptation will be to field Ashwin, who can

play with Australian minds.

Kohli faced customary throw-ins for considerable period before facing some of the local net bowlers.

While it was scheduled to be a two-hour training session, Kohli put in an extra 45 minutes as the team has already missed two warm-up games, which helps in simulation.

India missing out on its CWC warm-ups is not entirely a loss, given it had already played a three-match ODI series against Australia a couple of weeks back.

Although Kohli did not play the opening two games of the series, he did manage to play a composed knock of a 61-ball 56 in the final ODI in Rajkot.

Dy Mayor Baldev Billawaria lays foundation stone for footpath, Green Stripe Development worth Rs 9 crore

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 8: In a significant development for Ward 56, Gangyal, within the RS Pura Jammu South constituency, Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria, inaugurated a crucial project under the National Green Strip Program. This project, valued at Rs 9 Crore, aims to enhance the local environment and quality of life for residents.

District President Rekha Mahajan, along with officers from the concerned department, joined Deputy Mayor Billawaria at the project launch. Addressing the public gathering after laying the foundation stone, Deputy Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria emphasized that the initiative seeks to create a well-structured and environmentally-friendly space for the residents of Ward 56, Gangyal, and nearby areas.

The footpath and green stripe development project aligns with the broader objectives of the National Green Strip Program, contributing to the beautification and greening of urban areas. Deputy Mayor Billawaria expressed his gratitude



to the citizens of Ward 56 for their support and stressed the importance of sustainable development in contemporary urban planning.

Billawaria reaffirmed his commitment as a local representative to resolving the issues of the people, not only in his ward but throughout Jammu. He remarked, "This project reflects our commitment to making Jammu a more livable and green city. The footpath and green stripe project in Ward 56, Gangyal, is expected to enhance the overall aesthetics of the area while promoting eco-friendliness."

The Deputy Mayor highlighted that numerous mega projects and development initiatives have been launched

under the Smart City Project, and Jammu is poised to emerge as a developed city. He commended the BJP's dedication to ensuring holistic development in every region, and he credited the Government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for its commitment to "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayas, and Sabka Prayas."

Deputy Mayor Billawaria also acknowledged the significant efforts of the Union Administration led by Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha in driving revolutionary changes across various sectors, including the economy.

Rekha Mahajan, BJP District President, Jammu South, expressed optimism that the people of Gangyal and surrounding areas

would benefit from this project. She commended Deputy Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria for turning Ward 56, Gangyal, into a model ward despite the challenges posed by its swampy terrain. She highlighted the transformation and development that have taken place in the ward and praised Billawaria for his dedication.

Various local dignitaries, including Mandal President Ranjit Singh, Harbans Chaudhary, Sudhir Gupta, Jugal Kishore, Surjit Kumar, Rakesh Sangral, Sunil Sharma, Mulaakh Raj, Om Nath, Rajinder Singh (Poppy), Sohan Singh Katal (Sonu), Gurvinder Singh, Ajay Pratap Singh, and Captain Sarup Singh, were present at the event.

Natrang stages Balwant Thakur's popular Dogri play 'Gatt'

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 8: Balwant Thakur's popular Dogri play 'Gatt' staged here today at Deewan-e-Aam, Mubarakh Mandi, Jammu under Natrang's weekly theatre series 'Sunday Theatre'. Based on Krishna Chander's famous Urdu classic short story 'Khadda' the play is a hard hitting satire on the decay of human values. Balwant Thakur has adapted it in such a contemporary manner that the audience instantly identifies itself with the play. It was a surprising theatrical treat for the people present at Mubarakh Mandi who thoroughly enjoyed the performance and responded with repeated applause at the satirical punches of the play.

The play "Gatt" shows that one and all tend to shirk their own responsibilities and work and pass it on to others. Instead they indulge in high sloganism, claiming to be the redeemers of the suffering masses. This is symbolized by a person falling into a ditch whose pleas to help him come out unanswered by one and all. Different people pass by him like surveyors, young men, religious leaders, cops, Political leader in power and a foreigner. The person in distress is given different excuses and pleas for their inability in extending help to him. The unemployed youth are unable to find time out of their fixed schedule of hunting for girls. The 'Sadhu' showers blessings and prays for his peace in as and where condition. The police cop lodges an FIR and asks him to report to the police station knowingly that he will never be able to



come out of the ditch on his own. The foreigner lady enquires about his choice between India and Pakistan, which side he would like to take? The situation becomes more dramatic when a minister after a complaint from the public about the worsening of the road condition, makes a round of the area. The workers of the public works department instead of taking out the man from the ditch put wooden planks over the ditch and create a stage for minister's public speech. Here the minister lists his development revolution and lashes at his opponents for cursing their government for political gains. The public meeting is over, the wooden planks are removed but no one pays any heed to the fallen-man in the ditch. The slogans of the up-liftment of the poor fades away with the flowing dusty wind. Finally a man from the

audience appears and appeals to everyone to render a helping hand to this common man who is still in the ditch despite having celebrated sixty-four years of India's Independence. The play reflects the plight of the poor masses who continue to suffer for want of help from those at the helm of affairs.

Natrang actors who acted in the play included Chirag Anand as Neta, Mahikshit Singh as Aadmi, Mohd. Yaseen as Karamchari 1, Brijesh Avtaar Sharma as Karamchari 2, Aadesh Dhar as Karamchari 3, Sanket Bhagat as Aashiq-1, Kushal Bhat as Aashiq-2, Kananpreet Kaur as Foreigner, Sumit Singh Bandaral as Sadhu, Vishal Sharma as Police Cop, Vansh Pandotra as Chela-1 and Abhimanyu Choudhary as Chela-2. The show was coordinated and conducted by Neeraj Kant.

Need proper cabling, new electric poles before smart meters on wooden electric poles: Bhat

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 8: Lok Janshakti Party (Ramvilas) J&K Vice President and spokesperson Yasir Ahmad Bhat today said that at a time when the consumers were expecting 24x7 power supply availability, the power scenario started getting affected for one or the other reason this year. A consumer following every direction has also a right to get better power supply and there should not be any deterioration in power scenario, he said. He said there should not have been any power crisis in Jammu and Kashmir, which has enormous potential for hydro-power generation.

Bhat said that J&K has the capacity not only to become self reliant in power generation but also to sell the power to outside states and generate money. But the problem is that it is yet

to get self sufficient and selling the power to others is nowhere in sight. The present crisis is also because of the wrong policies. No serious attention was paid towards establishing adequate number of power plants in state sector. The poor planning and lack of interest in making J&K self sufficient in power is badly affecting the power scenario right now. It is not yet known that how long the crisis will continue, said Bhat.

What has been done in past cannot be undone now. But from now onwards the focus should be setting up more power plants and speedily completing the ongoing projects. Our voices cannot be silenced, and our demands cannot be ignored. It is our fundamental right to have a say in decisions that affect our lives and homes. We insist on

the immediate restoration of 24X7 power supply," he added. "The smart meters might be the latest innovation, but what good are they if the very lines they're connected to are unreliable" Bhat said.

"We've been living with this subpar infrastructure for far too long. It's a matter of safety and reliability. We need proper cabling and new electric poles before these smart meters are even considered. These wooden electric poles were installed some 50 years ago," he added. "We're not against progress, but progress must be responsible and sustainable. Installing high-tech smart meters won't address the root problem if our foundation is unstable. We demand that the PDD prioritize our safety and well-being over hasty upgrades," said Bhat.

BJP'S mice starts coming out of the hole: Rajesh

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 8: Taking a jibe on BJP senior leader Kavinder Gupta Jammu Warriors Front (JWF) Chairman Rajesh Gupta reacted on his statement and said, "BJP'S mice came out of the hole." He said in past nine years J&K UT BJP leaders never bothered about the problems of people of J&K. Now once again they are going to misleading the people by giving them false promises.

JWF leader said, "I was surprised with the statement of Kavinder Gupta who said that his party leadership in Jammu and Kashmir is taking up all the issues



of people very minutely and working proactively to resolve them on priority."

He said that majority of people maintained that no new developments but only facelifts of previous works were done in the area. "BJP was in power at the Centre and in the erstwhile J&K State too, it was easy for the party to for-

ward issues of common masses through their Government in the State to the Union Ministry concerned, for mitigating the sufferings of people but they took them casually," Gupta said.

He pointed out that there was total chaos and confusion among people as BJP leadership has failed to remove peoples' apprehensions. "On the one hand, there is complete uncertainty in J&K, while on the other hand people are confronting with failure of the administration to solve day to day problems."

"BJP has lost its political ground and

relevance across both provinces of Jammu and Kashmir due to its anti-people policies. They had promised a lot to the people of the Jammu province but delivered poorly on the ground," JWF Chief claimed.

The BJP "betrayed" the trust of the people in the region, leaving them feeling cheated. People are suffering due to dilapidated roads, huge power cuts, non-availability of potable drinking water and acute deficiency of teaching staff in the schools, he said.

Rajesh Gupta appealed to the masses of J&K don't fall into the trap of BJP'S false promises once again.

Gujjar & Bakerwal Mela celebrated with enthusiasm in Keegam



TOP NEWS REPORT

KUPWARA, Oct 8: The Indian Army orchestrated a vibrant Gujjar and Bakerwal Mela on Sunday in the Keegam area of North Kashmir's Kupwara district. The event was inaugurated by Colonel Amit Kumar of 47 RR along with other dignitaries from the Gujjar and Bakerwal community.

The Mela featured

various cultural programs performed by schoolchildren, which captivated the audience and added to the festive atmosphere.

In his address, DDC member Nutnoosa Adv Zahoor Ahmad Magray expressed gratitude to 47 RR for organizing such a grand and culturally enriching event.

Choudhary Imtiaz Kataria, a prominent

Gujjar & Bakerwal leader, emphasized that his community has consistently stood at the forefront in support of the nation's integrity and sovereignty.

The Gujjar and Bakerwal Mela served as a platform for cultural exchange and celebration, bringing together diverse communities in a spirit of unity and camaraderie.

Govt. GLDM Degree College Hiranagar celebrates National Wildlife Week

TOP NEWS REPORT

HIRANAGAR, OCT 8: In an effort to foster wildlife conservation and upraise awareness about the seriousness of preserving India's wildlife and natural heritage, Government GLDM Degree College Hiranagar recently celebrated National Wildlife Week sponsored by JK Science Technology and Innovation Council, J&K, with a bunch of engaging activities.

The third event organized in continuation with the celebration of National Wildlife week was documentary screening on wild life of various animals. The programme started with the welcome address of Prof. Nidhi, she further explained

the importance of wild flora and fauna in maintaining the ecological balance of nature. Dr Anju Rani presented a formal vote of thanks.

The fourth event was marked by organizing an expert talk on the wildlife conservation. Dr Arunkumar formally welcomed the experts of the day. The first expert for the day was Mr. Vijay Kumar, Wildlife Warden, Kathua, who focused on the fact that the price of human greed is being paid by poor, innocent animals. He further enquired the fact that some animal species are getting depleted at an alarming rate. Moreover, he urged the young generation to be aware of the present state of affairs and if it is allowed to

continue, the next generation will not get to see many majestic animals even in the zoo.

The second expert was talk was given by Mr. Vinay Kumar, Block forest Officer, Jasoara wildlife who very beautifully presented the various types of the wild fauna being found in the region of Jammu he also explained the reason of extinction of various species of birds from the region. The Principal of the college DR Pragya Khanna applauded the efforts of the resource persons for making the event communicative and enlightening.

The week-long celebration concluded with a Fieldvisit to Jasoara Wildlife Sanctuary, where in 50 students participated. Dr.

Pragya Khanna, principal of the college introduced the participants with the Jasoara Wildlife Sanctuary which is located on the right side of the banks of the River Ujh. She asked students to notice and record everything around and gather maximum benefit from the visit.

Prof. Neha Bhagat, organizing secretary of the trip along with the other members Dr. Jyoti Rani, Mr. Vikramjwal (PTI) and Dr. Bharat Bhushan focused on the importance of environmental trips for the students which is something new and is a welcome break from their daily routine. And further focused that such trip experiences create an inclusive and succinct

connection. In turn, that builds cognitive, social, and emotional foundations for their personal and professional progress.

The field trip was accompanied by Mr. Vinay Kumar, Block forest Officer, Jasoara wildlife. He put forward the fact that the sanctuary is full of lush green plains where a large number of birds and animals live.

He further introduced that Axis deer are the most remarkable among them He further told that there are large variety of mammals and birds are living in the sanctuary and some of them are cheetal, Barking deer, wild boar, rhesus monkey, red jungle fowl, green pigeon, and blue rock pigeon.