TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper

ENTERTAINMENT

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Hina Khan on **'Country of Blind' invited by the Oscar Library**



NATIONAL

Congress chief Kharge accuses PM Modi of using Army's popularity to promote himself

INTERNATIONAL

18

Pakistan court adjourns till next week ex-PM Imran Khan's indictment in cipher case



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

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Vol.-14 Issue-285 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

Indian Army soldier dies in accidental firing near LoC in Rajouri

JAMMU, Oct 17 (Agencies): A soldier died in an accidental rifle fire in J&K's Rajouri district, said officials on Tuesday. Officials said that an Army man deployed on the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district died after his weapon went off accidentally late Monday evening.

"The incident took place late last evening when a team of the Army was on routine duty at a forward location. "The weapon of the soldier went off accidentally and he received a bullet injury.

"He was immediately shifted to the Army medical centre, but he succumbed to critical injury," officials said.

Commercial Building Damaged in Overnight Fire Mishap in **Batamaloo** Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Oct 17 (Agencies): A commercial building was damfire mishap in Batamaloo area of central Kashmir's Srinagar district, officials said.

They told GNS that a three-storey commercial building, housing six shops including non-functional hotel namely "New Akber Hotel", and restaurant. caught fire at around 3:30 AM at Batamaloo, following which men and machinery were rushed to the site. "A rescue operation was soon after launched at the site, however before the flames could be contained the fire damaged roofing, second floor alongside one footwear shopa and it's store room", the official said adding the first floor, ground floor with basement also sustained indirect damage due to heat and water.

The cause of fire is being ascertained, added the official.

21-year-old youth dies after tractor overturns in Wangipora **Sumbal**

BANDIPORA, Oct 17 (Agencies): A 21-yearold youth died after a tractor overturned in Wangipora area of Sumbal in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Tuesday. An official Kashmir

Reade that the youth Turn to page 9

Lt Governor addresses Round Table Conference of Newly-Appointed Vice Chancellors

Innovation and entrepreneurship cannot be taught through books. Arrangements should be made that students are involved in field learning every week: LG Sinha ral session of the Round



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 17: Lieutenant Gover-

nor Shri Manoj Sinha addressed the inaugu-

Table Conference with newly appointed Vice Chancellors from various universities of the country at the University of Kashmir.

In his address, the Lt Governor appreciated the endeavour of the Association of Indian Universities to bring together the Vice Chancellors on a common platform to deliberate on University Governance, Collaboration and promoting innovation in academic world.

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Portion of Ranbireshwar Temple Collapses in Jammu, Rescue operations underway



Top News Report JAMMU, Oct 17: A portion

of Ranbireshwar Temple collapsed in Jammu on Tuesday morning. A team

of SDRF is present at the spot and rescue operations are underway.

ED conducts searches in PMLA case against educational trust run by J&K's **Ex-Minister Lal Singh's Wife**

JAMMU, Oct 17 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate Tuesday conducted searches in Jammu and adjoining areas as part of a money laundering probe against an educational trust run by ex-minister Lal Singh's wife and a former government official in connection with alleged irregularities in land purchase to set up the trust, official sources

The federal agency raided about eight premises in Jammu, Kathua and Punjab's Pathankot in the case

against RB educational trust, its chairperson and Lal Singh's wife Kanta Andotra, as well as Ravinder S, a former revenue official.

The money laundering case stems from an October 2021 charge sheet filed by the CBI in this case which alleged criminal connivance in the issuance of land between January 4 and January 7, 2011, without mentioning details in respect of violation of the ceiling limit of 100 standard kanals imposed under Section 14 of the Jammu and Kashmir

Agrarian Reforms Act, 1976, thereby giving undue pecuniary advantage to trust.

Based on this, the trust acquired multiple pieces of land of about 329 Kanals vide three gift deeds executed on January 5 and January 7, 2011, the CBI charge sheet claimed.

The sources said the ED has found that excess land is being actively used by the trust for running DPS Schools and other commercial activities.

The premises being Turn to page 9

National Highway blocked in Ramban due to incessant rains, schools closed

RAMBAN, Oct 17 (Agencies): The National Highway-44 in Ramban district was blocked due to incessant rains, an official said on Tuesday.

Deputy Commissioner of Ramban Mussarat Zia on social media handle X informed that movement on NH-44 has been blocked due to incessant rains and asked people to avoid travelling today on the

"NH-44 blocked at Cafeteria Morh, near Turn to page 9

Assembly polls in J&K will be held soon: Chugh



JAMMU, Oct 17 (Agencies): Asserting that the BJP's vote share as well as seat count saw an increase in the recentlyheld Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (Kargil) election, BJP general secretary Tarun Chugh on Tuesday said Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir will be held soon as the process of delimitation and preparing the voter list has been completed.

He also claimed that the Gupkar alliance that had faced a defeat in the local bodies election will have to suffer a similar outcome in the Assem-

"The election will take place on time. Several decades had gone by without any delimitation. Now, delimitation of the Assembly constituencies has taken place. The voter list has been prepared. It has been sent to the political parties for the submission of their objections. Accordingly, the election will be held soon," Chugh told reporters here.

He said as far as the urban local body (ULB) polls are concerned, the local bodies have submitted 700 written complaints citing discrepancies in the ward and gram panchayat listings.

"We have been denied our right to vote. The ward and gram panchayat formula in Kargil is faulty and has been crafted with a certain bias. I request the

Turn to page 9

Throat-slit bodies of couple found inside their home in Rajouri

JAMMU, Oct 17 (Agencies): Throat-slit bodies of a couple were found in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, officials said.

Quoting a police official, that the bodies of the couple—Mohammad Azam and her wife Gulzar Begum—were found inside their home in Bagla village of Kandi area in Rajouri district.

Soon after the information, a team of police and security forces reached the spot and took the bodies in their possession for medicolegal formalities.

The official said that "everything will be unravelled during investigations." "A case has been registered and further investigations were underway." he added. When contacted DIG Rajouri-Poonch Range, Dr Haseeb

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Legends Cricket League in J&K on Cards: Sarmad Hafeez

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 17: The J&K Sports Council held preliminary discussion with the visiting organizing committee team of Legends Cricket League headed by former international cricketer, Nikhil Chopra along with the Delhi Cricket Association's (BCCI) pitch curator, Ankit Dutta.

Briefing about the venture, Secretary Youth Services and Sports (YSS), Sarmad Hafeez,



said that a meeting of the organizing committee and Sports Council team was held in Jammu to work out modalities for conduct of some of the matches of renowned Legends Cricket League in November at Moulana Azad Cricket Stadium, Jammu.

Secretary said that the matches are expected to feature former renowned cricketers like Chris Gayle, Virender Sehwag. Aron Finch. Irfan Pathan, Yusuf Pathan, and Harbhajan Singh besides others.

Divulging further on the details, Sarmad Hafeez informed that following the preliminary discussion the Legends Cricket league team had a tour of the stadium. They assessed the existing facilities at the venue and expressed satisfaction over the

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H&ME Deptt orders all diagnostic centres, laboratories, single doctor clinics to register under Clinical Establishments Act

Step will ensure verified health facilities, healthcare professionals in the private sector

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 17: In order to streamline the functioning of Diagnostic Centres, Laboratories, single doctor clinics in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, the Health and Medical Education (H&ME) department has ordered these institutions to register under the Clinical Establishments Act and the Health Facility Registry (HFR).

This step has been initiated in order to streamline and bring transparency in the delivery of healthcare services by private sector partners. The step shall also enable the general public to access verified private health facilities by mapping them on the HFR of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission. Simultaneously, the private heath care facilities shall also register the workers/ staff on the HFR so that verified health professionals are working in the private sector.

The Ayushman Bharat Digital Health ecosystem has been imple-

mented by the Government of J&K in July, 2022 and 100% Government Health Facilities have been verified and registered on the HFR portal. 82% of the Government Doctors have been registered on the HPR and 78 Lakh ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) Ids have been created.

100% empanelled Hospitals under the AB-PMJAY have also been verified and registered on the ABDM Digital portal. The Scan & Turn to page 9



CADNICA ELECTRONIC SOLUTIONS

Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With lot of pain and sorrow, we inform about the sad demise of our beloved Karamyogini Rani Wali W/o Late Sh. Sohan Lal Wali erstwhile resident of Hanand Chawalgam, Kashmir, at present C-49, Ayodhya Nagar, Bhopal, M.P on Friday, 13 Oct. 2023.

10th Day Kriya shall be performed on Sunday, the 22nd Oct. 2023 at 9 AM at Khatlapur Ghat, Lower Lake, Bhopal.

GRIEF STRICKEN Kulbushan Wali & Lovely Wali Ramesh Raina & Sudha Raina Ravinder Koul & Sonia Koul Dileep Kathi & Lucky Kathi

Samast Wali Pariwar M.: 9589210403, 9425017403, 9755475226



Karamyogini Rani Wali

10TH DAY/13TH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Smt. Kanta Devi W/o Sh. Butti Singh (Billawar) R/o H. No. 48 F Extn. 09 Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Tenth Day will be held on 17th of October 2023 (Tuesday) at Gorkha Mandir at 11 am.

13th Day will be held on 20th of October 2023 (Friday) at Our Residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Rajinder & Virander Singh (Son)

Itti & Isha Rajput (Daughter)

Pooja & Anoop Sharma (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Grand Children: - Mehvesh & Mayur Sharma

Contact No. 9906014710, 9070076007, 9682377588

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform that our beloved Smt. Ashaji Bhan W/o Late. Omkar Nath Bhan, originally from Bhan Ashram, Baba Pora, Habba Kadal, Srinagar, Kashmir, passed away on 13th October 2023 at Pune.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 22nd October 2023 at Alandi Ghat, Pune followed by Assembly at their Pune residence, i.e., 801, A7 Mirchandani Palms, Konkane Chowk, Rahatani Pune.

FONDLY REMEMBERED BY:

Mrs. Shanta Bhat Mrs. Veena Bhan

Sh. Shyam J. Bhan Dr. Rajni Bhan Safaya

Mrs. Rita Bhan Zutshi

Dr. Ashima Bhan

Mr. Satyan Bhan and Mrs. Simran Bhan

Mr. Sandeep Bhan Vivaan and Riyaan



Smt. Kanta Devi

Smt. Ashaji Bhan

SMT. SAVITRI DEVI

MALGURIA

(Retired ZEO)

From: Bhan, Bhat Family Contact Nos.

Shyam J. Bhan: +91 9810068535 Satyan Bhan: +91 8879512582 Sandeep Bhan: +91 9953242768

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform he sad demise of our beloved Smt. Savitri Devi **Malguria** W/o Lt. Sh. Shiv Lal Malguria R/o Ward No 16 near forest office Udhampur who expired on 14-10-2023

UTHALA will be performed on Wednesday 18-10-2023 at 4.00 P.M at Om Palace Udhampur. GRIEF STRICKEN :-

Sh. Rajinder Malguria (Son)

Son and Daughter in law
Sh. Surinder Malguria and Smt. Aruna Gupta

Daughter and Son in law Smt. Mohini Gupta and Sh. Yash Pal Gupta

Smt. Shashi Gupta (Daughter)

Smt. Meenakshi Gupta (Daughter)

Smt. Neelam Gupta (Daughter)

Smt. Anita Gupta and Sh. Manish Gupta (Daughter and Son in law) Mr. Sunny Gupta and Mrs. Deepika Gupta (Grand Son and Grand Daughter in law)

Mr. Nikhil Mahajan and Mrs. Arzoo Mahajan (Grand Son and Grand Daughter in law) Meenal, Aashman, Aria, Arnika, Mivan (Grand Children) M/S QUALITY GENERAL STORE

M/S S KUMAR AND CO **ALL MALGURIA FAMILY**

ADH-BARKHI

Time flies so Fast , it has been 6 months now, You and your Good qualities will always remain in our Heart. We all family members miss in our Heart. We all family members miss you a lot.
Adh barkhi of our beloved late Sh. Chander Mohan Abrol S/o late Sh. Durga dass Abrol, will be performed at our home H.no 26, sec -4, extension, Marble enclave, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu on 18th October (Wednesday) at 12:00 pm (Noon)

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Anita Abrol (wife)
Son and daughter-in-law:Mr.Nitin Abrol and Mrs.Jagriti Abrol
Mr.Nitesh Abrol and Dr.Nitika Abrol

Brother and sister-in-law:-Mr.Sunil abrol and Mrs.Manju Abrol Khushboo and Dakshish (Children)

Khushboo and Dakshish (Children)
Grandchildren:Aarna Abrol and Nirvair Abrol
Sister & Brother-in-law:Late Joginder khullar and Late Nirmal Khullar
Mr. Kuldeep Sahney and Mrs.Sudesh Sahney
Mr. Mukesh Sehgal and Mrs. Sunita Sehgal
Mr. Sudesh Gandotra and Late Smt. Anita Gandotra
Mr. Rakesh Sharma and Mrs. Tripti Sharma
Brother-in-law and sister-in-law
Mr. Ramakant Bhasin and Mrs.Dimple Bhasin

7006659649 | 7006632198 | 9419193121

10th Day Kriya

our beloved **Shri Ghanshyam Singh Manhas (Retired ZEO)** S/o Zaildar Madhav Lal Manhas of Sartingal, Bhadarwah District Doda J&K UT who left for heavenly

abode on 9th October 2023 at 6pm. 10th Day will be performed at our residence , Sartingal Bhaderwah on Wednesday 18 October, 2023 at 8:30 am Grief Stricken

Brothers and Bhabies

Shri Sevaram Manhas and Smt Simerdei Manhas Smt Sumitra Manhas W/o Ranbir Manhas

Shri Inder Manhas and Kailash Manhas

Sister
Smt Anjna Kotwal W/o Ramesh Kotwal

Shri Sanjeet Singh Manhas and Sushma Manhas Shri Bikram Singh Manhas and Manu Rani Manhas

Shri Shiverjeet Singh Manhas and Kailash Rekha Manhas

Daughter and Son in Law
Smt Seema Kotwal and Shri Ajeet Singh Kotwal

Grand Childrens: Mahaveer Singh, Vishwajeet Singh, Prthibha Manhas, Madhurima Manhas man Manhas, Arjun Kotwal, Dr Bharti Kotwal, Atul Kotwal and Omprakash Manh

Contact: 9797143313, 8492032103, 9419297315

OBITUARY FROM MALUN SIDE

Nith profound grief and sorrow it is to inform sudden demise of Sh. Soom Nath Bhat S/o Late. Swami Prakash Ram Bhat, originally from Battargam, Kupwara, Kashmir at his residence Plot No.913,Flat No.S-3, Shalimar Garden Extn 1, Sahibabad. Tenth day Kriya will be performed on 20th October

2023 at Chota Haridwar, Muradnagar, Ghaziabad followed by assembly at their residence at 10.30 am. GRIEF STRICKEN: Smt. Raj Rani Pandita (Karhama) Sh.G.L.Pandita & Smt. Usha Sh Gash Lala & Vandna Pandita

Sh.Bal Krishen & Smt Sonia SISTERS: Smt.Susheela & Sh.M.L.Pandita Smt.Bharti & Sh.R.K.Dhar

Smt.Julli & Sh.P.L.Pandita

Sh.Kumar Jee Pandita & Smt. Anita



Sh.Soom Nath Bhat

From: Pandita, Dhar family 9419159151, 9210323628 Contact Nos: 8373900110 (Sanjay) 9582890460 (Rahul) 7838806682 (Anita/Baby Jee)

TENTH DAY/KRIYA RASAM PAGRI

"Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure. You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure"

With profound grief, sorrow we inform the untimely sad demise of our beloved Mr Rajeev Malgotra son of Late Sh Surinder Kumar Gupta

Tenth Day shall be performed on 18/10/2023 (Wednesday) at 11:00 AM at our Residence, Upper Bus Stand Opposite Police Station

Kriya will take place on 21/10/2023 (Saturday) at our residence Rasam Pagri shall also be performed on 21/10/2023 (Saturday) **GRIEF STRICKEN**

Mrs Anita Gupta (Wife) Dr Niharika (Daughter) Hrithik Malgotra (Son) **Brother and Bhabies**

Mr Vikas Malgotra and Anita Gupta Mr Muneesh Malgotra and Preetee Gupta Mr Sanjeev Malgotra and Geetika Gupta Sister and Brother-in-law

Anuradha Gupta and Jagdish Gupta

Nephew and Niece

Mr Rajeev Malgotra

Jimmy, Ridham, Krishnav, Gudia, Riya, Angel and Mannat Contact No. 9682644901, 7006026911.

7006692943, 9419185262

TENTH DAY KRIYA With profound grief and sorrow, we have to inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Mohan Lal Bhat S/o Lt Sh. Sarwanand Bhat R/o Ladoo Batapora Pampore Kashmir A/p Flat No 04, Block 49, Jagti township who passed away on 11th Oct 2023 (Wednesday) presently stayed at Community Hall behind lane No 04 Jagti township.

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 20th Oct 2023 Friday 8 AM at Muthi Ghat Near Directorate of School Education.

GRIEF STRICKEN Santosh Bhat -Wife

on October 10, 2023.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Jawhar Lal Kak (Brother)

Shanta Zadu (Sister in law)

Vijay Ganjoo (Sister in law)

Kishni Kak (Wife)

Dazy Bhat W/o Sh. Kaka Ji Bhat (Brother & Bhabhi) Anjali Koul W/o Sh. Arvind Koul (Daughter & Son in Law) Shivani Bhat W/o Lt. Sh. Ramesh Bhat (Daughter & Son in Law) Himani Rana W/o Lt. Sh. Arun Rana (Daughter & Son in Law) CELL NO 9796223133, 7051978014

OBITUARY

October 19, 2023 at Sri Gauri Shankar Temple

New Palam Vihar, Gurgaon. Resi Add: P -21, New

Brij Krishen Kak & Rajdhulari (Brother & Sister in law)

Sanjay & Kanchan Kak (Son & Daughter in law)

Ashok & Khemlata Handoo (Brother & Sister in law)

Palam Vihar, Phase -1, Gurgaon (Haryana)

Ajay & Anita Kak (Son & Daughter in law)

Sukanya & Ansuya (Grand Daughters)



SH. MOHAN LAL BHAT

(Baraj)

OBITUARY

Chandra's, Raina's, Kak's, Zadoo's & Kampassi's

Phone: 9903859422, 9821611600, 9711958083

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that our beloved Sh. Chuni Lal Dass (Kaka Ji) S/o Late Shyam Lal Dass R/O Bomai Sopore, Kashmir A/P H No 4, L No 3 Patta Bohri Jammu left for heavenly abode on 14-10-2023 10th Day will be performed on Monday 23-10-2023 at 8 AM Muthi Ghat near the Directorate of School Education.

GRIEF STRICKEN Smt. Kamalawati (Mother)

Smt. Reeta Ji (Wife) Mr.Mohit (Son) Ms.Monica (Daughter)

Bhabis & Brothers Smt & Sh. Shiban Ji Smt & Sh Ramesh Kumar Smt & Sh Satish Kumar

Sister & Brother in law Smt Asha Ji & Sh R.K. Saproo Mob: 7006346289, 9469231236



Sh. Chuni Lal Dass (Kaka Ji)

SH HARI KRISHAN ABROL

KRIYA/UTHALA

With Profound Grief and Sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh **HARI KRISHAN ABROL** S/o Lt SH DINA NATH ABROL R/o 225, JAWAHAR NAGAR TALAB TILLO JAMMU, who left for heavenly abode on 7-10-2023 (Saturday). KRIYA on Wednesday (18.10.2023) at 12

Noon at our Residence. UTHALA on Wednesday (18.10.2023) from

3 PM-4 PM at Lane No.1, Kali Mata Temple, Near Khanna Studio, Talab Tillo Jammu. **GRIEF STRICKEN** Nirmal Abrol (Wife)

Daughters and Son in laws Shobha & Ajay Gupta Bhawana & Arun Gupta Diksha & Navdeep Gupta Seema & Amit Saraf

Grand Children Shriya, Praney, Parth, Aru, Anvi Pragti, Saransh, Sanvi, Aruhi & Mudit PHONE: 9596623783, 9682313503, 9469502052, 9419195607



Mob. 9419202940, 9419191294, 9419272810 **10TH DAY/KRIYA** With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to 10TH DAY will be performed on 17th Octob

Akshit, Kunal, Kritik, Arpita, Rahil, Gudia, Mannu, Vasu, Janu & Janvi etc.

Sh K L Kakkar

inform the sad demise of Smt Sheela Devi W/o Sh. Balwan Singh R/o Shiv Nagar

Tuesday 17 Oct. 2023 at 10 AM on our residence.

Kirya will be performed at our Residence on Frida

Uthala will be performed at Om Palace, Shaki

Arun Kr. Kakkar (AE. REW Jammu) & Anu Kakkar

Ravi Kant Kakkar (Tax Inspector, Local Bodies) & Madhu Kakkar

20 Oct 2023 at 11 AM.

Grief Stricken:

Grand Children

Nagar, Jammu at 2 PM- 3 PM.

Smt Sudesh Kumari - Wife

Sons and Daughters in law

Daughters and Sons in law

Geeta Bhatia & Raiiv Bhatia

Anita Mahaian & Raieev Mahaian

Rajni Gupta & Ashwani Gupta

2023 at 11.00 AM (Devika Ghat). KRIYA will be performed on 20th Oct 2023 a Devika Ghat. GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons & Daughter in laws Sh. Balbir Singh & Smt Ritu Bandral Late Sh. Praladh Singh & Smt Veenu Singh Sh. Jogiender Singh and Smt Deepshikha Bandral Daughters & Son in Laws
Smt Veena Jamwal & Sh. Shivdev Singh
Smt Neelam Jamwal & Late Sh. Yashpaul Singh Jamwal

SMT SHEELA DEVI

10TH DAY/13TH DAY

With lot of pain and sorrow, we inforn about the sad demise of our beloved Ranjit Kumar Kotwal (Rajat) S/o Late Sh Balwant Roy Kotwal, Employee JK Board of School Education Jammu R/o Sector 4, Sharika Vihar Lower Roop Nagar Jammu on Sunday the 8th October 2023.

10TH Day shall be performed or Tuesday, THE 17th October 2023 (Tuesday) at 9 AM AT MUTHI GHAT Ranjit Kumar Kotwal JAMMU (NEAR DIRECTORATE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION OFFICE).

13TH DAY/ KRIYA will be performed on 20-10-2023 (FRIDAY) at 12:15 PM at his Residence Sector 4 Sharika Vihar Lower Roop Nagar Jammu

GRIEF STRICKEN Anita Manhas -Wife Rudhra Kotwal -Son

Mob:9906725524

MASVAR/VAHRWAER

Year have passed but the mark our mother eft on this world will never fade, we pray to Almighty for you every single day and every night. May Almighty grant eternal peace to 'your soul' to live happily in his divine paradise, we all are missing you so much, with all your teaching's and blessing's, we are going forward in our lives.

MASVAR on 17th Oct. 2023 VAHRWAER on 18th Oct, 2023 of Late Smt Shama Ji Bhat (Asha Ji) W/o Late Brij Lal Bhat R/o Wanpoh Ang Kashmir (D/o Late Nee Khant Pandita & Kamla Wati of Levdora Qazigund)

A/P H No. 09, Lane No. 07, Saraswati Vihar Anand Nagar Bohri, Jammu DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERED BY :-Sh Sunil Kumar Bhat & Nirmal Raina- (7889439656) Smt Aniali & Sautesh Pandita - (9871164327) Smt Sangeeta & Manoj Raina- (6006884895)

(Eashan, Shruti, Aditya, Sanchit, Sanchi) BHAT'S & PANDITA'S PARIVAAR

Grand Children :-

of Udhampur.

Smaj School Udhampur.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

REMEMBRANCE

'Your memories, like the fragrance of flow ers, stay fresh in our hearts, and will remain so forever. Life does go on but we miss you deeply in every moment" **FONDLY REMEMBERED BY:-**

Sh. Shanti Saroup Gupta - (Chief Engineer, Retd Smt. Sonika & Dr. Sumeet Gupta Smt. Shruti & Sh. Suneet Gupta Shubham, Sachita, Sagarika, Saumyaa

FIFTH DAY

2023 from 11.00 A M, to 12.00 P.M, at Arva



Smt Shama Ji Bhat

(Asha Ji)

Buaji Smt. Savitri Devi

Smt. Nirmal Gupta W/o Late Sh. Kuldeep Raj Smt. Rai Mohani W/o Sh. Ravi Kumar Smt. Poonam Gupta W/o Sh. Vipen Gupta
Sudhmahadev Wale H.No.5, W. NO.9, Udhampur (RAJ ELECTRONICS MAIN BAZAR UDHAMPUR) M. 9419161241, 9419162657, 9906068004

FIFTH DAY With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved daughter Mrs.Vaishno Devi W/o Ram Rattan Langer who

expired on 15/10/2023. Fifth Day will be performed on 18-10-2023 (Wednesday) On 10:.00 AM to 11:00 AM at Mahajan Hall, Jammu Grief Stricken

awan Kumar Gupta & Rani Gupta (Brother & Bhabhi) (Pawan Traders) Ajay Gupta & Shama Gupta (Brother & Bhabhi) (Ajay Electrostate)

MOB: 9596803188, 9596710900

TRIBUTE

We expressed our deepest condolence on the sad and untimely demise of S. Jasvinder Singh (Rly. Department, Jammu) S/o Late S. Kalyan Singh (Hari Nagar, Delhi Wale), A/P Basti Gobind Pura, Simbal Morh, Jammu on 08.10.2023.
We also pray Akalpurakh to bestow eternal peace to the departed soul and give courage to the bereaved family to bear this irrepara

GRIEF STRICKEN
S. Harbans Singh Sudan (Rtd. Principal) R/o Basti Gobind Pura,
Simbal Morh, Jammu & his entire family members:
Sdn. Manmohan Kour (Retd. Teacher) & S. Amarjit Singh Sudani
(Retd. Asstt. Director (USA))
Prof. Harmeet Kour (GDC Ramnagar) & Dr. Amrik Singh Sudan
Sdn. Pardeep Kour & S. Balwinder Singh (Retd. PHE Deptt.)
Sdn. Ramnik Kour & Er. Sukhwant Singh (PDD Deptt.)
Mob. No.: 8825024811, 9796427427, 9419285663, 7006153725

GRIEF STRICKEN



MRS.VAISHNO DEVI

DISCLAIMER

"Top News of J&K" does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon."

LG Sinha dedicates specialized snow clearance equipments and vehicles to public

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Oct 17: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today dedicated the specialized snow clearance equipments and vehicles to the public.

The equipments procured by J&K Disaster Management Authority were handed over to Mechanical and Hospital **Engineering Directorate** of PW (R&B) Department to carry out safe and effective snow clearing and maintain accessibility for the citizens.

The 170 number of Disaster Response and Snow Clearance equipments under SDRF I, II &



III includes Snow cutters, Backhoe Loaders, Tractors with Snow Plough; Light Recovery Vehicle Crane, Wheel Mounted

Front End Loaders, Variable Snow Plough, Wheel & Chain Mounted Excavators.

Shailender Kumar, Prin-

cipal Secretary Public Works (R&B) Department; Prof. Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor Kashmir University; Sh Nazim Zai

Khan, Secretary, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction and other senior

Kesri opposes privatization of Vaishnavi **Dham by Shrine Board**

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 17: In a strongly worded press conference held in Jammu, Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri voiced his firm opposition to the proposal of privatizing the Vaishnavi Dham at the Railway Station in Jammu, which is under the purview of the Maa Vaishno Devi Shrine Board. The Vaishnavi Dham has historically provided a place for the underprivileged to stay and access affordable meals, thanks to the efforts of some dedicated employees of the Shrine Board.

Kesri expressed his deep concern over the move to run Vaishnavi Dham on a contractual basis, especially when it is already operating profitably. It appears that certain employees within the Shrine Board are gradually steering toward privatizing other Dhams under the Board's management, including the sanitation staff, under contract arrangements. This shift in approach is a matter of grave concern and runs counter to the core ethos of the Shrine

Strongly opposing this move, Kesri emphasized that the Shrine Board was initially established to ensure facilities for devotees and to provide free accommodation and meals to those in need. The attempt to introduce a contractual system is seen as a step contrary to the interests of devotees and should be immediately reconsidered.

However, Kesri commended the Shrine Board for its commend-

able initiative to allocate 400 crores for the establishment of a medical college, which is a highly laudable effort. Yet, Kesri urged the Chairman of the Shrine Board to also consider the welfare of the less fortunate individuals who come to Vaishno Dham and depend on affordable food services. By implementing a contracting system, devotees are subjected to an additional 18% GST, which places an undue financial burden on those seeking spiri-

Prominent figures present at the press conference included Balveer Kumar, Udhampur District President Rajesh Khajuria, City President Rajesh Honda, Balwant Singh, and others who share Mr. Kesri's concerns and vision for the sanctity of Vaishno Dham.

Kesri's resolute stance against the privatization of Vaishnavi Dham echoes a call to preserve its longstanding traditions of serving those in need and maintaining an environment of spiritual inclusivity.

Manjit Singh takes stock of damages due to rains in Ramgarh

TOP NEWS REPORT

RAMGARH, Oct 17: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh has taken stock of the losses suffered by the farmers, people following heavy downpour in Ramgarh and its adjoining areas especially farmers.

The Former Minister accompanied by prominent people and farmers visited the flood prone areas and reviewed the situation that has affected the normal life of the people following heavy rainfall from the last 24 hours.

The rainfall has triggered flash floods in low lying areas and water logging in various other areas whereas the agricultural fields



have suffered because the rice harvest has been damaged.

"The farmers have suffered losses in lakhs after their basmati rice harvest was destroyed in the rainfall and windstorm," he said after listening to the grievances of the farmers and villagers along the water bodies in Ramgarh.

He also referred to the construction of strong concrete bandh along the rivers and other water bodies to avoid any further damages to the property, and agricultural fields.

As far the damages to the basmati rice harvest in Jammu plains including Ramgarh is

concerned, he said. the authorities are yet to respond to the reports of damages to the basmati rice crop because the field survey appears to have

not been conducted. "There is a need to conduct extensive field surveys to prepare compensation amounts that would be handed

over to the farmers whose world famous basmati rice harvest has been damaged," he demanded.

He also appealed to the LG Govt to direct tion in Jammu, Samba and Kathua to assess losses to the property and electricity poles due to the heavy rains in these districts.

"The rains caused damage in many places including a portion of a famous temple in the heart of Jammu City. The damages to the private property should be compensated under the natural calamity by the Govt," he said.

He also demanded adequate ration and tents for the displaced families, if any, in the remote and hilly areas of Jammu region.

Ranbireshwar Temple will reopen soon after a comprehensive structural survey of the entire complex: President DT

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 17: In an unfortunate incident on Wednesday morning, Shri Ranbireshwar Temple, a revered place of worship, faced natural damage due to excessive rains and a thunderstorm.

In an official statement issued here today, Brig. R.S Langeh (Retd), President of J&K Dharmarth Trust, said that the incident occurred at 9:15 AM on October 17, when a lightning bolt possibly struck the temple, causing significant impact to the front outer veranda. Remarkably, due to Lord Shiva's grace, the lightning strike resulted in no harm to the inner sanctum of the temple. Nandi ji, guarding the temple, took the full impact of the strike, shielding the main temple and preventing any harm to the temple's sacred artifacts, including the Shivlings and Shaligrams, he said.

Fortunately, no casualties or injuries were reported to any devotee or temple employee, as heavy rains and the thunderstorm had prevented devotees from being present at the time of the incident, he

added. The J&K State Disaster Relief Force, J&K Police, Fire Services, and the Civil Defence swiftly responded to the emergency, providing immediate assistance. Local representatives, led by the Mayor of Jammu and other government officials, visited the site

promptly, assuring all

possible help in the res-

toration efforts. The Trustees of J&K Dharmarth Trust, headed by Chairman Trustee, Hon'ble Dr. Karan Singh, expressed their dismay and deep concern over the tem-

ple's partial collapse of the peripheral veranda and pledged to restore the damaged portion as soon as possible, ensuring that citizens can once again have Darshan and perform Pooja of Lord Shiva at this sacred place at the earliest.

The Trustees, M.K Ajatshatru Singh ji and Rajkumar Ranvijay Singh ji, personally inspected the damage and assured the public that a comprehensive audit of all temples under the Dharmarth Trust's purview will be conducted by a dedicated committee. They also paid their respects to the deities inside and offered the traditional

The Trust's President asserted that the Dharmarth Trust is continuously monitoring the conditions of all temples under its purview and carry out periodic repairs and maintenance as necessary. The incident is an unfortunate natural calamity, and the Dharmarth Trust assured the public that the temple will be reopened after a comprehensive structural survey of the entire complex, he added.

Dheeraj inaugurates technical workshop on CAMPA activities

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Oct 17: A day long technical workshop for preparation of Annual Plan of Operations (APOs) for the next financial year 2024-25 was held today here.

The objective was to guide the Implementing Agencies in preparation of scientific, output oriented and people centric APO for the next financial year.

Principal Secretary Forests, Ecology & Environment Department, Dheeraj Gupta, inaugurated the workshop.

He complemented the department for organizing the brain storming session on preparation of comprehensive APOs. He stressed that Compensatory Afforestation should be carried out in a manner that loss of environmental goods and services due to diversion of forest land is adequately compensated. He also advised the Forest and allied departments to accelerate greening initiatives through use of improved technologies.

Subhash Chandra, Additional Director General of Forests/ Chief Executive Officer, National Authority, MoEF&CC, New Delhi also attended the workshop. He responded to queries raised by the participants. He stressed on having meaningful consultation with Panchayats in formulation



of APOs so that the demands of the local communities for fodder, medicinal plants and firewood and other forest produce are met from the plantation closures.

Roshan Jaggi, PCCF & HoFF, J&K Forest Department, stressed on making scientific proposals in accordance with Working Plan prescriptions. He also emphasized formulation of plans in integrated manner in which upper reaches of the landscape are treated by the Soil and Water Conservation Department and the areas close to habitation are treated by the Social Forestry Department while Forest Department should focus on rehabilitation of forests.

Asaf Mehmood Sagar, CEO CAMPA, explained the regulatory frame work of CAMPA. He asked the forest officers to adopt landscape and water shed approach in treatment of forest areas in a holistic manner.

He laid emphasis on making water harvesting infrastructures and

ponds as integral part

of APO so as to improve the water and moisture regime for better habitat.

This was followed by panel discussion chaired by Suresh Gupta, PCCF & Director Social Forestry Department, J&K. He also spoke on Village woodlots and role of the Social Forestry Department in reducing the pressure on the natural forests.

The program was moderated and coordinated by Irfan Ali Shah, Conservator of Forests, South Forest Circle.

Senior officers of the Forest Department including T.Rabi Kumar, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Kashmir, S. Senthil Kumar, Addl. Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests, Nodal Officer/ FCA, S. Rakesh Kumar, CCF(S&D)/Director Environment and Remote Sensing Department, Irfan Rasool Wani, Conservator of Forests, North Circle, made detailed presentations giving overview of ongoing activities in their respective areas of responsibility.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI PHE MECHANICAL DIVISION KATHUA

NOTICE INVITING TENDER e-NIT No. JSPHEMK/1690F 2023-24 Dated: 13-10-2023

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer, JalShaktiDivisionKathua,invitese-tendersfromreputedandresourcefulBidders/Firms/Companies/joint venture etc.forbelowmentioned works at Water Supply scheme**Kunu Rajwalta**of Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Sub Division Mahanpur ofKathuaDistrictofUTof[&K,underIalleevanMission(IIM),The bidding process shall be completed online on www.iktenders.gov.inin twocovers viz. Cover Terms Conditions

S. No.	Particulars of the Work	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	Tender fee (in Rs)	Earnest money Deposit	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work (days)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I.	Providing, installation, testing and commissioning of pumping machinery andelectromechanical works along with allied jobs to be executed at water supply scheme Kunu Rajwaltaof Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Sub Division Mahanpur of Kathua District of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).	Rs. 44.12	1000/- (Non-Refundable) In the shape of Treasury Challan/e- Challanor through RTGs in favour of the Executive Engineer,Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Kathua	50000/- (pledged to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Kathua)	365 days	150days

Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (J J M) Positionoffunds: Position of AAA

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Sanctioned

	CriticalDates	6:
i	PublishDate	13-10-2023
ii	DocumentDownload/salestartDate	13-10-2023
iii	DateofPre-bidmeeting	17-10-2023 (02:00 PM)
iv	Bidsubmissionstartdate	14-10-2023
v	Bidsubmissionend date	07-11-2023 (04:00 PM)
vi	DateandtimeofBidopening	08-11-2023 (01:00 PM onward)

- 1. Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from website
- www.jktenders.gov.in The whole bidding process shall be completed on line on tender portal $\underline{www.jktenders.gov.}$ \underline{in} . The intending bidders can download the biddocument from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading the monthetender portal.
- The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the ExecutiveEngineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. DivisionKathua.Bidsmustbeaccompaniedby bidsecurity andcost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table and shall bepayableatKathua.
- bepayableatKathua.

 4. The cost of tender documents should be in the form of Treasury chalan/e-challan towards the cost of tender document to be deposited in MH-0215 (Revenue head) or through RTGS in J&K Bank Ltd. Kathua City bearing bank account No. 0555010200001579, IFSC CODE: JAKAOPCKATU in favourof Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. DivisionKathua.

 5. The original hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury challan/e-challan, Earnestmoney in shape of CDR/FDR/BGandotherrelevantdocumentsshall beobtainedfromthebidderwhoisdeclaredasL1afteropeningoffinancialcover.
- Thebidshallremainvalidforaperiodof365 daysfromthelastdateofsubmission of bids. If any bidder withdraws his bid before the said period ormakes any modifications in the termsandconditionsofthebid,the same shall beconsidered to beinviolationofbidsecuritydeclarationandshallbedealtwithaccordinglyandthebid shallbedealtwithaccordinglyandthebid shall
- 7. Otherdetailscanbe seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.

Queriesbyemailifanyshouldbemadeatphejmumdkathua@gmail.com No: JSPHEMK/4198-4210 DIP/J-9693/23

ExecutiveEngineer JalShakti(PHE)Mech.Division Kathua

EDITORIAL

CURB LAND POLLUTION

Pollution of land has to be curbed. If land is polluted through (say) improper waste disposal, it will not only hamper the growth of plant and crops but may also lead to other problems. Ground water may become polluted when the pollutants percolate down the layers of soil along with runoff water. Also, the pollutants may enter into crops and from there into food chain.

Similarly, air pollutants emitted into air finally settle down and most of these fall on land to pollute soil. For example, you might have seen that land near a thermal power station or a large factory equipments become polluted by pollutants discharged from the chimneys into air if it does not have adequate pollution control equipments.

From the air, the pollutants, especially TEL (Tetra ethyl lead) as a group are dangerous air pollution agents settle down with rains. Most of them find way to soil. If a chemical has long life and cannot easily be decomposed, it can create severe problems.

Heavy metals are also generally toxic and they are not decomposed. So, they enter the food chain and create problems for organisms at higher tropic levels which may include man. It caused by TEL lead. It can damaged brain, cause cancer and lead to still birth etc. lead is also used very commonly as an additive in petrol. When petrol is used in our cars, scooters, etc. when petrol is used in our cars, scooters, etc, lead is discharged into air. From there, it settles on soil and enters the food chain.

The pollution of soil may be caused by different agents such as Pesticides, Heavy metals, Inorganic salts of metals and other elements and radioactive substances.

Among these, radioactive substances are of limited importance as these are not used at many places and there is a strong control on manufacture, sale and use of radioactive materials. Accidentally, however, these substances may sometimes get into the environment.

A large number of these chemicals are toxic too. When these chemicals mix with soil, they create problems. Hence, it is essential to curb land pollution. This is possible if adequate pollution control measures are adopted at every level. For example, solid wasters and liquid waters are properly treated before these are disposed. Sludge treatment takes care of the pollutants present in these wasters.

So, an all-round control on pollution is essential to curb land pollution. For this the Government has passed several legislations such as Water Prevention and Control of Pollution Act, 1974, Air Prevention and Control Pollution Act 1981.

Later, these Acts were amended to make them more effective. Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, Central Pollution Control Board, and State Pollution Control Boards, have been given powers to control pollution of all types including pollution of land. But it is essential that all of us should make effort to keep our land free from pollution.

Change Your Mindset and Change Your Life

By: Vijay GarG

ur mindsets shape every aspect of our lives. The lens through which we view the world colors everything – how we interpret events, tell ourselves stories, and interact with others. While our mindsets often go unexamined, they are not fixed. With care and intention, we can shift our mindsets in ways that lead to profound personal transformation.

Changing our mindsets requires persistence, self-awareness, and an openness to seeing things in a new light. But the payoff can be life-changing. By adjusting our mindsets, we can reframe obstacles as opportunities, develop greater resilience in facing challenges, unlock reserves of motivation and energy, and open doors to possibilities we would have otherwise overlooked.

The Impact Of Mindset

Our mindsets shape what we believe is possible and our overall approach to life. Someone with a fixed mindset believes that qualities like intelligence and talent are pre-determined. They are more likely to avoid challenges that may threaten how those abilities are perceived. Someone with a growth mindset believes abilities can be developed through effort and embraces challenges as opportunities to improve.

These different mindsets lead to different outcomes. Studies show that people with growth mindsets are more motivated, achieve more, and are happier overall. The opposite is true for those with fixed mindsets. Our mindsets become self-fulfilling prophecies – what we believe internally manifests

externally.

Ultimately, the growth mindset person who embraces challenges is more likely to be promoted. Our mindsets don't just interpret reality, they shape it.

Become aware of your current mindset and thought patterns. Pay attention to your self-talk and the automatic stories you tell yourself about your abilities, circumstances, and identity. Are they mostly fixed or growth-oriented?

Identify areas where your mindset is not serving you. Which mindsets are limiting your potential? Common problematic mindsets include believing you lack intelligence in certain areas, that the world is working against you, or that your past failures define you.

Challenge limiting beliefs. Once you identify a harmful mindset, consciously dispute it. Argue against it as you would a friend with low self-esteem. Provide counter-examples from your life that disprove the negative mindset. For instance, if you think, "I'm bad at math," remind yourself of times when you did understand a math concept. Logically walk through evidence contradicting the limiting belief.

Tell yourself empowering alternatives. Replace disempowering stories with mindsets aligned with your goals. Frame challenges as growth opportunities. See yourself as capable of learning and improving. Develop a growth narrative about your life.

Visualize your new mindset. Imagery is powerful. Picture yourself embracing challenges and persisting despite obstacles. See yourself accomplishing goals thanks to your new mindset. Envision positive outcomes.

Fake it until you make it. Sometimes, we have to act as if we already hold the mindset we want. Say yes to a challenge that seems daunting. Voice your ideas even if you feel inadequate. Behave in alignment with your growth mindset goals, and it will gradually feel more natural.

Change your self-talk. Monitor your inner voice to catch limiting self-talk. Then, actively reframe it. For example, rephrase "I always mess things up when I try" to "I have so much room to improve if I keep trying."

With concerted effort, you can rewrite the mental stories holding you back. The payoff will be a more empowering mindset.

The Benefits Of A Growth Mindset

Developing a growth mindset, where you see abilities as learnable and challenges as opportunities, unlocks a multitude of benefits:

Increased motivation and achievement. People with growth mindsets are more motivated because they believe effort leads to improvement. According to researcher Carol Dweck's landmark studies, this leads to perseverance, grit, and more remarkable achievement.

Greater well-being. Because people with growth mindsets interpret setbacks as temporary rather than personal flaws, they experience less stress, helplessness, and other negative emotions hamper well-being. They bounce back quicker.

Stronger relationships. People with growth mindsets make better partners and friends. They offer support during tough times rather than judgment. They are less critical of others' perceived flaws and

more encouraging of growth.

Health benefits. One Stanford study found people with growth mindsets had healthier cortisol levels and cardiovascular systems. They produced less stress hormones and had lower blood pressure.

More happiness. Research shows people with growth mindsets experience more positive emotions, greater life satisfaction, and higher overall happiness levels, according to studies by psychologist Dweck.

Growth mindsets empower us to reach our potential in every arena, from work to relationships and beyond.

Conclusion

Examining your current mindset is the crucial first step. Identify areas where you have room for more growth-oriented thinking. With daily practice, challenge negative assumptions and reframe them. Work to replace self-limiting stories with mindsets aligned to your goals. You can change how you interpret and relate to the world fundamentally.

Commit to developing growth mindsets that propel you toward your potential. The effort will not be easy. Changing mindsets requires patience, self-awareness, and determined consistency. But the payoff is invaluable – increased confidence, motivation, health, happiness, and possibility. With a perspective shift, you can transform your mindset and your entire life.

(Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational columnist Malout Punjab)

Common Beauty Myths



By: Shahnaz Husain

In an age of misinformation, even beauty isn't left out of the equation. No matter which stage of your life you are in, there's always someone dishing out advice to you when it comes to your beauty regimen, and then there's the internet dispensing tons of information at the click of a button.

In fact, the internet is quite misleading too if you don't know the credibility of the source you're following.

It's easy to believe some common beauty "tips" or "advice" when you've heard everyone from your mom, your friends, and even acquaintances swear by them

A lot of these beauty myths aren't 100 per cent true, and genetics is often a big factor.

when it comes to self-care and taking care of your skin, halfbaked knowledge is dangerous. Here are some of them and some help in separating fact

from fiction.

" Myth - Washing the face with soap and water is a good cleansing method.

No. Actually, soap does not remove makeup, dirt and pollutants so efficiently. Moreover, most soaps are alkaline. They not only disrupt the normal acid-alkaline balance but also make the skin dry.

" Myth - Washing the face with soap and water several times is good for greasy and problem skin.

No, this is not true. The skin should not be washed with soap and water more than twice a day. Soaps make the skin too alkaline and this actually predisposes it to bacterial attack, leading to problems like acne.

" Myth- Facials are good for all skin types.

Another myth. Oily skin should not be massaged with creams, which is an integral part of a normal facial, as this stimulates the oil glands further.

" Myth - Cream should be applied on the skin and left on all night.

This does not help at all. The skin can only absorb that much and no more. In fact, the pores should be free of cream, so that the skin can "breathe". If the skin is very dry, a light liquid moisturiser can be applied, to relieve the taut feeling.

" Myth - Applying cream around the eyes at night and leaving it on helps to prevent wrinkles.

Actually, the area around the eyes is very delicate and thinner than most other areas. The

cream should never be left on all night around the eyes. A special under-eye cream should be applied and removed after ten minutes

" Myth – A normal skin does not need routine care.

A common misconception. All skins need daily care, to remove the pollutants and dirt that settle on the skin, as well as to protect and maintain its health and beauty.

" Myth – Blackheads are collections of dirt in the pores.

Not at all. Blackheads are caused by the collection of hardened sebum (the skin's natural oil), which gets oxidized hence the black colour.

" Myth - Adolescents do not need to worry about acne as they will soon grow out of it.

Absolutely wrong advice. Actually, adolescents need protective and corrective care for acne, because it can cause scarring. Acne can be prevented and controlled with appropriate daily care.

" Myth - Frequent washing of the hair is harmful.

This is one of the most common myths. Washing does not harm the hair. It can even be washed every day provided one uses a mild shampoo and very little of it

" Myth - The more shampoo you use, the cleaner the hair.

This myth needs to be exploded too. It is not the amount of shampoo, but how well you rinse the hair afterwards with water which helps to remove all residues.

" Myth – Brushing the hair 100 times a day makes the hair healthy and shiny.

Actually, this does the hair no good and can even damage the hair. If the hair is oily, it can make it more so, by stimulating the oil glands.

" Myth – Hair loss can be controlled with a head massage.

On the contrary, if there is hair loss, the roots may be weak and massage can cause the hair to fall out.

" Myth – "Kaali Mehndi" or black henna is a natural product. Actually, henna is green and leaves a reddish-brown colour. "Kaali Mehndi" is not a natural ingredient.

" Myth – Toenails should be shaped into ovals, like the fingernails."

This is an absolute No No. This can lead to ingrown toenails. They should be cut straight across.

" Myth – Stretch marks only form after pregnancy.

Not true. Stretch marks can form even before pregnancy, as they are caused due to loss of skin elasticity. This occurs when their weight loss follows weight gain.

(The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India)

National Workshop on 'Techniques for Wildlife Monitoring in Snow Leopard **Landscapes' Commences at Bhaderwah Campus**

TOP NEWS REPORT

BHADERWAH, Oct 17: The eagerly anticipated four days National Workshop on 'Techniques for Wildlife Monitoring in Snow Leopard Landscapes' commenced today at Bhaderwah Campus, bringing together wildlife enthusiasts, conservationists, researchers, and managers from different parts of the nation. This workshop being organized by Institute of Mountain Environment in collaboration with Department of Wildlife Protection, Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir from October 17 to 20, 2023, is poised to be a focal event for the advancement of wildlife conservation in snow leopard habitats in the region.It represents a critical milestone in the ongoing effort to bolster conservation initiatives and wildlife monitoring strategies, particularly focusing on the elusive and vulnerable snow leopard and its prey base, said Dr. M.K. Kumar (IFS) Regional Warden, Jammuand Chief Guest of the occasion. He urged the researchers and students to be the brand ambassadors of conservation as the conservation of one species contributes to the protection



Dil Mir Choudhary, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Bhaderwah lauded the efforts of Institute of Mountain Environment in highlighting the issues of conservation concern of the region. Concerned about the escalating number of human-wildlife conflicts in the area, he expressed his optimism that this workshop will provide the ideal forum for deliberation and the pursuit of resolutions.

Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Organizing Secretary of the workshop introduced the theme and objectives of the workshop. Later he made a detailed presentation on the Snow leopard population assessment across Jammu and Kashmir. In addition to summarizing the key findings regarding the snow leopard and its prey base in Jammu and Kashmir, he detailed the approach adopted for field monitoring, data collection, and analysis.

Dr. Pankaj Chandan, Director ND Fopined that conservation gold needs to be community oriented as the snow leopard landscape include diverse peoples and cultures that share and shape its habitat. The involvement of local communities is paramount to harness the conservation goals to meet the set targets.

'An Illustrated field guide to the mammals of snow leopard habitats' in Jammu and Kashmir, jointly published by IME, Bhaderwah Campus, Department of Wildlife Protection, J&K, and Nature Conservation Foundation, was released to provide useful information about the snow leopard and its allied species. This was followed by the release

of a book on 'Black Neck Crane, general biology, habitat, migration, and conservation another important species battling for its survival in snow leopard. The

book is authored by Dr.

Pankaj Chandan and Dr.

AsadRehmani. Dr. Munib Khanyari, Pragramme Officer, High Altitudes, Nature Conservation Foundation Mysore, and key resource person of the workshop shared his experiences about the ongoing sampling, challenges being faced and the suggested the way forward to achieve promising results.

Dr. Vinita Sharma, Assistant Professor from Department of Zoology, Central university of Jammu and Resource person of the workshop shared relevance of wildlife forensic science in tackling the growing threat of wildlife poach-

Majid Bashir, Wildlife Warden, Chenab Circle, Kishtwar, expressed his delight at the encouraging results of the current snow leopard surveys conducted by all partners. He ensured all partner teams involved in snow leopard assessment in Jammu and Kashmir his full support and assistance.

Others resource persons included Dr. Vipin Sharma from Central University of Jammu, Dr. Sidharth Srinivasan and Dr. Deepti Bajaj from Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore, Dr. Tahir Gaznaffar and Dr. Mehreen Khaleel from Wildlife Resaerch and Conservation Foundation, and Dr. Shakha Sharma from Cluster University of Jammu.

The workshop is being attended by 35 participants including protected area managers (DFOs), range officers, foresters, researchers, scholars, students and field researchers engaged in primary field surveys in the snow leopard landscapes of Himalayas.

The formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Shayan Javeed, Assistant Professor, faculty of Economics, Institute of Mountain Environment, Bhaderwah Campus.

Army conducts workshop on Prevention of Winter Diseases at Harni

TOP NEWS REPORT

POONCH, Oct 17: The Indian Army, in a dedicated effort to enhance community health and well-being, recently organized a comprehensive workshop on "Winter Diseases and their Prevention." This informative event took place at the Higher Secondary School in Harni, Poonch District, and provided vital insights into the prevention of common ailments associated with the winter season.

The workshop was designed to impart fundamental knowledge about diseases that are more prevalent during the winter months. It aimed to sensitize the audience to common winter-related illnesses, including chilblains, coughs, colds, and asthma, which are often exacerbated by the cold weather. Participants had the opportunity to learn about the causes, symptoms, and effective preventive measures for these health concerns.

The workshop covered a range of topics, including the importance of appropriate clothing and personal hygiene, as well as techniques to mitigate the risk of con-



tracting these illnesses. Experts and professionals from the Indian Army delivered engaging and educational lectures to ensure that attendees left with a clear understanding of how to protect themselves and their families from winter-related health issues.

The Indian Army has a longstanding commitment to the welfare and betterment of the communities it serves. The success of this workshop was evident through the expressions of gratitude from the attendees, who recognized the army's efforts in providing valuable

"We are extremely grateful to the Indian Army for organizing this educative workshop," said one of the participants. "The knowledge we gained here will undoubtedly help us protect ourselves and our loved ones during the winter season."

The Indian Army continues to take proactive steps in reaching out to local communities and addressing their essential needs. Initiatives like these workshops not only educate but also demonstrate the army's commitment to improving public health and well-being.

PDD in coordination with EESL to distribute 20000 Inverter LED Bulbs in UT Ladakh, free of cost under BEE Action Plan

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 17: Under the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)'s action plan for UT Ladakh, the people of Nubra will get free inverter bulbs. To provide relief to the common man in electricity bills & promote energy efficiency, a large-scale inverter bulbs camp was organised at Nubra.

This camp was organised by EESL (Energy Efficiency Services Limited), a Govt of India Agency working to promote Energy Efficiency, in coordination with the Power Development Department (PDD) UT of Ladakh. Shri Jamyang Tsering Namgyal,



Hon'ble Member of Parliament UT of Ladakh launched this scheme in Nubra during 'Nubra Sports & Adventure Festival'.

Under this scheme

Approx. 20000 bulbs would be distributed to around 5000 beneficiaries of 52 villages of Nubra. This would lead to savings of approx. 14.5 lacs electricity units

each vear.

Moreover, these bulbs have a power backup of 4 hours in the absence of grid/DG-based electricity which would help households & students

to improve their day-today life.

In the first phase close to 15000 inverter bulbs distributed in Zanskar, in second phase 20000 bulbs will be given free of cost in Nubra & in last phase around 10000 bulbs will be given in Changtang.

MP of Ladakh disclosed that in the last week of November, one more scheme for the benefit of Anganwadis & schools, 2500 nos. induction cook stoves will also be given to Anganwadis, Schools, Colleges & Hostel, etc. Inverter bulbs & induction cook stoves will be distributed free of cost to the beneficiaries under the BEE action plan.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI PHE MECHANICAL DIVISION KATHUA

NOTICE INVITING TENDER e-NIT No. JSPHEMK/1670F 2023-24 Dated: 13-10-2023

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer, JalShaktiDivisionKathua,invitese-tendersfromreputedandresourcefulBidders/Firms/Companies/joint venture etc.forbelowmentioned works at Water Supply scheme Chappaki of Jal Shakti PHE Mech. $Sub \quad Division \quad Hiranagar \quad of Kathua District of UT of J\&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). The \quad bi\underline{d}ding$ process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in twocovers viz. Cover 1st consisting Terms

S. No.	Particulars of the Work	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	Tender fee (in Rs)	Earnest money Deposit	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work (days)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Providing, installation, testing and commissioning of pumping machinery andelectro-mechanical works along with allied jobs to be executed at water supply scheme Chappakiof Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Sub Division Hiranagar of Kathua District of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).		1000/- (Non-Refundable) In the shape of Treasury Challan/e- Challanor through RTGS in favour of the Executive Engineer,Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Kathua	50000% (pledged to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Kathua)	365 days	150days

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CriticalDates:					
i	PublishDate	13-10-2023			
ii	DocumentDownload/salestartDate	13-10-2023			
iii	DateofPre-bidmeeting	16-10-2023 (02:00 PM)			
iv	Bidsubmissionstartdate	14-10-2023			
v	Bidsubmissionend date	06-11-2023 (04:00 PM)			
vi	DateandtimeofBidopening	07-11-2023 (01:00 PM onward)			

Bid documents downloaded from accessed

<u>www.jktenders.gov.in</u>

Thewholebiddingprocessshallbecompletedonlineontenderportal www.jktenders.gov. $\underline{\it in}$. The intending bid ders can down load the bid document from the tender portal and can substitute the contract of th mittheirbidsbyuploadingthemonthetenderportal. The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the ExecutiveEngineer

Jal Shakti PHE Mech. DivisionKathua.Bidsmustbeaccompaniedby bidsecurity andcost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table and shall 4. The cost of tender documents should be in the form of Treasury chalan/e-

challan towards the cost of tender document to be deposited in MH-0215 (Revenue head) or through RTGS in J&K Bank Ltd. Kathua City bearing bank account No. 0555010200001579, IFSC CODE: JAKA0PCKATU in favourof Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. DivisionKathua.

The original hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury challan/e-challan, Earnestmoney in shape of CDR/FDR/BGandotherrelevantdocumentsshall beobtainedfromthebidderwhoisdeclaredasL1afteropeningoffinancialcover. $The bid shall remain valid for a period of {\bf 365 days} from the last date of submission\ of\ bids.\ If\ any$

bidder withdraws his bid before the said period ormakes any modifications in the termsandconditionsofthebid,the be inviolation of bid security declaration and shall be dealt with accordingly and the bid shall be dealt with a constant accordingly and the bid shall be dealt with a constant accordingly and the bid shall be dealt with a constant accordingly and the bid shall be dealt with a constant accordingly and the bid shall be dealt with a constant accordingly and the bid shall be dealt with a constant accordingly and the bid shall be dealt with a constant accordingly and the bid shall be dealt with a constant accordingly and the bid shall be dealt with a constant accordingly and the bid shall be dealt with a constant accordingly according accordingly accordeclared non- responsive

7. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website

Queriesbyemailifanyshouldbemadeatpheimumdkathua@gmail.com

No: ISPHEMK/4120-32 DIP/J-9691/23

www.jktenders.gov.in.

ExecutiveEngineer

JalShakti(PHE)Mech.Division Kathua

Dental specialty camp organized at University of Jammu

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 17: The Postgraduate Department of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics, Government Dental College, Jammu (IGGDC), under the expert guidance of Prof. Dr. Azhar Malik, Head of Department, joined hands with Dr. Daud Igbal, Director and Head of Sports at the University of Jammu, to organize a remarkable dental specialty camp. This event was an integral part of the World Endodontic Celebration, aimed at creating awareness and addressing the dental health needs of young athletes and sports enthusiasts.

The primary objective of this camp was to provide essential knowledge to the graduate and postgraduate scholars from the sports department at the University of Jammu. They were educated about common Maxillofacial



tact sports, as well as in other sports. The focus of the sessions was on emergency management techniques and measures required to safeguard the dental health and overall wellbeing of young individuals participating in sports.

The camp featured informative presentations by postgraduate students, Dr. Insha Shafi and Dr. Sadiya Anayat, who provided valuable insights into common

Dhani, delivered a lecture that centered on preventing and managing prevalent oral and dental diseases.

The interactive aspect of the event was equally enriching, with a dedicated question and answer session. This segment allowed the students to pose their inquiries and concerns, all of which were adeptly addressed by faculty members, namely, Dr. Shamim

Anjum, Dr. Ravinder, Dr. Saksham, Dr. Rakhi, Dr. Insha, and Dr. Haider. The responses emphasized the importance of care and prevention in maintaining dental health among athletes and sports enthusiasts.

The event was graced by Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba, the Director and Head of Sports at the University of Jammu, who presided over the program. Dr. Rakesh Gupta, the Principal and Dean of IGGDC Jammu, played a pivotal role in the overall management of the event, ensuring its success and benefit to the sports community.

The Dental Specialty Camp organized by Dr. Azhar Malik and Dr. Daud Iqbal serves as a commendable initiative that reinforces the importance of dental health and well-being in the world of sports. It not only educates but also empowers young individuals to participate in sports with a heightened awareness of dental safety and care.

Alia Bhatt, Ranbir Kapoor spotted leaving **Mumbai airport ahead of National Film Awards** ceremony in Delhi

Alia will receive the National Film Award for Best Actor for her performance in 'Gangubai Kathiawadi'

Actor Alia Bhatt was spotted at an airport in Mumbai on Tuesday with her actor husband Ranbir Kapoor as they arrived to embark on a flight to Delhi to attend the 69th National Film Awards later in the day.

Alia will be receiving her National Film Award for Best Actor for her performance in the film 'Gangubai Kathiawadi'. The 69th National Film Awards felicitation ceremony are slated to take place today at Vigyan Bhawan in the national capital.

At the airport Alia was seen in a white salwar suit and she had tied her hair in a bun while Ranbir was snapped wearing a black hoodie.

Alia has jointly won the Best Actor award with Kriti Sanon, who has won in the same category for her performance in the



film 'Mimi'

Helmed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali, 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' revolves around a maiden sold by a suitor into prostitution and how she becomes a promi-

nent and celebrated figure in the underworld and Kamathipua red-light district.

Alia's stellar performance in the film helped her bag the Best Actress Award at IIFA 2023 and Filmfare Awards 2023. Director Sanjay Leela Bhansali has also bagged the National Award for Best Editing for the film 'Gangubai Kathiawadi'.

Kriti Sanon who arrived in Delhi on Monday for the National Film Awards felicitation ceremony was spotted by shutterbugs at Delhi Airport. She was seen sporting a red hoodie, and blue straight-fit jeans, keeping the look uber cool and casual.

Actor Allu Arjun has also reached Delhi for the ceremony. He became the first Telugu star to bag the Best Actor award in the history of National Film Awards. He will be awarded for his performance in 'Pushpa'.

President Droupadi Murmu will confer the National Film Award on the winners at the Vigyan Bhawan.

Hina Khan on 'Country of Blind' invited by the Oscar Library



Actress Hina Khanstarrer Country of Blind is now being invited by the Oscar Library to be a part of the permanent collection at the Library of the Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences. The

film, which features a story about the 'sightless' and their lives, has been directed by Rahhat Shah Kazmi.

An elated Hina shared: "Our team has worked really hard on this film, and there is nothing better than it being recognised at such a large scale. Right from people in the US loving the story we told through Country of Blind, to our screenplay being invited by the Oscar Library of the Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, it all feels surreal. I am hoping that we achieve even greater heights with our film, as the story is an entire experience that people will get to live while watching it."

Based on a novel by HG Wells, Country of Blind presents a satirical drama about a community thriving in isolation. The film stars Hina Khan and Shoib Nikash Shah.

Private chef Sergio Perera talks about Hollywood star Chris Hemsworth's diet

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Hollywood star Chris Hemsworth's private chef Sergio Perera has explained how the actor adjusts his meals to suit each project that he works on. Perera said: "Obviously the guy is a big boy, requires a lot of protein for the body he has."

The chef, who has appeared on the TV show MasterChef Australia, added, "When it comes to building muscle, he just keeps it very clean with a lot of barbecuing — like meats and vegetables — and keeping it Mediterranean, which involves a lot of olive

Perera explained how Hemsworth never snacks on anything 'boxed or canned' and eats a 'hearty salad' on recalled, "One thing I did religiously with him was every single day he would have one very large, hearty salad that consisted of raw and cooked vegetables, fermented products, nuts, seeds, and a lot of good fats with a piece of steak or a big piece of fish."

Perera has been working with the Extraction actor for more than a decade after he was contacted by the star's wife Elsa Pataky, who felt that Chris needed assistance to cope with his Hollywood career.

The chef said: "He had just finished the first Thor movie, and

needed someone to

help match his meal plan to his physical demands. And that's how I came on board. I would sit with his trainer, who is one of his closest friends, and we would all work together on figuring out Chris' goals." Perera enjoyed working with the actor, so much that he even moved to Hemsworth's native

Australia. He said, "I went there thinking I was only going to be there for a few months, but I ended up staying."

Fauda' actor Rona-Lee Shimon ready to join fight against Hamas

'I will do everything in my power to have Israel win,' she says

Israeli actor Rona-Lee Shimon, celebrated for her leading role in the popular web series 'Fauda,' has pledged her commitment to opposing Hamas in light of the terrorist group's attack on her country.

Deeply moved by the loss of innocent lives in attacks by Hamas, the actress is determined to take action.

In an exclusive interview with agency, Shimon candidly discussed the Hamas brutality. When asked if she's ready to fight against Hamas, Shimon responded, "I will do everything in my power to have Israel win."

The actor has appreciated India's solidarity with Israel and its condemnation of the October 7 attack by Hamas terrorists from the blockaded Gaza Strip into Israeli towns resulting in the loss of hundreds of Israeli civilian lives and the capture of more than 100 hostages. Israel swiftly retaliated with airstrikes on Gaza that have killed hundreds of Palestinians.

She also shared this video on Instagram.

"Honestly. I feel grateful to have an ally, a beautiful ally like India. India is one of my favourite places on Earth. I love its people. I can really understand why the first thing that you guys did was to condemn the horrible action of October 7th in Israel. I would

Priyanka Chopra and her

daughter, Malti, added a touch

of family magic to the Jonas

Brothers concert, with an

endearing on-stage incident

In a delightful instance of what

Nick calls a 'take your family to

work' day, the Jonas family had

a special addition when Priyan-

ka Chopra and her daughter,

Malti, graced the Jonas Broth-

The heartwarming event,

which unfolded, featured Malti's

first-ever appearance at a

While the young one sported

noise-cancellation headphones

to cope with the concert's high

decibels, she effortlessly stole

the limelight from the Jonas

Brothers. Malti nearly made her

Jonas Brothers concert.

ers concert.

leaving everyone in stitches.

expect nothing less, but I want to say with utmost gratefulness in my heart. I think it's the best thing that you guys can do for us is condemn this horrible terror and stand by

your side.'

Shimon struggled to control her emotions recalling the brutal events on October 7 perpetrated by Hamas. "We're in the midst of a war. It's going to result in more suffering for many lives, but we will prevail. We are preparing, and our first priority is to bring our hostages home," she said.

On Saturday, the Israeli military confirmed that 126 people are being held as hostages by Hamas. According to media reports the Palestinian terror group has warned that it will kill hostages in response to unannounced Israeli strikes on civilian tar-

Numerous reports have indicated that after the October 7 attack, Hamas gunmen took children, women and individuals from various nationalities possibly taken from their homes and from a wooded area near the Israeli border where they participated in a music festival.

Actor Shimon who in 'Fauda' essayed the character of Nurit a member of Israel's counter-terrorism unit in the interview with ANI said that her country is doing everything to bring the hostages back.

She called Hamas's attack one of the most horrific atrocities ever made in the history of Israel. "I think first of all me

and everyone I know in Israel, every civilian, every citizen of Israel is now supporting the cause of first of all, bringing the hostages back. We are doing everything in our power to bring them back. What happened eight days ago is one of the most horrific atrocities ever in the history of my people," the 40-year-old actor said.

"This is worrisome on so many levels, but what we're doing right now is

Priyanka Chopra-Nick Jonas' daughter Malti steals the show at

what is the most important thing that you can do and what we must do right now is bring the hostages back," Shimon said.

"We are supporting the army. We're taking care of our army. We are in the middle of war. It's going to be even worse for a lot, a lot of human lives, but we are going to prevail. We are getting ready and first thing that we're doing is bringing our hostages back," she added.

The actor also called on the international community to intervene to help bring back civilians held hostage by Hamas.

Asked whether she

believes that Hamas will release the hostages, Shimon said, "I don't. I really hope so. So, I think that this is what every nation on planet Earth should intervene and do everything in their power to bring our people back." The actor pointed out that citizens of 36 countries are among the hostages.

"They have people, not just Israelis, not just Jewish people. They're holding people from 36 countries from around the world. The global community must unite to bring these hostages home," Shimon said.

The demand for their release reverberates in Israel and around the world. Shimon has urged world leaders to come forward and help in the release of these hostages.

She said that India and Israel share good relations and recalled her visits to India. Shimone said that she feels "grateful" to have an ally like India. She called Hamas ISIS and added that "they will not stop."

Asked about religious extremism the actor said, "I think if you look at religion. Religion is a beautiful thing if you make it beautiful, it is a human choice to use religion for the best way. Whoever has lost the spark inside of them can use religion in a very very bad way. What was shown to us on October 7 is that Hamas is ISIS

and they will not stop." Meanwhile, another 'Fauda' actor Lior Raz inspired by the experiences of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), has joined 'Brothers in Arms,' a volunteer group combating Hamas.

From the southern Israeli city of Sderot, the actor shared a video on social media, accompanied by Israel Democracy Institute President Yohanan Plesner and journalist Avi Yischarov. Theatres in Israel have

gone dark and the country's film and TV industry have shut operations reported Variety which said that those active in media and entertainment are impacted by the tragedy and are volunteering in extensive

'I never ever thought of acting,' Saas Maa Bahu Beti Hoti Hai actress Ekta Saraiya



Saas Maa Bahu Beti Hoti Hai actress Ekta Saraiva talks about how and when she realised her love for acting.

"I have done my specialisation in hospitality administration management and since I love travelling. I wanted to get into the airline industry. But as they say nothing goes as planned and destiny had something else in store for me. I was a model in my college days and after I bagged the best female model in the All India College Fest - Mood Indigo. Somehow my pictures reached Balaji Telefilms and they approached me to play the character of Mauli in their iconic show Kahiin Toh Hoga. There has been no looking back since then," she says

Joining the entertainment industry was absolutely unplanned.

So, Ekta just gave it a shot only to realise that she wants to do only

"I never ever thought of acting but when this call from Balaji came my way, my parents told me to give it a shot. It's been 18 years since then and I cannot think of anything else ever anymore than facing the camera and hearing the word - action. I really have been blessed when it comes to matters related to family, especially my parents as they have always been supportive with whatever decisions I have taken in life! It has been 10 years since

I got married and I have received the same kind of support from my in-laws and my husband as well," she adds.



on-stage debut in a moment that left the crowd charmed.

A video shared by a fan club on Instagram captured the heartwarming scene where Priyanka held Malti close while they watched Nick perform.

As Nick approached Malti during his performance, singing

to her, the little one had different plans. She attempted to reach for Nick's microphone, prompting an affectionate response as Nick planted a kiss on her head before returning to his spot on stage. This adorable interaction quickly went viral.

The endearing incident left Pri-

yanka and fans in splits. One fan playfully commented, "MM is like Gimme the mic Daddy. I'm the REAL star in this family!" Another fan added, "Haha, she just can't wait to be on the stage," while a third fan humorously suggested, "Should've passed the mic to her and see what she does goo goo gaa gaa."

Nick also shared several photos from the night, showcasing their memorable family outing.

In his caption, he expressed,

"Bring your family to work day." The Jonas Brothers have been on an extensive tour for weeks, and Priyanka has consistently supported her husband, Nick, and her brother-in-laws, Joe and Kevin Jonas, by attending their

concerts.

Modi says India Middle East Economic Corridor can transform global maritime industry, invites investors to partner with India

Corridor has the potential to transform the global maritime industry," he said, adding that the initiative announced at the G20 meeting in New Delhi earlier this year, will drive positive changes in global and regional trade, says the PM

MUMBAI, Oct 17 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor has the potential to 'transform' the global maritime trade, and invited investors to partner with the country to be a part of the initiative.

Speaking at the inauguration of the third Global Maritime India Summit (GIMS) via a video-link, Modi said India was able to forge a historic consensus at the G-20 for the IMEEC, and added that the initiative will prove to be a catalyst for prosperity, the same was as Silk Route was a few centuries ago.

"The corridor has the potential to transform the global maritime industry," he said, adding that the initiative announced at the G20 meeting in New Delhi earlier this year, will drive positive changes in global and regional

"For investors, this is an opportunity to partner with India and be a part of these efforts (of making the corridor happen)," he added.

Modi said the corridor entails a slew of developmental initiatives, including building next generation mega ports, international container transshipment ports, island development, inland waterways and expan-



sion of multimodal hubs.

The IMEEC will help reduce the cost of business by making logistics more efficient, curtail damage to the environment and also create a lot of jobs, Modi said in the address at the summit, which has delegates from over 70 countries.

The PM said the world order is changing post-Covid and the entire world is looking towards India with new aspirations. He added that the domestic economy is continuously getting stronger to be the third largest.

Very few countries are blessed with development, demography, democracy and demand, Modi said, inviting global investors to be part of India's growth journey, wherein the country aspires to oped' nations in 25 years. Modi said his government has been working to strengthen the maritime sector in the last 9-10 years, and added that whenever India's maritime capabilities have been strong in history, the country and the world have benefitted from it.

break into the league of 'devel-

In the last decade, major ports' capacity has doubled, turnaround time for containers has come down to 24 hours from 42 hours in 2014, thousands of kilometres of roads have been built for better port connectivity, Modi said, pointing that employment generation and ease of living are the primary drivers for these efforts

'Ports for Prosperity' and 'Ports

for progress' are a vision for the government, Modi said, adding that the mantra is to 'Make in India ... make for the world'.

Without specifying a timeline, Modi said the government will be developing shipbuilding and repair centres in many centres across the country.

Building the indigenous aircraft carrier INR Virat is a testament to the country's capabilities, he added.

Four global ship leasing companies have registered with the GIFT-IFSC, Modi said, exhorting more entities in the ship leasing trade to set up a presence in India's only IFSC in Gujarat.

He said India's large coastline, strong riverine ecosystem and rich cultural heritage create great possibilities for maritime tourism. A cruise terminal is being built in the financial capital, while similar facilities have come up in Visakhapatnam and Chennai, he said.

Terming the 5,000-year-old Lothal dockyard as the 'cradle of shipping', Modi said a National Maritime Heritage Complex is also coming up at the site in Gujarat.

He also noted that the country has started the world's biggest river cruise service to promote maritime tourism.

Congress chief Kharge accuses PM Modi of using Army's popularity to promote himself



NEW DELHI, Oct 17 (Agencies): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of using the popularity of the Indian Army to promote himself.

In a post on X, formerly Twitter, Kharge wrote that the Modi government has asked the Army to set up 822 selfie-points across the country to promote government schemes.

"In these tableaux, instead of the story of the bravery of the soldiers, there is an idol-like picture of Prime Minister Modi and praise of his schemes", the Congress leader wrote.

"By capitalizing on the popularity of the brave soldiers of our Indian Army who protect the nation, Modi ji is promoting himself. By politically using the army in elections, the Modi government has done something which has never happened in 75 years", Kharge wrote

"The Indian National Congress is extremely proud of the bravery and sacrifice of the Indian Army. BJP, which teaches the lesson of nationalism, has hurt the dignity of the Indian Army", he said in his post.

Naxalite killed in encounter in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur

BIJAPUR, Oct 17 (Agencies): A Naxalite was killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Tuesday morning, a senior police official said.

The face-off took place at around 6 am in a forest near Bandepara village under Madded police station limits, when a joint team of personnel from different security forces was out on an anti-Naxal operation, Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj P told agency.

The operation was launched by personnel belonging to the District Reserve Guard, Bastar Fighter, both units of state police, Special Task Force and the Central Reserve Police

Force's 170th battalion. They had inputs about the presence of Naxalites, including Madded area committee of Maoists in-charge Nagesh, its secretary Buchanna, member Vishwanath along with 15-20 armed cadres, in KoranjedBandepara forests, the official said.

After the exchange of fire stopped, the body of a Naxalite and an AK-47 rifle were recovered from the spot, he said.

The identity of the killed Naxalite was yet to be ascertained, the official said, adding that search was still under way in nearby areas.

Bijapur is among the 20 assembly constituencies which will go to polls in the first phase of Chhattisgarh elections on November 7.

Need to ascertain which development to be termed as 'unconstitutional', Maharashtra speaker on disqualification pleas against MLAs

MUMBAI, Oct 17 (Agencies): Maharashtra assembly speaker Rahul Narwekar on Tuesday said he needs to ascertain which development is to be treated as "unconstitutional", in reference to the pleas before him seeking disqualification of rebel Shiv Sena MLAs.

The delay in deciding the disqualification petitions against Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Shiv Sena MLAs loyal to him has come under strict scrutiny by the Supreme Court which on Friday came down hard on the state assembly speaker, saying the proceedings cannot be a "charade" and he cannot "defeat" its orders.

Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, Narwekar said, "The stand of the speaker will be presented before the Supreme Court. Soon we will try to ascertain what development is to be termed as illegal or unconstitutional. Then only further steps can be taken."

"Once the hearing before the Supreme Court is over, there will be a clearer picture on how to proceed in this matter," he said.

Asked about Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut's allegations against him in connection with the disqualification pleas, Narwekar said, "I do not wish to respond to his criticism. He does not understand proceedings of the legislative House. His comments against the House can be seen as an attempt to

influence the decision of the speaker." A revolt led by Shinde in June last year led to a split in the Shiv Sena and collapse of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi government. The Thackeray faction later filed petitions before the speaker seeking disqualification of several MLAs belonging to the

chief minister's camp. The Supreme Court on Friday asked



Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing speaker Narwekar, to apprise it about the timeline for deciding the petitions on Tuesday, saying it will pass a peremptory order if it is not satisfied.

The idea of laying down the time schedule was not to "indefinitely delay" the hearing on the disqualification proceedings, the court said.

On September 18, the SC directed the speaker to spell out the time table for adjudication of the disqualification petitions against Shinde and Shiv Sena MLAs owing allegiance to him who had tied-up with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to form a new government in June 2022.

The court had asked the solicitor general to apprise the bench of the time schedule to be fixed by the speaker for deciding the pleas for disqualification of 56 MLAs including lawmakers belonging to the Shinde faction.

The Thackeray faction moved the apex court in July seeking direction to the state assembly speaker to expeditiously adjudicate the disqualification petitions in a time-bound manner.

The plea by Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) MLA Sunil Prabhu, who as the chief whip of the undivided Shiv Sena filed the disqualification petitions against Shinde and other MLAs in 2022, had alleged Narwekar was deliberately delaying the adjudication despite the verdict of the apex court.

Same-sex marriage: Supreme Court says no

CJI says 'making such a law is domain of Parliament'

NEW DELHI, Oct 17 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to allow samesex marriages in India even as it directed the government to set up a high-powered committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary to decide the rights and entitlements of persons in queer unions.

A five-judge Constitution Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud - which reserved the verdict on May 11 on the contentious issue after hearing marathon arguments for 10 days during April-May – refused to grant legal recognition to same-sex marriages.

There were four verdicts – one each by CJI Chandrachud, Justice Sanjay Kishan Kual, Justice S Ravindra Bhat and Justice PS Narasimha.

Justice Narasimha agreed with Justice Bhat's view that "Marriage as an institution precedes the State. This implies that marriage structure exists regardless of the State. Terms of marriage are independent of the State, and its sources are external." Justice Kohli – who didn't write her own verdict – also agreed with Justice Bhat.

In their separate, but concurring minority judgments, the CJI and Justice Kaul, however, said same-sex couples were entitled to recognition of their relationships as a civil union and can claim consequential benefits. Holding that such couples have the right to adopt children, they struck down adoption regulations to the extent it prevented



But all the five judges unanimously said there was no unqualified right to marriage and that same-sex couples cannot claim it as a fundamental right.

CJI Chandrachud declared that failure of the State to recognise the bouquet of rights flowing from a queer relationship amounted to discrimination.

"Right to enter into union cannot be restricted on the basis of sexual orientation. Transgender persons in heterosexual relationships have the right to marry under the existing laws including personal laws... To imagine queer as existing only in urban spaces would be like erasing them, queerness can be regardless of one's caste or class," the CJI said.

Justice Chandrachud, however, said, "It's for Parliament to change the Special Marriage Act and the court can't make law but only interpret it.

Agreeing with the CJI, Justice Kaul said the State must ensure that queer couples faced no discrimination in accessing basic needs and societal tolerance. Giving the right of marriage to not possible as it's a legislative exercise, Justice Kaul said. Noting that same-sex relation-

ships have been recognised since antiquity -- not just for sexual activities, but as relationships for emotional fulfilment, Justice Kaul referred to ancient texts and certain Sufi traditions.

Justice Bhat - with whom Justice Narasimha and Justice Kohli agreed – said that the Supreme Court has recognised that marriage is a social institution, which preceded the State.

A gender-neutral interpretation of the Special Marriage Act may not be equitable at times and can result in women being exposed to vulnerabilities in an unintended manner, Justice Bhat said, adding, "If Section 4 of SMA is to be read in a gender-neutral manner, the interplay of other provisions will lead to anomalous results, rendering the Special Marriage Act unworkable.

The Centre, some of the states, certain Hindu, Muslim and Christian organisations had opposed the petitions.

India Aims To Send Astronaut To Moon

The Centre submitted that

same-sex marriage was not in conformity with societal morality and Indian ethos and would cause a "complete havoc" with the delicate balance of personal

Despite the decriminalisation of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, the petitioners cannot claim a fundamental right for same-sex marriage to be recognised under the laws of the country, it had said in an

However, the affidavit stated that though the Centre limits its recognition to heterosexual relationships, there may be other forms of marriages or unions or personal understandings of relationships between individuals in a society and these "are not unlawful".

Any constitutional declaration made by the Supreme Court on pleas seeking legal validation for same-sex marriage may not be a "correct course of action" as the court will not be able to foresee, envisage, comprehend and deal with its fallout, the Centre had submitted.

The governments of Assam, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan had opposed petitions seeking legal recognition for same-sex marriages, citing public opinion and adverse implications for the social and family system.

The Bench had already made it clear that it would not get into the personal laws of various religious communities and would only examine the Special Marriage Act, 1954 to consider the petitioners' prayer.

4 killed in Meerut soap factory explosion

MEERUT, Oct 17 (Agencies): Four people died and five others were injured in two successive explosions in a soap factory in Uttar Pradesh's Meerut.

According to reports, there was a massive explosion in the factory on Tuesday morning, due to which the workers present in the factory were buried under the debris.

The second explo-



sion took place when the debris was being removed. Several people present at the site were hit by bricks, after which the crowd was cleared from the

site. Four bodies have been taken out while the five injured have been admitted to a hospital.

The soap factory was being operated inside a rented house in front of Satyakam School in Lohia Nagar police station area of Meerut. The factory was being run by Alok Gupta and Gaurav Gupta while the house belongs to

Sanjay Gupta. Following the incident, police force, including

SSP and district magistrate. reached the spot. An NDRF team has also been called in.

A senior police official said the explosion was apparently caused when the boiler, which contained some chemicals, burst.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath took cognisance of the incident and asked officials to ensure proper treatment to the injured.

By 2040, Own Space Station By 2035 NEW DELHI, Oct 17 it became the first countest later this week as try to land a spacecraft

(Agencies): India aims to send an astronaut to the moon by 2040, the government said on Tuesday, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi issued instructions to the space department that include plans for a space station by 2035. India's space ambi-

tions got a boost when

near the unexplored south pole of the moon in August, just days after a similar Russian mission failed, and the fourth overall to achieve a soft landing.

After that success, India launched a rocket to study the sun and is scheduled conduct a

part of its crewed space mission.

"Prime minister directed that India should now aim for new and ambitious goals, including setting up 'Bharatiya Antariksha Station' (Indian Space Station) by 2035 and sending first Indian to the moon

by 2040," the government said in a statement.

"To realize this vision, the Department of Space will develop a roadmap for moon exploration," it added.

PM Modi has also called on scientists to work on missions to Venus and Mars.

Police shoot dead suspected extremist accused of killing 2 Swedish soccer fans on a Brussels street

Security has been beefed up in the capital, particularly around places linked to the Swedish community in the city

BRUSSELS, Oct 17 (Agencies): A suspect in a shooting rampage that killed two Swedish nationals in Brussels overnight has been shot dead by police and the weapon believed to have been used by the man has been recovered, Belgian Interior Minister Annelies Verlinden said on Tuesday.

Verlinden told VRT radio that "we have the good news that we found the individual".

Amateur videos posted on social media of Monday's attack showed a man wearing an orange fluorescent vest pull up on a scooter, take out a large weapon and open fire on passersby before chasing them into a building to gun them down.

Authorities had been searching for a 45-year-old suspected Tunisian extremist who was known to police and was living in Belgium illegally

Interior Minister Annelies Verlinden said that a person may have been shot by police early Tuesday in connection with the rampage. "It appears someone has been shot," she told VRT radio. "The federal prosecutor's office still has to confirm the identity" of the person.

"Last night, three people left for what was supposed to be a wonderful soccer party. Two of them lost their lives in a brutal terrorist attack," Prime Minister Alexander De Croo said at a news conference just before dawn. "Their lives were cut short in full flight, cut down by extreme brutality.

De Croo said his thoughts were with the victims' families and that he had sent his condolences to the Swedish prime minister. Security has been



beefed up in the capital, particularly around places linked to the Swedish community in the city.

"The attack that was launched yesterday was committed with total cowardice," De Croo said.

Not far from the scene of the shooting, the Belgium-Sweden soccer match in the Belgian national stadium was suspended at halftime and the 35,000 fans held inside as a precaution while the attacker was at large.

Prosecutor Eric Van Duyse said "security measures were urgently taken to protect the Swedish supporters" in the sta-

More than two hours after the game was suspended, a message flashed on the big stadium screen saying, "Fans, you can leave the stadium calmly".

Stand after stand emptied onto streets filled with police as the search for the attacker continued. "Frustrated, confused, scared. I think everyone was quite scared," said Caroline Lochs, a fan from Antwerp.

De Croo said the assailant was a Tunisian man living illegally in Belgium who used a military

ing from "severe injuries". Federal Prosecutor Frederic Van Leeuw described how the suspect, a 45-year-old man who wasn't named, had posted a video online claiming to have

weapon to kill the two Swedes

and shoot a third who is recover-

killed three Swedish people. The suspect is alleged to have said in the video that, for him, the Quran is "a red line for which he is ready to sacrifice himself".

Sweden raised its terror alert to the second-highest level in August after a series of public Quran-burnings by an Iraqi refugee living in Sweden resulted in threats from Islamic militant

Belgian prosecutors said overnight that nothing suggested the attack was linked to the latest war between Israel and Hamas.

Police raided a building in the Brussels neighbourhood of Schaerbeek overnight where the man was thought be staying but did not find him.

Sweden's foreign ministry sent out a text message to subscribers in Belgium asking them "to be vigilant and to carefully listen to instructions from the Belgian authorities"

According to Justice Minister Vincent Van Quickenborne, the suspect was denied asylum in 2019. He was known to police and had been suspected of involvement of human trafficking, living illegally in Belgium and of being a risk to state

Information provided to the Belgian authorities by an unidentified foreign government suggested that the man had been radicalised and intended to travel abroad to fight in a holy war. But the Belgian authorities were not able to establish this, so he was never listed as dangerous.

The man was also suspected of threatening a person in an asylum centre and a hearing on that incident had been due to take place on Tuesday, Van Quickenborne said.

Belgian Asylum State Secretary Nicole de Moor said the man disappeared after his asylum application was refused so the authorities were unable to locate him to organise his deportation.

A terror alert for Brussels was raised overnight to 4, the top of Belgian's scale, indicating an extremely serious threat. It previously stood at 2, which means the threat was average. The alert level for the rest of the country was raised to 3.

De Croo said that Belgium would never submit to such attacks. "Moments like this are a heavy ordeal," he told reporters. "but we are never going to let ourselves be intimidated by

'Get us out of this hellhole': SOS messages by UNRWA staff in Gaza detail desperation, fear



UNITED NATIONS, Oct 17 (Agencies): The 13,000-strong staff working with the UN agency for Palestinian refugees is "terrified and tired" and described the situation in the Hamas-run Gaza Strip as a "hellhole", a spokeswoman for the

agency said. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is the largest UN agency working in the Gaza Strip, both in terms of the size of its operations as well as the number of staff.

The 13,000-strong UNRWA staff in Gaza includes teachers, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, warehouse workers, logisticians, technicians and drivers.

"We have a very, very big operation in the Gaza Strip. What we hear from our staff is that... they are terrified and they're tired. They want all of this to come to an end and the message that we're getting is: 'Get us out of this hellhole. This has become hell'," UNRWA Director of Communications Juliette Touma told reporters here through video conference on the humanitarian situation in

Touma said the messages of 'SOS' have worsened by the day amidst Israel's weeklong siege and bombardment.

"The mood is going down. I feel the level of desperation is going up. Uncertainty, really from one hour to another, fear. That's what our staff has been sharing with us," she said.

Touma said that since the current conflict began when Hamas launched an audacious terror attack on Israel on October 7 and the Jewish state declared war on the militant group, about one million Palestinians have been displaced and nearly half of them are sheltering in UNRWA schools in the Gaza Strip.

Hamas releases first video of hostage: French-Israeli woman was abducted from a party

JERUSALEM, Oct 17 (Agencies): Hamas has released a video of a woman French-Israeli hostage on their Telegram channel, the first released video of about 200 hostages abducted by the group to Gaza in last two weeks.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was in a cabinet meeting when the video was released and updated, his office said in a statement.

The hostage was identified as Mia Shem, 21. In the video, Shem, speaking in Hebrew, said she had got medical attention in Gaza and undergone a hand surgery.

She said, "I returned early Saturday (October 7) morning from Sderot (in southern Israel). I was at a party. I was seriously injured in my hand. I underwent a three-hour surgery on my hand at the hospital (in Gaza). They are taking care of me, giving me medicine, and everything is fine. I only

my siblings." On October 7, Hamas launched a heavy onslaught on Israeli towns adjacent to the Gaza Strip, firing thousands of rockets.

ask them to bring me

home as soon as pos-

sible to my parents, to

Breaching the land border with Israel, Hamas militants opened fire at the residents and captured some of them, prompting Israel to launch retaliatory strikes on Gaza, Xinhua news agency reported.

The Israeli military on Monday updated in a statement that at least 199 hostages were held in Gaza, while Hamas claimed that there are 200 to 250 Israeli captives in Gaza.

Georgia deputy shoots, kills man who spent 16 years in prison on wrongful conviction

KINGSLAND (US). Oct 17 (Agencies): A man who spent more than 16 years in prison in Florida on a wrongful conviction was shot and killed on Monday by a sheriff's deputy in Georgia during a traffic stop, authorities and representatives said today.

Leonard Allen Cure, 53, was identified by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, which is reviewing the shooting.

His death was confirmed by Seth Miller, executive director of the Innocence Project of Florida, which represented Cure in his exoneration case.

Miller said he was devastated by the news, which he heard from Cure's family

"I can only imagine what it's like to know your son is innocent and watch him be sentenced to life in prison, to be exonerated and ... then be told that once he's been freed, he's

been shot dead," Miller said. "I can't imagine as a parent what that feels like."

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation said a Camden County deputy pulled over a driver along Interstate 95 near the Georgia-Florida line and the driver got out of the car at the deputy's request. He cooperated at first but became violent after he was told he was being arrested, a GBI news release said.

The agency said preliminary information shows the deputy shocked the driver with a stun gun when he failed to obey commands, and the driver then began assaulting the deputy. The GBI said the deputy again tried using the stun gun and a baton to subdue him, then drew his gun and shot the driver when

he continued to resist. The agency didn't say what prompted the deputy to pull over Cure's vehicle.

Miller couldn't comment specifically on Cure's death but said he has represented dozens of people convicted of crimes who were later

exonerated. "Even when they're free, they always struggled with the concern, the fear that they'll be convicted and incarcerated again for something they didn't do," he said.

It is customary for Georgia law enforcement agencies to ask the GBI to investigate shootings involving officers. The agency said it will submit its findings to the district attorney for the coastal Brunswick Judicial Circuit. which includes Camden County.

Cure was convicted of the 2003 armed robbery of a drug store in Florida's Dania Beach and sentenced to life in prison because he had previous convictions for robbery and other

But the case had issues from the start and his conviction came from a second jury after the first one deadlocked.

In 2020, the Broward State Attornev's Office new Conviction Review Unit asked a judge to release Cure from prison. Broward's conviction review team said it found "troubling" revelations that Cure had solid alibis that were previously disregarded and no physical evidence or solid witnesses to put him at the scene. An independent review panel of five local lawvers concurred with

the findings. Cure was released that April after his sentenced was modified. That December, a judge vacated his conviction and sentence.

"I'm looking forward to putting this situation behind me and moving on with my life," Cure told the South Florida Sun Sentinel at the time. In June, Florida Gov Ron DeSantis signed a claims bill granting Cure USD 817,000 in compensation for his conviction and imprisonment along with educational benefits.

Miller said Cure, who lived in a suburb of Atlanta, received the money in August. "The Leonard we

knew was a smart, funny and kind person," **Broward State Attorney** Harold F Pryor said in a statement to the Sun Sentinel on Monday evening. "After he was freed and exonerated by our office, he visited prosecutors at our office and participated in training to help our staff do their jobs in the fairest and most thorough way possible. He would frequently call to check in on Assistant State Attorney Arielle Demby Berger, the head of the Conviction Review Unit, and offer our team encouragement to continue to do the important

Pakistan court adjourns till next week ex-PM Imran Khan's indictment in cipher case



ISLAMABAD, Oct 17 (Agencies): A special court in Pakistan on Tuesday adjourned till next week the indictment of former prime minister Imran Khan in the cipher case.

The case pertains to a secret diplomatic document that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Khan used to criticise his opponents for allegedly orchestrating his ouster from power in April last year.

The document reportedly went missing from his possession. Khan's party alleges that the document contained a threat from the US to oust Khan from office. Special Court Judge Abual Hasnat Zulqarnain on Tuesday began the in-camera hearing of the cipher case at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail.

Barrister Salman Safdar and Khalid Yousuf Chaudhry were present as 71-yearold Khan's counsels, the Dawn newspaper reported.

Former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi's wife and daughter also reached the court. However, it was not confirmed whether they were allowed to attend the hearing, it said.

As per the court's orders of October 9, both PTI leaders were expected to be indicted

in the case on Tuesday. However, the indictment could not take place on Tuesday with the court only distributing the copies of the challan (charge sheet) among the suspects, the report said.

Subsequently, the court decided to adjourn the hearing till next week, it said.

Speaking to the media after the hearing, lawyer Sher Afzal Marwat said that Khan and Qureshi will now be indicted

during the next hearing. Khan was ousted through a vote of noconfidence in April 2022. He was incarcerated on August 5 this year, after an Islamabad court sentenced him to three years in prison in the Toshakhana case. The PTI chief was lodged in the Attock District Jail to

Later, his sentence was suspended by the Islamabad High Court, but then he was arrested in the cipher case.

serve his prison term.

UN refugee chief rallies support for Rohingya settlements and cuts to

BANGKOK, Oct 17 (Agencies): Dwindling humanitarian aid for Rohingya refugees threatens to exacerbate one of the world's largest humanitarian crises, the UN's refugee chief said on Tuesday

Bangladesh is home to around a million members of the stateless minority, most of whom fled a Myanmar military crackdown in 2017 now subject to a genocide probe at the International Criminal Court.

Frustration is widespread over the lack of progress in a repatriation deal, rampant lawlessness in the refugee

international humanitarian aid.

Humanitarian assistance "is declining" amid crises in Ethiopia, Sudan, Afghanistan, Ukraine and Israel, Filippo Grandi told reporters on the sidelines of a regional meeting.

"This is a crisis that should not be forgotten... If contributions decline, we are in trou-

The Rohingya crisis had only 42 per cent of the \$875.9 million funding needed this year, he said.

Budget cuts have forced the UN World



Food Programme to steeply reduce humanirations now \$8 per refu-

gee, per month. Malnutrition in the sprawling camps is already rampant rights

groups say. Grandi said repatriation to Myanmar was

still "Plan A." even as he acknowledged many Rohingya were still afraid to return to the country where they are widely viewed as interlopers from Bangladesh.

Bangladesh and Myanmar are working on a pilot programme to begin repatriating a limited number of Rohingya,

despite concerns from rights groups who say conditions are not safe for their return. Rohingya in Myanmar

are denied citizenship

and access to health-

work of justice."

care and require permission to travel outside of their townships. Myanmar junta chief Min Aung Hlaing -- who was head of the army during the crackdown -has dismissed the term

narv". "Plan B is the status quo, people continue to be in host countries... but this is not sustainable in the long term," Grandi said

Rohingya as "imagi-

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 17: A special event took place today at the Press Club Jammu, celebrating the release of the Vaishno Mata Bhaint titled "Saamne Tu Hi Tu." This event was organized by Shiv Ram Productions and featured the musical talents of Rahul Bhardwaj and the videography skills of Rahul Dutta.

The highlight of the event was Savita Verma, the singer of this devotional bhaint. She was not only welcomed with open arms but also left the audience overwhelmed with her beautiful rendition of the bhaint. The public in attendance had nothing but praise for the singer's incredible performance.

The event was graced by esteemed guests, including Chowdhary Lal Singh, a former minister of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, who held the position of Chief Guest. Sh. Pyasa



appreciation to Savita

Verma and her team for

their remarkable work in

promoting the blessings

of Hindu deities in the

state. He encouraged

the singer to continue

her efforts, particularly

in uplifting the glory of

Mata Vaishno Devi Ji, a

renowned place of wor-

ship known worldwide.

Pyasa Anjum also

expressed his congratu-

lations and support for

the singer and her team,

while Sh. Shiv Ram

commended the entire

Anjum, a renowned poet from the state, was the Guest of Honour. Sh. Shiv Ram, the driving force behind Shiv Ram Productions, was a Special Guest, and Dr. Kewal Samnotra, a distinguished Ghazal singer, was a Special Invitee to the function.

Sh. Dharmesh Nargotra, a renowned singer from the state, was also invited to the occasion and blessed Miss Savita Verma, the singer of the bhaint, with his best wishes and support

Chowdhary Lal Singh

took the opportunity team for their exception extend his heartfelt congratulations and team for their exceptional work.

The event concluded

The event concluded with a vote of thanks and the program's compere, Mr. Suraj, expressed his appreciation and congratulations to the singer. He also thanked the electronic and press media, as well as the audience for their presence and support.

Among those present at the event were Raman Kumar, Bimla Devi, Neelam, Sat Pal, Ankush Prashar, and Jia Lal, who added to the joyous and festive atmosphere of the occasion.

Vaishno Mata Bhaint 'Saamne | PF employees go on indefinite strike

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 17: The Jammu and Kashmir Employees' Provident Fund Staff Welfare Association launched an indefinite strike today, led by President Mr. Paramjeet Singh, to voice their collective concerns and demands. The strike, entering its second day, has garnered substantial support from prominent labor union leaders, including President of the State Central Labor Union, Nar Singh, and General Secretary of the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), Harbans Choudhary.

Choudhary.
One of the primary grievances put forth by the association is the Merger of Jammu and Kashmir Employees' Provident Fund Organization (JK EPFO) Staff with the Central Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO). Despite the repeal of the J&K EPF & MP Act, 1961, and the enforcement of the

Central EPF & MP Act, 1952, since November 1, 2019, no official notification has been issued to safeguard the service interests of employees. This situation has left employees in a state of distress and uncertainty, as salaries and grades have not been adjusted to match those of their Central EPFO counter-

The second pressing

issue pertains to the

parts.

Release of Salary and Pension. Employees have not received their salaries since August 2023, and retirees are yet to receive their pensions. This situation is causing financial hardship to both pensioners and employees and their families, as retirement cases remain unsettled, despite the organization having administrative reserves. The blame game between the Central EPFO and J&K EPFO authorities further compounds the problem. Notably, budget allocation has

been lacking for the past three consecutive financial years.

The third concern raised is the GPF (General Provident Fund) Interest Rate, which some JK EPFO officers have arbitrarily reduced to 5.9% for the financial years 2021-22 and 2022-23, despite the Government's official notification of a 7.1% interest rate. This disparity has raised concerns about the intentions of higher authorities and their impact on the financial well-being of JK EPFO employees, who are governed by the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services Regula-

tions.
The fourth demand relates to the Conducting of Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs). Eligible nongazetted employees of the Provident Fund Organization have not seen DPCs for an extended period, creating stagnation in career progression. This fur-

ther exacerbates the situation in light of the impending merger with Central EPFO. The vacant positions of PF Inspectors, which have remained unfilled for a decade, underscore the authorities' lack of action.

Lastly, the Association has highlighted the issue of cases under SRO-43. Four colleagues who succumbed to COVID-19 left their families without any earning members. Cases under the Special Recruitment Rules (SRO-43) have been pending with higher authorities, causing immense hardship to the affected families.

The Jammu and Kashmir Employees' Provident Fund Staff Welfare Association is committed to resolving these long-standing issues and ensuring the welfare of its members. The strike will continue until concrete measures are taken to address their demands.

GDC Darhal organise cleanliness drive

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 17: Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, also known as the Clean India Mission is a nationwide cleanliness campaign launched by the Govt. of India. To became a part of this campaign, NSS Unit (IMDAD) of GDC Darhal organised a Cleanliness Drive on 17th of October in the College campus under the banner of Clean India 3.0 Program in which the NSS volunteers cleaned the College campus by creating awareness, inspiring and motivating other students regarding cleanliness. They took the initiative to clean the surrounding areas in the vicinity of the College. In the Inaugural session Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch, NSS Program Officer shared his thoughts with the NSS

volunteers and gave them a lesson on community service through physical involvement in the community works.

The Event was organized under the able guidance of Prof. Mussaraf Hussain Shah, Principal of the College. While addressing the NSS volunteers he apprised that time has come to convert India, our country in to a developed country from a developing one. This can be possible only through maximum participation of the youth and NSS is the exact platform to do so. He further exhorted that it is essential for everyone to learn about Cleanliness, hygiene, sanitation and various diseases that are caused due to poor hygienic condition and un-clean environment. Cleanliness ensure a healthy mind and phy-

sique and for this we have to maintain Cleanliness at home and in our surroundings and go for clean and green environment thereby nurturing it for the future generation. While concluding the event, the programme coordinator Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch NSS (PO) thanked the Staff and NSS Volunteers for their active participation. He appealed to the NSS volunteers to show their dedication for the welfare of the society so that we can make our country clean and green by making proper management of waste and avoid use of plastic by making cloth bags for daily use. The faculty members who make the event successful were Dr. Ahsan Ul Rehman Rizvi, Dr. Mohd Akhlag, Dr. Imtiaz Hussain Shah and Prof Tahir Mahmood.

Rissam appointed as AICC TOP NEWS REPORT Congress has unveiled

JAMMU, Oct 17: Sandeep Singh Rissam, a prominent leader from the Jammu & Kashmir Congress, has received a significant appointment as the All India Congress Committee (AICC) Observer for the upcoming elections in the Thandla Assembly constituency of Madhya Pradesh. The Thandla Assembly constituency is one of the areas set to hold elections for the Legislative Assembly in conjunction with four other states.

In an official communique issued by the All India Congress Committee (AICC), the

Congress has unveiled its teams of election observers for the various Assembly constituencies in Madhya Pradesh. These teams will operate under the guidance and supervision of key leaders, including the national president, Mallikarjun Kharge, General Secretary R.S. Surjewala, and Secretary Sanjay Dutt. Their primary objective is to ensure the success of party candidates in the upcoming elections.

Sandeep Singh Rissam's political journey began with the National Students' Union of India (NSUI), and he has held various roles in the Jammu & Kashmir Pradesh Youth Con-

gress (JKPYC) as well as in the National Team of the Indian Youth Congress (IYC), where he served as Co-Incharge of the Delhi Pradesh Youth Congress. Currently, Rissam is actively involved in the AICC Training Department.

Observer in MP elections

Following his appointment, Sandeep Singh Rissam expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Congress President Shri Mallikarjun Kharge and Shri Rahul Gandhi, who have been instrumental in promoting the participation of young individuals from non-political backgrounds in serving the nation through the Congress. He also extended his

thanks to AICC General Secretary Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala, AICC Secretary Shri Sanjay Dutt, and all other party members who have placed their trust in him.

Sandeep Singh Rissam's appointment as the AICC Observer reflects the Congress's commitment to harnessing the energy and leadership of young, dynamic individuals in various electoral campaigns across the country. With this appointment, Rissam will play a crucial role in overseeing the party's campaign and electoral strategy in the Thandla Assembly constituency of Madhya

FROM PAGE 1

due to incessant rains, schools closed

Ramban due to incessant rains. People are advised to check TCUs for updates and avoid travelling today," Deputy Commissioner Ramban posted on X.

He also informed that in view of continuous rains, all Government and private schools up to the Higher Secondary level in Ramban will be closed today.

"In view of continuous rains since yesterday, all Government and Private schools up to Hr. Sec level in District Ramban shall remain closed today. However, exams, if any, shall be held as per the notified date," he said further.

The India Meteorological Department has predicted isolated heavy rain with the possibility of lightning and thunderstorms in several districts of Jammu and Kashmir for October 17.

Throat-slit bodies of couple found inside their home in Rajouri

Mughal said that it is a case of brutal murder, and an inhumane act. "Police team is on the spot and investigations are underway. At this moment we cannot rule out anything including the terror angle."

out anything including the terror angle." **Assembly polls in J&K**will be held soon: Chugh

government to rectify this," the BJP leader said, replying to a question about the opposition's charge that the government has failed to hold the much-awaited polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

Replying to another question about the Kargil polls, he said the voter turnout in the election saw a five-fold increase compared to the past.

"We contested on just 16 seats and received full blessings from the people. The BJP won two seats, as opposed to one in the previous election," he said.

Chugh said the vote share as well as the seat count of the saffron party witnessed an increase in the Kargil polls and accused the opposition of creating confusion about it.

On the security situation in Jammu and

Kashmir, the BJP leader said the Union Territory, which was once known as the "capital of terrorism", has been transformed into a hub of tourism and development.

"From being labelled as the 'terrorism capital', Jammu and Kashmir has been transformed into a hub of tourism. The era of development has commenced in Jammu and Kashmir, a region that was deprived of progress for decades by the previous governments," he said.

Chugh said a new era of peace and development has dawned in Jammu and Kashmir and the youngsters of the region are being empowered.

"One of the most significant achievements is our successful crackdown on terrorism. Those who harm our civilians will never be pardoned." he asserted.

"Under the leadership of (Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief) Ravinder Raina, we are conducting jan samvad events at all booths," Chugh said.

Legends Cricket League in J&K on Cards: Sarmad Hafeez

arrangements put in place with a suggestion to make certain minor amends, wherever required.

Earlier, the visiting team was received by J&K Sports Council including Ranjit Kalra, Member Sports Council; Mohammad Hanief, Chief Sports Officer Sports Council; Baljinder Pal Singh, in charge of Divisional Sports Officer (J), and Manager M. A Stadium, Naveen Sharma along with other officials.

During the preliminary interaction, Ranjeet Kalra briefed the organizing committee about the history of sports in J&K. He elaborated how the administration has gone the extra yard in successful conduct of National and International events during past few years.

The team inspected the turf wicket and requested that the venue may be handed over to them as early as possible enabling them to prepare the wicket properly as many former international players are participating in the event.

The floodlights were also switched on to check the intensity and the LUX power for any possible gradation, if required, for proper focusing of light during the hours of play.

The team also visited the player's dressing rooms, VIP lounge, third umpire rooms and commentator's box and took stock of the minor changes and repairs required for the mega event including shower area, steam bath and ice bath chambers.

Nikhil Chopra, while speaking on the occasion, said that the chief curator shall visit the venue again at the end of this week to estimate the exact time required for preparation of the wickets and outfield. He also requested that during the preparatory time, the premises may not be allotted for any other activity keeping in view the magnitude of the event and the associated works required to make ground fully fit for the international event.

Secretary Sports Council, Nuzhat Gull, said the checklist for smooth conduct of the event is being prepared and if all goes well, the M A Stadium may become a regular feature for international and national cricket events in future, she added.

H&ME Deptt orders all diagnostic centres, laboratories, single doctor clinics to register under Clinical Establishments Act

Share queue less OPD token system has generated more than 12 lac tokens which has provided as a huge relief to the patients who used to stand in long queues outside the hospitals.

21-year-old youth dies after tractor overturns in Wangipora Sumbal

identified as Rayees Ahmad Rather son of Ghulam Qadir Rather of Wangipora was injured after tractor overturned on him.

He said that soon after he was taken to a nearby hospital where he was pronounced dead.

He added that after medico-legal formalities the body was later handed over to family for last rites.

Lt Governor addresses Round Table Conference of Newly-Appointed Vice Chancellors

"Higher education institutions across the world are undergoing radical transformations. The Universities and colleges will have to formulate strategic plan, organizational readiness for adjustments aligned with NEP 2020 to stay relevant in a constantly evolving world.

Educate in India should be our aim and we need to increase our share in multi-trillion dollar global education sector. Institutions with aspirational and shared vision should focus to improve ranking. It should be our top priority and we must take bold action to achieve this goal," the Lt Governor said.

We are witnessing a massive growth in demand for higher education. In 10-15 years, India has contributed 74% of all new higher education institutions started in the world. We need to ensure quality of studies to provide new tools to students to face the changes and challenges, he said.

He said, more than 13 lakh Indian students are studying in 79 countries. As per an estimate of 2020, students studying abroad are spending approximately \$30 billion annually. Despite having the largest number of higher educational institutions in the world and best facilities, not a single institution of ours is included in the top 10 educational hubs of the world, because of lack of promotion, he added.

Many countries of Global South are now focused on enrolling International students. But we are lagging behind. On the contrary, we top the list of Countries for sending highest number of students abroad. This trend needs to be reversed with transformational approach, the Lt Governor said.

At the Conference, the Lt Governor shared the efforts of the UT Administration, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, to overhaul the education system in Jammu Kashmir.

"Since September 2020, J&K is witnessing encouraging reforms in higher education sector. Universities and Colleges have been enabled to focus on demand for education outputs, industry requirements,

innovation, new-age skills and to be flexible and resilient to meet the needs of tomorrow," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor also underlined the need for the Universities to adjust to the change and meet future challenges.

Today, the pace of change in every sector is faster than before. The biggest transformational revolution is required in the University Campus, the Lt Governor said.

"To remain relevant in the future, Universities will have to function like a Professional Corporation in which each department, unit, teacher play their crucial role as a separate part and forms a complete organic mechanism," he said.

Innovation and entrepreneurship cannot be taught through books. Arrangements should be made that students are involved in field learning every week, the Lt Governor said

Prof. Dinesh Singh, Vice Chairman, J&K Higher Education Council, in his address, shared the ongoing transformation in higher education sector in Jammu Kashmir.

Dr Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General, Association of Indian University highlighted the endeavours of AIU for enhancing the engagement of universities and teachers in reforming the education system in the

Prof. Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor University of Kashmir; Vice Chancellors of various universities; HoDs; senior officers and faculty members were present.

ED conducts searches in PMLA case against educational trust run by J&K's Ex-Minister Lal Singh's Wife

covered in Tuesday's search include those related to the trust, chairperson, land donors, power of attorney holders on behalf of land donors, witnesses who had executed the deeds and the then patwari who wrongfully issued fards for letting RB educational trust execute the deeds, they

National Highway blocked in Ramban

Markets rebound after three days of fall on optimism in global equities

Sensex jumps 392.89 points to 66,559.82; Nifty climbs 118 points to 19,849.75

MUMBAI, Oct 17 (Agencies): Equity benchmark indices bounced back in early trade on Tuesday after three days of fall amid recovery in global markets and buying in HDFC Bank post its quarterly earnings.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 392.89 points to 66,559.82 in early trade. The Nifty climbed 118 points to 19,849.75.

Among the Sensex firms, Power Grid, Bajaj Finance, Tata Steel, HDFC Bank, Tech Mahindra, Wipro, Bajaj Finserv and Titan were the major gainers.

HDFC Bank traded nearly 1 per cent up after the company reported a consolidated net profit of



Rs 16,811 crore for the September quarter, its maiden quarterly earnings announcement after merging parent HDFC with itself.

Larsen & Toubro and Hindustan Unilever were the laggards.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong were trading in the positive territory.

The US markets had ended with gains on Monday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.01 per cent to USD 89.64 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 593.66 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

The Sensex had declined 115.81 points or 0.17 per cent to settle at 66,166.93 on Monday. The Nifty slipped 19.30 points or 0.10 per cent to 19,731.75.

Sebi, RBI probe misuse of AIFs in circumventing financial regulations: Report

Sebi and RBI are presently investigating approximately twelve cases in which alternate investment funds are suspected to have been exploited to evade financial regulations.

NEW DELHI, Oct 17 (Agencies): The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are investigating about a dozen cases where alternate investment funds or AIFs have been used to circumvent financial regulations, reported news agency Reuters.

The report, quoting three sources familiar with the matter, indicates that AIFs are also being used for the "evergreening" of stressed loans.

The ongoing investigation may lead to more stringent disclosure requirements and increased oversight in the investment sector, particularly among private credit funds that have attracted substantial capital from both local and global high-net-worth investors due to their relatively flexible regula-

Sebi has uncovered at least twelve instances, involving between Rs 15,000 crore to Rs 20,000 crore, where AIFs were purportedly misused to bypass the regulations of other financial



authorities, including the central

Although the monetary value involved appears relatively small compared to the Rs 8.4 lakh crore managed by AIFs, the number of identified misuse cases is considered significant, sources quoted in the report

Evergreening of stressed loans

Investigations have revealed instances of non-bank lenders offloading stressed loans to AIFs, which were in part established by the same lenders, using fresh funds to repay the original debt, thereby avoiding the loans from turning into bad loans - a practice commonly known as "evergreening."

The RBI has initiated inquiries into these cases, and if proven, such misuse of AIFs could potentially result in penalties or severe business restrictions.

Other cases under scrutiny involve AIFs being employed to evade foreign investment caps in specific sectors and to sidestep insolvency regulations.

"We have identified several cases where AIF structures are being exploited to bypass other regulations," said Ananth Narayan, a Sebi wholetime member, during a conference in Mumbai

"These cases are concerning, even as we aim for growth within the industry," he added.

Sebi's directions for AIFs In a bid to strengthen oversight, Sebi has instructed AIFs to report both assets and liabilities through India's share depositories, effective the end of this month, following a circular issued in June.

They are also encouraging the industry to adopt self-regulation and establish a code of conduct for their members.

However, a proposal made in June to eliminate priority payouts to investors in credit funds has been temporarily halted due to resistance from the industry.

Priority payouts involve segregating investments into senior and junior tranches based on risk and priority of payment.

Financial regulators in India are diligently working to ensure that AIFs are not exploited for circumventing established financial rules, maintaining the integrity and fairness of the investment sector.

Space-tech startup Agnikul raises Rs 200 crore in Series B fund raise, eyes expansion

NEW DELHI, Oct 17 (Agencies): Space-tech startup Agnikul Cosmos, incubated by IIT-Madras, on Tuesday said it has raised Rs 200 crore in the Series-B funding round and aims to use that for supporting its expansion plans as the firm looks at putting satellites in orbit.

Agnikul has started the integration of the launch vehicle Agnibaan SubOrbital Technology Demonstrator at its private launchpad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

"We are planning to have a test launch before the yearend," Agnikul co-founder and CEO Srinath Ravichandran told

With the successful closure of a Series-B fund of Rs 200 crore (USD 26.7 million), the startup has increased its total capital raised till date to USD 40 million.

The round saw participation from venture capital investors such as Celesta Capital, Rocketship.vc, Artha Venture Fund and Artha Select Fund. Mayfield India, along with existing investors such as pi Ventures, Speciale Invest and Mayfield India.



"We have a fair idea of the technology that is involved in getting us to space. Now that the research and development risk has mostly been taken out, we want to focus more on scaling up. We are not just thinking of the next few launches, but about 50-60 launches and coming up with systems, people and operations in place," Ravichandran said.

Agnikul also has plans to invest in key facilities such as mobile launchpads and other test rigs necessary for addressing the launch-on-demand needs of the customer.

"With this capital, we will continue to drive our technology

forward, building facilities and testing systems that we need to deliver a reliable product for our customers," Ravichandran said.

India's space regulator Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre has projected the space sector to grow to USD 44 billion in the next decade from the current size of USD 8 billion.

Founded on the IIT-Madras campus, Agnikul is looking at facilities in and around Chennai for its expansion plans and is exploring options in the region.

The start-up also has plans to hire more personnel with the focus now being on production and operations part of the busi-

"As India's answer to SpaceX, Agnikul is poised to revolutionise the space industry, not just domestically but also globally," Sailesh Ramakrishnan, the managing partner of Rocketship.vc, said.

"Doubling our investment isn't merely a financial move, it's a ringing endorsement of our faith in Agnikul's prowess.

We're all in, eager to see and support every giant leap they make in reshaping space exploration," Anirudh A Damani, the fund manager of Artha Venture Fund, said.

In 2021, Agnikul successfully test-fired 'Agnilet', the world's first single-piece 3D printed engine fully conceived and manufactured in India and secured a patent for its engine from the government.

Agnikul also inaugurated its one-of-a-kind factory dedicated to end-to-end 3D printing of rocket engines last year, representing an important step towards launch vehicle engine fabrication at scale.

Maruti Suzuki to buy Gujarat plant from Japanese parent for Rs 12,841 crore

NEW DELHI, Oct 17 (Agencies): India's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki (MSIL) will buy Suzuki Motor Gujarat Private Limited (SMG), owned by parent Suzuki Motor Corporation, for a total purchase consideration of Rs 12,841.1 Crores. The transaction is expected to be completed before 31st March 2024, the carmaker said in a regulatory filing.

SMG operates a car manufacturing plant, one of the largest in India, in Gujarat, and provides finished cars to Maruti Suzuki on a no-profit-no-loss basis.

Maruti Suzuki, which is also majority owned by Suzuki Motor Corporation, said the acquisition of the Japanese parent's 100% subsidiary will simplify opera-

ChatGPT may beat doctors at evidence-based

depression management: Study

tions on the ground. "With the growth of

the Indian car market and export potential, the Company would need to increase its production capacity to about 4 million cars per annum by 2030-31, almost double from current levels. This would happen over several locations, some of which are known and some being studied.

"On the other hand, given the carbon neutrality requirements. several powertrain technologies like EVs, Hybrids, CNG, Ethanol etc. will co-exist for a reasonably long period of time.

Managing this scale and complexity of production with multiple powertrains, under different managements, would pose several challenges.

"The Board considered this and decided that for the purpose of efficiency in production and supply chain, it is best to bring all production related activities under the company," the Indian company said.

At present, SMG does contract manufacturing for MSIL and sells its production completely to the latter.

The turnover of SMG in the last financial year ended on 31 March 2023 was Rs 3,185 core. The proposed trans-

action is being done at "arm's length", taking into account the valuation report issued by RBSA Valuation Advisors LLP, Independent Registered Valuer, in accordance with the applicable laws, MSIL

Fluctuating BP a warning sign for dementia, heart disease: Study

SYDNEY, Oct 17 (Agencies): Fluctuating blood pressure can increase the risk of dementia and vascular problems in older people, a new study by Australian researchers has warned

Short blood pressure (BP) fluctuations within 24 hours as well as over several days or weeks are linked with impaired cognition, according to University of South Australia (UniSA) researchers who led the study. Higher systolic BP

variations (the top number that measures the pressure in arteries when a heart beats) are also linked with stiffening of the arteries, associated with heart disease

It is well known that high blood pressure is a risk factor for dementia, but little attention is paid to fluctuating blood pressure.

"Clinical treatments focus on hypertension, while ignoring the variability of blood pressure," lead author Daria Gutteridge said in the paper published in the journal Cerebral Circu-



lation – Cognition and Behaviour.

Blood pressure can fluctuate across different time frames – short and long - and this appears to heighten the risk of dementia and blood vessel health," Gutteridge added.

To help explore the mechanisms that link BP fluctuations with dementia, the researchers recruited 70 healthy older adults aged 60-80 years, with no signs of dementia or cognitive impairment.

Their blood pressure was monitored, they completed a cognitive test, and their arterial stiffness in the brain and arteries was measured using transcranial doppler sonography and pulse wave analysis.

"We found that higher

blood pressure variability within a day, as well as across days, was linked with reduced cognitive performance. We also found that higher blood pressure variations within the systolic BP were linked with higher blood vessel stiffness in the arteries," the authors wrote. These results indi-

cate that the different types of BP variability likely reflect different underlying biological mechanisms, and that systolic and diastolic blood pressure variation are both important for cognitive functioning in older adults, they noted.

BP variability could potentially serve as an early clinical marker or treatment target for cognitive impairment, the researchers said.

Oct 17 (Agencies): OpenAl's Al chatbot ChatG-PT might be better than a doctor at following recognised treatment standards for clinical depression, and without any of the gender or social class biases sometimes seen in the primary care doctorpatient relationship, a new study has shown. According to the study

published in the openaccess journal Family Medicine and Community Health, Chat-GPT has the potential to offer fast, objective, data-derived insights that can supplement traditional diagnostic methods as well as provide confidentiality and anonymity. The researchers

tested the AI technology to evaluate the recommended therapeutic approach for mild and severe major depression and whether this was influenced by gender or social class



SAN FRANCISCO.

biases. When asked -- What do you think a primary care physician should suggest in this situation? -- to ChatGPT, it responded -- watchful waiting; referral for psychotherapy; prescribed drugs (for depression/ anxiety/sleep problems); referral for psychotherapy plus pre-

scribed drugs. According to the study, just over 4 per cent of family doctors exclusively recommended

referral for psychotherapy for mild cases in line with clinical guidance, compared with ChatGPT-3.5 and Chat-GPT-4, which selected this option in 95 per cent and 97.5 per cent of cases, respectively. Most of the medical

practitioners proposed either drug treatment exclusively (48 per cent) or psychotherapy plus prescribed drugs (32.5 per cent). In severe cases, most doctors recommended psychotherapy plus prescribed drugs (44.5 per cent).

ChatGPT proposed this more frequently than the doctors (72 per cent ChatGPT 3.5; 100 per cent ChatGPT 4 in line with clinical guidelines). Four out of 10 of the doctors proposed prescribed drugs exclusively, which neither ChatGPT version recommended, the study mentioned

Moreover, the doctors recommended a combination of antidepressants and anti-anxiety drugs and sleeping pills in 67.5 per cent of cases, while ChatGPT was more likely than the doctors to recommend antidepressants exclusively: 74 per cent, version 3.5; and 68 per cent, version 4.

ChatGPT-3.5 (26 per cent) and ChatGPT-4 (32 per cent) also suggested using a combination of antidepressants and anti-anxiety drugs and sleeping pills.

"ChatGPT-4 demonstrated greater precision in adjusting treatment to comply with clinical guidelines. Furthermore, no discernible biases related to gender and (socioeconomic status) were detected in the ChatGPT systems," the researchers highlighted.

"The study suggests that ChatGPT.... has the potential to enhance decision making in primary healthcare," they concluded.

Laid-back Rohit Sharma best man to lead India to third World Cup title: Ricky Ponting

With three convincing wins under their belt, India have made a perfect start to their World Cup campaign

DUBAI, Oct 17 (Agencies): Australian legend Ricky Ponting believes a "laid-back" Rohit Sharma is the ideal captain to lead India to their third ODI World Cup title, the second on home soil after the 2011 triumph.

With three convincing wins under their belt, India have made a perfect start to their World Cup campaign.

India defeated Australia by six wickets in their tournament opener, before registering emphatic eight- and sevenwicket wins over Afghanistan and Pakistan to sit on top of the points table.

"He's very laid-back, Rohit. Very laid back with everything he does. You can even see that by the way that he plays. He's a pretty laconic sort of batsman as well, and that's the way he is both on and off the field," Ponting told the ICC on Tuesday.

Rohit took the captaincy reins from Virat Kohli in both the white-ball formats in December



2021.

And Ponting believes Rohit's character fits perfectly for the India job, allowing Kohli to focus on his batting.

"Someone like Virat, who is a bit more heart-on-the-sleeve, and probably listens to the fans and plays up with the fans a little bit more, someone with his personality would probably find it a bit harder," the two-time World Cup winning Australia skipper said.

"But I think Rohit will be fine with it. He's a terrific bloke and has been a great player for a long time, and he's done a great job as leader of India."

The Men in Blue last won the World Cup when the tournament was jointly hosted by India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in 2011. So, the extra pressure of per-

forming in front of home fans would definitely be there, but Ponting feels Rohit is the best man to deal with that.

"We can't sit back and say that the pressure won't get to them (India) at some stage, or it won't affect them, because it will, just with the enormity of the tournament

"But he'll take it and cope with it as well as probably anyone," he said.

Ponting said that with all bases covered, India are the team to beat in the ongoing showpiece.

"I said from the start that I think they're going to be the team to beat. They've got a very talented team," he said.

"They've got all bases covered with their fast bowling, their spin and their top-order, middle-order batting. They're going to be extremely hard to beat. But we'll see how they hold up under extreme pressure as well," Ponting concluded.

India will next play Bangladesh in Pune on Thursday.

Second innings: Cricket makes Olympics comeback



MUMBAI, Oct 17 (Agencies): Cricket was formally included in the programme for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, delivering a massive boost to the game's global ambitions.

Besides cricket, which will be played in the T20 format, the other sports approved by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) during its 141st session were squash, baseball/softball, lacrosse and flag football.

"The addition of cricket in the Olympics, for the first time since 1900, concludes a two-year process, in which the ICC worked to develop an exciting proposal that supports the Olympic values and LA28's mission to create an unparalleled experience for athletes, fans, partners and the local community," said the ICC in a statement.

Thomas Bach made the announcement of cricket's inclusion along with the other sports after the recommendation of the executive board was put to vote through raising of hands.

The proposal to include the five sports recommended by LA28 Organising Committee was opposed by only two of the 99 IOC members.

Italy's Olympic champion shooter and sports director of LA28, Niccolo Campriani, also referred to Indian superstar Virat Kohli's popularity during the discussions. "We are thrilled to welcome the world's second most popular sport with an estimated 2.5 billion fans worldwide," he said. The Italian added: "My friend Virat (Kohli) is the thirdmost followed athlete in the world with 340 million followers on social media."

The massive following of cricket in India, the world's most populous nation, and the BCCI supporting the ICC in its Olympic bid also went a long way in securing a spot in the LA28 programme. It was only in 2021 that the BCCI changed its stance to back the game's inclusion in the Summer Games after years of opposition fearing a threat to its autonomy. "The decision is set to open new frontiers for the sport" said BCCI secretary Jay Shah.

'WFI suspension will be lifted after polls'

MUMBAI, Oct 17 (Agencies): Nenad Lalovic, United World Wrestling (UWW) president and International Olympic Committee executive board member is in India to attend the 141st IOC session in Mumbai. The visit, however, gained more significance, especially in the wake of the suspension of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) by the world governing body (UWW).

"You have to understand it is very uncomfortable for me to visit India for an IOC session when my own federation is suspended. So I don't feel very comfortable. I would like the situation to be different," he told reporters.

Wrestling has been under the spotlight ever since top wrestlers including Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat and Sakshi Malik launched a massive protest against the sidelined WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh in January this year. The sport has been in a mess for almost ten months with Indian wrestlers participating in the 2023 World Championships under a neutral flag as the UWW earlier suspended the

national federation. Lalovic said the sus-



pension will be lifted once the democratically elected body is put in place. "After the elections, if there are no complaints from stakeholders, we will lift the suspension immediately. We do not need to make it longer."

The protesting wrestlers leveled serious alleharassment against Brij Bhushan that eventually led to the registration of FIRs against the Uttar Pradesh strongman. The case is now pending in court. It also puts a question mark on measures in place to ensure the safety of athletes, especially women. Lalovic admitted the developments in India have made the UWW enhance the safeguarding mechanism.

"It (safety mechanism) is also something that will be overwatched and controlled. We

have appointed two of our safeguarding officers who will work closely with the national federations and instruct them on how they have to behave.

The athletes will be informed where they have to go and explain their problems."

The world body president said the world body cannot interfere with the legal system of a member country but it reacted as they have followed everything that happened during the wrestlers' protest. "Of course, we have followed everything that happened during the wrestlers' protest and we have concerns about the wellbeing of our athletes. This is another possibility to have a suspension but this case is being followed by Indian authorities and we certainly are not interfering with that."

ICC World Cup: Australia keep alive title hopes with five-wicket win over Sri Lanka

While Australia rose to 8th position with first win of the tournament, Sri Lanka sit at 9th spot with three defeats from as many games

LUCKNOW, Oct 17 (Agencies): Adam Zampa, Josh Inglis and Mitchell Marsh delivered when their team needed them the most as Australia breathed life into their floundering World Cup campaign with a five-wicket win over Sri Lanka here.

Leg-spinner Zampa claimed four wickets as Australia bowled out Sri Lanka for 209 despite half-centuries by Kusal Perera (78) and Pathum Nissanka (61).

Looking on course for a 300plus score, Sri Lanka faced a bizarre batting collapse to lose 10 wickets for 84 runs.

Inglis (58), who scored his maiden World Cup fifty, Marsh (52) and Marnus Labuschagne (40) then did the heavy lifting with the bat as Australia overhauled the target in 35.2 overs, giving a solid boost to their net run rate.

While Australia rose to eighth position on the table with their first win of the tournament, the loss severely dented Sri Lanka's chances of progressing to the semifinals as they sit at the ninth spot with three defeats from as many games.

Defending a below-par total, Dilshan Madushanka (3/38) bowled a fiery first spell which included a maiden over and a double wicket maiden in which he claimed the prized scalps of David Warner and Steve Smith.

Warner immediately called for review when the field umpire gave him out. The prolific south-



paw left the ground fuming when the DRS ruled it in favour of the on-field umpire. Smith on the other hand was caught plumb in front of the wicket.

While Madushanka was frugal, Marsh took off against the other bowlers. He smashed three boundaries to plunder 12 runs off young spinner Dunith Wellalage in the ninth over.

Marsh raced to his fifty but Chamika Karunaratne sent a sharp throw from the deep to end his innings, as wicketkeeper Kushal Mendis made no error in collecting the ball and disturbing the stumps.

Inglis, playing only his second World Cup game, looked confident in the middle and stitched a 77-run partnership with Labuschagne as Australia crossed the 200-run mark for the first time in this edition of the World Cup.

Earlier, an out-of-form Perera got some much-needed runs while Nissanka struck his second consecutive fifty.

Australia benefitted from the timely return to form of Zampa, who had been having an awful tournament. The wrist spinner enjoyed an excellent outing to help bundle out Sri Lanka in 43.3 overs.

There were lots going on in the field as Mitchell Starc aborted his delivery stride thrice to warn Perera to not leave his crease early on at the non-striker's end. Perera was also struck in the head by a Marcus Stoinis bouncer which caught the Sri Lankan off guard.

But the experienced southpaw didn't let the blow deter him and went on to send Stonis' slower cutter down the ground to bring up his fifty.

With both openers pilling on the runs, the Australian bowlers looked clueless. But skipper Pat Cummins kept shuffling his bowlers in search of that first breakthrough.

Cummins, who has been far from his best with the ball, stood

up at the opportune moment to give Australia the breakthrough they needed.

Cummins cramped Nissanka for room and the Sri Lankan hit it high and in front of square only for Warner to run and complete a stunning catch.

The Australian skipper bowled a peach of a delivery five overs later to clean up the other set batter in Perera, who picked the wrong line to swing his bat.

The dismissal marked the beginning of Australia's dominance as the Sri Lanka batting unravelled and the five-time champions grew in confidence.

Zampa (4/47) got rid of the inform Kusal Mendis But the

in-form Kusal Mendis. But the wicket belonged to Warner who ran across from deep midwicket, covering about 25ms to complete a spectacular diving catch. Sadeera Samarawickrama,

Chamika Karunaratne and Maheesh Theekshana were Zampa's other victims with Starc pitching in with two wickets.

Apart from the openers and Charith Asalanka's 25, no other Sri Lankan batter reached double digits.

Brief scores:

Sri Lanka: 209 all out in 43.3 overs (Pathum Nissanka 61, Kusal Perera 78; Adam Zampa 4/47).

Australia: 215 for 5 in 35.2 overs (Josh Inglis 58, Mitchell Marsh 52; Dilshan Madushanka 3/38).

World Cup: No more under radar, South Africa look too strong for Netherlands

DHARAMSALA, Oct 17 (Agencies): South Africa are making quite a statement at the World Cup, playing entertaining cricket and plundering tons of runs as they steamroll rival teams.

steamroll rival teams.
As the Proteas take on the Netherlands in this hilly paradise on Tuesday, the perennial under-performers and 'chokers' have shown in the last two games their determination to go the distance in the tournament

Their 102-run win against Sri Lanka in the opener in New Delhi after putting a record 428/5 on the board, followed by 134-run victory against five-time champions Australia in

Lucknow, have made South Africa the team to beat in the competition.

From staying under the radar in the lead-up to the ODI showpiece to becoming high-flyers, the Proteas have started playing to potential and will be firm favourites against the Dutch.

Unlike the Australian and England cricket teams, whose patchy performance so far has left a lot to be desired, the South Africans have come out with full combat capabilities -with the likes of wicket-keeping stalwart Quinton de Kock, toporder batter Rassie van der Dussen and Aiden Markram making a mas-

sive impact here.

The trio smashed a century each against Sri Lanka to pile up a mountain of runs with Heinrich Klaasen and David Miller playing useful cameos in the 428-run total.

Though their bowlers did take a beating from the Sri Lankans, they hit back with full force against the Australians in the next match.

A second consecutive century by De Kock and a massively improved performance from tall pace bowler Marco Jansen and Kagiso Rabada floored Pat Cummins' side.

The 177-run loss for the five-time champions

following the humiliating loss to India in the opener has put the Kangaroos on the mat.

The Proteas would

look to attack with even more firepower against the Netherlands, a side that has very few recognisable faces in mainstream cricket. But they have posed a challenge occasionally, like the huge upset they made during the 2009 T20 World Cup, defeating England at Lord's.

Last year, the Dutch eliminated the Proteas, handing them a shocking 13-run defeat in the Super 12 stage of the T20 World Cup in Australia

The Scott Edwards-led

side will certainly take inspiration from that victory, though T20 and 50-over formats are like

chalk and cheese.
But, on a cricket field, where miracles happen, the Dutch too would want to aim for a victory for the ages after seeing Afghanistan overrun defending champions England on Sunday night in New Delhi.

The Proteas, once bitten twice shy, would be looking to opener De Kock, Rassie van der Dussen and Aiden Markram to once again set the stage on fire and then give their bowlers a big total to defend.

Squads: Netherlands: Scott Edwards (c/wk), Colin Ackermann, Wesley Barresi, Bas de Leede, Aryan Dutt, Sybrand Engelbrecht, Ryan Klein, Teja Nidamanuru, Max O'Dowd, Saqib Zulfiqar, Shariz Ahmad, Logan van Beek, Roelof van der Merwe, Paul van Meekeren, Vikramjit Singh.

South Africa: Temba Bavuma ©, Gerald Coetzee, Quinton de Kock (wk), Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen, Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Andile Phehlukwayo, Kagiso Rabada, Tabraiz Shamsi, Rassie van der Dussen, Lizaad Williams.

Shahid Afridi's Sister Dead, Former Pakistan Cricketer Announces News On Social Media

ISLAMABAD, Oct 17 (Agencies): Former Pakistan captain Shahidi Afridi announced the news of her sister's demise on Tuesday. Afridi took to social media to reveal that his sister was battling for her life in a hospital. Her health condition even prompted the retired cricketer to change his travel plans. While Afridi returned to see his ailing sister, she sadly passed away. On social media, Afridi also announced where and when will his sister's funeral taking place.

"Surely we belong to Allah and to him we shall return. With Heavy hearts we inform you that our beloved Sister passed away and her Namaz e Janazah will be at 17.10.2023 after Zuhur prayer at Zakariya masjid main 26th street Khayaban e Ghalib DHA," Afridi wrote on X (formerly Twitter).

Earlier, the Pakistan cricket great had posted: "I am travelling back to see you soon my love stay strong My sister is fighting for her life right now, I request you to make Duas for her health, will mean a lot. May Allah give her speedy recovery and a long healthy life Ya Rabb."

Many fans took to social media to offer their condolences to the cricketer following the tragedy.

World Food Day Celebrated in CUJ

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 17: On occasion of World Food Day which is globally celebrated on 16th October 2023, Department of Social Work, Central University of Jammu (CUJ) organised a regional consultation on the theme "Regional consultation on Diversity of Indian Food Systems: Contemporary Issues and Challenges" under the patronage of Honourable Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain.

The conveners of the consultation were Dr. Ranvir Singh and Dr. Bhat Igball Majeed, Assistant Professors at Department of Social Work.

The consultation was formally started by a welcome address by Dr.



Nancy Mengi, Head of the Department.

The consultation had three sessions capturing the diversity in knowledge scopes by experts from disciplines of Ayurveda, Botany, Agriculture, Tribal Culture, Regional Organisations and Social Work.

First session was based on Food, Agro Biodiversity and Traditional Knowledge:

Understanding the Triad. The session had Dr. Sanjeev Kumar from SKUAST, Jammu, Dr. Vasanta Kohli Sr, Dietician, Jammu and Mr. Ranjoy Gupta, Research Scholar from Department of Social Work, Central University of Jammu as panelists.

Second session was based on Food, Culture and Ethnobotanical diversity: Reflections from the Field which

had Dr Samantha Vaishnavi from Department of Botany, Central University of Jammu, Mr. Javaid Rahi, Tribal Researcher and Social Activist; and Emeritus Professor Hariramamurthi G from University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology, Bengaluru as panellists.

The third session was based on Insights on Food: Health, Policy

ages. The session had Dr. Vikas Bajpai, Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, JNU and Dr. Vikas Gupta, Jammu Institute of Ayurveda and Research, Jammu as panel members. These sessions were moderated by research scholars of the Department namely Jaspreet Singh, Suhel and Joji Abraham. Consultation concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Vinay Kumar, Assistant Professor at Department of Social Work. The consultation stressed on the need to engage into the cross-sectoral and disciplinary boundaries for a wider dialogue on the promotion, preservation and conservation of traditional knowledge

Rajesh Gupta discusses security, policing issues with **DGP Dilbag Singh**



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 17: Jammu Warriors Front (JWF) chairman, Rajesh Gupta here today met DGP J&K Dilbag Singh, and discussed several issues regarding policing, security and traffic violations in Jammu and Kashmir. Gupta while appreciating the J&K Police the

comprehensive efforts to bolster security have yielded remarkable results in Jammu and Kashmir.

While discussing security issues Dilbag Singh said,"Jammu and Kashmir has achieved a significant milestone in the fight against terrorism this year so far as the Union territory witnessed the lowest number of terror incidents and civilian deaths in over three decades." The resolute efforts of the security forces stand as a beacon of hope for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, as they look towards a future marked by peace and stability," DGP said.

JWF leader raised concern over the improvement of the policing in police stations and police posts respectively." In some cases criminals are doing crimes without fear of Law and Media on the behest of DySP's, SHO's and many incharges of police posts and common man is the most sufferer.

The DGP Dilbag Singh assured that police will definitely look into the issues

Shiv Sena warn terror mongers to desist from threatening Hindu, Sikh families

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 17: Manish Sahni, President of Shiv Sena (UBT), Jammu and Kashmir, has strongly condemned the threats and intimidation directed towards Hindu and Sikh families residing in district Poonch. He has warned terrorist organizations involved in nefarious activities and hooliganism, emphasizing that the affected Hindu and Sikh families in border areas need to respond firmly to these threats and demand arms and licenses from the government for selfdefense.

Addressing journalists at Party's Regional Office in Jammu,

Manish Sahni highlighted that posters threatening the evacuation of Hindus and Sikhs have emerged in the Degwar sector near the Pakistan border, and these threats should not be taken lightly. He asserted that the Hindu and Sikh communities are not cowed by such intimidation and called on them to give a resounding response

to these threats while demanding weapons and licenses for their self-protection from the government. He demanded stringent action against antinational elements who issue threats to the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the armed forces. On this occasion Gen. Secretary Vikas Bakshi, vice President Sanjeev Kohli were present.

Pavneet Kour demands revamp of developmental activities in Bishnah

Denounces divisive politics in modern society

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 17: Apni Party Provincial President Women Wing Jammu, Pavneet Kour has demanded revamp of developmental activities in Bishnah.

The Apni Party Women Wing had organized a meeting at Bishnah under the leadership of Pavneet Kour to discuss various political and developmental issues

During these discussions, the participants expressed their faith in the policy of equitable development that has been adopted by the Apni Party.

In her speech, Pavneet



Kour thanked the people for their enthusiasm and faith in the Apni Party leadership and its policies for bringing a positive change in the society that is facing negligence.

"We are committed to work for all the sections of society and end discrimination on the name of region, religion, caste or creed," said Pavneet Kour assuring the people that Apni Party will ensure that their issues would be highlighted before the authorities for early

redressal. She however criticized the political representa-

caste, creed and religion to gain votes. "There is no place for divisive politics as the

people have under-

tives for ignoring the

people with regard to

the development and

widening gap in the

society on the name of

stood the importance of a united society that would work responsibly for the sustainable future," she said.

She alleged that the basic amenities are missing in Bishnah and the roads that are connecting different villages are still single land and often lead to road mis-

She further said that the Apni Party is committed to give adequate representation to the women in politics so that their issues can be addressed by the women themselves and create a viable situation for their social, political, and economic upliftment.

Chairman KCWT lauds SSP Kishtwar for combating drug peddling provisions of the Public

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Oct 17: In a warm and commendable meeting today, Chandan Datta, Chairman of Kotli Colony Welfare Trust (KCWT), extended his sincere greetings and appreciation to the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kishtwar, Mr. Khalil Poswal. The meeting revolved around the pressing issues of traffic management and the fight against drug peddling within the region.

SSP Kishtwar, Khalil Poswal, has demonstrated exceptional service in his role, notably in his efforts to

combat drug peddling and reduce its impact in the district of Kishtwar. His initiatives have also been instrumental in controlling various other criminal activities in the region. Most recently, he has taken a proactive approach to promote adherence to traffic norms. His massive campaign to raise awareness about the importance of wearing helmets for safety and following traffic guidelines has been highly effective. This initiative has not only enhanced road safety but also generated significant revenue, with over 1 crore rupees collected from fines imposed on



vehicles that did not comply with traffic rules. As a testament to his efforts, Kishtwar is now witnessing a remarkable transformation, with virtually every two-wheeler rider seen wearing a helmet and car drivers diligently fastening their seat belts. Such rigorous and proactive policing, combined with strict initiatives like these, are

essential to instill traffic civic sense among the general public and reduce the tragic incidents of accidents.

Chandan Datta extended his heartfelt appreciation for SSP Kishtwar's dedication in curbing the menace of drug peddling and his commitment to booking the active drug peddlers in the area. Using the

Safety Act (PSA) under the NDPS Act, Mr. Poswal has taken a resolute stance against this grave issue. Mr. Datta emphasized the critical importance of addressing the drug menace with the utmost seriousness to safeguard the well-being and future of upcoming generations.

Kotli Colony Welfare Trust (KCWT) conveyed its best wishes to the entire District Police Kishtwar team for their tireless efforts in upholding the values of our society and ensuring the success of SSP Poswal's vision to eliminate the drug menace from the Jammu region.

Dr Andrabi reviews arrangements of Annual Urs of Peer Dastgir



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 17: Chairperson of Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board and Minister of State Dr Darakhshan Andrabi today chaired review meeting with Srinagar administration in connection with arrangements on the Annual Urs of Peer Dastgir (RA).

The meeting was held at Waqf Central Office in Srinagar which was attended by representatives of Srinagar Administration, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, KPDCL, JAL Shakti, Srinagar Police, Traffic Police, Regional Transport Office, Fire & Emergency Service, Health Services, R&B along with the concerned Waqf Board officers.

Dr Andrabi emphasized on the coordinated effort of all the departments with the nodal role of Wagf Board to ensure fool proof arrangements at Dargah-e--Dastgir Sahib at Khanyar and at Soura. Very productive discussion took place and a road map was finalised for the smooth functioning of all depart-

ments. "Earlier Waqf used to be working in coordination with political parties and the political families and now we are working in coordination with all concerned departments so that people get requisite facilities", said Dr Andrabi. She said that it was great to watch that people are now cooperating with the Waqf

Board in all our initiatives.

Dr Andrabi congratulated the people on Urse-Dastgir Sahib.Sved Ahmad Kataria (ADC Srinagar), AM Salroo (Exen, KPDCL),Syed Abdul Qasim (Jt Commissioner, SMC), Dr M Tariq (CMO Srinagar), Engineer Aqub Hussain (AD, F&ES),, MehboobulHaq (DySP Traffic), Imtiyaz Ahmad (SDPO Khanyar, Azhar Rashid (SDPO Hazratbal Soura), Syed Sleeth Shah (DsyP HQ), M Amin Shah (AEE), Nissar Ahmad (AEE, PDD), Aijaz Ahmad (AEE, PDD), Abdul Hameed (Sanitation Officer, SMC), Syed Saqib (JE, R&B) we're among the participants in the meeting.

Army holds Youth Seminar at North Campus of Kashmir University

Top News Report

BARAMULLA, Oct 17: As part of its ongoing collaboration and engagement with young minds, Indian Army in collaboration with Kashmir Central magazine, conducted a Youth Seminar on October 17th at the North Campus of Kashmir University. This transformative event witnessed active participation from the youth, academicia, intellectuals, professionals and creative thinkers across schools and colleges making up an audience of

almost 500 plus across all age groups, fostering an environment of vibrant discussion on educational reforms, innovation and cultural inclusiveness.

The Youth Seminar was inaugurated by Prof Gull Mohammad Wani, a renowned educationist and political scientist. Mr Bashir Assad, a renowned author and senior journalist set the tone for immersive discussion with his welcome address. The audience were then treated to an exhilarating glimpse of Kashmir's cultural diversity by a troupe of Ms Shagufta Rehman. The inaugural session of the seminar focused on discussing 'Innovative Pedagogies and New Education Policy'.

Prof Gull Mohammad Wani, Mr. Bashir Assad and Mr Aijaz Bashir, the Nodal Principal of Kashmir Division colleges shared their views to an enraptured audience.

The concluding session of the seminar on the topic 'Preserving Our Cultural Heritage' explored ways to safeguard and celebrate the rich cultural

historical heritage and syncretic identity of Kashmir. Prof. Gul Mohd Wani, Political Scientist and Educationist, and Mushtaq Ali Ahmad Khan, Actor, Art Promoter and Filmmaker and Mehajabeen Nabi, the social activist spoke on the theme and enlightened the audience.

The students and faculty representing schools and colleges from all across North Kashmir enthusiastically participated in the seminar with incisive and thought-provoking queries and opinions to the panelists.

Edited, Printed, Published and Owned by: Rajiv Mahajan, Office: 17- New Rehari Jammu, Published from 17- New Rehari Jammu, and Printed from GK Offset Printing Press situated at Shivalik Puram Janipur, Jammu on behalf of Rajiv Mahajan. Senior Editor: M. K. Bangroo, Executive Editor: Anita Gupta, Photo Journalist: Aman Sharma (9906198186), Head Office Jammu. Mobile No: (9906300707, 9086072548), Fax No: 0191-2561688.

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