

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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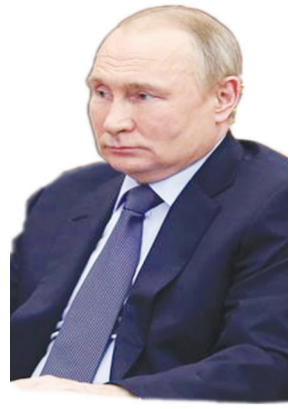


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BRIEFLY

UN must play its role to end Israel-Palestine war



SRINAGAR, Oct 24 (Agencies): Amid the war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said that the world has proved that there are different laws for Russia and Israel. Speaking to the media reporters here over the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict, the National Conference (NC) Vice President said that innocent people are being killed in Gaza bombings. "... Since the first day, we have been opposing what is happening in Gaza. Innocent people are being killed in Gaza bombings... The world has proved that there are different laws for Russia and Israel..." Abdullah said.

Questioning the international community while addressing the media persons, he asked, "What Russia did to Ukraine was a war crime; then what Israel is doing to Gaza is not wrong? Both things cannot be correct. Now the world will have to decide what is right..." Abdullah said. At least 5,087 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli attacks on Gaza since October 7. Almost all prominent political parties of Jammu and Kashmir, including NC and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) have condemned the war and called on to establish peace.

PCJ condoles death of Pooja Raina wife of senior photo journalist Raman Raina

JAMMU, Oct 24: The Press Club of Jammu (PCJ) has condoled the death of Pooja Raina, wife of senior photo journalist Raman Raina. The PCJ Management Committee in a meeting held under the chairmanship of Sanjeev Pargal, president conveyed their heartfelt condolences to Raman Raina and prayed for peace to the departed soul. Two minutes silence was observed.

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LG Manoj Sinha meets PM Narendra Modi in New Delhi



JAMMU, Oct 24 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi and wished him a blissful Vijaydashmi on Tuesday.

"Met Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji today and wished him a blissful Vijaydashmi", Lieutenant Governor said on X. He also presented 'Kong Posh' (Saffron Flowers) to the Prime

Minister on behalf of the people of J&K UT. A photograph on the X account of the Office of LG showed Lieutenant Governor Sinha presenting a Kashmiri Paper Machie bowl of saffron flowers to Modi.

Fulfill assurances of ASHA workers, says Tarigami

SRINAGAR, Oct 24 (Agencies): Calling ASHA workers the backbone of the health department in rural areas, Senior CPI(M) leader Muhammad Yousuf Tarigami asked the Government to fulfill the assurances of ASHA workers at earliest. "These workers are compelled to work for paltry emoluments. The government has totally neglected them. They have been fighting for better remuneration

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Centre constitute tribunal to review ban on Shabir Shah's JKDFP

NEW DELHI, Oct 24 (Agencies): The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Monday notified the appointment of Delhi High Court judge Justice Sachin Datta as the presiding officer of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) Tribunal to review the ban imposed on Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP). In accordance with the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), the Central Government had

officially declared the JKDFP as an unlawful association on October 5 through a notification published in the Gazette of India. The UAPA provides that no such ban shall come into effect unless the same is confirmed by the UAPA Tribunal by an order made under Section 4 of the Act. In conformity with the Act, the government has now notified the tribunal. Justice Datta had served as the Central

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Sri Lankan Cabinet approves free tourist visas for visitors from India and six other countries

COLOMBO, Oct 24 (Agencies): The Sri Lankan Cabinet has approved the policy to issue free tourist visas to travellers from India and six other countries, Foreign Minister Ali Sabry said on Tuesday, amidst efforts to rebuild the debt-trapped island nation's tourism sector. Foreign Minister Sabry in a statement said that this would be carried out as a pilot project effective until March 31, 2024.

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TS Wazir Murder Case | Delhi HC stays order discharging 3 accused from charges

NEW DELHI, Oct 24 (Agencies): The Delhi High Court has stayed the discharge of three accused from charges in the murder case of National Conference leader Trilochan Singh Wazir. Delhi Police had approached the High Court against the discharge of the three accused and mentioned the matter before the Chief Justice.

Justice Vikas Mahajan on Saturday after hearing the revision of Delhi Police stayed the operation of the discharge of three accused namely Balbir Singh alias Billa, Rajinder Chaudhary alias Ganja and Sudershan Singh Wazir. The High Court has issued notice to the respondents and sought a reply. The next date of hearing is December 13, 2023.

Delhi's Tis Hazari Court had recently discharged three accused

in the murder case of the National Conference. One accused has been charged with the offence of murder and another was charged with the offence of destruction of evidence.

Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Hem Raj on October 20, 2023, discharged accused Balbir Singh alias Billa, Rajinder Chaudhary alias Ganja and Sudershan Singh Wazir from all the offences in this case.

However, the court charged accused Harmeet Singh for the offence under Section 302 IPC.

Accused Harpreet Singh Khalsa has been discharged from the offences under Sections 302 IPC r/w 201 B IPC, however, he has been charged with the offence under Section 201 (Destruction of evidence) IPC and 174A IPC.

This case pertains

to the homicidal death of Trilochan Singh Wazir who died due to a single gunshot injury on his head. Wazir was a former MLC from Jammu and Kashmir. He was allegedly murdered in Delhi in September 2021.

Delhi Police had filed a charge sheet against the accused persons namely, Harmeet Singh, Harpreet Singh Khalsa, Rajinder Chaudhary, Balbir Singh and Sudershan Singh Wazir for alleged offences under sections 302/201/174A/120B/34 IPC.

Delhi Police have filed four charge sheets including three supplementary charge sheets. The first chargesheet was filed against the accused Harmeet, Rajinder and Balbir.

In the first supplementary charge sheet, the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) result was

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Accident victim awarded Rs 2.22-crore relief

CHANDIGARH, Oct 24 (Agencies): Motor Accident Claims Tribunal Chandigarh (MACT) has directed an insurance company, the driver and owner of a truck to pay Rs 2.22 crore as compensation to 27-year-old Sukhchain Singh, a resident of Sidh Sar Colony, Alohram Gate, Nabha, Patiala, who was injured in an accident four years ago.

Sukhchain, in the claim petition, filed through advocate Navdeep Arora, under Section 166 of the Motor Vehicles Act, said on April 9, 2019, he was going to his uncle Pargat Singh's house in Rohti Khaas village on his bicycle. He was riding at a very slow speed and was on the left side of the road. He was followed by his uncle on a separate bicycle. Around 6 am, when he reached the Rohti Bridge roundabout and stopped his bicycle on the left side of the road to turn towards the Patiala side, a speeding truck hit his bicycle from behind. He fell on the road and his left leg was crushed under the left front wheel of the vehicle. He was taken to Singla Hospital, Patiala, from where he was shifted to Fortis Hospital, Mohali. He spent a huge amount on his treatment.

He did his Aeronautical Engineering from Panjab Engineering College, Chandigarh. Thereafter, he worked for three years and did his MBA (PGP Programme) from ISB, Hyderabad, where he got an offer from Uber, Gurugram. He joined Uber on May 6, 2019. He has been on an indefinite leave to

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JK HC Issues show cause notice to three Jammu lawyers

SRINAGAR, Oct 24 (Agencies): The Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court has recently taken action against three lawyers by issuing show cause notices to them. These notices were issued in response to their alleged making of derogatory and scandalous comments about the judiciary during a media interview. The

comments were related to the Bar's opposition to moving the Jammu bench from its current location in Janipur to Raika.

The Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud laid the foundation for the new high court complex at Raika in Jammu on June 28.

The Chief Justice's Secretariat has request-

ed the three advocates, Arvind Bhandral, Umesh Sharma, and Bhavishya Sudan, to provide an explanation by October 25. The notice to these lawyers was issued on October 17 by MK Sharma, who serves as the Principal Secretary to Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh.

As per the show cause notice issued to one of

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Apni Party to reverse 'Darbar Move' decision if elected to power: Altaf Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Oct 24 (Agencies): Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Tuesday said that his party will reverse the decision of discontinuation of Darbar Move on priority basis if elected to power.



Bukhari said, "Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party fully backs the legitimate demand of the people of Jammu seeking reversal

of the decision regarding the discontinuation of the 'Darbar Move' decision. Let this be put on record that Apni Party

will take this matter on priority once elected to power".

Notably the age-old tradition of Darbar Move was nullified by present J&K dispensation led by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, citing unnecessary burden on state exchequer. However the decision drew severe criticism from Jammuities who demand immediate restoration of this tradition.

'Godspeed, Bobi': World's oldest dog, dies in Portugal aged 31

LISBON, Oct 24 (Agencies): Bobi, the world's oldest dog, has died aged 31 in Portugal, Guinness World Records said on Monday.



A purebred Rafeiro Alentejano who spent his entire life in a village in central Portugal, Bobi lived for 31 years and 165 days, breaking a record held since 1939 by an Australian cattle-dog that died at 29 years and five months.

"Despite outliving every dog in history, his 11,478 days on earth would never be enough for those who loved him," said Karen Becker, a veterinarian

who met Bobi several times and who was the first to announce his death on social media. "Godspeed, Bobi."

He was declared the world's oldest dog in February this year. Bobi's breed, which traditionally has been used as sheepdogs, usually has a life expectancy of 12 to 14 years.

His owner Leonel Costa attributed his longevity to a number of factors, including living in peace in the countryside, never having been chained up or kept on a leash, and always eating "human food".

At the time Bobi was born, Costa's family had many animals and little money so his father, a hunter, generally buried newborn puppies rather than keep them.

But Bobi hid among a pile of firewood. Costa and his siblings found him a few days later and kept him a secret until the puppy opened his eyes.

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Dr Jitendra visits 'Skyroot' Startup Private Rocket Unit, hails 'Unshackling' of Space

JAMMU / HYDER-ABAD, Oct 24 (Agencies) : Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space said here today that "unshackling" of the Space sector by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has led to Startup boom, as a result of which, within a short span of just about four years, the number of Space StartUps has gone up from a mere single digit to over 150, with some of the earlier ones like the "Skyroot" turning into lucrative entrepreneur.

During a visit to the newly setup facility of Skyroot here in a premises of 60,000 Square Feet which is possibly India's largest Rocket factory in private sector, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Skyroot is not only example of India's superlative talent and scientific acumen but it also has message for all of us that a huge potential was lying dormant for several decades before Prime Minister Narendra Modi came and broke the taboos of the past and opened India's Space Sector for Public Private Partner-



ship (PPP). "Skyroot Aerospace" was the first Space Start-Up to have launched a private rocket from ISRO station at Sriharikota after the Space sector was thrown open to private players over three years ago. Headed by two IITians, Pawan and Bharat, they have now set up India's largest Rocket developing facility with updated technology. It has capacity to develop cost effective rocket, on demands

Referring to Amritkaal and Prime Minister's vision for "India @ 2047", Dr Jitendra Singh said, the value addition to India's economy is going to come from hitherto unexplored sectors including the space sector. From that

point of view, he said, the Space economy is going to make a significant contribution to the nation's economy when independent India celebrates 100th Independence Day and is a frontline nation of the world.

"Over the last 9 years the country has made rapid strides in every area of Science & Technology thanks to the able leadership of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said.

Skyroot is India's largest private rocket development facility under a single roof.

In yet another milestone for the Indian private Space sector, Dr. Jitendra Singh also unveiled Skyroot's Vikram-1 orbital rocket.

Vikram-1 is expected to mark yet another first for India, since the country opened up the Space sector to private players in 2020 in a landmark reform.

"The success of Skyroot is an inspiration to India's vast youth talent pool aspiring to set up their own Startup ventures, especially in new and emerging sectors including Space, Bio-Tech, Agriculture and Energy," said Dr. Jitendra Singh.

The Minister said that PM Modi has enabled India to earn universal recognition for India's Science, Technology and Innovation capabilities and our StartUps are much sought after.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Dr Vikram Sarabhai,

the first Chairman of ISRO and the founding father of India's Space Programme, always insisted on ISRO playing a meaningful role "nationally" and said it was a vindication that during the nine years of the Government led by Prime Minister Modi, the youth talent of India, which was waiting to be explored, got new wings.

Dr Jitendra Singh said India's space missions are designed to be cost effective, building upon human resources and skills.

Stating that the "Anusandhan National Research Foundation" will pave the way for a greater PPP model in scientific research, Dr Jitendra Singh said the NRF will catapult us to the league of handful of developed nations pioneering new research in new frontiers.

"NRF budget envisions a spending of Rs. 50,000 crore over five years, out of which a major share of Rs. 36,000 crore, over 70%, is estimated to come from non-government sources, from industry & philanthropists, from domestic as well as outside sources," he said.

Cong used minorities for vote Bank politics: MP Khatana



Top News Report
JAMMU / POKHRAN(Rajasthan), Oct 24: Bharatiya Janata Party MP Rajya Sabha (Nominated), Er. Gulam Ali Khatana today accused Congress party for using minorities for vote bank politics, while praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a true messiah for Muslims.

In a whirlwind tour of Pokhran Assembly constituency including Bhaniyana, Jeeyasar, Bhikhodai, Phalsund, Padampura and Bandhewa areas to canvass for Mahant Pratappuri Maharaj, BJP candidate, MP Gulam Ali Khatana said that the Congress party has historically employed divisive tactics that revolve around identity politics to garner votes from the minority communities.

He further said, "It is time to acknowledge the reality that certain political parties, including the Congress, have often used the sentiments and aspirations of minority communities for their electoral advantage. This form of 'vote bank politics' may have gained votes, but it has not genuinely addressed the concerns and aspirations of these communities."

MP Khatana praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi, particularly in terms of his efforts to promote social and economic development for all sections of society, including the Muslim community. He praised Prime Minister Modi's policies and initiatives aimed at empowering minorities and promoting their well-being.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has displayed an unwavering commitment to the betterment of all citizens, regardless of their faith. His policies have been instrumental in enhancing the lives of the Muslim community, uplifting them economically, and ensuring equal opportunities," he asserted.

Er. Gulam Ali said that PM Modi has enhanced the reputation of India across world while giving special focus for the upliftment of poor downtrodden people and backward areas. The road infrastructure, business opportunities, healthcare, roads, railways and other areas have witnessed a complete transformation. Govt of India has provided free ration to 82 crore souls, introduced new and innovative ideas like Make in India, Startups, borders have been secured and corruption has decreased to a large extent; and if Rs. 100 are released for common man, it reaches to the bottom, he said adding the DBT(Direct benefit transfer) has made it sure that the benefits are reaped by all.

He urged the people to vote for BJP for a stable, prosperous and developed Rajasthan.

Sanjeev Verma reviews arrangements for National Unity Week, Rashtriya Ekta Diwas-2023



Top News Report
JAMMU, Oct 24: In connection with National Unity Week and Rashtriya Ekta Diwas-2023 celebrations, Commissioner Secretary General Administration Department, Sanjeev Verma, today chaired a high level meeting to review arrangements for the celebrations.

The meeting among others was attended by the Divisional Commissioners of Kashmir and Jammu, ADGP Kash-

mir, Secretary Culture Secretary, Youth Services and Sports Department.

The meeting had threadbare discussions on the details of events planned to be organized for the celebrations within broad contours of the program notified by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. It was emphasized that the Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners in close collaboration

with Police, Youth Services and Sports and Culture Departments shall ensure befitting celebrations of the Meri Maati Mera Desh Campaign as well as National Unity week and the UT Foundation Day at the UT, Divisional, District, Block and Panchayat level.

Instructions for organizing march pasts by the J&K Police and Unity Runs in all districts were issued along-with ensuring celebratory programs

on national unity in the prisons and detention centers across the Union Territory.

The Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners were advised to incorporate multiple activities such as short and long walks, yoga competitions, cleanliness drives, debates, painting competition etc during the week long celebrations.

It was decided that participation of PRIs as well as persons from all sections of society including youth and senior citizens shall be ensured to impart synergy for celebration of the events with zeal and enthusiasm.

The Divisional Commissioners were advised to closely review the celebrations on regular basis.

Commissioner State Taxes visits Lower Munda Inaugurates renovation work on Enforcement office; Leads sanitation drive under Swachata Hi Sewa Campaign



Top News Report
QAZIGUND, Oct 24: Commissioner State Taxes Department, Dr. Rashmi Singh, today visited Enforcement office Lower Munda here, where she inaugurated the repair and renovation works on office of Deputy Commissioner State Taxes Enforcement South Kashmir Lower Munda.

Additional Commissioner State Taxes Department, Kashmir, Shakeel Maqbool, Deputy Commissioner Enforcement Cen-

tral, Parvaiz Ah Raina, Deputy Commissioner Enforcement South, Shahnawaz Ah Shah, State Taxes officers, Inspectors, Sub-inspectors and other officials of the department were present on the occasion.

After the Inaugural session, an overall overview of infrastructure and working of the Department was presented to the Commissioner.

Later, Dr. Rashmi Singh also led a sanitation drive at Enforcement office South Kash-

mir Lower munda which was carried out under Swacchta Hi Sewa campaign.

Officers and officials of State Taxes department also joined the sanitation drive.

While addressing on the occasion, Commissioner emphasised upon the importance of Swachhta and exhorted upon the employees to ensure that their offices are clean.

Dr. Rashmi Singh also impressed upon the officials to work with much zeal and dedication to

boost the revenue of UT of J&K.

Additional Commissioner State Taxes emphasised on importance of Enforcement activities in GST and its role in overall revenue implication of the UT. He directed the officers and officials of the department to widen the enforcement activities under GST.

Following sanitation drive, DC Enforcement presented vote of thanks and urged all the participants to ensure cleanliness of their offices and surroundings.

Secretary to conduct public grievances redressal camp at Ramban on Oct 25

RAMBAN, Oct 24: Secretary, Revenue and Planning, Dr. Piyush Singla, is going to conduct a public grievances redressal camp to listen and resolve the public issues at Conference Hall, District Administrative Complex, Ramban at 11 a.m on Wednesday, October 25, 2023.

One delegation of PRIs, Councillors from each Block and Urban Local Bodies of the district along with the general public has been requested to reach at venue as per schedule to highlight the issues of public interest before the Secretary for redressal during the camp.

Ravinder Raina launches BJP Booth Jan Samvad Abhiyaan

JKBJP conducts Booth Jan Samvad Abhiyaan at 111 places

Top News Report
JAMMU, Oct 24: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir commenced its Booth Jana Samvad Abhiyaan under the leadership of J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina, while successfully conducting 111 programmes on the first day of the Abhiyaan.

Ravinder Raina, while launching the BJP's Booth Jan Samvad Abhiyaan from Patyari Panchayat of Bishnah in Jammu and Kashmir, said that the BJP has initiated this Abhiyaan on the national level to acquaint the people with the welfare schemes, works and the achievements of Modi government in the last 9.5 years. He said that today whole world is appreciating the potential and the power of Bharat due to the relentless efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. PM's efforts have brought development to



every village as well as prosperity and peace everywhere. He said that BJP has undertaken this Abhiyaan with a target to reach every home in all villages.

Raina said that the party will organize 'Choupal' to discuss all these works by BJP led government with the common masses. He also appealed the

people to vote Modi government to power once again in 2024 in order to increase the pace of development in whole nation and especially Jammu & Kashmir adding the Modi government has brought peace and prosperity to the J&K, which was once marred with the turmoil and restlessness.

Vibodh Gupta, General Secretary J&K BJP and also Jammu & Kashmir Incharge for the Abhiyaan, while giving the details on the Abhiyaan said that today, a total of 111 programmes were organized, in which the speakers reached the people at Panchayat and Ward levels to educate them about the splendid works of development and welfare under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said that the J&K has witnessed unprecedented development under Modi government especially after the abrogation of 370 giving benefits to every single resident of J&K. He emphasized on the improved security scenario and the major development projects undertaken in J&K. He said that the selected party activists as speakers will interact with the public for the next three months, while apprising masses of these schemes, policies, and achievements.

MORE FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2023

In order to clear extra rush of passengers, Railways have decided to run the following Deepawali / Chhath Puja Festival Special Express Trains as per details given below:-

04033/04034 New Delhi - Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan - New Delhi Superfast Express Special		02 Trips	
Train No.:	04033	Train No.:	04034
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
---	23:30	New Delhi	09:30
10:55	---	Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan	22:05

DATE OF RUN: 04033 from New Delhi on 27.10.2023 & 04034 from Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan on 01.11.2023.

STOPPAGE: Sonipat, Panipat, Kamal, Kurukshetra, Ambala Cantt., Ludhiana, Jalandhar Cantt., Pathankot Cantt. & Jammu Tawi Stations.

ACCOMMODATION: AC-3 Tier.

05656/05655 Guwahati - Anand Vihar (T) - Guwahati Express Special		02 Trips	
Train No.:	05656	Train No.:	05655
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
---	05:15	Guwahati	12:30
15:30	---	Anand Vihar (T)	23:00

DATE OF RUN: 05656 from Guwahati on 27.10.2023 & 05655 from Anand Vihar (T) on 01.11.2023.

STOPPAGE: Kamakhya, Rangiya, Barpeta Road, New Bongaigaon, Kokrajhar, New Cooch Behar, New Jalpaiguri, Kishanganj, Barsoi, Katihar Jn., Barauni Jn., Patliputra, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn. & Govindpur Stations.

ACCOMMODATION: AC-2 Tier, AC-3 Tier, Sleeper & General.

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EDITORIAL

INNOVATION
AND CREATIVITY

Technology is what helps us and makes our work even easier. This is something which is available everywhere so that people can easily use it whether in the form of mobile or auto-rickshaw. When we need something we search for it but in today's time, we are dependent on the internet or other such technologies and there are hardly any people who really want to invent something new. Today I have discussed many aspects of technology and how it is affecting our creativity.

Development is good; Even it is developing our country and technology. We all want a peaceful life so we have invented various types of technology. Anyway, they are very important for us but it is also believed that in many ways it affects our creativity. There is a variety of technology that has developed over the past few decades, and it is growing day by day. At some places it proves to be very helpful while to some extent it has made people lazy

Technology has made our work easier and as a result, people are not willing to work hard.

When you have more than 100 options for the same job, why would anyone work hard for something else?

According to a description, it has been shared that more than 3.5 billion things are searched by people on Google every day. Imagine that when there was no Google, people either looked for other alternatives or invented new ideas on their own to complete their work.

There are many types of technologies available here, some of which help us answer our questions while some help us play games. When there were no video games of any kind, people used to create new games by themselves. This shows that technology has influenced our creativity to a great extent.

We cannot even think of living without technology as it is everywhere whether you are going to take a bath or searching for a school for your child. It is everywhere, but it is up to us how much we use it and how much we can limit its use. In different research it has been found that mobile for small children, phone is not a good thing, even, many children play with the phone as a toy. Everyone should think about these things and come up with their own ideas to deal with such things.

Delhi May Need West Asia Policy Shift Amid Support for Israel

By: Bhopinder Singh

In past decades, Israeli commentators would often rue that New Delhi treated Tel Aviv like a "mistress": happy to engage intimately in private but disowned in public. They legitimised the relationship formally with the concurrent opening of embassies in 1992, but the crucial military supplies from Israel to India in the 1965 and 1971 wars is one for the spooks. Even more clandestine was the purported go-ahead by Indira Gandhi in 1982 of an Osirak-style operation (Israeli jets daringly blew up an Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981) to similarly destroy Pakistan's nuclear facilities at Kahuta. Last-minute intervention by then US President Ronald Reagan is said to have abrogated this India-Israel mission. But despite such commonality of threats and mutual understanding, Delhi's support for the Palestinians deterred normalising relations with Israel.

Contrary to popular perceptions, India's dichotomous stand on Israel wasn't just idealism, but rooted as much in realpolitik. With its energy needs from West Asia at stake, sizeable foreign exchange remittances from the Indian diaspora, and also over 50 invaluable votes in forums like the United Nations -- officially not recognising Israel due to "morality" had some solid practicalities, that remained unstated. It was an arrangement which worked well as Israel was content to work in the shadows, as that also meant it knowingly compromised its own equation with Washing-

ton, which was a firm Pakistan ally in 1965, 1971 or even 1982 when the Kahuta operation was murmured.

History and geography have made Israel extremely practical, and they work along with any country, irrespective of its ideology, if it does not endanger Israeli interests. Even today, despite all tensions besetting the United States and China and Russia, the Israelis harbour no major aversion to either and are willing to engage with both (Washington had to veto technology transfer to Beijing). For all its bloody past, it had normalised relations with Jordan and Egypt long ago, and more recently with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. Talks with Saudi Arabia behind closed doors is the worst kept secret and Tel Aviv is similarly understanding of the societal concerns implicit for the Saudi authorities, to come out in the open about the same immediately.

With India, Israel was always extra-understanding. Jawaharlal Nehru had indulged in grandstanding on Palestine, but had also reached out to Israeli Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion after the 1962 China tensions, Ben-Gurion had privately replied: "I am in total agreement with the views expressed by Your Excellency (Nehru) that it is incumbent upon us to do all in our power. All states big or small must be guaranteed of their sovereignty. We believe that every possible support should be lent to every measure contributing towards easing of tension on your borders so that India will once again be able to devote

its undivided energies under your distinguished leadership to construction and development".

During the Kargil War, when India still faced some technology sanctions, Israel had ignored international concerns and expedited supplies of mortar ammunition, laser-guided missiles, Heron and Searcher UAVs, etc. Since then, India has become Israel's biggest and most dependable purchaser of weapons, besides a "strategic partner" and co-producer of weaponry. However, all along, India hadn't diluted support for a "two-state solution", that envisages a sovereign state of Palestine. Admittedly, the hypersensitivity on Palestinian concerns had got diluted (tellingly in 2015, India abstained from voting against Israel at UNHRC) -- though, the same lukewarmness about the Palestinian issue could also be said about the Arab sheikhdoms that were on a rapprochement overdrive with Tel Aviv.

The recent attack by Hamas on Israel led to the unprecedented shedding of ostensible "neutrality" by New Delhi, which entailed playing a mealy-mouthed "please all" position for some time. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's new tweet -- "We stand in solidarity with Israel at this difficult hour" -- is unprecedentedly one-sided, and the Palestinians have Hamas to blame for that. While the neighbouring sheikhdoms have offered platitudinous contexts to rationalise Hamas' attacks, make no mistake, the sheikhdoms can never support a pro-Iran militia like Hamas. They were forced into adopt-

ing a "justifying" stance only as a continuation of Ummah sensibilities -- but in the deeply sectarian divide in West Asia, beyond the public postures, the Arab sheikhdoms fear the Iran and its proxies like Hezbollah, Houthis, Hamas, etc, far more than Tel Aviv.

New Delhi, therefore perhaps felt empowered to take an untraditional and overtly pro-Israel stance for the first time. In one dramatic stroke, Hamas laid to waste the high ground that the Palestinian cause always evoked, even as the world put it on the backburner, as practicality had necessitated thawing relations with Israel. While breaking ranks with the Hamas may not be publicly possible for the sheikhdoms (as yet), the widely believed intent of disrupting the Mideast peace plans at Iran's behest will afford a short rope to Hamas' belligerence. Such intolerance with Palestinian militias running amok had similarly backfired with Operation Black September, when the Jordanians had attacked the PLO in 1970-71 or when Lebanese forces carried out the Sabra-Shatila massacres against Palestinian militias in 1982. Now even pacifist nations like India are renegeing on "neutrality" over the Israeli-Palestinian issue, as Hamas has simultaneously discredited the Palestinian position. The Middle East will now increasingly look like the landscape of the past and New Delhi will have to recalibrate its own stand in line with its needs and, as always, there may be a slip between the cup and the lip. For now, it will be Advantage Israel.

Ultimate Guide to Concentrating Effectively During NEET 2024 Preparation



By: Vijay GarG

Preparing for NEET 2024 demands unwavering focus and dedicated effort. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore invaluable strategies to help you maintain concentration during your study sessions. Mastering focus is not just about locking yourself in a room for hours; it's a holistic approach that involves discipline, mental fortitude, and self-care.

Create and Stick to a Well-Structured Timetable

Creating a strategic timetable is the cornerstone of effective preparation. However, merely making a timetable isn't enough; adhering to it is crucial. Many students falter after the initial enthusiasm fades. Resist this temptation. Your timetable is your roadmap; follow it diligently to ensure you cover the entire syllabus within the allocated timeframe.

Embrace Minimal Breaks

While breaks are essential for rejuvenation, it's imperative to strike a balance. Allocate short breaks of 10-15 minutes strategically. Prolonged breaks can disrupt your momentum, making it challenging to regain focus. By managing your breaks efficiently, you can optimize your study time, enhancing productivity and retention.

Minimize Electronic Distractions

Electronic gadgets, though indispensable, can be major distractions. During your study hours, limit their use as much as possible. If you must use them, allocate specific time slots, such as social media breaks, within your timetable. By minimizing electronic distractions, you create a conducive environment for deep, uninterrupted learning.

Eliminate All Distractions

Distractions are everywhere, especially when you're preparing for a crucial exam. Identify these distractions and proactively distance yourself from them. Your unwavering commitment to your goal should drive you to create a distraction-free study space. Whether it's noisy surroundings or tempting leisure activities, staying focused means making conscious choices to prioritize your studies.

Cultivate Healthy Habits: Exercise and Meditation

Your physical and mental

well-being significantly impacts your ability to concentrate. Regular exercise oxygenates your brain, enhancing cognitive function and focus. Integrate simple workouts into your routine to keep your body energized. Additionally, meditation offers a myriad of benefits, including reduced stress and improved concentration. Dedicate a few minutes each day to meditation, calming your mind and enhancing your focus during study sessions.

Embrace the Power of Mindfulness

Mindfulness is a potent tool for concentration. It involves being fully present in the moment, focusing your attention on the task at hand. Practice mindfulness during your study sessions. Engage with your study material consciously, appreciating the nuances of each topic. By immersing yourself completely, you enhance your understanding and retention, making your study sessions more efficient.

Utilize Active Learning Techniques

Passive reading can lead to monotony and decreased focus. Engage with your study material actively. Use techniques like summarization, teaching concepts to imaginary students, and solving problems without referring to solutions. Active learning not only deepens your understanding but also keeps you

mentally stimulated, preventing boredom-induced distractions.

Seek Support and Stay Positive

Surround yourself with a supportive network of friends, family, or mentors who understand the challenges you face. Discussing your concerns and progress with others can provide valuable insights and encouragement. Additionally, maintain a positive mindset. Believe in your capabilities and stay optimistic about your preparation. Positive thinking not only boosts your confidence but also enhances your ability to concentrate by reducing anxiety and self-doubt.

Final Thoughts

Mastering the art of concentration is pivotal to your NEET 2024 preparation. By following these strategies and adopting a holistic approach, you can maximize your focus, enhance your understanding, and boost your confidence. Remember, your journey towards success is not just about the destination; it's about the transformative process that occurs along the way. Success will surely be yours if you remain determined and focused.

(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist malout)

Manjit Singh holds mining mafia in Samba responsible for depletion of ground water

Seeks action against mining mafia - authorities nexus

Top News Report

RAMGARH, Oct 24: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh has accused mining mafia of illegal extracting natural resources that has resulted in the depletion of ground water level and damage to the road infrastructure due to the constant movement of huge dumpers 24/7 on village roads. Manjit Singh was addressing a meeting in village Chak Salaria in Ramgarh. The meeting was organized by the District President Legal Cell, Samba, Adv Sahil Bharti.

During the meeting, the participants raised the issue of how the mining contractors with the alleged help of the officials in the administration facilitated the looting of the natural resources especially Basantar River and Devak River.

The loot of the natural resources continues under the nose of the administration yet no action



against the contractors is taken by the authorities because they are hand in glove with the contractors (mining). "It's because of unscientific and illegal mining continues on the Riverbeds of both Basantar and Devak Rivers, the ground water level has dropped and the hand pumps have dried in many villages alongside these Rivers," he said.

He said that the villages have raised these issues many times, yet the authorities are unable to

address their concern. "The administration should hand over the mining contracts to the panchayats in their respective villages so that natural resources can be extracted to a limited level without harming the ground water level and other resources," he said.

He said that the mining mafia has also inflated the rates of the material more than the defined rates approved by the authorities. "They float with defined rules,

and the authorities watch helplessly. We hardly see any action against them," he added, while demanding that the allotment of tenders for mining should be given to the Panchayats to ensure transparency and justice with the villagers.

He also alleged that the dumpers ply the entire night and the day have damaged road infrastructure in villages.

"The roads in villages are not capable of handling huge loads of these big dumpers fully loaded with material. Therefore, they get damaged, and it affects the normal life of the villagers in many areas of Samba district," he said, seeking attention of the administration.

He demanded that these damaged roads should be repaired, and action should be taken against the mining contractors operating illegally and extracting material beyond the defined limits and harassing the villagers.

SSP Doda Inaugurates Chenab Bigbash 2023 leather ball tournament at Sports Stadium Doda



Top News Report

DODA, Oct 24: Today Chenab Bigbash 2023 T20 leather tournament 2023 was inaugurated by Superintendent of Police (SSP) Doda Abdul Qayoom along with Chairman municipality Doda and Maj Sommesh 10 RR at the Sports Stadium Doda.

The tournament aims to promote sportsman-

ship and provide a platform for young talent to showcase their skills in the game of cricket. A pledge was taken by the participants and organizers of the event. The pledge also included a commitment to promoting a drug-free and healthy lifestyle among the youth of Doda as well as fostering a sense of unity and harmony

within the community. The tournament will feature teams from different regions of Doda and will provide a platform for young talent to showcase their skills in the game of cricket. Among other officer, EO MC Doda Yusuf ul umer, SHO Doda, Shri Tanveer wani, DIO Doda Media Persons besides other officers.

Nazakat urges students youth of India for active participation in phase 3rd 'Yuva Sangam' tour



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 24 : Nazakat Choudhary, the youngest recipient of the Prime Minister appreciation Award and a distinguished delegate of Phase 1 Yuva Sangam under the Ministry of Education, is extending a heartfelt invitation to the youth and students of India. Choudhary passionately urges young individuals from all corners of the country to seize the opportunity and register for the third phase of Yuva Sangam. Registration is open from October 18th to October 28th in accordance with the Ministry of Education's guidelines.

Yuva Sangam, a groundbreaking initiative, is designed to offer a wide-ranging exposure to Indian culture, traditions, tourism, technology, and facilitate people-to-people connections. The program's primary objective is to provide young people with the unique opportunity to experience the vast diversity of India firsthand.

Acknowledgment and Recognition: Nazakat Choudhary's exceptional contributions have earned him acknowledgment and recognition from distinguished figures, including Hon'ble Prime Min-

ister Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, the Ministry of Education, AICTE, and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

A Tireless Advocate for Youth Engagement: Choudhary's dedication to the cause doesn't stop at recognition; he has become a tireless advocate for promoting awareness of the Prime Minister's initiative. In particular, he is actively working to involve young people from remote areas in various government programs.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself has expressed confidence in Choudhary's abilities and encouraged him to share his experiences with friends and fellow young individuals.

Nazakat Choudhary's commitment exemplifies the leadership and inspiration that India's youth need to explore the country's rich cultural heritage, traditions, and more.

To all young individuals looking to embark on this transformative journey and gain a profound understanding of India's diverse cultural landscape, are encouraged to register for the upcoming third phase of Yuva Sangam.

Skuast K Division of Floriculture and Landscape Architecture organises Awareness Programme at zachaldara



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 24: With an objective of reach to unreached, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Kashmir (SKUAST-K)'s Division of Floriculture & Landscape Architecture Faculty of Horticulture, Saturday conducted a one-day entrepreneurship awareness programme on "Nursery Management of Ornamental Crops" Sponsored by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, at village Zachaldara district Kupwara Kashmir

Addressing the participants on the opening function, Dr Firdous Raina scientist KVK Kupwara and Dr Aqib Hassan Secretary core coordinator FPO congratulated the participants and course coordinator Dr Nasir Masoodi Division of Horticulture for successful Organising of the Awareness programme.

Participants on the occasion were stressed upon to adopt scientific practices in farming to enhance their farm income.

Professor Haroon R Naik PPMO SKUAST-K played a pivotal role in coordinating these initiatives of MSME. The

primary objective was to instil a sense of entrepreneurship among the participants, encouraging them to explore the myriad opportunities of floriculture nursery raising quoted by Professor Naik nodal officer of the MSME programme.

Dr. Nasir Hamid Masoodi gave an overview of the skill development awareness programme. He presented comprehensive details of the activities carried under the training programme.

On this occasion advocate Aamir Wani, Mrs Rubeena and Altaf Hussain core members appreciated the effort of conducting training programme.

Atharva College of Engineering gets NAAC A+ grade accreditation

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 24: Atharva College of Engineering (ACE) has got National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) prestigious A+ grade accreditation. Affiliated to the University of Mumbai and AICTE and DTE approved ISO Certified ACE is committed to impart quality education and foster a spirit of excellence in its students to develop their professional abilities and foster a strong sense of responsibility.

Sunil Rane, an Executive President of Atharva Group of Institutes said that this remarkable recognition is a testament to the institution's unwavering commitment to quality education.

He further said ACE has become the prospective destination



in offering world class academic excellence with state-of-the-art infrastructure with well-equipped laboratories, therefore attracting students across the country. ACE's KUKA Robotics Training Center, development in the field

of big data, IOT, AR/VR, iMac Lab and Innovation Lab have achieved the milestone in engineering education.

ACE is a hi-tech promising destination for young minds to be the best engineers of tomorrow to serve globally, Rane asserted.

Dr Darakhshan takes stock of Urs-e-Dastgir Sahib arrangements at Khanyar



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 24: Chairperson of Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board and Minister of State Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi today visited the shrine of Peer Dastgir Sahib (RA) at Khanyar to take stock of the arrangements in place for pilgrims. She spoke to the representatives of different departments and the people's delegations at the shrine. The Annual Urs celebra-

tions are on at the shrine and the Annual Urs will be celebrated on Friday. A large number of devotees visit the shrine for paying obeisance and offering prayers. Dr Andrabi said that during her recent meeting with the administration and many departmental representatives, a roadmap for proper arrangements was at the shrine was devised. "The meca-

demization of the road is happening as decided in the meeting and other facilities are satisfactorily in place. I have given instructions to the ground staff deputed at the shrine to ensure requisite facilities and services to all those visiting the shrine on the special days", said Dr Andrabi while speaking to media during her visit. The people at the shrine thanked Waqf Board Chairperson for the reformative initiatives of the Board during the past one and a half years.

Kavinder meets Dharendra Krishna Shastri, discusses enormity of Hindu traditions

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 24: Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former deputy chief minister, engaged in a profound meeting with Dharendra Krishna Shastri to delve into the profound depths of Hindu culture and its significance.

Kavinder Gupta emphasized

the remarkable antiquity of Hinduism, heralding it as the oldest of all religions, a testament to a meticulously crafted way of life rather than just a religious doctrine.

During their extensive discussion, Kavinder noted that Shastriji underscored the scientific and natural exclusivity

of Hinduism, where solutions to life's challenges are deeply embedded within its culture and traditions.

The BJP leader highlighted the unique aspect of Hinduism, stating that its daily practices are meticulously designed to lead individuals toward a higher quality of life. He expressed his

belief that Hinduism stands out not merely as a religion but as an immaculate way of living in harmony with nature.

Dharendra Shastri, in a message to the people of Jammu, shared his thoughts and wisdom on the significance of Hindu traditions, undoubtedly fostering a greater appreciation for this rich cultural heritage.

Police public meeting held at Resham Ghar Colony



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 24: On 22/10/2023 to strengthen the Police Public relations, to bring people nearer to the Police for better output in prevention, detection of Crime and to solve the problems of General Public, a Police Public meeting on the directions of SP City Jammu Sh. Kulbir Handa and SDPO Bakshi Nagar Jammu Sh. Vikram Singh Ji JKPS alongwith SHO Rakesh Sharma chaired the meeting, in which a number of respectable persons

Various public issues and problems raised by the participants were discussed in the meeting pertaining to different departments. The grievances of all the participants were heard patiently and they were assured that their genuine demands will be communicated to the

concerned

Speaking on the occasion, SP City Jammu Sh. Kulbir Handa expressed his gratitude to the participants for maintaining Law and Order in the area and made an appeal to keep it up in future also. He also exhorted them to keep a strict vigil on the activities of undesirable elements in the area. He said that such meetings serve to enhance the mutual trust between Police and Public and assured to continue holding such meetings in the future too.

On the Occasion Chairman Jai Shiromani Baba Kaliveer Ji Trust Shakti Uppal, President Shiv Uppal, General Secretary Rohit Kumar, Vijay uppal, Om parkash malhotra, papinder singh, pawan rajput, Aakash, Ravi kumar, Arun kumar, Lakhan, Amit Dhar Anil gupta, Sahil trehan, Rajat kumar and others were also present.

The Ramayana has inspired many a movie, where characters, plots and themes have been adapted and adopted. Here's a look at how the villain, Ravan, has galvanised filmmakers

Vijaydashami, Dasehra, Dasara or Dashain... based on the epic Ramayana, this is a day that reaffirms our belief in the victory of 'good over evil'. Many Bollywood movies have been based on the concept, but this Dasehra here is a look at various avatars of the eponymous villain, Ravan, adapted by filmmakers on to the screen.

Modern twist

Adipurush was one of the most-anticipated films of 2023, which the director claimed was inspired by the Ramayana. However, National Award-winning director Om Raut wasn't able to do justice to the topic and fans were left a disappointed lot. All it did was provide enough fodder for meme-makers on social media! Even during the trailer launch, many reacted to Saif Ali Khan's look as Ravan and the poor VFX of the film, which is available on Netflix, was taken to task.

Other films that have borrowed themes from the Ramayana and given them a modern twist include recent Telugu releases, Ravanaasura and Dasara. Though Dasara's director Srikanth Odela named the main characters as Dharani (played by Nani), Vennela (Keerthy Suresh) and Chinna Nambi (Shine Tom Chacko), there is no denying that these are based on Ram, Sita and Ravan, respec-



tively. Available on Netflix, the dubbed Hindi version of the film was also well-received by the audiences.

On the other hand, 2023 release Ravanaasura is a psychological action thriller by Sudheer Varma, adapted from Bengali film Vinci Da (2019). It

stars Ravi Teja in the lead role and only the title, Ravanaasura, has been stolen from the Ramayana. Ravi commits crime under 10 different guises just like Ravan had 10 faces!

Old is gold

The first film on Ravan was titled Raavan (1984). Directed

by Johnny Bakshi, it starred Smita Patil, Om Puri and Gulshan Arora. SRK-starrer sci-fi movie Ra.One's main antagonist, Arjun Rampal, was modelled after Ravan.

In 2010, director Mani Ratnam simultaneously released Raavan (Hindi) and Raavanan (Tamil). The Hindi film starred Aishwarya Rai and Abhishek Bachchan. Actor Vikram played a cop, Dev Pratap, deployed in a Naxalite area whereas Bachchan played Beera, nicknamed as Ravan. As the film progresses, it actually questions whether the true demon lies in Beera or Dev. Also, Beera kidnaps Ragini (Aishwarya), who is Dev's wife, which is again inspired from the Ramayana. In the Tamil film, Raavanan, Vikram played the character of Veera (Ravan-inspired) whereas actor Prithviraj essayed Dev. In both the films, Aishwarya played the role of Ragini.

In the making

There has been quite a buzz about upcoming film Sita: The Incarnation. Directed by Alaukik Desai, the screenplay is by Baahubali creator, KV Vijayendra Prasad, father of SS Rajamouli. Kangana Ranaut will play the lead role. The movie is based on the life of Sita before her marriage to Lord Ram. Waiting to see who would play Ravan in this one!

'Food, yoga & seaplane': Kubbra Sait's Maldives vacation in a nutshell



she poses against the picturesque backdrop of the sea.

Kubbra captioned the post as, "Last week #Maldives in photos and videos...why? Because I never intended to make a #Reel out of it. Yup... too bored but what a trip!"

"Ate decent food. Jumped into the ocean and swam with a whale shark. It's different that the scene captured by the drone makes it look like we were in Shambu Water Park. Swam in sea, pool, sea, pool, sea - indoor pool, outdoor sea... Meditated... Watched Manta Rays dance... Had a fun getaway," she said.

The post further read, "Flew in a seaplane # (yeh sab kuch zyaada ho raha hai aaj kal... I am not complaining). Did sexy bikini bod mein yoga... Carried back home the sexiest tan." Kubbra concluded by saying, "Basically now I'm back home... I did yoga this morning... life is good... we are on track... how is your this week lookers?"

On the work front, she was recently seen in the series The Trial: Pyaar Kaanoon Dhokha.

Best known for her performance as Kukoo in the series Sacred Games, Kubbra Sait has shared a sneak peek into her Maldives vacation, and revealed what all she did during her serene getaway.

The actress shared a string of photos and videos from her Maldives holidays. There are videos of whales, food, and sunsets. The last picture shows the actress in a tie-up multi-coloured dress, while

Celebrities get nostalgic as they recall watching Ramleela and Ravan dahan in their home towns

From watching Ramleela and Ravan dahan, to buying new clothes and toys, Dasehra has a special place in our childhood. Celebrities share what the festival meant to them then and how things have changed now.

Missing spirit

Charrul Malik

It seems like the excitement of Dasehra from our childhood has faded away. Dasehra has turned into just another holiday. The memories are so vivid, like the burning effigy of Ravan, and we wouldn't return home until the final firework burst from Ravan. We now focus more on celebrating Diwali with new clothes and cleaning the house. It's sad that in Mumbai, there

are very few places where you can witness the burning of Ravan.

Bring it on

Aadesh Chaudhary

Indeed, the times have changed, and now people prefer to watch Ramleela on TV or the internet. When there was no TV or mobile phones, there was ample time, and I, too, participated in Ramleela during my childhood. In our region, the festival season begins with Navratri. I enjoy every festival, from playing Garba during Navratri to lighting fireworks on Dasehra and getting ready for Diwali. It brings a unique joy and excitement.

Family time

Sheeba Akashdeep

Since I was not born

and brought up in India, I did not get to act in Ramleela and watch Ravan dahan. But now I have been taking part in Ramleela every year. Dasehra is an important family occasion.

Getting nostalgic

Anupama Solanki

As a child, I used to watch Ramleela with my parents. Those were the golden days. Unfortunately, we have changed but Ramleela pattern hasn't changed yet. The good thing is that still thousands of people watch Ramleelas. People enjoy the mela and eat chaat pakodas and other yummy food there.

Food & fun

Shivangi Verma

Gone are the days when people used to watch Ramleela and



Ravan dahan. It is a childhood thing. Delhites enjoy all the festivals wholeheartedly. Had I been in Delhi, even today I would have continued with my Dasehra rituals. I think people who are working consider Dasehra as another holiday. But, for me, it's always going to be a festival when we used to get up in the morning and have yummy food. We used to watch Ravan dahan at not just one place but multiple places in that area!

Not just another day

Bhuvnesh Mam

Dasehra has always been special to me. I have never considered it as just another holiday. Being born and brought up in Delhi, going to Ramleela Maidan to watch

Ramayana and the mela following it has been close to my heart.

I remember watching the burning of effigies every single year with my cousins and buying the bow and arrow. I still look forward to it.

The magic is gone

Megha Sharma

In the past, Indian festivals were celebrated grandly, with families and friends coming together. I believe that preserving the authenticity of these celebrations is important. I have fond memories of celebrating Dasehra. I remember my mom taking me to watch Ramleela performances as a child. Her narrations of the Ramayana made the visuals even more captivating. That con-

nection to our cultural stories was enchanting, and it made a significant impact. Nowadays, that magic is missing, and the excitement is diminished.

Connecting to roots

Simple Kaul

We used to watch Ramleela during Dasehra. I remember as a child, we would visit Ramleela fairs, and there used to be a huge crowd there. We travelled from far to watch the effigy of Ravan being burnt and then listen to the story. It's a great way to connect with our roots and understand where we come from. Dasehra teaches us that good will always triumph over evil, and evil will eventually be defeated.

Drashti Dhami says keeps herself in sync with director's vision



Drashti Dhami, who will be seen reprising her role in the Season 2 of the crime thriller series Duranga, opens up on the emotional journey of her character, and shares how she gets into the zone, and

listens to her director while doing any scene.

Duranga is an official adaptation of the Korean show, Flower of Evil. New mysteries brew and come to light as the characters of Gulshan Devaiah and

Amit Sadh are engaged in an epic showdown to reclaim their identities in the new season.

Talking about Season 2, Drashti says, "Season 2 has a lot of twists and turns, complex emotions; it's darker and scarier. The series is shot well and there is a lot of fun coming up in Season 2."

On her character's graph, the Dill Mill Gayye fame actress said, "I don't really think much while doing any scene, I just get into the zone, and just listen to the director."

"Also, what happens is when you do Season 1 and Season 2, you are invested in the character emotionally. It's just like you keep reading and keep going with the flow and that's how the journey goes," she shared.

If there was an added pressure to do well in season two, Drashti says, "Not really, I didn't take any pressure for Season 2, but yes, it was just more fun and easier to shoot because we just knew everyone."

Shahid Kapoor's next film titled 'Deva', movie to release in October 2024

Actor Shahid Kapoor on Tuesday said the title of his upcoming action thriller film is 'Deva', which will hit the screens on October 11, 2024.

Rosshan Andrews, known for Malayalam blockbusters such as 'Salute' and 'Kayamkulam Kochunnii', will direct the movie. It also stars Pooja Hegde.

Shahid shared the update about the new project, backed by Zee Studios and Roy Kapur Films, on his official Instagram page.

"DEVA in theatres on Dussehra 11th October 2024. @hegdepooja @rosshanandrews @shariq_patel #SiddharthRoyKapoor @zeestudiosofficial @RoyKapurFilms @zeemusiccompany @Zeecinema," the actor wrote on the occasion of Dussehra.

According to the makers, 'Deva' follows a brilliant yet rebellious police officer investigating a high-profile case. As he delves deeper into the case, he uncovers a web of deceit and betrayal, leading him down a thrilling and dangerous path.

Shahid was last seen in 'Bloody Daddy', an action thriller movie. Pooja's most recent cinematic appearance was the family entertainer 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan'.



Sushmita Sen opens up on her takeaway from her role in Aarya 3

After winning the hearts of the audiences in the previous seasons of the crime thriller Aarya, versatile Bollywood actress Sushmita Sen is set to reprise her titular role in the season three of the series, and shared how her own truth blends with the character's, creating a captivating fusion.

Sushmita plays the character Aarya Sareen in the series. She has revealed how Aarya's strength, imprinted from the script's inception, continues to fortify her presence in season three.

She says, "I've always been inspired by Aarya because of the system the 360 — the way we shoot, the truth of both of them get mixed, there has to be the truth of Sushmita being present and Aarya influenced by Sushmita also."

"The takeaway of Aarya's strength is something from the moment I read this script, I took it with me, and I think in season three it's only gotten stronger," she added.



Created and co-directed by the visionary Ram Madhvani and co-produced by Amita Madhvani, Ram Mad-

hvani, Ram Madhvani Films and Endemol Shine India, Aarya 3 will air on Disney+ Hotstar from November 3.

Rajnath performs 'Shastra Puja' in Tawang; lauds troops for guarding border with commitment

Singh has been performing "Shastra Puja" during Dussehra for the last several years, including during his tenure as the Union Home Minister in the previous NDA government.

NEW DELHI, Oct 24 (Agencies): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday performed "Shastra Puja" in Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang and celebrated Dussehra with Army soldiers at the strategically key region near the frontier with China.

Singh, accompanied by Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande, also carried out a comprehensive review of India's military preparedness along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Arunachal Pradesh and lauded the troops for guarding the border with "unwavering commitment and unparalleled courage."

In an interaction with the soldiers after visiting Bum-La and a number of other forward posts, Singh asserted that there is no option but to bolster the country's security apparatus in view of the current global scenario.

The defence minister said all efforts are being made to strengthen the nation's military prowess through indigenous production of defence equipment.

"No amount of appreciation



is enough for the way you are guarding the border in difficult circumstances. I want to tell you that people of the country are proud of you," he told the troops.

The defence minister expressed gratitude to the soldiers for their "unyielding spirit, unwavering commitment and unparalleled courage" while guarding the borders in tough conditions, and ensuring that the nation and its people are safe.

After performing Shastra Puja (worship of weapons) with the troops at Tawang, he noted that Dussehra signifies the victory of good over evil.

In his address, he described the "righteousness and dharma"

of the brave armed forces personnel as the living testament to the ethos of the festival of Vijaydashmi.

The defence minister said the valour and commitment of the armed forces is one of the main reasons behind India's rising stature globally and that it is now among the most powerful nations.

Singh cited India's success in the economic sphere as one of the reasons for the country's growing global profile.

But at the same time noted that if the armed forces hadn't guarded the country's border effectively, then its stature would not have risen.

The defence minister's cel-

ebration of Dussehra with the soldiers at the strategically important location close to the LAC comes at a time when India and China have been engaged in a bitter standoff in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh for over three years.

Singh has been performing "Shastra Puja" during Dussehra for the last several years, including during his tenure as the Union Home Minister in the previous NDA government.

Indian and Chinese troops are locked in an over three-year confrontation in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh even as the two sides completed disengagement from several areas following extensive diplomatic and military talks.

India has been maintaining that its ties with China cannot be normal unless there is peace in the border areas.

The Army has significantly bolstered deployment of troops and weaponry along the nearly 3,500 km-long LAC, including in the Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh sectors following the eastern Ladakh standoff.

Restrain tongues, build bonds: Mohan Bhagwat's message of amity on Dussehra



NEW DELHI, Oct 24 (Agencies): RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Tuesday gave a clarion call for harmony, saying a call for friendship does not amount to cowardice or surrender.

In a strong message to the majority community, Bhagwat urged "restraint of speech and a conscious effort to refrain from politically crafted provocations."

"We must restrain our tongues...make friends. Powerful people protect the weak. They do not indulge in hooliganism. We have to avoid provocations which are going to increase in the upcoming elections," said Bhagwat in his Vijaydashmi address from Nagpur.

Singer Shankar Mahadevan was chief guest on the occasion. He sought an end to radicalism saying it promotes enmity.

The RSS chief also warned against "cultural Marxists and wokes", who, he said, "were working against national unity".

"We have to stay cautious of these devilish forces," he said, attributing the Manipur violence to "external forces" and asking, "Who stood to gain from violence? Why did the violence erupt now?"

Calling for peace, unity and harmony, Bhagwat said, "A call for friendship is not surrender or cowardice. Character is a form of strength. Be strong and work for amity. This is an exhortation to all to recognise

the thread of cultural continuity and unity that runs through our country's vast diversity."

He said his message was not directed at a particular community but was meant for all.

To the minorities, Bhagwat had a singular message -- "Overcome the mentality of victimhood. There is no victim here."

Advocating unity as the sine qua non for India's global rise, Bhagwat said those who wish for unity cannot insist that all problems should first end before we think about unity. "We will have to work peacefully and with restraint, without getting distracted by the sporadic events happening here and there," he said.

The RSS chief added that sections of society will have to shed their sense of victimhood, stop looking at each other with suspicion and avoid manoeuvres for political dominance.

"Sadly, politics only becomes a hindrance in such noble initiatives. But when we call upon the people to shed their sense of victimhood, or ask them to shun mutual distrust, this is not a form of surrender or compulsion," he said, launching a scathing attack on what he described as negative forces.

"Some anti-social people call themselves cultural Marxists or wokes. But they have also forgotten Marx since the 1920s. They are opposed to all the orderliness, prosper-

ity, rituals and restraint in the world. A handful of people, to exercise control over the entire human race, reward, promote and propagate anarchy and self-indulgence. By taking the mediums and academics in their hands, their working style is to make the education, culture, politics and social environment of the countries victims of confusion and corruption. In such an environment, fear, confusion and hatred are created through false, contradictory and exaggerated circles. The society, entangled in mutual conflicts, trapped in confusion and weakness, and broken, unknowingly becomes prey to these destructive forces seeking their own dominance everywhere. In our tradition, this method of creating disbelief, confusion and mutual hatred among the people of a nation is called Mantra Viplav," the RSS chief said.

He said Mantra Viplav could be countered with unity and noted that the purpose of India's rise has always been the welfare of the world.

He said selfish, discriminatory and deceitful forces seeking their sectarian interests are making constant efforts to disrupt social cohesion and promote conflict. "They wear various cloaks. Some of these destructive forces call themselves cultural Marxists or 'wokes'. They claim to be working for some lofty goals. Cultural Marxists reward, promote, spread anarchy and indiscretion. Their modus-operandi involves taking control of the media and academia, and plunging education, culture, politics and social environment into confusion, chaos, and corruption. We have to stay cautious about these destructive forces."

Three empty coaches of EMU derail near Chennai, traffic affected

CHENNAI, Oct 24 (Agencies): Three empty coaches of an Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) derailed at suburban Avadi here early on Tuesday, resulting in delayed running of a number of passenger services on the busy route.

No passengers were involved in the incident, which happened around 5.40 am on Tuesday, the Southern Railway said.

While four coaches were initially said to have derailed, Southern Railway later clarified it was three.

The last three coaches of the "empty rake of

the suburban EMU train derailed at Avadi railway station while shunting from Avadi EMU Car shed to the main line at 05:40 hrs," an official statement said.

The suburban line towards Chennai Central was affected while there was minor disruption on the express main line owing to overhead equipment (OHE) cable glitch, it added.

Consequently, five EMU trains towards Chennai Central were delayed and three express trains from here--Vande Bharat and Shatabdi services

to Mysuru and Chennai-Coimbatore Kovai Express were regulated near Ambattur railway station, it said.

Saptagiri Express (Chennai-Tirupati) and Bengaluru-bound Brindavan Express and Double Decker Express, all originating from Chennai Central, were rescheduled.

"The Divisional Railway Manager and his team of senior officials are on the spot. Restoration work is in full swing and now, the main line has been restored to traffic and Express trains...trains delayed/



regulated enroute have commenced journeys. EMU services are also diverted to run on the fast line."

"The suburban line restoration works are

in progress and traffic will be restored in a few hours," the statement added.

EMUs are used as local passenger services.

Retired assistant commissioner of police jumps from multi-storey building in Mumbai

MUMBAI, Oct 24 (Agencies): A 70-year-old retired Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) allegedly died by suicide by jumping from a multi-storey building in Matunga area of central Mumbai, police said on Tuesday.

The exact reason behind the incident, which took place on Monday evening at Ganga Heritage building on Deodhar Road, is not yet known, an official said.



Pradeep Prabhakar Temkar retired from the Mumbai police in 2014, the official said, adding that he was suffering from depression for the past few years and was undergoing treatment. Temkar ended his life

by allegedly jumping from the seventh floor of the building, he said.

A case of accidental death has been registered at Matunga police station and a probe is under way, the official said.

3 Junior Doctors Suspended For Thrashing Patient's Relatives In UP's Meerut

MEERUT, Oct 24 (Agencies): Three junior doctors of Lala Lajpat Rai Memorial Medical College here were suspended after being booked by police for allegedly assaulting the relatives of a boy who was brought to the hospital for treatment, officials said on Tuesday.

The principal of the college has also constituted an inquiry committee to probe the matter.

The incident took place on Monday night when the five-year-old child, Kunal, was brought to the hospital after he injured one of his hands. It was alleged that four to five junior doctors thrashed the family



members of the boy, Circle Officer Arvind Kumar told agency, quoting the police complaint.

According to the complaint, the child was crying as he was in pain so the relatives asked the doctors to give him "proper treatment". This enraged the doctors and an argument ensued between the two sides follow-

ing which, the family members, including women, were allegedly thrashed, police said.

When police reached the spot, the accused doctors fled, they said.

Kumar said the incident is being investigated and a case under sections 147 (rioting), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 504 (intentional insult) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered against the unidentified doctors based on the complaint filed by the family members.

Giving details about the incident, LLRM College Principal

Dr R C Gupta said the child had injured his thumb and the doctors were taking photographs to check the depth of the wound.

However, the family members snatched the mobile phone with which the photographs were being taken and asked the doctors to treat the child. An argument ensued and soon a fight broke out between the two sides, he said.

Taking cognizance of a video of the incident that is circulating on social media, three junior doctors have been suspended and an inquiry committee has been formed to probe the incident, Gupta said.

Unregistered madrasas in Muzaffarnagar to be penalised Rs 10,000 per day: UP education department

MUZAFFARNAGAR (UP), Oct 24 (Agencies): Uttar Pradesh's basic education department has issued a notice stating that madrasas found operating in this district without registration will have to pay a penalty of Rs 10,000 per day.

The notice was issued by an officer of the basic education department to over a dozen madrasas operating without proper registration and they were asked to produce relevant documents.

According to officials, there are about

24,000 madrasas in Uttar Pradesh, of which 16,000 are recognised and 8,000 unrecognised.

The madrasas which have been issued notices have been asked to produce their relevant documents within three days of receiving the order or face action according to the rules.

"If the madrasas are found operating without recognition, they will be fined Rs 10,000 per day," the notice read.

Muzaffarnagar Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA)

Shubham Shukla said the district minority department has informed his office that more than a hundred madrasas being run here do not have registration or recognition in the district and are functioning against the norms.

Taking strong exception to the notice served to madrasas, the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, an organisation of Indian Muslims, called the education department's order "unlawful".

Maulana Zakir Husain,

secretary of the Uttar Pradesh unit of Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind, said the madrasas in the state are "being harassed by serving them illegal notices only to target a particular community".

"The madrasas are providing free of cost education to the students, they will not be able to pay the fine of Rs 10,000 per day," Husain said.

Meanwhile, according to a senior official in Lucknow, about 4,000 madrasas in the state are under the scanner

for receiving foreign funds.

The state government has set up a three-member special investigation team (SIT) to investigate 4,000 madrasas, most of them run along the Indo-Nepal border, which are allegedly receiving funds from abroad, the official said.

The SIT will examine if the money received by them was used in any illegal activities, such as terrorism or forcible religious conversion, the official added.

7 killed as SUV rams into bus in Tamil Nadu



TIRUVANNAMALAI, Oct 24 (Agencies): Seven men, including five workers belonging to Assam, were killed when the SUV in which they were travelling collided head on with a state government bus near Chengam in the district, police said on Tuesday.

The accident occurred when the SUV carrying 11 people, mostly workers, was proceeding to Krishnagiri. It rammed into the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation bus coming

here from Bengaluru on the Tindivanam-Krishnagiri national highway on Monday night, police said.

Seven workers, among the 11 travelling in the SUV, were killed on the spot, while the injured have been admitted to the Government Hospital, Tiruvannamalai.

The deceased have been identified as Bhinmal Tirth, Kuncha Rai, Dallu, Nicholas and Narayan Sethi, from Assam, and Punith Kumar, the driver, and Kamaraj, from Krishnagiri district. They were all workers at a factory near Hosur and were returning after a visit to Puducherry on Ayudha puja day.

The passengers of the TNSTC bus and the crew, as well, however, were not injured, police said.

A case has been registered.

Hamas releases 2 more hostages from captivity in Gaza

The 2 elderly hostages have an emotional reunion with their families

TEL AVIV, Oct 24 (Agencies): Amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas war, the terrorist group on Tuesday released two more hostages, The Times of Israel reported, adding that they were identified as Nurit Cooper and Yocheved Lifshitz.

According to the report, a military helicopter ferrying the two freed hostages landed on the roof of Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv.

Citing a nurse at the Ichilov Hospital, The Times of Israel reported that Cooper and Lifshitz appeared to be in good health after arriving at the Israeli Medical Centre, directly upon their release from Hamas captivity in Gaza.

The two elderly hostages had an emotional reunion with their families, the nurse told The Times of Israel.

Both the freed hostages were



on medication that they may not have received during their two weeks of captivity.

The nurse said the hospital authorities would come to a better understanding of their condition in the morning, The Times of Israel reported.

Earlier, Hamas's Qassam Brigades published a video showing the two hostages being

handed over to members of the International Red Cross.

In the video, the two women, wearing identical purple robes, walk unsteadily holding the hands of masked gunmen, who also offer them snacks and drinks. Both appear terrified through much of the footage, according to The Times of Israel.

US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan posted on X that Washington welcomes the release of these hostages and is continuing to work for the release of the remaining hostages, believed to be numbering over 200.

Earlier, two American hostages, identified as Judith Tai Raanan and her 17-year-old daughter Natali Raanan, were released by Hamas, CNN reported, adding that both were from Chicago.

According to their family members, they had been visiting some relatives in Nahal Oz, a farming community in southern Israel, and were released on "humanitarian grounds" due to the mother's poor health.

They were released following negotiations involving Qatar and Hamas, according to CNN.

'Enough. Israel shouldn't get unrestricted authorisation to kill': Qatar's emir



DOHA, Oct 24 (Agencies): Qatar's ruling emir has said that Israel should not be given "a green light for unconditional killing". This was Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani's first public statement since Qatar started making efforts to bring about a ceasefire and mediate between Israel and Hamas.

"We say enough..." the emir said during his annual speech to open the Gulf Arab state's advisory Shura council, Reuters reported.

He further said that Qatar calls for a "serious regional and international stance" against the dangerous escalation of the war, which "threatens the security of the region and the world".

"We do not accept double standards and acting like the lives of Palestinian children

aren't accounted for, as if they don't have faces or names," Reuters quoted him as saying.

This comes close on the heels of Israel's fresh warning to Hamas about "unrelenting attacks". The Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) said that it will bring the Hamas terrorist group to a "state of full dismantling - its leaders, its military branch, and its working mechanisms".

"That is why we are striking, and eliminating high ranking commanders and members, destroying infrastructure, and acting with great determination," IDF Chief of the General Staff said in a new video posted on X (formerly Twitter).

While world leaders have come out in support of Israel since the country came under Hamas attack on October 7, they have now

asked Israeli forces to delay their ground offensive lest civilian casualties keep mounting. The leaders of the US, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom on Sunday reiterated their support for Israel, but urged the country to adhere to international humanitarian law and protect civilians. US President Joe Biden also told Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that henceforth, there will be a "continued flow" of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip.

Israel has been striking Gaza with relentless rocket strikes in retaliation for Hamas's October 7 attack, in which the terrorist group killed 1,400 Israelis and took more than 200 hostages. More than 6,000 people, with over 4,500 in Palestine alone, have been killed in the war so far.

Hamas, meanwhile, has released four hostages - two Americans were the first to be released, and on Monday, the terrorist group released two Israeli hostages. They have cited 'humanitarian grounds' to be the reason behind the release.

Moscow destroys 3 Ukrainian unmanned boats off Crimea: Russia's defence ministry

MOSCOW, Oct 24 (Agencies): Russian naval forces destroyed three uncrewed Ukraine-launched boats in the northern part of the Black Sea off the Crimean Peninsula, Russia's defence ministry said on Tuesday.

"Anti-sabotage missiles and bombs hit the area where the unmanned boats were detected," the ministry said on the Telegram messaging app.

It added that an anti-mining

and an "anti-sabotage" operation was being carried out off Sevastopol port, which is home to Russia's Black Sea Fleet.

It was not immediately clear whether the incident caused any casualties or damage.

Ukraine has intensified its attacks on Crimea since mid-summer, trying to undermine Russia's efforts in the 20-month-long war. Russia seized and annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014.

In September, Kyiv said it damaged two naval vessels and struck Sevastopol's port infrastructure in what appeared to be the biggest attack of the war there.

The Kremlin uses Sevastopol and the Black Sea Fleet to project power into the Middle East and Mediterranean and - during the war in Ukraine - to impose a de facto blockade on Ukraine's seaborne food exports via the Turkish straits.



Need to eliminate Hamas once and for all, says Indian American Congressman Thanedar

WASHINGTON, Oct 24 (Agencies): Describing Hamas as a barbaric terrorist organisation, an Indian American Congressman has said there is a need to eliminate the terror outfit.

The Palestinian militant group Hamas, launched a barrage of rocket attacks in Southern Israel on October 7. The unprecedented assault triggered retaliatory strikes from the Israel Defence Forces.

"Hamas is not a militant organisation. Hamas is not a resistance movement. They are just barbaric terrorists. There's no other way to describe it," Shri Thanedar told a group of eminent Indian-Americans at the US Capitol Hill.

"This is a time where we just can't just push them. Because they will regroup and come back and do these atrocities once again. That's what they will do. So, we need at this stage to eliminate them; eliminate them from the face of this earth," he said at an event organised by HinduACTion here in support of Israel.

"We need to dismantle their military operations. We need to free the Palestinian people, the two million Palestinian people who live in Gaza. They need to be freed from these terrorist control of Gaza," he said.

In a joint declaration, members of various faiths who attended the event urged the US Congress to develop comprehensive policies to enhance and guar-



antee the safety and security of Hindus, Sikhs, Jews, Hazara and Yezidi communities on college campuses.

The declaration urged the US Congress to strengthen laws to protect Jewish staff and students against rising anti-Semitism on American campuses. It also appealed to the Congress to recognise Hinduophobia, formulate laws to counter growing anti-Hindu bigotry and targeted Hinduophobia.

Thanedar, who recently formed the Congressional Caucus for Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains, said that there are increasing instances of Hinduophobia in the country.

China's foreign minister tells Israel civilians must be protected

BEIJING, Oct 24 (Agencies): China's foreign minister has told his Israeli counterpart that all countries have a right to self-defence, but they must protect civilians and abide by international law, Beijing said Tuesday.

Wang Yi made the comments in a call on Monday with Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen, the first between them since the start of the Israel-Hamas war. Hamas militants stormed into Israel from the Gaza Strip on October 7, and killed at least 1,400 people, mostly who were shot or burnt to death on the first day of the raid, according to Israeli officials.

Israel says around 1,500 Hamas fighters were killed in clashes before its army regained control of the area under attack.

More than 5,000 Palestinians, mainly civilians, have been killed across the Gaza Strip in relentless Israeli bombardments in retaliation for the attacks, accord-



ing to the latest toll from Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry.

In his talks with Cohen, Wang said China was deeply concerned about the "ongoing escalation of the conflict".

"All countries have the right to self-defence, but they should abide by international humanitarian law and protect the safety of civilians," Wang said.

"The most pressing task now is to prevent the situation from escalating further and from leading to a more serious humanitarian disaster."

Wang had already said on October 14 that Israel's actions had gone

"beyond the scope of self-defence" and called then for Israel to stop its "collective punishment" of people in Gaza.

Washington has said it hopes China's relationship with Hamas backer Iran could help calm the conflict, particularly after Beijing brokered a detente between Tehran and its long-time foe Saudi Arabia this year.

On the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, China has historically been sympathetic to the Palestinians and backed a two-state solution.

In his talks with Cohen, Wang reiterated Beijing's longstanding position, saying that China "sincerely hopes that

the Palestine issue will be resolved in a comprehensive and just manner... and that the legitimate security concerns of all parties will be resolved in a genuine and thorough manner".

Also on Monday, Wang spoke with his Palestinian Authority (PA) counterpart, Riyad al-Maliki, telling him Beijing "deeply expresses its sympathy with the Palestinian side".

The PA, which Maliki represents, was meant to be a first step towards an independent Palestinian state.

But it has little authority over the West Bank and none over Gaza, where it was violently ousted

by Hamas in 2007.

"What the people of Gaza need most at present is security and food and medicine, not war and weapons and ammunition," Wang told Maliki.

"What the Gaza Strip needs most is efforts to stop the war and promote peace, not geopolitical calculations," he said.

"The Chinese side has always campaigned for a ceasefire and an end to violence, and has called for a return to peace."

China's Middle East envoy Zhai Jun is in the region this week, a visit that Beijing has said is aimed at "cooling down" the war.

Speaking at an Egypt-hosted "summit for peace" on Saturday, Zhai called for an "immediate ceasefire and an end to the fighting as quickly as possible".

So far, he has also visited Qatar -- which hosts a Hamas political office -- and the United Arab Emirates.

Pakistan successfully conducts training launch of Ghauri Weapon System

ISLAMABAD, Oct 24 (Agencies): Pakistan on Tuesday successfully conducted a training launch of the Ghauri Weapon System, according to a statement by the army, a week after holding the flight test of the ballistic missile Ababeel Weapon System.

The purpose of the launch is "aimed at testing the operational and technical readiness of Army Strategic Forces Command (ASFC)," the statement said.

The launch was witnessed by Commander ASFC, senior officers from the strategic forces, scientists, and engineers of the strategic organisation.

The Commander of the ASFC also appreciated the scientists and engineers for their contributions towards the enhancement of Pakistan's strategic capability, the statement said.



Tuesday's training launch of the Ghauri Weapon System took place days after the US imposed sanctions on three Chinese companies for supplying missile-applicable items for Pakistan's ballistic missile programme.

China, an all-weather ally of Pakistan, has been the main supplier of arms and defence equipment to Islamabad's military modernisation programme.

President Arif Alvi, Interim Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar and Services Chiefs congratulated the participating troops, scientists, and engineers on the successful conduct of the training launch.

Earlier on October 18, Pakistan had successfully conducted the flight test of the Ababeel Weapon System to further strengthen its deterrence. That test of the ballistic missile system, a statement by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) - the media wing of the army had said, was aimed at "re-validating various design, technical parameters, and performance evaluation of different sub-systems."

Russian President Vladimir Putin suffers heart attack, found lying on floor: Reports

MOSCOW, Oct 24 (Agencies): Russian President Vladimir Putin reportedly suffered a heart attack and was "resuscitated" after collapsing in his bedroom in Moscow, reports the mirror.co.uk.

As per the website, Putin, as per a statement posted on a Telegram channel, is "terminally ill".

The channel - General SVR - suggested all recent appearances by the Russian dictator, including foreign visits, have been carried out by a body double or doubles.

It claimed that doctors had to resuscitate Putin before taking him to a special intensive care facility located within his official residence.

"Doctors performed resuscitation, having previously determined that the president was in cardiac arrest," reported the channel. "Help was provided on time,



the heart was started and Putin regained consciousness."

There was no immediate response from the Kremlin to the claim but officials have previously strongly denied Putin, 71, suffers from health problems.

The post on General SVR - which

claimed, without having ever provided any proof, to have an inside source on his entourage - continued: "At about 21.05 Moscow time, security officers of Russian President Vladimir Putin, who were on duty at the residence, heard noise and sounds of falling coming from the president's bedroom.

Two security officers immediately followed into the president's bedroom and saw Putin lying on the floor next to the bed and an overturned table with food and drinks.

The channel alleged that "the president was moved to a specially equipped room in his residence, where the necessary medical equipment for resuscitation had already been installed", adding that the president's condition was "stabilised" and he is "under constant medical supervision".

Fashioning new legislative regime for allowing same-sex marriages falls under Parliament's domain: CJI Chandrachud

NEW DELHI, Oct 24 (Agencies): Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud has said that fashioning entirely a "new legislative regime" to allow same-sex marriages falls under the domain of Parliament and striking down provisions of the Special Marriage Act for it would have amounted to coming out with a prescription "worse than the disease itself".

The observations on recent same-sex marriages verdict and other key aspects of Indian judiciary were made by the CJI in the 3rd Comparative Constitutional Law discussion co-hosted by the Georgetown University Law Center, Washington and the Society for Democratic Rights (SDR), New Delhi, on the topic - 'Perspectives from the Supreme Courts of India and the United States'. Justice Chandrachud, who is in the US, referred to the Special Marriage Act and said it was a secular law to

deal with the marriage of heterosexuals belonging from different religions and holding some of its provisions for not allowing same-sex marriages would not have been the perfect thing.

"It was argued that the Special Marriage Act is discriminatory because it applies only to heterosexual couples. Now, if the Court were to strike down that legislation, the consequence would be as I said, in my judgement, it would amount to going back to the position as it obtained even before independence, which was that there was no legislation at all for people belonging to different faiths to get married.

"So striking down the legislation... would not be adequate and would have been like coming out with a prescription which is worse than the disease itself," the CJI said on Monday.

So one of the key questions was, does the court have the jurisdiction to essentially get

into this domain and to mandate that there is a right to marry under the Indian Constitution, the CJI said.

"By a unanimous verdict of all the five judges on the bench, we came to the conclusion that while we have progressed a great deal in terms of decriminalising homosexuality, and recognising people belonging to the queer community, as equal participants in our society. But legislating on the right to marry is something which falls within the domain of Parliament, and we couldn't by judicial decisions, lay down the law and venture into a very complex area which is not just confined to marriage, but which goes into other areas like marriage adoption, succession, inheritance tax," he said.

On October 17, a five-judge Constitution bench headed by the CJI unanimously refused to accord legal recognition to same-sex marriage, saying there



was "no unqualified right" to marriage.

However, the CJI and Justice S K Kaul were in minority on the issues of right to form civil union and right of adoption of queer couples.

The CJI spoke candidly about him being in minority in the same-sex marriage judgments rendered by four judges of the Constitution bench.

He said the CJIs have been in minority on rare occasions.

"But there are 13 significant cases in our history where the Chief Justice has been in a minority. And, I do believe, sometimes it is a vote of con-

science and a vote of the Constitution and I stand by what I said," the CJI said.

"Therefore, we said that, well, it's time for Parliament to act. Apart from that, that's where I got into a minority. I said, though we cannot therefore entrench into the domain of Parliament. Nonetheless, there were sufficient foundation principles in our Constitution, to allow for recognition of same sex unions in terms of civil unions," he elaborated.

"Three of my colleagues, another colleague joined me in this, but three of my colleagues felt that to rec-

ognise a right of forming unions was again beyond the judicial domain, and that it must be left to Parliament," he said.

On the fundamental issue as to whether same sex couples should have the right to form binding unions and cohabit traditional relationships, three of my colleagues, though they recognised that they do have the right, said, "we cannot elevate this to a constitutional right", the CJI said.

"The other area in which I was in a minority was whether same sex couples have the right to adopt... I said that well, same sex couples, queer couples have the right to adopt a child because under Indian law, a single individual can adopt a child, a woman can adopt a child. So, I said if they are together, there is no reason to deny them the right to adopt the child merely because they are

in a queer relationship," he said.

"So on the broader aspect, there was a unanimity, but on the right to form unions and adoptions, I was in a minority of two as against three of my colleagues," the CJI said.

He also referred to the 2018 by judgement and said that the top court had decriminalised same sex consensual relations between adults of the same gender or sex.

"And that was important in itself. But that was not the end of the evolution of LGBTQ rights in India. And, we have this clutch of petitions which came up before us for hearing where same sex couples chose to espouse their right to marry under the Indian Constitution," he said.

He dealt with the Special Marriage Act of 1955 and said it was enacted to allow the heterosexual couples belonging to different faiths to get

married under a secular law.

"Because prior to this legislation, there was no other choice except for one of the couples to convert to another religion, but this gave a secular option where you could continue with your faith and yet get married under the law," he said.

He also talked about social and constitutional morality and said, "To my mind what a judge decides while interpreting the Constitution is a sense of constitutional morality, and constitution morality is something which is grounded in the fundamental values of the Constitution."

The CJI and Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court Stephen Breyer spoke at the occasion and the conversation was moderated by William M Treanor, Dean & Executive Vice President, Georgetown University Law Center.

JKBJP remembers Prem Nath Dogra on his birth anniversary

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 24: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir remembered Pt. Prem Nath Dogra on his birth anniversary in a programme organized by BJP District Jammu at Pt. Prem Nath Dogra Chowk, Jammu.

J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina accompanied by general secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, former Minister Sat Sharma, and other party leaders garlanded the statue of Sher-e-Duggar, besides paying rich tributes to him on the occasion.

Ravinder Raina, while addressing on the occasion termed Dogra a great leader and said he was instrumental in leading Praja Parishad and Ek Pradhan, Ek Vidhan, Ek Nishan agitation, which ultimately culminated into success. He added that Pt ji served the people with pure heart earlier and dedicated his whole life for total integration of J&K with the rest of India. He said that Pt. Ji's credentials are unmatched and he gave true representation to the masses of Jammu & Kashmir.

Ashok Koul said that Pt. Ji depicted life of high-grade



values and spirits. He led the struggle of "Ek Vidhan, Ek Nishan, Ek Pradhan" very strongly as a result of which the separate post of Prime Minister was abolished in J&K and now due to dedicated leadership of BJP under PM Modi, mission has been completed with total integration of the erstwhile J&K State with India.

Jugal Kishore Sharma narrated the achievements of late Pt. Prem Nath Dogra and described him a tallest leader of his time in the State who led famous Praja Parishad Movement for total integration of J&K with India.

Sat Sharma appealed the workers to follow the path of Late Panditji and maintain high standards of life by serving people and nation selflessly.

District President Parmod Kapahi presented the vote of thanks.

BJP Vice-President Aseem Gupta, Ayodhya Gupta, Sanjita Dogra, Chander Mohan Sharma, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Sanjay Baru, Keshav Chopra, Parveen Kerni, Raman Sharma, Kuldeep Kandhari, Rajesh Gupta, Jeet Angral, and others also paid tributes to Pt. Prem Nath Dogra on the occasion.

FROM PAGE 1

Centre constitute tribunal to review ban on Shabir Shah's JKDFP

government's standing counsel in the Delhi High Court for several years, where he represented the Central government in a wide range of litigation.

He also appeared for the Central Government in the Supreme Court and before various Tribunals established under the UAPA before being designated as a Senior Advocate by the Delhi High Court in August 2014.

Fulfill assurances of ASHA workers, says Tarigami

for many years but to no avail, thus compelling them to resort to strikes and dharnas," Tarigami said in a statement.

He also said that union leaders apprised senior officers of the NHM about their long-pending legitimate demands, and these officers assured them that their demands for an enhancement of incentives would be recommended to the Union Health Ministry.

"They also assured them about an increase of Rs. 1000 in their assured incentive, as well as an increase in the uniform allowance up to Rs. 3200 and Rs. 150 for desk duty," he said and added that with these assurances, the ASHA workers' union suspended their protests for the time being.

"It is learned that the Health Department submitted these proposals to the Union Health Ministry, and the government has, in principle, agreed. As such, it is expected that the assurances will be implemented from the next financial year," he said.

He also said the Anganwadi workers, helpers, and ICDS Supervisors working under ICDS have not received wages and salaries for the past several months.

These employees and workers have to feed their families and are working hard, but they are not paid their wages on time, he added.

Sri Lankan Cabinet

approves free tourist visas for visitors from India and six other countries

The Cabinet approved free entry to travellers from India, China, Russia, Malaysia, Japan, Indonesia, and Thailand with immediate effect.

Tourists from these countries will be able to obtain visas when visiting Sri Lanka, without a fee.

India is traditionally Sri Lanka's top inbound tourism market.

In the September arrival figures, India topped with over 30,000 arrivals or 26 per cent with Chinese tourists trailing at over 8,000 arrivals as the second largest group.

Tourist arrivals to the island had slumped since the 2019 Easter Sunday bombings that left 270 persons, including 11 Indians, dead and over 500 injured.

Sri Lanka, which has been grappling with unprecedented economic turmoil since its independence from Britain in 1948, is also facing political unrest with protesters demanding President Rajapaksa's resignation.

The economic crisis has prompted an acute shortage of essential items like food, medicine, cooking gas and other fuel, toilet paper and even matches, with Sri Lankans for months being forced to wait in lines lasting hours outside stores to buy fuel and cooking gas.

TS Wazir Murder Case | Delhi HC stays order discharging 3 accused from charges

filed. Accused Khalsa was forwarded for trial through a second supplementary charge sheet.

Accused Sudarshan has been forwarded for trial by way of a third supplementary charge sheet. In the third supplementary charge sheet, it is stated that sufficient evidence has come against Harmeet, Khalsa, Rajinder, Balbir and Sudarshan.

However, the investigation against Harjinder Singh Raina and Jagpal Singh is still

continuing, the court noted.

As per the complaint, on receipt of information about the foul smell emanating from a flat situated on the second floor of a building in Basai Darapur, the police of PS Moti Nagar reached the spot to check. The said flat was under the tenancy of accused Khalsa and owned by Kulbushan who opened the flat with his own keys.

A blood-stained mattress was found lying in one of the rooms. In one of the bathrooms, a body with a face covered with the help of black polythene and cloth was found, the complaint said.

In the meanwhile, complainant Bhupender Singh reached there and identified the deceased as his brother Trilochan.

Delhi Police had registered an FIR on the statement of Bhupender Singh. He stated that his brother Trilochan was a resident of Jammu and a well-known person. His family was residing in Canada.

Bhupender Singh had alleged that accused Harmeet and Khalsa used to visit his brother. His brother was scheduled to leave Canada on September 2, 2021, and he accordingly reached the flat of Khalsa.

He also talked to the wife of the deceased on September 3, 2021, who informed him that Trilochan did not board the flight on September 2, and his flight had been rescheduled for September 3.

Singh further said he also talked to his nephew Karan, who informed him that he had already talked with Khalsa, who informed him that he left Trilochan inside IGI Airport, but forgot his phone, which remained with Khalsa. When he inquired again with Karan, he informed that Khalsa told him Trilochan had been quarantined in Frankfurt, Germany.

The complainant further stated that he made inquiries on his own and came to know that Trilochan did not even reach the immigration at IGI Airport and thus, there was no question of boarding the flight.

He further stated that on September 8, 2021, he was present along with Ranjit Singh

Nalwa, a friend of Trilochan. Nalwa telephoned Khalsa and inquired about Trilochan and Khalsa informed him that he along with Harmeet had killed Trilochan.

Nalwa told him about the said fact and he accordingly reached Delhi. After

making inquiries from the police station, he reached the flat.

He alleged that his brother Trilochan had been killed by Khalsa and Harmeet. He also alleged that Sudarshan and Surender Singh Kala had previous enmity with the deceased who also previously extended threats to kill Trilochan and they are behind the killing of Trilochan.

He further stated that there exists a conspiracy hatched by Sudarshan and Surender Singh Kala, behind the death of his brother Trilochan, the complaint said.

JK HC Issues show cause notice to three Jammu lawyers

the lawyers, it states that certain members of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association in Jammu are against the relocation of the High Court from Jammu to Raipur. The notice also mentions that the lawyer is alleged to have made statements that could be considered as scandalous and damaging to the reputation of the judiciary.

The notice states that before any further action is taken in this matter, the individuals are required to provide a written explanation of their position on or before October 25, 2023.

Lawyers in Jammu have strongly opposed the relocation of the High Court, and this issue has stirred significant controversy. Additionally, environmental activists have also expressed their disapproval of the move, claiming that the project will lead to the cutting down of approximately 38,000 trees.

According to the available information, the project is anticipated to be finished within a year and a half. It has secured a 'No Objection Certificate' (NOC) from the department of wildlife and forests, and the National Green Tribunal has issued rulings in favor of the project.

However, Jammu-based lawyers are concerned that this move will significantly impact their work, particularly those lawyers who have established their practices in Jammu for the past 30-40 years.

The Jammu bench of the High Court was initially situated in the Mubarak Mandi com-

plex in Jammu until the 1990s. In 1994, it was relocated to Jammu. Apart from the High Court, the Jammu premises also house the district court complex, the Advocate General's office, and the Judicial Academy. This provides additional context regarding the historical location and changes in the Jammu bench of the High Court.

Accident victim awarded Rs 2.22-crore relief

date due to the accident. He was earning Rs 27 lakh per annum at the company.

The truck driver and the owner denied the allegations. The insurance company said the truck driver did not have valid documents.

'Godspeed, Bobi': World's oldest dog, dies in Portugal aged 31

"We knew that when he opened his eyes, my parents wouldn't be able to bury him," Costa told Reuters earlier this year.

Prior to his death, Bobi still loved walks but had become less adventurous. His fur was thinning, his eyesight had worsened and he needed to rest more than he used to.

Guinness World Records previously described Bobi's story as "miraculous" and said on Monday that "he will be sorely missed".

More than 100 people showed up at his 31st birthday party in May, it added.

PCJ condoles death of Pooja Raina wife of senior photo journalist Raman Raina

The Management Committee members present on the occasion were Dinesh Mahotra, Secretary General, Zorawar Singh Jamwal, Vice President, Channi Anand, Finance Secretary, and Nishikant Khajuria, Dinesh Mahajan, Vishal Bharti, Deepak Khajuria, Ajay Meenia, Kunal Shrivatsa and Govind Chauhan.

India to surpass Japan to become third largest economy by 2030: S&P Global

After two years of rapid economic growth in 2021 and 2022, the Indian economy has continued to show sustained strong growth during the 2023 calendar year

NEW DELHI, Oct 24 (Agencies): India, the world's fifth largest economy in the world, is likely to overtake Japan to become the world's third-largest economy with a GDP of USD 7.3 trillion by 2030, S&P Global Market Intelligence said in its latest issue of PMI.

After two years of rapid economic growth in 2021 and 2022, the Indian economy has continued to show sustained strong growth during the 2023 calendar year.

India's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow 6.2-6.3 per cent in the fiscal year ending in March 2024, being the fastest-growing major economy this fiscal year. Asia's third-largest economy grew by a stellar 7.8 per cent in the April-June quarter.

"The near-term economic outlook is for continued rapid expansion during the remain-



der of 2023 and for 2024, underpinned by strong growth in domestic demand," S&P Global said.

The acceleration of foreign direct investment inflows into India over the past decade reflects the favourable long-term growth outlook for the Indian economy, helped by a youth-

ful demographic profile and rapidly rising urban household incomes.

"India's nominal GDP measured in USD terms is forecast to rise from USD 3.5 trillion in 2022 to USD 7.3 trillion by 2030.

This rapid pace of economic expansion would result in the size of the Indian GDP exceed-

ing Japanese GDP by 2030, making India the second largest economy in the Asia-Pacific region," it said.

By 2022, the size of the Indian GDP had already become larger than the GDP of the UK and also France. By 2030, India's GDP is also forecast to surpass Germany.

The US at present is the world's largest economy with a GDP of USD 25.5 trillion. It makes up for a quarter of the world's GDP. China is the second largest economy with a GDP size of about USD 18 trillion, which is almost 17.9 per cent of the world GDP. Japan is a distant third with USD 4.2 trillion GDP, followed by Germany with USD 4 trillion GDP.

S&P Global said the long-term outlook for the Indian economy is supported by a number of key growth drivers.

Suzuki confirms plans to double India production capacity by 2030

NEW DELHI, Oct 24 (Agencies): India's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki will double its production capacity to 4 million vehicles per year in the next six years from around 2.25 million at present, the company's parent, Japan-based Suzuki Motor Corporation said at an investor event in its home country. This confirms source-based media reports that the company plans to double its production by 2030.

At present, it has a production capacity of around 1.5 million at its two units in Haryana – one at Manesar and the other at Gurgaon.

In addition, Suzuki Japan operates a plant in Gujarat that has the capacity to produce nearly 750,000 units. Suzuki Motor Co recently said it plans to transfer this plant to Maruti Suzuki to simply the management of the Indian operations.

Moreover, Maruti Suzuki is in the process of putting up its third plant in Haryana at Kharhoda. This will be its largest plant, with a production capacity of 1 million units, and is scheduled to start operations in the next financial year.

In its presentation, Suzuki Motor Co also said it will create an extra capacity of 1 million units per year by 2030, without revealing any details.

Demand Issues
Meanwhile, Maruti Suzuki is yet to fully

utilize its existing production capacity of 2.25 million in India.

For example, last financial year, it produced only 1.91 million vehicles at its three plants, and in the first half of this year, it has produced 9.8 lakh units.

This is primarily because of lack of demand, as some of the core models for Maruti Suzuki – such as Alto – are seeing low demand from customers, even as SUV models such as Brezza, continue to do well. Due to a shift in the market towards SUVs, and away from hatchbacks, Maruti Suzuki has seen a fall in its market share in the country over the last four years.

It had a market share of close to 50% in 2018, which has fallen to around 42% now.

However, with increased focus on SUVs, the company has been able to improve its market share in recent months, and has emerged as India's biggest maker of SUVs.

In the presentation made in Japan, Suzuki said its aim is to recapture the 50% market share milestone by 2030, by when it expects to be selling 3 million vehicles out of the total 6 million that will be sold in India.

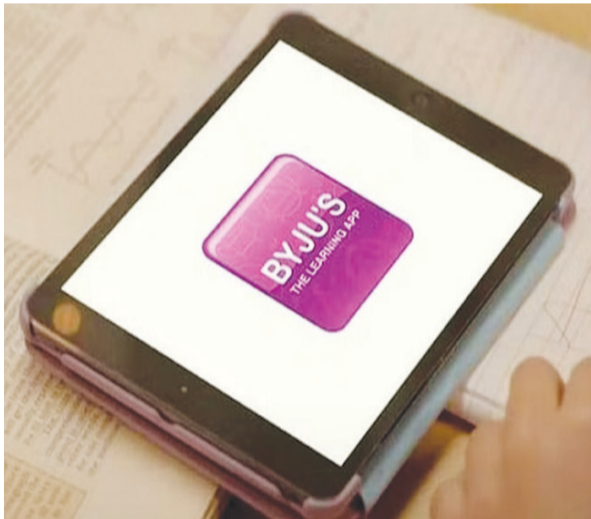
Key to its strategy will be the launch of its first battery-powered electric vehicle by next financial year, and plans to have at least 6 such models out by 2030.

BYJU'S CFO Ajay Goel quits after audit, Nitin Golani gets additional charge of India CFO

NEW DELHI, Oct 24 (Agencies): Educational technology company BYJU'S Chief Financial Officer Ajay Goel has quit after completing the audit process for the financial year 2022 and will return to Vedanta, the company said in a statement.

The edtech major has roped in industry veteran Pradip Kanakia as the senior advisor, and President (Finance) Nitin Golani has been given additional responsibility as India's Chief Finance Officer (CFO) to handle the finance function of the company.

"I thank the founders and colleagues at BYJU'S for helping me



assemble the FY'22 audit in three months. I appreciate the support received during a short but impactful stint at BYJU'S," Goel said.

He will transition after completing the formal-

ties of the financial year (FY) 2022 audit, the statement said.

The company is awaiting certain approvals to file its long-pending financial results for FY2022.

India will see largest energy demand growth: International Energy Agency

NEW DELHI, Oct 24 (Agencies): India's demand for electricity for running household air conditioners is estimated to expand nine-fold by 2050 and will exceed total power consumption in the whole of Africa today, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Tuesday.

In its latest World Energy Outlook, the IEA said India will see the largest energy demand growth of any country or region in the world over the next three decades.

It projected India's energy supply to rise from 42 exajoules (EJ) in 2022 to 53.7 EJ in 2030 and 73 EJ in 2050 under stated policy scenarios, and 47.6 EJ by 2030 and 60.3 EJ by 2050 as per announced pledges.

Oil demand is seen rising from 5.2 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2022 to 6.8 million bpd in 2030 and 7.8 million bpd in 2050 under the stated policy scenario. Under the announced pledges, this demand is seen to rise to 6.2 million bpd in 2030 and 4.7 million bpd in 2050.

The IEA said over the past five decades, India has witnessed over 700 heatwave events, which have claimed over 17,000 lives. Fuelled by its geographic and meteorological conditions, air conditioner ownership in India has been steadily rising with growing incomes, tripling since 2010 to reach 24 units per 100 households.

"The impact of cooling needs on electricity consumption is already clear," the Paris-based agency said.

"Electricity demand is sensitive to temperatures, and in India's case there is a sharp increase in demand as temperatures cross the 25-degree Celsius thresh-

old.. Electricity consumption due to space cooling increased 21 per cent between 2019 and 2022, and today nearly 10 per cent of electricity demand comes from space cooling requirements.

"Household air conditioner ownership is estimated to expand ninefold by 2050 across the IEA scenarios, outpacing the growth in ownership of every other major household appliance including televisions, refrigerators and washing machines," it said.

"Residential electricity demand from cooling has increased ninefold in the Stated Policies Scenario (STEPS) by 2050..

IEA said by 2050, "India's total electricity demand from residential air conditioners in STEPS exceeds the total electricity consumption in the whole of Africa today..

In the Announced Pledges Scenario (APS), however, electricity demand for air conditioners is nearly 15 per cent lower in 2050 as it is in the STEPS as a result of increased use of energy-efficient air conditioners and thermal insulation in buildings. "This reduction itself is larger than the total electricity generation by several countries today, such as that of the Netherlands".

The growth in ownership and use of air conditioners and other cooling equipment is one of the key drivers of the increase in peak electricity demand in India.

In STEPS, peak electricity demand rose around 60 per cent from the 2022 level to 2030 and cooling accounts for nearly half of this increase.

In the APS, however, the implementation of building codes, the use of more efficient

appliances and the adoption of demand response measures enable the same cooling needs to be met with less energy. This reduces peak electricity demand growth by nearly one-quarter compared to STEPS. Given that the electricity system is sized to meet peak demand, lower peak demand helps to lower electricity investment needs and system costs.

Although solar PV matches well with daytime cooling needs, cooling demand is also significant in India during the late evening and at night.

"Lowering cooling demand through energy efficiency policies therefore reduces the need for investment in batteries or expensive standby generation capacity, and thus helps to integrate renewables more cost effectively," the IEA said.

The IEA said India is moving into a dynamic new phase in its energy development marked by a long-term net zero emissions ambition, increased regulatory sophistication, a focus on clean energy deployment, and the creation of domestic clean energy technology supply chains.

Recognising the potential to transform its energy sector and reduce the import burden of fossil fuels while reducing CO2 emissions, India has announced a net zero emissions target by 2070, and has put in place policies to scale up clean energy supply and clean technology manufacturing.

"While clean energy investment in India more than doubles in STEPS by 2030 from around USD 60 billion in 2022, investment needs to nearly triple by the end of this decade to be on a trajectory to meet its net

zero emissions target, which is reflected in the APS," it said.

Although India's population growth has slowed to reach replacement levels, its urban population has increased by 74 per cent and per capita income has tripled by 2050. Industrial output expands rapidly, for example through a tripling of output of iron and steel, and doubling of cement, plus there is a ninefold increase in residential air conditioner ownership by 2050.

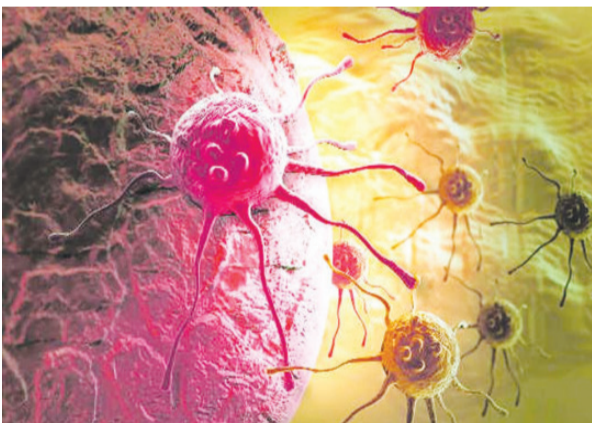
"As a result, demand for oil and natural gas increases in STEPS by nearly 70 per cent between 2022 and 2050, while coal demand increases by 10 per cent, even as solar PV makes inroads into electricity generation. As a result, India's annual CO2 emissions still rise nearly 30 per cent by 2050, which is one of the largest increases in the world," the outlook said.

In the APS, the increase in clean energy investment changes the outlook. In STEPS, solar provides nearly 45 per cent of total generated power by 2050; in the APS, it crosses 50 per cent. In both the STEPS and APS, India achieves its target of 50 per cent non-fossil power generation capacity by 2030.

Clean energy investment in the APS, over and above that in the STEPS, also drives faster growth in electromobility, low-emissions hydrogen, grid, expansion and other clean energy infrastructure.

"As a result, India's annual CO2 emissions fall sharply in the APS by over 40 per cent from current levels by 2050, even though its GDP quadruples over this period," it added.

AI at par with docs for cancer diagnoses, not at treatment decisions: Study



LONDON, Oct 24 (Agencies): Artificial intelligence (AI) based cancer diagnosis is as accurate as those made by doctors, but is inferior when it comes to treatment decisions, according to a study.

In the study published by The Lancet Digital Health, researchers compared the accuracy in diagnosis and therapy recommendation of skin cancer using two different algorithms in smartphone applications with that of doctors.

The results show that the AI application generally performs well in diagnosis. However, doctors were clearly superior when it came to treatment decisions.

The research team from Medical University of Vienna in Austria tested the AI application under realistic clinical conditions in two skin cancer centres.

The prospective study consisted of two scenarios, with AI being used in scenario A for changes suspicious of skin cancer and in scenario B for patients with many moles. The AI-assisted application was compared in both cases with both medical experts and less experienced physicians.

In scenario A, 172 suspicious pigmented lesions (of which 84 were malignant) were examined in 124 patients; in scenario B, the research team analysed 5,696 pigmented lesions (of which 18 were malignant) in 66 patients. Two different AI-based smartphone applications were used: a novel 7-class AI algorithm and an ISIC algorithm already used in retrospective preliminary studies.

In scenario A, the 7-class AI algorithm

showed equivalent diagnostic accuracy compared to the experts while it was significantly superior to the less experienced physicians. The ISIC algorithm, on the other hand, performed significantly worse compared to experts, but better than the inexperienced users.

In terms of treatment decisions, the 7-class algorithm was significantly inferior to the experts but superior to the inexperienced users.

The results suggest that an AI-assisted smartphone application for skin cancer diagnosis makes similarly good diagnostic decisions as experts in a real clinical scenario. When it came to treatment decisions, however, the experts were superior to the AI.

"The AI application tends to remove more benign lesions in the treatment recommendation than experts would. If you take this into account, the AI application can certainly be used. It should also be borne in mind that if it is used uncritically, too many false-positive findings would have to be clarified," said dermatologist Harald Kittler from the varsity.

Riding e-bikes may help adults manage diabetes, says study

'Capacity to ride a bike comfortably with less physical exertion than a normal bike, as well as the ability to go further, quicker, and on hillier terrain, provided enjoyment'

LONDON, Oct 24 (Agencies): Electric bicycles have been identified as a type of moderate-intensity exercise that may aid in the prevention and treatment of type 2 diabetes, a new study has found.

The study, published in the journal Frontiers, said that engaging in e-cycling was perceived as an easier way of managing diabetes than diet or other types of exercise, largely due to the enjoyment of riding.

"Physical activity (PA) is a key component in the management of type 2 diabetes.



However, this population has low rates of PA engagement. Electrically assisted cycling has been identified as

a means to increase PA by incorporating activity into daily life while overcoming some of the barriers to conven-

tional cycling," the study authors said.

According to the study, both men and women believed that riding an e-bike had a favourable influence on a range of health outcomes, including enhanced mental health, increased fitness, and diabetes control—through significant decreases in blood sugar levels.

The capacity to ride a bike comfortably with less physical exertion than a normal bike, as well as the ability to go further, quicker, and on hillier terrain, provided enjoyment. High degrees of satisfaction

also tended to increase the sample's e-cycling habit.

The majority of participants also claimed that e-bike training improved their perceived competence to ride an e-bike over time.

In addition, the study identified obstacles to e-bike riding, with users most typically identifying physical opportunity limitations, including cycling infrastructure, parking facilities and traffic, time and weather constraints, e-bike specific issues, along with weight and size of the bike and cost, and personal health issues.

File ground level stories focusing on beneficiaries of Gov schemes: Rajinder Chaudhry

Top News Report

KATRA, Oct 24: Media should write ground level stories that focus on the beneficiaries of government schemes. This was stated by Shri, Rajinder Chaudhry, Additional Director General (ADG), PIB, Northern Region while addressing Vartalap programme with media in Katra district of Reasi district in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir today. PIB Jammu's Vartalap acts as a bridge between the government and media in order to reach out to the people at grassroots. Shri Chaudhry also urged the media to highlight success stories of persons who have benefited from government schemes in the region. At the same time, he urged the media to use feedback mechanisms to bring to the government's notice any shortcomings in the implementation of the schemes and development programmes.



Making a presentation on '9 Years of Seva, Sushasan and Gharib Kalyan, the ADG said a lot of work has been done on the development front in J&K in these years. He said the region is uniquely placed as it has now its own AIIMS, IIM, IIMC and IIT. Talking about the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Mis-

sion, he said the UT of J&K has universal healthcare coverage. Similar achievements must be highlighted by the media, he called upon media persons attending the programme.

Among the speakers at the event were Shri Rakesh Kumar Salgotra, Horticulture Development Officer, Reasi, Shri Gopal

Dutt, Block Medical Officer, Reasi and Mohd. Arif Lone, Assistant Director, Tourism. They shared the achievements and programmes undertaken by their departments in the last nine years.

In his opening remarks, Shri Ghulam Abbas, Joint Director, PIB, Jammu, asked media to carry balanced stories in their outlets for greater credibility among the masses. He also appealed to the media to inform and educate the public about the Government of India's welfare programmes and schemes. Mr Abbas urged the media to avail of the Journalist Welfare Scheme which offers financial assistance to journalists and their families in extreme hardship.

A Question and Answer (Q&A) session was held during which media persons shared the issues faced by them in the discharge of their professional duties.

AAP opens party office at PuniChak



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 24: In order to give impetus & boost to the Party, a new AAP office opened at PuniChak, Ward No.32 in District Jammu by S. Amrik Singh, President Ward No. 32, on 22-10-2023, in presence of Senior Party leaders namely S/Sh. Adv. Dalvinder Kumar Bhagat, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, Mehar Singh, Rajesh-Pangotra, Adv. Sandeep Sharma, Dixit Gupta, Suresh Kumar Bhagat, Karan Attri, Khajoor Singh, Rajesh Chaudhary, Adv. Arvind Kumar, with great pomp & show shouting slogans of the Party. Other office bearers & volunteers of the locality present on the occasion were S/Sh. S. Harpal Singh, Rajvir Singh, Karanjit Singh, S. Gurcharan Singh, DeepaBhagat & others.

While addressing the Party enthusiasts and the locals, Senior Party leaders said that people are generally fed up with the false & dreamy promises of BJP mostly concentrated on religions, Hindu-Muslim, Nehru-Jinnah, Shamsaan-Kabristaan, Pakistan-Mandir-Masjid and that nothing is said about the JUMLAS thrown in the past. How long will BJP keep on fooling the masses & youths? They questioned and reminded that people were smartly befooled in 2014 & 2019 Parliamentary elections also in state elec-

tions in this duration, promising 15 lacs into the accounts of each house hold, doubling the income of farmers by ending 2022, MSP to the benefit of farmers, 2 crore jobs every year, removing corruption, decriminalization of politics, lowering prices of Diesel, Petrol, domestic gas, sand, Bajri, stones, making 100 smart cities, running of Bullet trains, constructing 1 model village in each constituency every year etc, They said and added that enough is enough now and that all the people can't befooled for all the time as the people have seen through the game of polarization, of all traditional Political Parties so called the savior of Hindus & Muslims. The AAP leaders further said that time has come when all political Parties have been compelled to dole out Delhi Model of welfare schemes in the poll bound states in times to come sensing the mood of public who are badly fed up with the lies & JUMLAS of BJP, price rise, unemployment, selling of ancestral assets to the friendly industrialists, corruption, acute price hike in Diesel, Petrol & LPG, Atta, Milk & other kitchen items etc the press release said and added that almost all people seemed angry & disappointed over the situation. The AAP leaders further said that the AAP Delhi Model of Governance is the

only solution of all evils in the country, which is based on four primary points, beneficial to all sections of society, has virtually brought a revolution in Delhi, which is drawing attention from the public of all states of the country, besides international focus evident from the visit of Government school in Delhi by none else than IVANIKA TRUMP.

They appeal the general masses to rise above the politics of religion & region in the larger interest of integration of the country and see through the game of divisive politics as well as Divide & rule policy of ruling dispensation as also all traditional Political Parties who ruled the country as well as J&K, who simply boast of "VIKAS" from the roof top but in fact, on ground, they are sowing the seeds of hatred, division in the society, leading & dragging the Country to a situation of 1947 which is highly dangerous for the unity & integrity of the Nation. The country has to run on the foot hold of its Constitution which teaches us to give regard to its religious sects on all costs, they maintained, frenzy of casteism, polarization in the name of religion will harm us than doing any good and that people not get misled and swayed by emotive slogans and imaginary JUMLAS, the AAP leaders said.

NHM Association Doda condoles Sandeep Kotwal, Anil Kumar and mother of Dr Mohd Anzar demise's

Top News Report

DODA, Oct 24: The District President NHM Employees Association Doda Dr Nasir Masood Indrabi today condoled the demise of Sandeep Kotwal (MMPHW NHM) Kishtwar, Anil Kumar Husband of Suman Devi (FMPHW NHM) Thathri Doda and beloved father of Dr Mohd Anzar (MO NHM) Tipri Gandoh District Doda, who passed away in the recent days due to health issues. In his message of condolence, Indrabi expressed deep sorrow and grief over the demises. He termed the deceased's as a noble souls. On the death of Sandeep Kotwal, NHM employee from District Kishtwar, the NHM Leader added that his untimely and sudden

death is an irreparable loss to the health department in general and NHM employees in particular, whose dedicated contributions in the field of health sector will be remembered for a long time.

Calling the death as an irreparable loss, Indrabi said medical fraternity has lost a gem of person in the demise of Sandeep Kotwal.

Indrabi also prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls and courage for the bereaved families to bear this irreparable loss. "May Almighty bless the departed souls with the highest place in heaven", Indrabi added.

The NHM employees of Doda also reiterated that they stand in solidarity with the bereaved families in this moment of grief.

Rajveer & Sunny Nanda leaves for 34th world speed ball championship at TURKEY



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 24: Rajveer Singh Student Of Rmp School Recently Selected For 34th World SPEED Ball Championship Scheduled To Be Held At Antalya, Turkey On 26th Oct. 2023 To 31 Oct. 2023. The Championship Will Be Organized By International Speed Ball Federation (FISB). On This Occasion J&K Sports Speed Ball Association Organized A Flagged Off Ceremony.

Recently he Participated In 13th National Speed Ball Championship At Delhi And Got Gold Medal In Single And On This Behalf he Got His Selection In 34TH World Championship and represent India in two events (single and Men doubles). Also he Will Be The First Junior Boy From India Who Got His Selection In World Championship of speed Ball, And he Is Still Practicing Under The Guidelines of Chief Coach of India Mr. Sunny

Nanda. And His Full Expenditure (Including Entry Fees, Travelling) Will Be Sponsored By J&K Sports speedball Association. Sunny Nanda & Rajveer Singh playing men double open. During Flagged Off Ceremony Mrs. Pooja Malhotra Was Chief Guest, Patron of Association, Mr. Tarun Uppal (President JkSBA), Principal Rmps Mr. Rakshan Mangi Were Also Present On This Occasion.

Aijaz Ahmed Khan expresses grief over the demise of Zubida Begum

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Oct 24: Apni Party Vice President and Former Minister Aijaz Ahmed Khan has expressed his grief and sorrow over the demise of Zubida Begum, resident of Gool. In a condolence message, Aijaz Ahmed Khan said that the deceased was a noble lady and served the society throughout her life through the medium of education. He also recalled his association with her

parental family and remembered that the deceased who was daughter of famous political activist of his times late Jawad Wani has faced tough times to serve the society.

He while expressing his grief has expressed his solidarity with the bereaved family members of the deceased and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul, and courage to the family members to bear this irreparable loss.

DPAP leaders from Rafiabab call on Azad



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 24: Tasleema Akhter State Secretary of Democratic Progressive Azad Party J&K UT, Senior leaders of DPAP from Rafiabab Baramulla, Bashir Ahmed Sumji Sahab, Ab Salam

Sahab Mushtaq Sahab and Abrar Sahab met with Hon'ble EX-Chief Minister and Chairman DPAP Ghulam Nabi Azad Sahab at his Residence and discussed various issues of people of Rafiabab.

Sat releases Devotional Song Album

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 24: A video devotional song titled "Tere Dar Te Aava Gye" was released today at Press Club of Jammu by Former Minister Sat Sharma CA accompanying BJP Talab Tillo Mandal President Keshav Chopra, Rehari Bakshi Nagar Mandal President Atul Bakshi, Mandal General Secretary Kushant Daffara and others.

The song "Tere Dar Te Aava Gye" was sung by Rahul Sharma, lyrics were given by Rajan Bali Music composed by Sahil Nath. The video has been prepared by Jassam Saab. The album song has been released on YouTube channel Magical Voice Rahul Sharma.

While Addressing the audience Sat Sharma complimented and wished all the success for the Rahul Sharma and other young artists for their new devotional video song and



said that the we are always ready to support and promote upcoming artists of J&K. Keshav Chopra while lauding the young talent of Jammu &

Kashmir in bringing out melodious devotional song Video Album praised the artists for promoting the heritage of "Dogri Culture".

Atul Bakshi while Complimenting the artists said that Jammu & Kashmir is full of Talented and skilled artists, he also wished them the success

for their new album. Kapil Sudan, Shashi Digra, Deepak Kumar, Vikas Kumar, Ravi Raghuvanshi, Sanjeev Kumar, Chanderkant and others were also present.