

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Online gaming companies get Rs 1 Lakh Crore GST show cause notices so far

NEW DELHI, Oct 25 (Agencies): GST authorities have issued show cause notices worth ₹1 lakh crore to online gaming companies for tax evasion so far, a senior official said on October 25.

The official, however, said that there is no data yet of foreign gaming companies registering in India since October 1.

The government has amended the GST law, making it mandatory for overseas online gaming companies to register in India from October 1.

The GST Council had in August clarified that 28% Goods and Services Tax (GST) would be levied on full value of bets placed on online gaming platforms.

"Online gaming companies served notices worth about ₹1 lakh crore by GST authorities so far," the official said.

A host of online gaming, like Dream11, and casino operator, like Delta Corp, have received GST show cause notices last month for alleged short payment of taxes.

Separately, a show cause notice was sent to GamesKraft in September last year for alleged GST evasion of ₹21,000 crore.

While the Karnataka High Court has ruled in favour of the company, the central government in July filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) in the Supreme Court.

Supreme Court stays demolition of residential properties in Sector 23, Gurugram

NEW DELHI, Oct 25 (Agencies): The Supreme Court has stayed the demolition of certain residential properties in Sector 23 Gurugram after the landowners challenged the Punjab and Haryana High Court's verdict declining their demand for denotification of acquisition of the land in question.

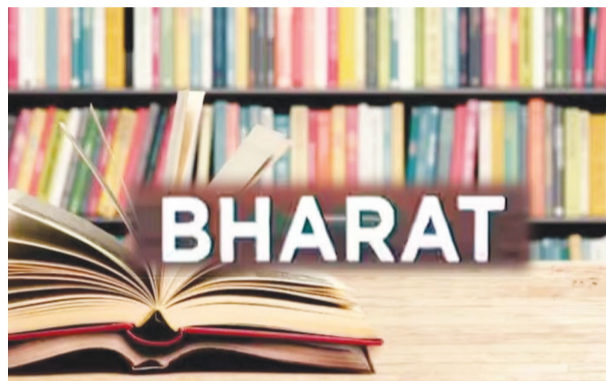
A Bench led by Justice AS Bopanna also decided to examine the landowners' claim under Section 101A of the Right to Fair Compensation and

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NCERT panel recommends replacing 'India' with 'Bharat' in School Textbooks

NEW DELHI, Oct 25: "India" should be replaced with "Bharat" in the school textbooks for all classes, a high-level committee for social sciences, constituted by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) to revise the school curriculum, recommended on Wednesday.

The panel has suggested replacing the name "India" with "Bharat" in the textbooks, introducing "classical history" instead of "ancient history" in the curriculum and including the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) in the syllabus for



all subjects, said committee chairperson C I Isaac.

"The committee has unanimously recommended that the name 'Bharat' should be used in textbooks for students across classes. We have

also recommended introducing 'classical history' instead of 'ancient history' in the textbooks," Isaac said.

NCERT officials, however, said no decision has been taken yet on the panel's recommen-

dations. He said the committee has also recommended highlighting "Hindu victories" in various battles in the textbooks.

"Our failures are presently mentioned in the textbooks. But our victories over the Mughals and sultans are not," said Isaac, also a member of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR).

The NCERT is revising the curriculum of the school textbooks in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The council recently constituted a 19-member

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J&K govt clears 2K pending cases for employment of kin of militancy victims

SRINAGAR, Oct 25 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir government has decided to clear 2,000 appointment cases pending under SRO 43 pertaining to the kin of militancy victims in the union territory.

This is a major decision which will bring relief to these 2,000 youth whose appointments under SRO 43 will now be cleared, officials said.

SRO 43 pertains to compassionate appointments in government service for kin of militancy victims, border shelling/ firing and death

cases of government employees who died in harness.

"The government has decided to clear a backlog of nearly 2,000 SRO 43 appointments pending so far before the switch over to new policy for such appointments.

"The government has introduced a new policy of compassionate appointments from January 1 this year, which is on the pattern of the central government.

"Under SRO 43 kin of those killed in militancy or border shelling- firing and government

employees who died in harness were eligible for a government job.

"Under the new policy, which came into effect from January 1, 2023, a merit-based criteria has been adopted for such posts and only those who fall in the criteria will get the government jobs while others will be paid a fixed amount of compensation," officials said.

Under SRO 43, 2000 vacancies, mostly in Class-IV category in different departments, have been identified

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Cabinet approves Rs 22,303 Cr subsidy on P&K fertilisers for Rabi crop season

NEW DELHI, Oct 25 (Agencies): The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a Rs 22,303 crore subsidy on P&K fertilisers for the current Rabi season to ensure farmers continue to get soil nutrients at reasonable rates despite high global prices.

The decision was informed by Information and Broadcasting Minis-



ter Anurag Thakur after the Cabinet meeting. The Union Cabinet has approved nutrient-based

subsidy rates (NBS) for various nutrients, like nitrogen, phosphorous, potash and sulphur for the Rabi crop season (October 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024).

Thakur said di-ammonium phosphate will continue to be sold at the old rate of Rs 1,350 per bag, while for Muriate of Potash (MoP) the rate will go down.

Handicrafts worth Rs 208.21 Crore exported in first quarter

SRINAGAR, Oct 25 (Agencies): Geographical Indication (GI) tagging appears to have effectively promoted Kashmiri handicrafts. In the first quarter of 2023, handicrafts worth Rs 208.21 crore were exported from Jammu and Kashmir to the rest of the world. This constitutes 55 percent of the exports recorded during April-September last year.

Official figures reveal that handicrafts worth Rs 375.97 crore were

exported from Kashmir during April-September 2022, spanning almost two quarters. Notably, last year, handicrafts exports from Jammu and Kashmir reached the Rs 1,116.37 crore mark.

During the first quarter this year, the most significant growth has been observed in carpet exports. In Quarter 1, carpets valued at Rs 88.92 crore were exported. Rumals and Shawls, amounting to Rs 79.95

crore, were exported during the first quarter.

In Quarter 1, chain stitch exports totalled Rs 32.85 crore, and during that period, Papier Machie products were exported for Rs 2.23 crore. Exports of wood-carving and other items totalled Rs 2.54 crore during the first quarter.

Kashmir recently acquired GI tagging for its renowned handicrafts, including Pashmina shawls, carpets, and

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No major rain, snowfall till Nov 2 in J&K, Ladakh

SRINAGAR, Oct 25 (Agencies): Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Wednesday predicted that there is no forecast of major rain or snowfall till November 2 in Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh Union territories.

However, Kashmir weather, an independent forecaster Faizan Arif said that a weak Western Disturbance is expected around October 27-28 with the possibility of light rain or snow in a few spots in higher reaches.

He said Kashmir Plains are likely to have maximum day temperature to stay in the range of 18 - 21-C while minimum temperature in the 3 - 6-C range. The dry

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J&K LG's advisor chairs multi-agency security review meeting in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Oct 25 (Agencies): RR Bhatnagar, advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Jammu and Kashmir, on Wednesday held a multi-agency security review meeting in Srinagar in the backdrop of Israel-Hamas conflict, officials said.

"Shri RR Bhatnagar, Advisor to Hon'ble LG of



J&K and #LTGenUpendraDwivedi, #ArmyCdrNC chaired a multi-

agency 'Joint Security Review Meeting' at BB Cantt, #Srinagar today,"

army posted on X. Officials said that

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Punjab Police cat Gurmeet Singh Pinky dies of heart attack

CHANDIGARH, Oct 25 (Agencies): Punjab Police cat Gurmeet Singh Pinky died of heart attack at a private hospital in Chandigarh on Wednesday.

Also called Pinky Cat, he underwent life sentence for killing one Avtar Singh Gola in Ludhiana in 2001.

Pinky rose to fame after twice arresting Khalistani terrorist Jagtar Singh Hawara.

He had also won a police gallantry medal, but after Gola's murder he courted controversy. He once claimed that he had evidence of 52 fake encounters during

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Mismanagement of Economy by Modi Govt continues, vast majority of Indians suffering: Cong

NEW DELHI, Oct 25 (Agencies): The Congress expressed concern on Wednesday over the economic trends that have come out of a recent RBI bulletin and alleged that the economy has been mismanaged by the BJP-led Centre due to which a vast majority of Indians are suffering.

The opposition party also expressed serious concern over the inflationary trends that have remained above the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) threshold level of 4 per cent.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh



said the RBI bulletin of October 2023 shows extremely concerning economic trends and demonstrates the Narendra Modi government's continuing mismanagement of the country's economy.

Ramesh recalled that in the September bulletin, a range of negative indicators were revealed, including a 47-year low in the savings growth rate, a stagnation of domestic credit to the private sector and

a flat labour-force participation rate.

"These trends either remain or have worsened: A major reason for the low net savings growth is that there was a huge spike in household liabilities. Despite the finance ministry's misleading claim that this spike is due to home and vehicle loans, the September bulletin had clearly shown there was a 23 per cent spike in gold loans and a 29 per cent spike in personal loans.

"The October RBI bulletin confirms this fact — personal loans were the

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Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar 9419143503

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Ram Parkash Khajuria S/o Late Badri Nath Khajuria R/o H.No. 667/A, New Plot, Jammu.**

10th Day shall be performed on 23-10-2023 (Monday) at 10 AM at our residence.

Kriya shall be performed on 24-10-2023 (Tuesday) from 11 AM onwards at our residence.

Uthala shall be performed on 28-10-2023 (Saturday) from 3 PM to 4 PM at Hari Mandir, Rehari Colony, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Deepak Khajuria & Bindiya - 7006626090
Vinay Khajuria & Sarika - 9419222521
Rajesh Khajuria & Priyanka - 9906048241



Sh. Ram Parkash Khajuria

ANTIM ARDAS

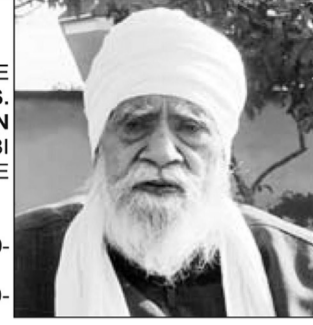
WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED, **S. BABA BAHADUR SINGH JI (TINDEY KULLIAN WALE)**, R/O SANTOKH VIHAR KALUCHAK, NEAR SBI BANK JAMMU WHO LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 17-10-2023 (TUESDAY)

PROGRAM:

ARAMBH SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB ON 24-10-2023(TUESDAY) AT 9:00 AM AT OUR RESIDENCE.
BHOG SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB ON 26-10-2023(THURSDAY) AT 9:00 AM AT OUR RESIDENCE.
KIRTAN AND ANTIM ARDAS WILL BE HELD AT GURUDWARA SAHIB SANT BABA PREM SINGH JI, SANTOKH VIHAR, KALUCHAK, JAMMU, FROM 10:00 AM TO 1:00 PM, FOLLOWED BY GURU KA LANGAR.

GRIEF STRICKEN :-

DAUGHTER IN LAW AND SON
SDN. SURINDER KOUR AND S.TARLOK SINGH
SDN. BALWINDER KOUR AND S.AVKAR SINGH
SDN. GURMEET KOUR AND S.ONKAR SINGH
GRANDSON'S:-
S. SATWANT SINGH
S. GAGANDEEP SINGH
S. PRABJOT SINGH
9858268101, 7051941399, 7006960575.



S. BABA BAHADUR SINGH JI (TINDEY KULLIAN WALE)

OBITUARY AND TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and utmost sorrow we inform about the sad and untimely demise of **Sh. Tej Krishan Bhat (Retd. Commandant B.S.F.) S/o Lt. Sh. Radha Krishan Bhat** originally from Gairoo (Noorpara Trail), presently at H.No. 688, Sector-3, Vinayak Nagar, Muthi, Jammu on 18-10-2023.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 27-10-2023, Muthi Ghat (Near Education Office) on Friday at 8:00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Er. Sanjay Bhat and Babli Bhat - Brother & Bhabhi
Smt. Geeta Koul & Sh. J. L. Koul - Sister & Brother-in-law
Smt. Babji Tikoo & Sh. A. K. Tikoo - Sister & Brother-in-law
Suresh Bhat & Manisha Bhat - Son & Daughter-in-law
Vijay Bhat & Monika Bhat - Son & Daughter-in-law
Girij Tikoo & Sh. Rajesh Tikoo - Daughter & Son-in-law
Kiran Dhar & Sh. Sushel Dhar - Daughter & Son-in-law
Sunil Bhat & Jyoti Bhat - Brother & Bhabhi



Sh. Tej Krishan Bhat (Retd. Commandant B.S.F.)

GRAND CHILDREN AND SAMAST PARMAR
PH No: 9898970500, 962228327, 6066182031

TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SH. ASHOK KUMAR RAINA (HARKAR)**, S/O SH. JAI LAL RAINA (HARKAR) R/O PANZULLA SALIA ANANTNAG AT PRESENT BLOCK F, H.No. 92, NEW PALAM VIHAR, PHASE 1, GURUGRAM ON 18TH OCT 2023 AT GURUGRAM.

10TH DAY KRIYA WILL BE HELD AT GAURI SHANKAR MANDIR BLOCK-T, PHASE-1 SECTOR-109, NEW PALAM VIHAR, GURGAON NEAR DHVEN SUB DIVISION OFFICE ON 27-10-2023 AT 9:30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

SMT BASANTI RAINA- WIFE
BROTHER & SISTER-IN-LAW
LT SH. MANOHAR KRISHAN RAINA & SMT VEENA JI RAINA
SH. BANSI LAL RAINA & LT. SMT. SHAJEE RAINA
SH. INDER KRISHAN RAINA & SMT. DESHA RAINA
SISTER & BROTHER-IN-LAW
LT. SMT. KISHNE BHAT & LT. SH. BANSI LAL BHAT (DADROO)
SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
SH. ROHIN RAINA & SMT. SHEETAL RAINA
SH. VIKAS RAINA & SMT. DELBIZ RAINA
SH. VISHAL RAINA & SMT. ANJLEE RAINA
GRAND CHILDREN: AYAN RAINA, MYANSHI RAINA, ATHARV RAINA, PRANAYA RAINA



SH. ASHOK KUMAR RAINA (HARKAR)

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform you the sad demise of our mother **Smt. Rani Pandit W/o Lt. Sh. Prithvi Nath Pandit R/o Handwara (Kawpora)** at present Q.No. 19, Block - B, TRT Muthi Camp Phase II, Muthi Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 21-10-23 (Saturday).

10th Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat Jammu on 30-10-2023 (Monday) 9.00 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons & Daughter-in-law
Satesh Kumar Pandit & Smt. Vijay Pandit
Vinod Kumar Pandit & Smt. Pooja Pandit
Daughter's & Son-in-law's
Sh. Pushkar Nath Pandit & Smt. Sunita Pandith
Sh. Dileep Gigoo & Smt. Neenu Gigoo
Grand Son's & Daughter
Rohin, Deepthi, Diya, Priyud, Vihaan, Vasu, Praful, Tanish
And Samast, Kaw, Bhat & Pandita Parivar
Ph: 9622203892, 8713836299



Smt. Rani Pandit

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Moti Lal Pandita S/o Late Sh. Niranjan Nath Pandita** originally from village Trail, District Anantnag, presently residing at H.No. 245, Sec-2, Anuradhapuram, Upper Barnai Jammu. He left for heavenly abode on 17-10-2023 (Tuesday).

Tenth Day will be performed on 26.10.2023 (Thursday) 8:30 AM at Muthi Ghat, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN :-

Smt. Soni Pandita (Wife)

Smt. Bawana and Vishal Pandita (Daughter-In-law and Son)
Smt. Sunayna Pandita and Suneel Raina (Daughter and Son-In-law)
Smt. Prana Dhar & Sh. Tej Krishan Dhar (Sister and Brother-In-law)
Smt. Bimla Dhar Wd/ of Sh. Late Durga Nath Dhar (Sister)
Smt. Veena Dhar & Sh. Ashok Dhar (Sister & Brother-In-law)
Contact: 7006428622, 7889620901, 9682681608



Sh. Moti Lal Pandita

10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Makhan Lal** on 18.10.23.

10th Day will be performed on 26.10.2023 at H.No 209 Nai Basti Satwari Jammu.

Grief Stricken

Satyra Devi (Wife)
Aryan Bhagat (Son)
Revti (Daughter)

Contact No. 7889607936, 9622106008



Makhan Lal

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDASS

With profound grief & sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Dr. Parveen Kaur** Former Principal GMC Srinagar, Former HOD Microbiology GMC Jammu /ASCOMS Jammu R/o 10-A Extension Shastri Nagar, Jammu on Friday, 20th Oct, 2023.

PROGRAMME:-

Arambh Sri Akhand Paath Sahib (at home)... 9:00 AM on 25/10/2023.
Bhog Sri Akhand Paath Sahib (at home) - 9:30 AM on 27/10/2023.
Kirtan and Antim Ardaas (At Gurudwara Baba Fateh Singh Sahib, Gandhi Nagar) - 10:30 AM to 12 Noon on 27/10/2023.
Followed by **Guru ka Langar.**

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Dr. S. S. Soodan, Eye Specialist (Husband)
Daughters and Sons-in-law
Dr. Ameet Kaur & Dr. K.S. Mehta
Dr. Sandeep Kaur & Dr. Harbinder Singh Bali
Dr. Bhavneet Kaur (**Daughter**)
Grand Children: Gunnit, Aneesha, Eishaan, Eishveer
Mobile No. 9906096691, 9419183349, 9419185007, 9419019572



DR. PARVEEN KAUR

TENTH DAY/KIRYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt. Sheela Devi W/O Sh. Sarb Singh Sambyal R/o Baryalta, Tehsil- Majalta, District -- Udhampur** who left us heavenly abode on Monday 16th Oct. 2023.

Tenth Day will be performed at our residence on Wednesday, 25th October 2023 at 10 AM

Kiryra will be performed at our Residence on Saturday 28th October at 11 AM

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Sarb Singh Sambyal - Husband
Son and Daughter-in-law
Rajesh Singh & Raj Rani Sambyal
Daughters and Sons-in-law
Rekha Jasrotia and Rajinder Jasrotia.
Reeta Jamwal and Rakesh Jamwal.
Grand Son & Daughter-in-law
Shamli & Baljeet
Vishal & Ritu
Mob. 9858554808, 8082110307



Smt. Sheela Devi

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

Our beloved **Sh. Bushan Lal Pandit S/o Late Sh. Laxmi Dass** left for heavenly abode on 17-10-2023.

Tenth Day Kriya shall be performed on 26-10-2023 (Thursday) at Muthi Camp at 9 AM Near Director School

Education Muthi Camp Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

PANDIT PARIVAAR

9419912319, 7006327038



Sh. Bushan Lal Pandit

TENTH DAY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SHRI KRISHAN SINGH CHOUDHARY (RETD. HEAD MASTER)** S/O LATE SUB. POLA RAM R/O E-322, SAINIK COLONY, JAMMU (NANDPUR CAMP).

10TH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED AT GURUDWARA RANI TALAB DIGIANA JAMMU FROM 10 AM TO 12.00 NOON ON 26-10-2023 (THURSDAY).

GRIEF STRICKEN

SMT SANTO DEVI - WIFE
BROTHERS & BHABHIS
SMT MOHINI DEVI & LATE SH. B. D. CHOUDHARY
SMT GURDEEP KOUR & LATE SH. B. D. NATHYAL
LATE SH. JAGDISH NATHYAL
LATE SH. JAGDISH RANI & S.S. NATHYAL
SMT NEENA KUMARI & G.R. NATHYAL
SMT SHSHEELA KUMARI & M.L. NATHYAL
SISTERS & BROTHERS-IN-LAW
SMT SHANTI DEVI & LATE SHRI NEK RAM
LATE SMT GEETA DEVI & PROF. ROMESH DOGRA
SMT NIRMAL KUMARI & ER. J.S. BHATTI
SMT KANTA DEVI & SH. D.S. CHOUDHARY - DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW
SONS & DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW
SMT REETA KUMARI & SH. K.S. NATHYAL (SE. REW JAMMU)
SMT NIRMAL KUMARI & B.S. NATHYAL (PDD)
SMT SUMAN KUMARI & SH. SUDESH CHOUDHARY (PET)
GRAND CHILDREN
PRAMAN SINGH (CABINET SECRETARIAT GOVT. OF INDIA)
PIYUSH SINGH (P.O. JK BANK)
ASHA, SEHDEV SINGH, AYUSHI, MONU, PRIYANSHI & LAVANSH



SHRI KRISHAN SINGH CHOUDHARY (RETD. HEAD MASTER)

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/ UTHALA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER **SMT. KANTA DEVI** W/O LATE SH. GOVIND RAM RAINA RESIDENT OF HOUSE NO. 33, LANE NO. 1, PATEL NAGAR, TALAB TILLO, JAMMU WHO LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 17 OCT. 2023.

10TH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON 25.10.2023 (WEDNESDAY) 11 AM AT OUR RESIDENCE.

KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 26.10.2023 (THURSDAY) 12.30 PM AT OUR RESIDENCE.

UTHALA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 28.10.2023 (SATURDAY) AT SHRI GEETA MANDIR BAKSHI NAGAR AT 4 PM TO 5 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN :-

DAUGHTERS IN LAW AND SONS
SMT. SHANTI DEVI AND COL. G. C. RAINA
SMT. RENU SHARMA AND LOKESH SHARMA
DAUGHTERS AND SONS IN LAW
SMT. GIRJA SHARMA AND DR. ROMESH SHARMA
SMT. VERSHA SAROTRA AND COL. NARESH SAROTRA
GRAND AND GREAT GRAND CHILDREN
AND ENTIRE RAINA FAMILY (ORIGINALLY FROM MATHOLA, BHADERWAH)
DUTT FAMILY (ORIGINALLY FROM CHINOTE, BHADERWAH)
KHAJURIA FAMILY (JAGOTA, BHADERWAH)
CONTACT NO. 9419188362, 9419206251



SMT. KANTA DEVI

OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD AND UNTIMELY DEMISE OF OUR MOTHER **SMT. PHOOLA DHAR** ON 19/10/2023.

TENTH DAY KRIYA SHALL BE PERFORMED ON 28/10/23, AT MUTHI CAMP GHAT NEAR DIRECTOR SCHOOL ED OFFICE AT 9 AM. 10 A/P- NANA VIKAR LOWER MUTHI, NEAR GANESH TEMPLE JAMMU 181206.

GRIEF STRICKEN

BASKAR NATH DHAR (HUSBAND)
SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW
RUBY AND CHANDER KANTH DHAR
PUNAM KOU AND MANOJ DHAR
BROTHER IN LAW & SISTER IN LAW
SMT. CHANCHALA DHAR W/O LT. RADHA KRISHAN DHAR
KASHI NATH DHAR
NANCY AND SHAM LAL DHAR
SMT. SANTOSH DHAR W/O LT. JAWAHAR LAL DHAR
ASHA AND ASHOK DHAR
SISTER IN LAW & BROTHER IN LAW
TRILOKI NATH RAINA H/O LT. SMT. CHUNI RAINA
GRAND CHILDREN: ISHA DHAR, SHARAN DHAR, HELINA DHAR
7889730582, 8803600461, 9419174669



SMT. PHOOLA DHAR

BHOG /ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **S. Amolak Singh S/o Late Mahant Raghubir Singh R/o H.No. 53/D Sai Vihar, Marble Market, Jammu.**

Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib on 24 Oct. 2023 (Tuesday) at 9:30 AM at our residence.

Bogh Shri Akhand Path Sahib on 26 Oct. 2023 (Thursday) at 9:00 AM at our residence.

Antim Ardass at Gurudwara Shri Bala Pritam, Trikuta Nagar from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Sdr. Amrit Kaur (Wife)
Son and Daughter-in-law
S. Harinder Singh and Sdr. Tejinder Kaur
Daughters and Son-in-laws
Sdr. Inderdeep Kaur and Col. Jatinder Singh
Sdr. Harpreet Kaur and S. Lakhwinder Pal Singh
Brother and Bhabhi
Sdr. Gurdinder Kour W/o Lt. S. Ravinder Singh
Mobile: 9717619988, 9419264119



S. Amolak Singh

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Mohan Lal Bhat S/o Late Sh. Samsar Chand R/o Kharpora Sirmoo Pulwama** at present Flat 4 Block 74 Lane 16 Jagti Colony Nagrota who left for his heavenly abode on 22.10.23.

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Sainik School Nagrota Jammu on 31.10.23 at 10AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Santosha Bhat (Wife)
Smt. Priya Bhat W/o Late Sh. Maharaj Krishan Bhat (Daughter in law)
Sh. Avtar Krishan Bhat & Smt. Asha Bhat (**Son & Daughter in law**)
Sh. Roshan Lal Pandit & Smt. Keemta Pandit (**Son & Daughter in law**)
Sh. Paryal Lal Pandit & Smt. Soni Pandit (**Son & Daughter in law**)
Sh. Nana Ji Bhat & Smt. Kishni Bhat (**Son in law & Daughter**)
Sh. Satish Bhat & Smt. Parnmy Bhat (**Son in law & Daughter**)
Sh. Sanjay Raina & Smt. Varsha Raina (**Son in law & Daughter**)
Grand Children: Neha, Segar, Chanchal, Mansi, Vansh



SH. MOHAN LAL BHAT

Contact Details:
9149483989,
7051255779,
9018253266,
9419207131,
9419281449.

BHOG/ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow we inform untimely sad demise of our beloved **S. Kulwant Singh Ralli (SAT SHRI CHAND JI JEWELLERS)** R/o Sector 7, Lane 4, Guru Nanak Nagar, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 18-10-2023 (Wednesday)

PROGRAMME:
Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib on 25-10-2023 (Wednesday) at 9:00 AM at our residence.

Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib on 27-10-2023 (Wednesday) at 10:00 AM at our residence.

KRITAN AND ANTIM ARDAS will be held at Gurudwara Sant Pura Danna Sector -7, Lane No 1, Guru Nanak Nagar from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM followed by Guru ka Langar.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
SDR. SATWANT KOUR- WIFE
S. GURLEEN SINGH- SON

SDR. RAVLEEN KOUR W/O S. GURDEEP SINGH- DAUGHTER
MOB: 8492094470, 6006321762, 7889586890



S. Kulwant Singh Ralli

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Kanta Shouri W/o Late Sh. Makhan Lal Raina** of Shalla Kadal (Habba Kadal) Srinagar At present H.No-235-A, Sec-1, Vinayak Nagar Muthi Jammu who left for his heavenly abode on 20.10.23.

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education Jammu on 29.10.23 at 9AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

(Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law)
Smt. Pooja Raina, Smt. Jiga Vashnav & Sh. Veer Ji Vashnavi
(Daughter & Son-in-law)
Smt. Sunita Bhat & Lt. Sh. Piray Lal Bhat
Smt. Archana Pandita & Sh. Suresh Pandita
Smt. Sonia Pandita & Sh. Sushel Pandita
(Son & Daughter-in-law)
Sh. Anil Raina & Smt. Geeta Raina
DEEPLY MISSED BY -
Deepali, Rahul, Sahil, Shradha, Krishi, Samira, Riya, Gunika, Shrishti, Sheen, Karik
MOB:-9596300463, 9419135800, 9797551511



SMT. KANTA SHOURI

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Uma Devi W/o Sh. Chanan Singh (Thakur ji) R/o Ustad Mohalla Jammu.**

TENTH DAY will be performed at Shiv Mandir near Vivekanand Hospital Amphalla on 26/10/2023 (Thursday) at 11.30 a.m.

Grief Stricken

Sh. Chanan Singh- Husband
Daughters and Son-in-Law
Anita Chib & Gulshan Singh Chib
Nivedita Thakur & Rahul Dev Singh
Jyoti Parmar & Parshotam Parmar
Contact no. 9086941478, 7006496176



Smt. Uma Devi

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Cong is synonymous with corruption, nepotism: MP Khatana



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU / POKHRAN, Oct 25: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP(Nominated), Er. Gulam Ali Khatana today launched a scathing attack on the Indian National Congress, accusing them of corruption, nepotism, and perpetuating dynastic rule. He emphasized that the BJP, under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is steadfast in its commitment to fight against corruption and terrorism while enhanc-

ing India's prestige on the world stage. Khatana, addressed large gatherings of enthusiastic supporters in Pokhran Assembly constituency in support of BJP candidate Mahant Pratappuri Maharaj. Outlining the party's core values and vision for India's future, he said that PM Modi envisions a three trillion economy, make in India initiative, massive infrastructure building and making Bharat Vishwa Guru. "Congress, during its years in power, indulged

in corruption, promoted nepotism, and perpetuated dynastic rule. The consequences of these actions have had a detrimental impact on our great nation," said Khatana. He further emphasized, "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP has launched a crusade against corruption, terrorism, and has worked tirelessly to enhance India's prestige on the world stage."

Khatana cited several examples of corruption and nepotism during

Congress's tenure including 2G, 3G, Coal, Common Wealth Games scams and highlighted the BJP's commitment to transparency, good governance, and inclusive development. He lauded the Prime Minister's efforts in eliminating corruption, ensuring economic growth, and bolstering India's national security.

MP Khatana reiterated that the BJP is a party dedicated to the welfare of the people and the progress of the nation. He encouraged

the residents of Pokhran to vote for the BJP in the upcoming elections, stating that it is the only party capable of ushering in a brighter and more prosperous future for India.

MP Khatana further said that India's vast geographical expanse is marked by stark regional disparities in development, infrastructure, and access to basic amenities. Rural-urban disparities, as well as inter-state variations in income and social indicators, persist as key challenges. While certain regions have prospered and witnessed rapid economic growth, others lag behind, exacerbating disparities and inequalities.

He said that addressing the regional divide required a multi-faceted approach that involves equitable resource allocation, infrastructure development, and inclusive policies that cater to the unique needs of each region and initiatives like "Make in India" and "Digital India" by BJP Govt aim to bridge these gaps.

Manjit appoints office bearers for Jammu Urban



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 25: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu and Former Minister, Manjit Singh on Wednesday appointed Jammu District Office Bearers after the approval of Party President Altaf Bukhari to strengthen and boost the political activities in a channelized way.

Accordingly, Manjit Singh appointed Vaibhav Mattoo as Senior Vice President Jammu Urban, Shakti Dutta as Vice President; Rakesh Mahajan as Vice President; Deepak Bradu as General Secretary;

Mohammed Asif as General Secretary; Vijay Gurtoo as General Secretary; Vishal Jotshi as Publicity Secretary; Mohammed Ashraf Choudhary as Secretary; Abhishek Goswami as Secretary; Gulshan Anand as Secretary; Labha Ram as Secretary; Kanwaljeet Singh Sethi as Organisation Secretary; Sunil Sharma as Organisation Secretary; and Rashid Paul as Organisation Secretary.

The order regarding the appointment of Office Bearers for Jammu Urban Unit was issued following a

meeting and consultation based on the performance of the leaders.

In his message to the party cadre, Manjit Singh directed them to intensify their door-to-door campaign and educate people about the policies and agenda of Apni Party that promotes unity, equality, development, and protection of the rights of Jammu and Kashmir residents.

He however hoped the newly appointed Office Bearers of Jammu Urban Unit will work in coordination to strengthen the party's roots.

Convention of Peoples Party United held in Kishtwar



TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Oct 25: Convention of Peoples Party United (PPU) was held in Kishtwar. A large number of people participated in the convention. People joined the party and stressed the need to take the party programs and policies door to door, while the party leadership said that efforts will be made to take this forward, leadership has said that at present, under the leadership of the state president of the party,

will actively participate in the next election and form a government in Jammu and Kashmir, they said adding that people are tired to avoid the old politics and the new political party which was formed in 2014 by the late Ghulam Rasool Doolwal.

Party leadership said that efforts will be made to take this forward, leadership has said that at present, under the leadership of the state president of the party,

Mirza Ashiq Hussain Beigh.

New entrants Noor Hussain Sheikh, Bilal Ahmed, Muhammad Arveed, Shahid Hussain, Nazar Ahmed, Abdul Shaban, Muhammad Jafar, Manzoor Ahmed, Muhammad Yusuf, Sanjay Kumar, who joined the party. Ashfaq Ahmed, Zakir Hussain, Muzaffar Hussain, Umar Sajjad, Abdul Jabbar, Bashir Ahmed, Iftikhar, etc. joined the party.

Northern Army commander reviews operational preparedness in south Kashmir

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Oct 25: Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi on Wednesday reviewed the operational preparedness and their preparation of winter strategy in south Kashmir, Army said.

Lt Gen Dwivedi, accompanied by Srinagar based Chinara Corps Commander Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai visited Rashtriya Rifles battalion in Pulwama and Anantnag where he interacted and felicitated the troops of Indian Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police for their high standards of combat



readiness. The Army Commander

in his interaction emphasized on continued syn-

ergy with all agencies for meaningful convergence

of counter terrorist (CT) efforts in the hinterland.

"#LtGenUpendraDwivedi, #ArmyCdrNC accompanied by Chinara Corps Cdr visited #RashtriyaRifles battalion at #Pulwama and #Anantnag to review the operational preparedness and their preparation of Winter Strategy," Northern Command, Indian Army in a post on X.

"The Army Commander interacted and felicitated the troops of IA and JKP for their high standards of combat readiness and emphasised on continued synergy with all agencies for meaningful convergence of CT efforts in the hinterland".

MCC Hundi emerges victorious in 2023 Hirri Premier League

TOP NEWS REPORT

KUPWARA, Oct 25: The Indian Army organized a cricket tournament from August 29, 2023, to October 24, 2023, at the Hirri

Ground in Kupwara, aiming to discover new cricket talent and provide a stress-free atmosphere for players. The tournament followed a T20 knockout format, with 16 teams from various locations across Kupwara district participating. The event saw 256 young players taking

part in a two-week-long competition.

All matches were hosted at the Hirri Cricket Ground in Kupwara.

The final match, held on October 24, 2023, between MCC Hundi and Gymkhana Gugloose, was graced by the presence of former Member of Parliament

Mr. Mir Mohd Fayaz and Kupwara Terriers' officers.

Approximately 2,000 spectators from Kupwara and nearby villages enthusiastically supported their heroes on the field.

MCC Hundi emerged victorious in the final, securing a convincing win by 30 runs, with a

total score of 149 runs. The "Man of the Match" was Kafayat Ahmad of MCC Hundi, who contributed 28 runs and took 3 wickets.

The "Man of The Series" title went to Malik Waseem of Gymkhana Gugloose, who took 13 wickets and scored 55 runs throughout the series.

Rajesh with his supporters join BSP



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 25: Bahujan Samaj Party J&K held a press conference on Wednesday to welcome the Rajesh Gupta along with his supporters in party fold.

Dr. Kareempuria, former MP (RS) address the media person and criticized the government for not fulfilling the promises made in the public through media for

providing 5 marla land to landless poor's. Only 245 people have been given the allotment order by LG but no such order has been passed on to deputy commissioner/ Tehsildar for identification of deserving beneficiaries in almost all parts of their districts, he said.

This shows that the LG administration has played a false propaganda among the poor's,

he added.

S.R Majotra (President BSP J&K) was also present on the occasion to appeal the poor and ignored people to come forward to the wart the evil design of the ruling class who has crushed the democratic institutions and debarring the people of their democratic rights, conducting elections for the state assembly local bodies,

and panches/sarpanches who could address the grievances of the public for which the LG administration not failed bitterly.

Majotra appealed the LG administration to access the loss of the farmers due to heavy rain and snow and pay the compensation to the farmers. Pensions Also the old age/widow pensions may immediately be released which were stopped in the name of on lining the system.

Other prominent office bearers present in the conference were Charanjeet (Vice President), Gurbaksh Gourav (State Co-ordinator), Baldev Raj (General Secretary), Raja Singh (Co-ordinator), Badri Nath (Co-ordinator), Jagdish Bhagat (Co-ordinator) and Bishan Dass (Co-ordinator), Tilak Raj (Co-ordinator) Darshan Rana, (Co-ordinator).

Dire need to revive rich heritage of Festivals in J&K: Nitish

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 25: In a world where holidays often overshadow the true essence of festivals, Nitish Mahajan, Co-Incharge BJP's Social Media Department, Jammu & Kashmir, has advocated for a revival of traditional festival celebrations. He believed that it's time to reconnect with the cultural heritage that once brought communities together in joyous celebrations.

Mahajan expressed his concern that contemporary celebrations have lost their traditional charm, with many individuals opting to



sleep in and indulge in personal leisure activities during festivals. He fondly recalled a time when festivals were an opportunity for the entire town to come together, creating a sense of unity and shared joy. Festivals were marked by early morning awakenings

and a flurry of activities that resonated throughout every household, he added.

To preserve and pass on this vibrant cultural heritage to the next generation, Mahajan emphasized the need to rekindle the spirit of celebration. He asserted that without such efforts, future generations may miss out on the true meaning of festivals, reducing them to mere days of rest and indulgence.

Mahajan reminded us that festivals have always played a vital role in keeping individuals active, enthusiastic, and connected to their com-

munity. The customs and traditions associated with festivals have enriched Indian culture for centuries, fostering a deep sense of unity and shared responsibility, he added.

In a world that constantly evolves, Nitish Mahajan's advocacy serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of cultural preservation. By reinvigorating the spirit of festivals, he hoped to bring communities in Jammu & Kashmir together once more, rekindling the sense of togetherness and shared joy that has been a vital part of our culture for generations.

EDITORIAL

UNIFIED TAX STRUCTURE

The introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India was a significant economic reform that aimed to simplify the tax system and create a unified tax structure.

The process of implementing GST in India began with the formation of a committee in 2000, during the tenure of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The idea for GST gained momentum in 2004 with a task force's recommendation to enhance the tax regime.

In 2011, the Indian government passed the Constitution Amendment Bill, enabling the introduction of GST law.

The GST Bill was reintroduced by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in 2014 and was passed in the Lok Sabha in 2015. However, it faced delays in the Rajya Sabha.

GST was eventually rolled out in 2016, and the amended model GST law was passed in both houses. The President of India gave approval, and the new tax regime came into force on July 1, 2017.

GST in India consists of Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST), State Goods and Services Tax (SGST), and Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST). CGST and SGST are applied to intra-state transactions, while IGST is levied on inter-state transactions.

Entities with an annual income of Rs 20 lakh or more are required to register for GST. The process usually takes 2-6 working days, and a unique GSTIN (Goods and Services Tax Identification Number) is assigned to each registered entity.

GSTIN has various uses, including obtaining loans, claiming refunds, facilitating verification, and improving compliance.

Businesses with an annual turnover of Rs 20 lakh or more and specified businesses are required to register under GST. They receive an official GST certificate as proof of registration.

The implementation of GST aimed to streamline the taxation system, reduce tax cascading, and create a common market throughout India. It has had a significant impact on the country's tax structure and business environment.

GST (Goods and Services Tax) returns are indeed essential documents that registered taxpayers must file with the tax authorities to report their financial transactions and calculate their tax liability under the GST system. However, there are some inaccuracies in your description. Let me provide a more accurate overview of GST returns:

GST returns are typically filed on a regular basis, but the frequency can vary based on the type of taxpayer and the specific rules of the country. In many countries, businesses are required to file monthly or quarterly returns.

Sales (Outward Supplies): Details of all sales made during the reporting period, both taxable and exempt supplies.

Purchases (Inward Supplies): Information about purchases, including the GST paid on those purchases.

Input Tax Credit (ITC): Information about the GST credit a business is eligible to claim on its purchases.

Output Tax (GST Payable): The amount of GST a business is required to remit to the government, calculated by subtracting the ITC from the GST collected on sales.

Different types of GST returns exist, and the specific forms to be filed may vary based on the nature and size of the business. Common types of returns include GSTR-1 (for outward supplies), GSTR-2 (for inward supplies), GSTR-3 (a summary return), and GSTR-9 (annual return). The specific forms and their names can differ from one country to another.

The annual return is a comprehensive summary of a taxpayer's financial activities over the entire financial year. It consolidates the information provided in the monthly or quarterly returns and is typically due after the end of the financial year.

Failing to file GST returns or filing them late can result in penalties and interest charges. It is crucial for businesses to meet the filing deadlines to avoid these consequences.

Most countries have transitioned to online platforms for filing GST returns, making it more convenient for taxpayers to submit their returns and comply with GST regulations.

It's important to note that the specific rules and procedures for GST returns can vary from one country to another, and they may change over time. Therefore, it's essential for businesses to stay informed about the latest GST regulations and filing requirements in their jurisdiction to ensure compliance with the law.

From Independence to J&K Accession, saga of bloody terror, valour and sacrifice

By: Prabhu Razdan

Lets have a flashback over the period of one hundred years before India's independence and try to know about history of Jammu and Kashmir state and its accession with India on this day 76 years ago.

The State of Jammu and Kashmir was created in 1846 with the signing of the Treaty of Amritsar between the British East India Company and Maharaja Gulab Singh.

As per Article 3 of the Treaty signed on March 16, 1846, "In consideration of the transfer made to him and his heirs by the provisions of the foregoing article Maharaja Gulab Singh will pay to the British Government the sum of seventy-five lakhs of rupees (Nanukshahee), fifty lakhs to be paid on or before the 1st October of the current year, A.D., 1846".

To continue to hold indirect control over the affairs of the state even after the payment of 75 lakh Nanukshaee, Article 10 of the Treaty says, "that the Maharajah Gulab Singh acknowledges the supremacy of the British Government and will in token of such supremacy present annually to the British Government one horse, twelve shawl goats of approved breed (six male and six female) and three pairs of Cashmere shawls".

However the subcontinent was fractured into hundreds of States with the eruption of 1857 War of Independence. The State of Jammu and Kashmir too witnessed political mobilisation between 1931 and 1940 also emergence of the conflict from 1941 to 1946.

The incidents following July 13, 1931 episode were indicative of the reality that discontent was brewing against the Dogra rule. 21 persons were killed due to police firing in Kashmir on this day ie on July 13, 1931 and this was the beginning of the open opposition to Dogra rule by some section of Kashmiri Muslims. From this day Kashmiri Hindus started becoming victim of this conflict, as their properties were looted and many reported to have been killed and their sacred thread (Jaune) put up in flames.

On May 9, 1946, National Conference, which till 1939 was Muslim Conference after its formation in 1932- launched "Quit Kashmir" campaign demanding abrogation of the Treaty of Amritsar and restoration of Sovereignty to the people of Kashmir and eventually to the Azadi movement.

Sheikh Abdullah whose party had spearheaded Quit Kashmir agitation was arrested and sentenced to three years imprisonment.

Lord Mountbatten was the last viceroy of India. He released a plan known as the Indian Independence Act on June 3, 1947. This was British Act of Parliament that divided British India into two newly independent countries, India and Pakistan.

"Classical example of indecision, procrastination and drift with disastrous results, was witnessed in Kashmir after the British declaration of June 3 Plan for Indian Independence in 1947. While things moved fast all over the sub-continent, in Kashmir a state of inertia prevailed", writes Sati Sahni, a veteran Journalist who was witness to the happenings in Jammu and Kashmir at

the time of partition.

"The Viceroy, Lord Louis Mounbatten was keen that Kashmir should be able to decide which Dominion it would accede to, well before the deadline of August 15, 1947. The Congress leadership had conveyed to the Viceroy that Congress would not oppose Kashmir Maharaja if he decided to accede to the new Dominion of Pakistan. In the meantime, MA Jinnah, President of the Moslem League, on June 17, 1947 accepted the right of Indian states to stay Independent or join either India or Pakistan, since after withdrawal of the British, the Indian states, constitutionally and legally would become Independent sovereign states", writes Sahni.

It is said Mountbatten arrived in Srinagar on June 19, 1947 and stayed for 4 days as guest of Maharaja Hari Singh. But Maharaja avoided to discuss politics. Pressure was mounting on him from multiple quarters to become part of Pakistan.

Due to confusion and tension, Maharaja sacked his Prime Minister RC Kak and appointed new PM Major General Janak Singh who took oath on August 11, 1947.

Major events surrounding Jammu and Kashmir's accession with India after partition of India into two separate nations are as follows:

-As Maharaja Hari Singh's Government was undecided which side to go, he offered Standstill Agreement to both India and Pakistan on August 12, 1947.

-After two days ie on August 14, India was partitioned and a new theocratic State of Pakistan comes into existence.

Maharaja's Government had on August 12 sent telegrams to New Delhi and Karachi requesting for continuation of existing arrangements under the Standstill agreement. The supplies from the areas that would form part of Pakistan from August 14, 1947 like salt, sugar, cloth, iron, steel machinery, petroleum products and services like Posts, Telegraphs, Telephones etc were coming from there.

The state witnessed communal riots coupled with Pakistan restraining supplies. Governor Brig. Ghansara Singh appointed by the Maharaja for Gilgit surrendered and was kept in custody of Pakistani for 18 months. Such was the horrific situation created by Pakistani forces.

During beginning of September, 1947 areas falling closer to Indo-Pakistani border in Jammu province witnessed movement of Pakistani troops and dozens of incidents took place along the border. Some of the districts of Pakistan where from support to Muslim Conference faction of Pakistan were getting to foment trouble inside Jammu borders included Hazara, Rawalpindi, Jhelum, Gujrat, Sialkot etc.

At a convention in Srinagar on September 22, J&K Muslim Conference leaders following Jinnah's philosophy passed a resolution demanding Jammu and Kashmir forthwith accede to Pakistan.

On September 9, 1947 Sheikh Abdullah was released from Baderwah jail as an act of Royal clemency before completing his jail term. On October 1, Sheikh Abdullah addressed a mammoth rally in Hazuri Bagh now Iqbal Park stressing the need for communal harmony and it is

said the crowd responded with slogans like, "Sher-i-Kashmir ka kya Irshad, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh Ittehad". He denounced the two nation theory of Jinnah and Pakistan stepped up pressure on Abdullah to persuade Maharaja to accede to Pakistan or else "other means will be used". It is said Pakistan PM Liaquat Ali Khan in second week of October sent Col ASB Shah, Joint Secretary in Pakistan Foreign Ministry to Kashmir with a properly drawn up Instrument of Accession to Pakistan, hoping to get it signed by Maharaja Hari Singh and take it back to Karachi.

With war like situation on Pakistani borders, Maharaja sacked his PM Janak Singh replacing him by Mehar Chand Mahajan on October 15 and also appointing Brigadier Rajinder Singh as acting Chief of the State Forces.

There was hue and cry in the areas bordering Pakistan as armed tribesmen started entering inside Indian borders from October 22. Maharaja on October 23 ordered Brigadier Rajinder Singh to rush to the border and hold enemy at Uri at all costs. He sacrificed his life fighting with the invaders but gained two precious days ie October 24 and 25 in which armed assistance request was sent to Delhi.

More shocking was invaders damaging Mahora Hydel Power station, the only power station then due to which entire Kashmir valley was plunged into darkness.

The Pakistani attacks compelled Indian Government to take stock of the situation in Kashmir and on October 25, VP Menon, Secretary of the Ministry of States rushed to Srinagar. He met PM Mehar Chand Mahajan and Maharaja Hari Singh. As enemy forces were advancing towards Srinagar city, Maharaja was advised to leave for Jammu along with the family.

It is said Mr Menon returned to Delhi on October 26 along with the PM MC Mahajan. They conveyed to New Delhi desire of the Maharaja to make his state part of Indian Dominion. The same day ie on October 26, 1947 Maharaja signed Instrument of Accession with India and Indian armed forces started arriving into Kashmir valley.

Oct 26, 1947 is an important date in the history of India. On November 17, 1956 Constituent Assembly of Jammu & Kashmir adopted its own Constitution declaring State as inseparable part of India. October 26 was declared as holiday by the present Government.

(Letter of Maharaja Hari Singh to Lord Mountbatten of October 26, 1947 for Accession to India)

My dear Lord Mountbatten, I have to inform your Excellency that a grave emergency has arisen in my State and request the immediate assistance of your Government. As your Excellency is aware, the State of Jammu and Kashmir has not acceded to either the Dominion of India or Pakistan.

Geographically, my State is contiguous with both of them. Besides, my State has a common boundary with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and with China. In their external relations, the Dominions of India and Pakistan cannot ignore this fact. I wanted to take time to decide to which Dominion I should accede to or whether it is not in the best interest of both the Dominions

and of my State to stand Independent, of course with friendly and cordial relations with both. I accordingly approached the Dominions of India and Pakistan to enter a standstill agreement with my State. The Pakistan Govt accepted this arrangement. The Dominion of India desired further discussion with representatives of my Government. I could not arrange this in view of the developments indicated below. Infact the Pakistan Govt under the standstill agreement is operating the post and telegraph system inside the State. Though we have got a standstill agreement with Pakistan Govt, that Government permitted a steady and increasing strangulation of supplies like food, salt and petrol to my State.

Afridis, soldiers in plain clothes, and desperadoes with modern weapons have been allowed to enmass infiltrate into the State, at first in the Poonch area, then from Sialkot and finally in the area adjoining Hazara district on the Ramkot side. The result have been that the limited number of troops at the disposal of the state had to be dispersed and thus had to face the enemy at several points simultaneously, so that it has become difficult to stop the wanton destruction of life and property and the looting of the Mahura power house, which supplies electric current to the whole of Srinagar and which has been burnt. The wild forces thus let loose on state are marching on with the aim of capturing Srinagar, the summer capital of my government, as a first step to over running the whole state. The mass infiltration of tribesmen drawn from distant area of the North West Frontier Province, coming regularly in motor trucks, using the Mansehra-Muzaffarabad road and fully armed with up-to-date weapons, cannot possibly be done without the knowledge of the Provincial Government of the North West Frontier Province and the Government of Pakistan. In spite of repeated appeals made by my Government no attempt has been made to check these raiders or to stop them from coming into my State. Infact both the radio and the press of Pakistan have reported these occurrences. The Pakistan radio even put out the story that a provisional Government has been set up in Kashmir. The people of my State both Muslims and non-Muslims generally have taken no part at all.

With the conditions obtaining at present in my State and the great emergency of the situation as it exists, I have no option but to ask for help from the Indian Dominion. Naturally they can not send the help asked for by me without my State acceding to the Dominion of India. I have accordingly decided to do so, and I attach the instrument of accession for acceptance of your Government. The other alternative is to leave my State and the people to freebooters. On this basis no civilised Government can exist or be maintained. This alternative I will never allow to happen so long as I am the ruler of the State and I have life to defend my country.

I may also inform your Excellency's Government that it is my intention at once to set up an interim Government and to ask Sheikh Abdullah to carry the responsibilities in this emergency with my Prime Minister.

Dimple addresses key issues on J&K status



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 25: Chairman of the Mission Statehood, Sunil Dimple, addressing various issues related to the status of Jammu and Kashmir. October 26 is celebrated as Accession Day, marking the day when Jammu and Kashmir became part of India with the signing of the standstill agreement by Maharaja Hari Singh in 1947.

Sunil Dimple mentioned that Article 370 and Article 35A provided protection to the lands, jobs, and state subject of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He criticized the BJP for taking actions in 2019 that, in his view, broke the "bridge" between Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of India. He accused them of dishonoring the instrument of accession conditions.

Sunil Dimple suggested that the next Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir should be a Dogra from Jammu.

He called for the liberation of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK), Gilgit, and Baltistan to reunite the people of Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh, and these regions in a new Jammu and Kashmir state.

He mentioned that petitions filed in the Supreme Court regard-

ing Article 370 and Article 35A are expected to be decided soon.

Dimple stated that the BJP-RSS has made changes to the state subject document, replacing it with "domicile."

He raised various issues faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir, including economic concerns, infrastructure, and political changes.

Other leaders present were Sachin Soi, Satpal Sharma, Rupesh Bhat, Manjiet Anand, Bunty Dogra, Sahil Kumar, Shiv Charn Dass.

SBI Regional Office Jammu hands over 15 wheel chairs to SSH Jammu under CSR

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 25: SBI Regional Manager Kumar Raina handed over 15 Wheel Chairs under corporate social responsibility programme to Super Speciality Hospital Jammu in a function organised at SSH.

The chairs were received by Deputy Medical Superintendent Dr Sanjogita Soodan in presence of Dr. Bindu Mahajan (Medical Officer), Jyoti Rokri (Assistant Accounts Officer), Waryam Chand (Security Officer), other staff from the hospital and



Gulshan Kumar (Deputy Manager) and Sushil Kumar (Deputy Manager) from State Bank Of India.

Regional Manager Kumar Jee Raina

briefed that the chairs are for the use of specially-abled patients and other needy at the hospital.

Deputy Medical Superintendent Dr Sanjogita

Soodan thanked State Bank of India and their team for this kind gesture of providing wheelchairs under CSR to SSH Jammu.

Volleyball Tournament commenced at DPL Jammu



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 25: Borderline Club won the opening match of Volleyball Tournament, organized by Jammu Police on Wednesday at DPL Jammu.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by

SSP Jammu Dr. Vinod Kumar, accompanied by SP South Shaheen Wahid, SP Hqs Ramnish Gupta, DySP DAR DPL Jammu KD Bhagat.

The opening match of the tournament, in which 10 different teams are participating,

was played between Borderline Club and MA Stadium in which Borderline Club emerged as winner.

In the end, SSP Jammu congratulated the winner team and wished them luck for their future matches.

Inter-Collegiate Yoga (M&W) Championship 2023-24 held

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 25: Inter-Collegiate Yoga Championship for men organized by the Directorate of Sports & Physical Education, University of Jammu on Wednesday.

In team category, Govt. Degree College, Paloura bagged first position while second and third positions were clinched by PG Department, University of Jammu and GCET, Jammu respectively besides in individual category, the first position was won by Sahil, GDC Paloura and second and third posi-



tions were secured by Baljinder Singh GCET and Akarsh, GDC Bishnah respectively.

Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba Director, Directorate of Sports and Physical

Education, University of Jammu awarded the trophy and medals to the winners in presence of Physical Director/teacher invited guest from the University and civil soci-

ety. The matches were officiated by technical panel of expert including Sanjeev Kumar Pandey, Anil Gupta, Mukesh, Anil Kumar, Sandeep Sharma, Deepti, Harin-

derpal Singh.

Prominent among others present on the occasion were Dr. Vimal Kishore, Gagan Kumar, Inderjeet Singh and Gangandeep Singh.

Refugees will receive full relief packages when Rahul Gandhi becomes PM of India: Gurmeet

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 25: Gurmeet Singh, who is the President of Beopar Mandal & District General Secretary of the Congress party, regarding the release of relief packages to refugees from PoJK (Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir) and Chhamb, as well as refugees from 1947, 1965, and 1971.

Gurmeet Singh promised that refugees from PoJK and Chhamb will receive a balance of Rs 25 lakhs in relief packages when Rahul Gandhi becomes the Prime Minister of India.

He stated that the Congress party, along with Rahul Gandhi, will disperse all pending



package amounts with enhanced relief when the Congress-led government comes into power at the Centre.

Gurmeet requested the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory to release funds from the

government to compensate the relief packages for refugees from 1947, 1965, and 1971.

He criticized the decision of the government to close the ongoing relief package for refugees of 1947, 1965, and 1971, calling it

injustice, discrimination, and a betrayal of promises.

The relief package had been endorsed by all parties during a joint parliamentary committee, and it was supposed to amount to Rs. 30 lakhs per family.

However, only Rs. 5.5 lakhs was sanctioned, and there were issues with the disbursement process.

Gurmeet Singh requested that the disbursement process of Rs. 5.5 lakhs be continued until all eligible families are covered, and the full package of Rs. 30 lakhs with other components should be considered by the Central Government without further delay.

He mentioned the date of the last communication received from the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, which was on 27th August 2022, indicating that the pending amount has not yet been distributed.

NHM employees organize block level meeting at Ghat; constitute new body



TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Oct 25: The National Health Mission (NHM) employees of Health Block Ghat in Doda district on Wednesday organized a block level meeting of its employees.

In the meeting, various issues and problems being faced by the NHM

employees were discussed in detail besides stress was laid on all NHM employees to get united on one platform to strengthen the unity among all so that the District Union would work for the betterment of NHM fraternity and will continue their strive till the justice will not be

given to all NHM employees working in the UT, Jammu & Kashmir.

Meanwhile a block level body of Ghat was also framed out in the meeting under the supervision of District President NHM Union Doda Dr Nasir Masood Indrabi and in presence of Sr NHM Leader Dr Hamid

Parry, Vice President Dr Younis Saleem, Sr Advisor Mashood Latif, Dr Vijay Kumar (Advisor) and former District President Doda Faizan A Trambo.

During the course of meeting, a new body at block level was constituted with Dr Tariq Younas as Block President, Ashok

Shan as Vice President, Dr Diviya Thakur as Gen Secretary, Kamney Manhas as Secretary, Dr Bisma Akram and Neha Manhas as Spokespersons and Ajay Singh as Block Coordinator of the Association, similarly in the Block Advisory Committee, Dr Mohd Iqbal, Dr Javed Iqbal, Dr Tariq Hussain, Dr Tousee Aslam, Dr Amjad Iqbal and Dr Waseem Natoo were also nominated.

At the end of the meeting, as a mark of respect to the departed souls of Late Sandeep Kotwal (MMPHW Kishtwar) and Late Anil Kumar, husband of Suman Devi (FMPHW) Thathi who passed away some few days ago, two minutes silence were also observed during the meeting to pay rich tributes to them.

SSP Anantnag flags off marathon 'Run for Unity'



TOP NEWS REPORT

ANANTNAG, Oct 25: In the memory of Police Martyrs, Anantnag Police Started Police flag day week-2023 with Marathon "Run for Unity".

Anantnag Police organized Marathon "Run for Unity" from Sarnal Anantnag to Mattan on Wednesday in which about 250 students of different schools of

district Anantnag and officials of J&K Police participated with zeal and zest. Those who attained first five positions were awarded by SSP Anantnag Dr.G.V Sandeep Chakravarty.

The "Run For Unity" was flagged off by SSP Anantnag Dr. G.V Sandeep Chakravarty, DySP HQRS Anantnag, DySP DAR, SHO Anantnag and other senior officers of Police

and Youth Service and Sports department were also present on the occasion.

It is pertinent to mention here that Anantnag Police is going to organise different Sports events and co-curricular activities in the district. The week is dedicated to all the Police Martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the service of the nation.

Karan Johar reveals SRK's support helped him embrace his true self: 'He was just so cool'

Filmmaker Karan Johar has expressed his love and fondness for superstar Shah Rukh Khan, sharing how the latter was the first person, who didn't make him feel lesser in terms of sexuality.

In a podcast 'We Are Yuva', Johar has opened up on his childhood trauma, sexuality and his confidant Shah Rukh Khan.

Johar said, "I think the first person that made me feel that I was okay was Shah Rukh Khan. He has been and brought up in a very progressive environment, he comes from theatre, he has worked with all kinds of people.

"My parents won't be able to understand things, I felt the feminine side I had that was coming out so strongly, was only met with laughter or being made fun of," shared Johar.

He said, "When I grew older, people around me were quiet, there were chitter chatter around, maybe the way I walked, spoke etc. SRK was the first man who didn't make me feel lesser. He made me feel like an equal. He accepted what



in those days be like considered being a pansy, feminine, or walking funny. He was just so cool about everything.

"He had a lot of open chats with me. Even when I had to say the biggest thing about my personality and sexuality, I spoke to him first. Because I felt like he would be that one influence and sense of support. I feel like Indian cinema has painted the

most flawed interpretations of what a man should be," said the 51-year-old director.

Speaking on SRK's first reaction about his sexuality, the 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai' director said, "It's what he didn't say. It's what he didn't bring up, it's what he normalised. When I sat funny, walked funny, did or said campy things, he laughed, hung out with me, chat with

me. And that's all that matters."

On his childhood trauma, Karan shared, "I haven't learnt to love myself as much as possibly the world would imagine that I do. I have many body issues even now. When I step into a swimming pool, it had to be in a private surrounding. I am not comfortable with my body even now. What I am comfortable is - with my self.

"The moment I wear that black suit it's like my armour, the moment I get into fashion that's when I found my voice. I realised I want to wear what I want to, no matter what people say," he said.

He added: "The people on social media comment on my clothing, saying I am cheap copy of Ranveer Singh, they call me 'GayJo'. But all that doesn't bother me. Now, I have developed a thick skin for that."

On the work front, Karan recently directed 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani', starring Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt. He next has 'Yodha', 'Jigra' in the pipeline.

Rasika Dugal hints at the release of Mirzapur Season 3



Rasika Dugal, known for her outstanding portrayal of Beena Tripathi in the popular show Mirzapur, has hinted at the release of Season

3.

This exciting revelation coincides with the third anniversary of the release of Season 2, which first aired on October 23, 2020.

In a recent Instagram post, Rasika Dugal dropped a hint by sharing a clip from the show. In the video, she can be seen talking on the phone, saying, "Jaldi karengi thik hai Mirzapur 3 ka release... risk nahi le sakte," which translates to, "We will release Mirzapur 3 soon, can't take risk anymore"

Rasika has wrapped up Season 3 and was recently also seen dubbing for the same.

In addition to Mirzapur Season 3, Rasika will reprise her role as Neeti Singh in the third season of acclaimed series Delhi Crime. Her upcoming projects also include Lord Curzon Ki Haveli, Fairy Folk, Little Thomas, among others.

Paresh Rawal-starrer 'Shastry Virudh Shastry' to release on November 3

'Shastry Virudh Shastry', starring Paresh Rawal, is set to release in theatres on November 3, the makers announced on Wednesday.

The film is directed by Nandita Roy and Shiboprasad Mukherjee and produced by Viacom18 Studios.

'Shastry Virudh Shastry' revolves around the seven-year-old Momoji, caught in a web of emotions, torn between his parents and loving grandparents. The central question of "Who holds the moral claim?" serves as the crux of the narrative, the official synopsis read.

In a media statement issued on behalf of the makers, the film delves into a subject that resonates in nearly every household but is seldom vocalised - the essence of parenthood and the extent to which the law should determine the fate of a child.

As the story unfolds in the courtroom, it pits love against law, challenging viewers to question whether parents are



always right, and in the court of love, who truly deserves to be the guardian, according to the makers.

Mimi Chakraborty, Amruta Subhash, Manoj Joshi, Neena Kulkarni and Shiv Panditth also round out the cast of the film.

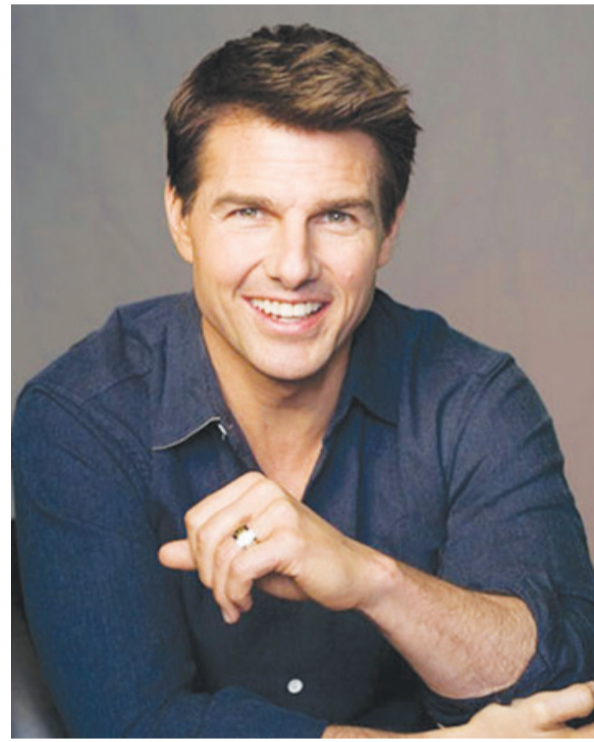
Tom Cruise' 'Mission: Impossible 8' release date delayed to 2025

Tom Cruise's next 'Mission: Impossible' won't be hitting the theatres as per the originally planned release date.

The makers will now release the film on May 23, 2025, instead of June 28, 2024, The Hollywood Reporter reported.

Also, the film will most probably not be released under its previously-announced title of Mission: Impossible—Dead Reckoning Part Two, and a new title is set to be announced at a later date.

The delay is a result of the production shutdown caused by the ongoing strikes in Hollywood. The previous instal-



ment, 'Dead Reckoning Part 1' was released in July 2023 and garnered great reviews.

The movie stars Cruise as IMF agent Ethan Hunt, with Hayley Atwell, Simon Pegg, Ving Rhames and Vanessa Kirby among those expected to return.

The Mission franchise dates back to 1996's original film, based on the 1960s TV show. It is known for filming in locales across the globe and for at least one signature Cruise stunt that often becomes the centerpiece of its marketing campaign.

Christopher McQuarrie directed the seventh 'Mission,' which landed

in theatres just before the global phenomenon of Barbenheimer. Despite positive reviews and goodwill from Cruise's last blockbuster sensation "Top Gun: Maverick," the tentpole fell short of box office expectations with USD 567 million globally, as per Variety.

Mission: Impossible 8 is expected to continue the narrative of 2023's Mission: Impossible. The eighth Mission is being shot with Imax cameras and will be carried in Imax theatres for a full three weeks. This comes after M:I 7 lost its Imax screens quickly because of Oppenheimer.

Singer-actress Ila Arun to challenge Sushmita Sen in Aarya 3

Two successful seasons, an International Emmy Award nomination and actress Sushmita Sen's OTT debut launch vehicle, Aarya, is coming back with its third season. With new challenges as well as enemies, this season sees veteran actress and pop singer Ila Arun join the cast. Stepping into the shoes of Nalini, Ila Arun says, "It's going to be an interesting outing. Now whether I join hands with Aarya or oppose her, or how long we walk together, is going to intrigue the viewers."

The 69-year-old Rajasthan folk-pop singer, who has given popular numbers such as Delhi Shahar Mein Maro Ghaghro

and Choli Ke Peeche Kya Hai, has dabbled in the world of acting and singing for nearly four decades, yet her enthusiasm remains intact. "In Aarya 3, both Sushmita Sen's character Aarya and mine, Nalini, have been through a lot of struggles in the past." Ila portrays another strong foil to Sushmita's character, who wants to expand her transport business along with drug trade. However, Nalini (Ila) is the undisputed queen of the business. "It's a powerful role that challenged me, as much as I enjoyed it," adds Arun. OTT has opened up a whole new world and Ila is enjoying the fresh wave of content. She



recently played a transgender, Amma, in Nawazuddin Siddiqui-starrer Haddi. "It was a different experience, but right now I am all focused on Aarya."

As for singing, she shares, "I am singing, also doing shows while handling couple of acting projects. Yes acting has taken over singing for a while, but I will continue to sing, dance and act as long as I can." Aarya, also starring Sikandar Kher, Indraneil Sengupta, Vikas Kumar, Maya Sarao and Geetanjali Kulkarni, has been created, produced, and directed by Ram Madhvani. Its third season will stream on Disney+ Hotstar from November 3.

Singer Megan Thee Stallion teases new track



Rapper-songwriter Megan Thee Stallion posted a video on Instagram on Monday, teasing a new track alongside what looks to be its potential new music video.

The Grammy-winning rapper, 28, shared a short video focusing on her lips in pitch black background as she utters the words: "Just as a snake sheds its skin, we must shed our past, over and over again."

Then she suddenly appears out of the blue with her visage hidden in darkness and possessing cat-like demon eyes, before she proceeds to open her mouth in carnivorous fashion, revealing her monstrous teeth.

The sneak peek then concluded with two slides that read, "A story by Megan Thee Stallion and directed by Douglas Bernard."

Megan's latest post follows her settlement with her former record label, 1501 Certified Entertainment.

The record label announced on social media that the singer and the label have "mutually reached a confidential settlement to resolve their legal differences."

Paris Hilton says 'unacceptable' to target her child



American media personality and businesswoman Paris Hilton shared her heartache over 'cruel and hateful' people's response to a photograph she posted on social media of her eight-month-old son, Phoenix Barron. The TV personality addressed the nasty comments on Instagram, saying it was 'unacceptable' for fans to 'target' her child.

On October 19, Hilton, 42, posted a series of photos of her son, whom she shares with her husband Carter Reum, on Instagram, to mark his first trip to New York City. A TikTok user pointed out the negative response the post received, prompting Hilton to reply that her 'angel is perfectly healthy' and 'just has a large brain.' On Instagram, Hilton wrote, "This hurts my heart more deeply than words can describe. I've worked hard to cultivate an environment that is all about love, respect, and acceptance, and I expect the same in return."

Actress Reese Witherspoon wants to make optimistic stuff



American actress and film producer Reese Witherspoon opened up about her obsession with comedy during a panel discussion at Hello Sunshine's inaugural Shine Away Event in Los Angeles.

"I came to this realisation and I'm sure you guys are going to find

this shocking: I'm not meant to be doing dark, heavy, intense, horror, gore, darkness movies. People like to see me do light movies. And I was like, okay..." she said. "I want to make optimistic stuff that excites girls to be women in this world because it is a wonderful thing to be a woman in this world," added Witherspoon.

Even while Witherspoon has been seen in darker, more serious roles (Election, Wild), she is best known for her comedy work with films like Legally Blonde and her most recent Netflix rom-com Your Place or Mine, alongside Ashton Kutcher.

PM Modi to launch development projects in Maharashtra, inaugurate National Games in Goa

Modi will begin his Maharashtra tour by offering prayers at the Shri Sai baba temple in Shirdi and inaugurate its new 'darshan queue complex'

NEW DELHI, Oct 25 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Thursday launch a scheme in Maharashtra aimed at benefiting over 86 lakh farmers and launch projects worth over Rs 7,500 crore and then travel to Goa to inaugurate the 37th National Games.

An official statement said Modi would begin his Maharashtra tour by offering prayers at the Shri Sai baba temple in Shirdi and inaugurate its new "darshan queue complex".

He will perform "Jal Pujan" of Nilwande Dam and dedicate a canal network of the dam to the nation and later attend a public



programme in Shirdi to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth about Rs 7,500

crore in sectors like health, rail, road and oil and gas. The statement said the new "darshan queue complex"

at Shirdi is a state-of-the-art modern mega building envisaged to provide comfortable waiting areas for devotees.

It is equipped with several waiting halls with a cumulative seating capacity of more than 10,000 devotees.

Its foundation stone was laid by the prime minister in October 2018.

The 85 km canal network will benefit 182 villages by facilitating pipe distribution networks of water. The idea of Nilwande Dam was first conceived in 1970. It is being developed at a cost of about Rs 5,177 crore, the statement said.

Former Uttarakhand CM Harish Rawat injured in car accident



HALDWANI, Oct 25 (Agencies): Former Uttarakhand chief minister Harish Rawat sustained minor injuries when his car collided with a divider in Udhampur district, police said today.

According to information, the senior Congress leader along with

some of his workers was going from Haldwani to Kashipur in Udhampur district on Tuesday night when the accident occurred, they added.

While trying to overtake a vehicle near the Bajpur railway crossing, the driver of Rawat's car lost control of the vehi-

cle and it collided with the divider, the police said.

Rawat, who was sitting in the front seat, received minor injuries, they added.

Rawat on Wednesday took to X to share about the incident.

In a post in Hindi, the former chief minister said he suffered mild tremors when the car collided with the divider, following which he went to the hospital for a check-up and doctors said everything was fine and discharged him.

He added, "...There is no need to worry. My colleagues and I are fine."

Mohali police initiates action to auction 'ill-gotten' properties of Himachal cryptocurrency scam mastermind



MOHALI, Oct 25 (Agencies): The Mohali police has initiated action to attach and auction the alleged ill-gotten properties of the mastermind Subhash Sharma in the Himachal Pradesh cryptocurrency scam.

Six properties of Sharma, a resident of Mandi, who is absconding and said to be in Dubai, are being attached under Section 21 and 23 of Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Act, 2019.

It is for the first time this offence has been added in the FIR, registered at the Zirakpur

police station. Dera Bassi ASP Dr Darpan Ahluwalia said, "This is for the first time in the state that ill-gotten properties will be attached using this provision." Besides Zirakpur, the probe has led the cops to Jalandhar and a few other places in HP.

As many as three persons -- Zirakpur resident Sham Sharma; and Dhanas residents Sunil Kumar (former constable) and Ashwani Kumar, both belonging to Puthiana village in Nadaun (HP) -- were arrested in Zirakpur in

the multi-crore scam in September. Five others are absconding in the case.

Officials said a written communication has been sent to the Administrative Secretary of the Department of Finance, Punjab, who is the Competent Authority for the purpose of this Act. The provisional attachment order, thus obtained, will be submitted in the designated court which will decide on the absolute attachment of the property and the permission to sell it by public auction or private sale.

Retired judge ends life at Bhopal home, was disturbed by 'negative' thoughts: Police

BHOPAL, Oct 25 (Agencies): A retired district and session judge, who had slipped into depression, allegedly died by suicide at his home here, a police official said on Wednesday.

Prem Sinha (63), who was under treatment for depression, took the extreme step in the early hours of Tuesday, Habibganj police station



in-charge Manish Raj Bhadoria said, quoting the judge's family members.

According to a suicide note recovered from the spot where Sinha was

found hanging, he took the extreme step as he was disturbed after getting "negative" thoughts.

After he retired as the district and session judge from Umaria,

Sinha was posted as a member of a tribunal in the state.

Family members told the police that he had been depressed for the last one to two months and started living in a lonely and peaceful place. They also took him to a doctor for treatment, Bhadoria said.

On Monday night, he was sleeping in his room. His wife raised an

alarm around 4 am when she did not find him on the bed. She then saw him hanging from a tin shade on their premises, he said.

The family immediately brought Sinha down and rushed him to a hospital where doctors declared him dead after examination, the official said, adding that further investigations were underway.

Bribe for query charge: BJP MP Nishikant Dubey sharpens attack on Mahua Moitra

NEW DELHI, Oct 25 (Agencies): BJP MP Nishikant Dubey on Wednesday sharpened his attack on the TMC's Lok Sabha member Mahua Moitra and posed a volley of questions over the "bribe for query" allegations against her, saying it was a matter of Parliament's dignity and India's security.

In a post on X, he asked Moitra to clarify if her NIC mail was opened in Dubai or not and who bore the expenses of her foreign trips.

"The question is not about Adani, degree or theft, but about

your corruption by misleading the country," the BJP MP said in his post on the microblogging site without naming Moitra.

The question is about the dignity of Parliament, the security of India and the corruption and criminality of the said MP, he wrote on X, with hashtags "Degree wali desh beche (the one who has degree sells the country)" and "Chand paise ke liye zamir beche (sells conscience for a few bucks)".

"The answer has to be given whether NIC mail was opened in Dubai or not? Whether ques-

tions were asked in exchange for money or not? Who bore the expenses of foreign trips? Whether permission was ever taken from the Lok Sabha Speaker and the MEA to go abroad or not?" Dubey also posed.

The BJP MP's scathing attack on Moitra comes after Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Tuesday said the National Informatics Centre (NIC) would extend "full cooperation" to Parliament's Ethics Committee in the investigation of charges levelled by Dubey against Moitra.

Sharing a copy of Vaishnaw's letter on X, Dubey said it is the beginning of a 'dharma yuddh'.

Moitra said she was "amused" by Vaishnaw's response to Dubey's letter and welcomed the BJP "to do a hit job on me".

Dubey has accused Moitra of accepting bribes and favours for asking questions in Lok Sabha at the behest of businessman Darshan Hiranandani to target the Adani Group and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The BJP MP recently wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla in this regard.

Rajasthan Shocker: On Camera, Man Drives Tractor Over Brother 8 Times

BHARATPUR, Oct 25 (Agencies): A man was brutally crushed to death with a tractor by his brother in Rajasthan's Bharatpur as two families clashed over a plot of land, the police said. The accused, Damodar, allegedly drove the tractor back and forth eight times on his brother Nirpat until he died, they said, adding that Damodar has been arrested.

The families of Bahadur Singh and Atar Singh were embroiled in a long-drawn dispute over a piece of land in Bharatpur. This morning, Bahadur Singh's

family reached the disputed plot on a tractor. Athar Singh's family came a while later.

Soon, the two families clashed and started attacking the other with sticks and stones. Villagers claimed they heard gunshots.

During the clash, when one of Atar Singh's sons, Nirpat, fell to the ground, his brother ran him over eight times with the tractor until he died, the police said. Even as the other family members intervened, Damodar allegedly refused to stop and brutally killed his brother on the spot. Nearly 10 people have



been injured in the clashes and are being treated at a hospital. The police have registered a case and detained four people for questioning.

According to reports, the two families had clashed five days ago, when Bahadur Singh and his younger brother,

Janak, were injured. The family had filed a case against Atar Singh's family, including his son Nirpat.

The BJP has attacked the ruling Congress in Rajasthan over the grisly incident. In a sharply worded attack on Priyanka Gandhi Vadra,

BJP's Sambit Patra said, "Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has to project she has the spine and the gall to visit Bharatpur, to visit the place where this gruesome murder took place only a while ago, and the video which has gone viral across the country and beyond is heartwrenching. This is a call to Priyanka Vadra."

"We were going to talk about a serious issue in this press conference but I could not stop myself after watching this video. That is why I challenge you to go there," he said.

60 chemical tankers destroyed as massive fire engulfs Gujarat factory



ARAVALLI, Oct 25 (Agencies): A massive fire broke out at a chemical factory in Gujarat's Aravalli district on Wednesday morning. More than 60 tankers filled with chemicals were destroyed in the fire, resulting in damage worth crores.

The fire erupted in eco west factory which has been shut for the past four months. The reason behind the fire is yet to be ascertained.

Ten fire tenders were rushed to the scene to douse the blaze.

Two dead, one injured in road accident in UP's Saharanpur

SAHARANPUR, Oct 25 (Agencies): Two persons died and another was injured in an accident on the Saharanpur-Muzaffarnagar highway under the Deoband police station area, police said on Wednesday.

Subhash (45) and his kin Naresh Kumar were going to Karanjali village on Tuesday night when their motorcycle hit Anuj Kumar (26), who had just got down from a bus at Sakhanahar, killing him on the spot, Superintendent of



Police (Dehat) Sagar Jain told agency.

At the same time, a pickup vehicle hit the motorcycle injuring both Subhash and Naresh. They were taken to the district hospital where Subhash succumbed to injuries, the police offi-

cer said.

According to the police, Anuj used to work as a labourer in Deoband and was returning home when the accident occurred. Both the bodies have been sent for post-mortem, they added.

NewsClick Row: Delhi Court sends Prabir Purkayastha, Amit Chakravarty to police custody till November 2

NEW DELHI, Oct 25 (Agencies): A Delhi court on Wednesday sent NewsClick founder Prabir Purkayastha and human resources department head Amit Chakravarty to police custody till November 2 in a case lodged under the anti-terror law UAPA over allegations that the news portal received money to spread pro-China propaganda.

The accused were produced in the court on the expiry of their 15-day judicial custody granted by it earlier.

The police had requested the court on October 10 to send the accused persons to jail and had submitted that the agency could ask for their further custodial interrogation later.



The police on Wednesday told the judge that it wanted

to confront the accused with some protected witnesses and also some devices which were examined and the data that has been extracted.

Advocate Arshdeep Singh Khurana, appearing for Purkayastha, opposed the police remand plea claiming that there was no new ground in the application.

The Special Cell of Delhi Police had arrested Purkayastha and Chakravarty on October 3.

According to the FIR, a large amount of funds to the news portal came from China to "disrupt the sovereignty of India" and cause disaffection against the country.

It also alleged Purkayastha

conspired with a group -- People's Alliance for Democracy and Secularism (PADS) -- to sabotage the electoral process during the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

Raids were conducted at 88 locations in Delhi and seven in other states on October 3 on the suspects named in the FIR and those that surfaced in the analysis of data, police said.

Around 300 electronic gadgets were also seized from the offices of NewsClick and residences of the journalists who were examined.

Following the raids, 46 individuals, including nine female journalists, were questioned by the Special Cell in Delhi and NCR.

Israeli airstrikes surge in Gaza, killing dozens at a time in destroyed homes, witnesses say

Gaza's 2.3 million people have been running out of food, water and medicine since Israel sealed off the territory on Oct 7

RAFAH (GAZA STRIP), Oct 25 (Agencies): Israel escalated airstrikes across the Gaza Strip, crushing families in the rubble of residential buildings, as health officials said hundreds of Palestinians were killed and medical facilities were shut down because of bomb damage and lack of power.

The soaring death toll from the bombardment is unprecedented in the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It augurs an even greater loss of life in Gaza once Israeli forces backed by tanks and artillery launch an expected ground offensive aimed at crushing Hamas militants.

Gaza's 2.3 million people



have been running out of food, water and medicine since Israel sealed off the territory following the devastating October 7 attack by Hamas on towns in southern Israel.

The Gaza Health Ministry, which is run by Hamas, said Israeli airstrikes killed at least 704 people over the past one day, mostly women and children. The Associated Press

could not independently verify the death tolls cited by Hamas, which says it tallies figures from hospital directors.

In Washington, White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters that the US also could not verify that one-day death toll.

"The Ministry of Health is run by Hamas, and I think that all needs to be factored into anything that they put out publicly."

Israel said that it had launched 400 airstrikes over the past day, killing Hamas commanders, hitting militants as they prepared to fire rockets into Israel and striking command centres and a Hamas tunnel shaft. Israel reported 320 strikes the day before.

South Korea's population mobility plunges to 50-year low

SEOUL, Oct 25 (Agencies): The number of South Koreans who moved to different residences in the country sank to a 50-year low in September on population aging and the sagging real estate market, the statistics agency said on Wednesday.

Around 450,000 people changed their residences last month, down 1.6 per cent from a year earlier, according to the data compiled by Statistics Korea. It marked the lowest monthly tally for any September since 1973 when the figure came to 378,000. The government began compiling the related data since January 1970, reports Yonhap News Agency.

The population mobility rate -- the percentage of those relocating per 100 people -- came to 10.7 per cent last month, down 0.2 percentage point from the previous year, the data showed.

The decline came as the number of people in their 20s who changed their residences logged an on-year fall last month.

People in their 20s and 30s tend to frequently change their residences due to housing expenses and work. But the

number of such young adults has fallen amid low birthrates, while that of senior citizens rose due to rapid population aging.

The decline also came as housing transactions remained in the doldrums over rising interest rates and an economic slowdown.

Seoul chalked up a net outflow of 1,370 people last month on high home prices, and Gyeonggi province, which surrounds the capital, and the western port city of Incheon posted net inflows of 1,238 and 2,917, respectively, the data showed.

The second-largest city of Busan, 320 km southeast of Seoul, saw a net outflow of 961 people, and North Gyeongsang Province experienced a net outflow of 661 residents, the data showed.

During the third quarter of 2023, the number of people who changed their residences climbed 2.4 per cent on-year to come to 1.47 million, marking the first quarterly increase since the fourth quarter of 2020.

The mobility rate rose 0.3 percentage point to 11.4 per cent in the third quarter, the data showed.

US does not want war with Iran, but warns of 'decisive' response if Americans are attacked anywhere

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 25 (Agencies): The United States told the United Nations that it does not seek conflict with Iran, but Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned that Washington would act swiftly and decisively if Iran or its proxies attacked US personnel anywhere.

Blinken spoke to the 15-member UN Security Council amid international fears that the conflict between Israel and Iran-backed Palestinian Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip could spill over into a wider war, drawing in Lebanon's heavily armed Hezbollah that is also supported by Tehran.

"The United States does not seek conflict with Iran. We do not want this war to widen. But if Iran or its prox-



ies attack US personnel anywhere, make no mistake, we will defend our people, we will defend our security, swiftly and decisively."

The US military is taking new steps to protect its troops in the Middle East as concerns mount about attacks by Iran-backed groups, officials told agency.

The US has also sent warships and fighter aircraft to the region to try to deter Iran and Iran-backed groups, including two aircraft carriers.

Blinken called on all states to send a united message to any state or non-state actor that might be considering opening another front in the conflict against

Israel or who may target Israel's partners, including the United States: "Don't throw fuel on the fire," he said.

Violations in Gaza UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres pleaded on Tuesday for civilians to be protected in the war between Israel and Palestinian Hamas militants, voicing concern about "clear violations of international humanitarian law" in the Gaza Strip.

More than 700 Palestinians were killed in overnight Israeli air strikes, Gaza's health ministry said, the highest 24-hour death toll since Israel began a bombing campaign to crush Hamas militants who stunned the country with a deadly October 7 attack.

'Stop peddling China-related lies': Canadian accusation of spreading disinformation a ploy to attack, smear China, says Beijing official

BEIJING, Oct 25 (Agencies): Amid the still-going diplomatic spat with India over a claim that its agents were involved in the killing of Sikh separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar, the spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Mao Ning, urged Canada to respect facts and truth and stop peddling "China-related lies".

Addressing a press briefing at the Chinese capital, Beijing, Mao said such 'lies' could further damage bilateral relations between the two countries.

Ning made these remarks in response to a claim by Canada's Foreign Minister Melanie Jolly that an organisation connected to China was spreading information related to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, other senior officials and the members of Parliament through comments and "deepfake" videos online.

Mao said the statement by Canada's foreign ministry was a misrepresentation of facts. "The so-called statement by Canada's foreign ministry misrepresents facts and is very misleading, which makes trumped-up



charges against China," she said. She added that China firmly condemns her statement. "We deplore and firmly oppose that (Canadian Foreign Minister's statement)," she said.

She added that the Canadian side, "for some time now, has falsely accused China of spreading disinformation against their politicians on multiple occasions, but never showed any evidence to prove it".

"For some time, the Canadian side has falsely accused China of spreading disinformation against Canadian politicians on multiple occasions, but it has never come up with any solid evidence," she said.

She said Canada has been making up lies, including on Xinjiang, Xizang and Hong Kong, to attack and smear China. "It is the Canadian side that has been producing and spreading disinformation. We urge the Canadian side to respect facts and truth, stop spreading China-related lies, and stop words and deeds that would poison the atmosphere of China-Canada relations and damage bilateral relations," she added.

Sri Lanka confirms Chinese research ship headed to its shores

COLOMBO, Oct 25 (Agencies): Sri Lanka confirmed Wednesday the expected arrival of a Chinese research ship, following a visit by a spacecraft-tracking vessel last year that raised security concerns from neighbouring India.

New Delhi is suspicious of China's increasing presence in the Indian Ocean and its influence in Sri Lanka, which is strategically placed halfway along key east-west international shipping routes.

A foreign ministry spokesman said the Shi Yan 6 had been authorised to dock in Colombo, where a Chinese state-owned company operates a deep-sea container terminal.

"Clearance was given for the vessel to come to Colombo for replenishment," the spokesman, who asked not to be named, told AFP.

Chinese state broadcaster CGTN calls the Shi Yan 6 a "scientific research vessel" with a crew of 60 to conduct oceanography, geology and marine ecology tests.

International ship tracking website MarineTraffic said the vessel was due to arrive in Colombo as soon as Wednesday.

The foreign ministry did not say how long the vessel would remain docked there.

Last year, India expressed concerns over a Sri Lanka port call by Chinese research vessel Yuan Wang 5, which specialises in spacecraft tracking and which New Delhi described as a spy ship.

It docked in Hambantota, a port in Sri Lanka's south under a 99-year lease to the Chinese company that built it after Colombo was unable to service a \$1.4 billion loan taken for the project.

Sri Lanka defaulted on its \$46 billion external debt last year in an unprecedented economic crisis partly blamed on Chinese loans used to build white-elephant infrastructure projects between 2005 and 2015.

China owns 52 percent of cash-strapped Sri Lanka's bilateral debt, and Beijing's approval is crucial for any efforts by Colombo to restructure its outstanding loans.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe attended a Beijing forum last week for China's multibillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative global infrastructure programme.

UN agency warns of 'halt' to Gaza aid operations

JERUSALEM, Oct 25 (Agencies): A UN agency warned it could be forced to stop aid operations in war-riven Gaza on Wednesday due to dwindling fuel supplies, as calls mounted for a humanitarian "pause" in fighting.

After 18 days of withering Israeli air strikes and a near-total land, sea and air blockade of the Palestinian territory, UN refugee agency UNRWA warned operations were at breaking point.

"If we do not get fuel urgently, we will be forced to halt our operations in the Gaza Strip," said the UN agency, which provides aid to 600,000 displaced Gazans.

Israel launched its campaign in response to an unprecedented cross-border attack by Hamas militants on October 7.

Gunmen from the Palestinian group poured into Israel from Gaza, killing more than 1,400 people and taking 222 hostages, according to Israeli authorities.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has promised to "eliminate Hamas" and ensure it can no longer threaten Israeli civilians.

But there is growing international unease about the impact of Israel's "Operation Swords of Iron", which has killed thousands of Palestinians.

Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry claims

5,791 people have been killed in the war so far, many of them children.

Tuesday's toll was more than 700 people, the Hamas-run ministry said, with the UN saying it was the highest reported in a single day since the war began.

Agency has not been able to independently verify these figures.

Aid agencies report hospitals are overwhelmed, generators lack fuel and shelters are heaving under the weight of an estimated 1.4 million displaced -- more than half the population.

Since the war began a few dozen trucks with essential supplies have been allowed to cross the Egyptian border into Gaza, far fewer than necessary according to aid agencies.

The Palestine Red Crescent said Tuesday it had received the fourth batch of humanitarian aid, consisting of eight trucks.

The supplies have included medicines, food and water, but not fuel, which Israel fears could end up in Hamas's hands.

'Epic suffering' UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday said Gaza was now seeing "epic suffering" while calling on Israel to safeguard civilians.

"The relentless bombardment of Gaza by Israeli forces, the level of civilian casualties, and the wholesale destruction of neighbourhoods

continue to mount and are deeply alarming," he told the UN Security Council in New York.

"I am deeply concerned about the clear violations of international humanitarian law that we are witnessing in Gaza," he said. "Let me be clear: No party to an armed conflict is above international humanitarian law."

That warning drew an angry response from Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen, who cited the graphic ways in which Israeli civilians had been killed by Hamas, and demanded: "Mr secretary-general, in what world do you live?"

Israel and its allies have so far rebuffed calls for a blanket ceasefire, which the White House says would only benefit Hamas.

But US officials have indicated that a more limited "humanitarian pause" in certain areas could be on the table to allow aid in and to safeguard civilians.

President Joe Biden has said a full ceasefire could only be considered if and when Hamas releases the hundreds of hostages it is keeping captive in Gaza.

Meanwhile, Israel has continued massing tens of thousands of troops around Gaza ahead of an expected ground offensive.

That operation appears to have been stalled by concerns about objectives, the fate of hostages, civilian casualties and the difficulties

of fighting in a densely populated area riven with underground tunnels.

"There are a lot of obstacles," one Israeli soldier serving with unit 601 of the military engineering corps told AFP on condition of anonymity.

"The enemy is spraying rockets and other things that I cannot detail to prevent us from progressing."

'First objective' So far Hamas has only released four hostages, including 85-year-old Israeli Yocheved Lifshitz.

Reuniting with family after more than two weeks in Hamas captivity, on Tuesday she spoke about the "hell" of her abduction.

She recalled how gunmen raided her kibbutz home, throwing her over the back of a motorbike and beating her as they stole away into Gaza.

"They didn't break my ribs, but they hurt me very much," she told reporters.

She and 79-year-old Nurit Cooper were released on "compelling humanitarian" grounds, according to Hamas, following mediation by Qatar and Egypt.

Both of their octogenarian husbands are still in Gaza.

During a visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories on Tuesday, French President Emmanuel Macron said freeing hostages must be "the first objective"

Hamas government says at least 80 killed in Israel night strikes on Gaza

GAZA, Oct 25 (Agencies): Gaza's Hamas government said Wednesday that Israel's latest night-time air strikes on the besieged Palestinian territory killed at least 80 people.

A government media office statement said "more than 80 people were martyred and hundreds wounded" in the overnight raids.

The Hamas health ministry said Tuesday that 5,791 people had



been killed in air and artillery strikes since Hamas staged cross-border raids on Octo-

ber 7 that Israel says left 1,400 dead. Most of the dead on both sides have been civilians.

Anti Crime Bureau volunteers render services in Dusshera Festival at Bishnah

Top News Report

JAMMU Oct 25: Anti Crime Bureau (NGO) volunteers rendered services in Dusshera and Khusti Festival at Bishnah.

Members of Social Service Organization Anti Crime Bureau (NGO) provided services in Dusshera and Khusti Festival of Bishnah town, as soon as the members of the organization reached Bishnah police station. On orders of SDPO



RS Pura Nikhil Gogna, about 40 members of the NGO were given duty at police check-

points, roads and grounds. With the cooperation of Bishnah Police,

the entire festival was celebrated well by the people of Bishnah town and all the security

arrangements were fine.

The members of the Public Bajrangi Committee thanked SDPO RS Pura Nikhil Gogna, SHO Vikram Sharma and Anti Crime Bureau Chairman Sham Lal Gupta for the Services.

The members present include State President Sahil Gupta, Vijay Kumar, Ratan Lal, Bachan Kumar, Manmohan Singh, Raj Kumar, Tushar Digra, Rohit Kumar, Anil, Vijay Kumar, Vansh, Aryan and Sohan Sharma.

'Swachhata' campaign generates awareness about 'waste to wealth' concept: Dr Jitendra

Top News Report

NEW DELHI, Oct 25: "Swachhata" campaign, inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has generated awareness about the 'waste to wealth' concept. generation has been the biggest gain of the three Swachhata campaigns so far.

There is now also better mass understanding about the application of innovation and technology for Recycling and Reuse of Waste materials for productive means.

This was stated by the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, at a press conference here today after reviewing the progress of Week-3 of the Swachhata Special Campaign 3.0 being implemented in all Government offices of India.

Dr Jitendra Singh advocated the trinity of Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Drones in order to segregate waste intelligently and for swift disposal of resultant materials.

"Now, if we can have an Artificial Intelligence driven module which can segregate the solid and liquid waste, then we have the robot which would carry this and load it on to the drone and then the drone would automatically fly and carry it to the respective destination," he said.

Underlining that every bit of garbage worth its return, Dr Jitendra Singh said the Department of Science and Technology, Technology Development Board and CSIR recently launched the 'Recycling on Wheels' bus, which can generate Waste to Wealth at different spots due to its mobility.

Dr Jitendra Singh said the Dehra Dun based Indian Institute of Petroleum (CSIR-IIP) has jointly developed a Repurposed Used Cooking Oil (RUCO) van that collects used cooking oil and convert it into biofuel.

Dr Jitendra Singh said the Government has earned a total revenue of Rs.776 crore just by disposing of scrap in the three Special Campaigns undertaken by all Government offices across the coun-

try in the last three years. A large chunk of this revenue, Rs.176 crore has been earned in the last 20 days of the Special Campaign 3.0 now underway.

"So our pace of generating revenue is also increasing. It means now we have learnt the skill of making wealth out of this...That means we are improving on our scale, now we are looking forward to the saturation point," he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, thanks to the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Swachhata campaign has become a mass movement since he initiated the idea during his first Independence Day address from the ramparts of the Red Fort on 15th August 2014.

"In the first year of the Swachhata campaign more than 4 lakh toilets were constructed, empowering women with 'Suidha, Swasthya and Samman."

Second year, Special Campaign focused on disposal of lakhs of junk files, that freed up precious office space for productive use, and cleaning e-scrap. And the Special Campaign 3.0 is now focused on wealth generation from waste," he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said nearly 86 lakh sq.ft of office Space has been made available in three weeks of the Special Campaign 3.0.

Dr. Jitendra Singh commended the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), being the nodal agency, while reviewing the progress of Week-3 of Special Campaign 3.0.

Dr. Jitendra said, massive participation is being witnessed across Ministries/Departments and their field/area.

He urged Ministries/Departments to adopt a saturation approach in the implementation of the Campaign to cover all outstation offices/defence establishments and PSUs in all parts of the country.

The Progress of Special Campaign 3.0 is monitored on a dedicated portal (<https://scdpm.nic.in/>) on a daily basis. Regular review meetings are held under the Chairmanship of Secretary, DARPG with nodal officers to review the progress of the campaign.

FICCI Chairman calls upon Managing Director of SIDCO and SICOP

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 25: The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Chairman, J&K UT Council, Rajesh Sharma, held a productive meeting with the Managing Director of the Small Industries Development Corporation (SIDCO) and the Small Scale Industries Development Corporation Ltd (SICOP), Jammu & Kashmir today.

The meeting, which took place in Jammu focused on fostering economic growth and industrial development in the region. Discussions about various



initiatives and collaborative efforts to boost the industrial landscape in Jammu & Kashmir, create job opportunities, and empower local entrepreneurs took place in the meeting.

Sharma expressed his enthusiasm for contributing to the economic development of Jammu & Kashmir and praised the state's potential for

growth. He highlighted the significance of public-private partnerships in realizing the full potential of the region's industrial sector.

The Managing Director of SIDCO and SICOP, Inderjeet shared insights into the ongoing projects and initiatives undertaken by SIDCO to promote industrial

growth. Sharma also discussed the opportunities and challenges faced by small and medium-sized enterprises in the region.

During the meeting, the FICCI Chairman and the MD of SIDCO/SICOP discussed potential areas of collaboration, including developing industrial infrastructure, such as industrial parks and estates, to attract investment and facilitate the growth of industries and attracting domestic and international investments by creating a conducive business environment, offering incentives, and promoting the UT as an attractive destination for

industries.

Sharma expressed FICCI's commitment to supporting these initiatives and facilitating partnerships between the government and private sector to drive industrial progress in the region.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to move forward and develop a comprehensive action plan for the initiatives discussed. FICCI, SIDCO, and SICOP will work hand in hand to transform Jammu & Kashmir into a thriving hub for industries and businesses, fostering employment opportunities and contributing to the overall prosperity of the region.

FROM PAGE 1

NCERT panel recommends replacing 'India' with 'Bharat' in School Textbooks

National Syllabus and Teaching Learning Material Committee (NSTC) to finalise the curriculum, textbooks and learning material for these classes.

"The committee has also recommended the introduction of the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) in the curriculum of all subjects," Isaac said.

The Indian Constitution, the supreme law of the country, uses both 'India' and 'Bharat' in the text.

The particular article is considered as the foundational provision that establishes the Union of India.

Article 1 says "India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States."

This particular article of the Constitution is a crucial statement as it lays down what our nation will be called.

The draft of Article 1 was adopted on September 18, 1949, which was moved by the chairman of the Drafting Committee, Dr. Ambedkar.

J&K govt clears 2K pending cases for employment of kin of militancy victims

and 2,000 youth will be cleared for the government appointments now.

"This decision will generate 2,000 jobs and will also bring major relief to the victims of militancy, border shelling/firing and kin of dead government employees who were waiting for compassionate appointments for a long time.

"The new scheme which has already come into force will grant appointment or monetary compensation on compassionate grounds to a dependent family member of a government servant, who may die in harness or as a result of militancy-related action or due to enemy action on the Line of Control/International Border within Jammu and Kashmir and is not involved in militancy-related activities or retires on invalid pension, thereby, leaving his family in penury and without any means of livelihood," officials added.

Under the new scheme, which came into force on January 1, 2023, the number of vacancies and the merit list of the eligible candidates will be prepared annually and eligible candidates will be considered purely on the basis of merit obtained with regard to a point-based merit system on quarterly basis. Both the list of vacancies

and merit list of candidates will be put out in public domain to make the process fully transparent and accountable.

The appointment on compassionate grounds will be made for the multi-tasking staff or equivalent or lowest non-gazetted cadre posts in the department.

Handicrafts worth Rs 208.21 Crore exported in first quarter

exquisite Papier-mâché items. The GI tagging ensures the authenticity and origin of these products, providing protection against duplication and counterfeiting while also enhancing their marketability in international trade.

Earlier this year, in May, the G20 summit was held in Kashmir, during which numerous handicraft products were displayed to attract visiting delegates. While the delegates acknowledged the artistry behind these handicrafts, many of them explored Srinagar areas and made purchases.

An official stated that the G20 summit and GI tagging have boosted the sales of Kashmiri handicrafts. "There has been a strong demand for Kashmiri handicrafts this year. The G20 summit has promoted our craft, as the demand for Kashmiri handicrafts is higher in European countries," he said.

Notably, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha announced on Friday that the Jammu and Kashmir administration will work to provide infrastructure support to the artisans.

No major rain, snowfall till Nov 2 in J&K, Ladakh

weather conditions are likely to continue till the end of this month, he added.

The Met office said the weather will remain mainly clear to party till October 28 while it would be generally cloudy with light rain or snow over isolated higher reaches on October 29.

The weather will remain partly cloudy on October 30-13 and partly to general cloudy on November 1-2.

"No forecast of any major rain or snowfall till November 2 in J&K and Ladakh", the Met office said.

Dry conditions are likely to prevail till the end of this month.

The weather is favorable for harvesting and safe storage of crops besides all outdoor activities, the MeT office said.

The minimum temperature at Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, was recorded at

3.2-C, Qazigund 3.4-C, Pahalgam -0.5-C, Kupwara 2.0-C, Kokernag 4.1-C and

Gulmarg 0.5-C on Wednesday, the MeT office said.

J&K LG's advisor chairs multi-agency security review meeting in Srinagar

security situation was reviewed in the backdrop of the Middle East conflict and a strategy to strengthen the counter terrorism grid in the winter season was also discussed.

"DGP J&K and #ChinarCorps Cdr along with heads of Intelligence Agencies & Security Forces representatives from UT were in attendance," said a Chinar Corps spokesperson on X (formerly Twitter).

"The security situation was reviewed in the backdrop of the Middle East conflict and actions to enhance the CI/CT Grid in the approaching winter season were discussed and deliberated on," he added.

Punjab Police cat Gurmeet Singh Pinky dies of heart attack

terrorism in Punjab. Pinky was at the centre of another controversy during farmers' agitation on farm laws.

Pinky's close friend and BJP leader Sukhminder Singh Grewal confirmed his death.

He said Pinky suffered a heart attack on Wednesday morning and passed away in a private hospital at Sector 34 in Chandigarh.

Mismanagement of Economy by Modi Govt continues, vast majority of Indians suffering: Cong

single largest contributor to bank credit growth in August 2023, and grew at a massive 23 per cent, while gold loans grew at 22 per cent," the former Union minister said in a statement.

"Each month's RBI bulletin should serve as a reminder to the Modi government that as much as it tries to hide data and mislead the public, the basic facts do not lie — the economy has been completely mismanaged and the vast majority of Indians are suffering," Ramesh said.

In fact, for the last 15 months, non-housing personal loans have been growing at over 20 per cent — something that has never happened in at least 15 years — he claimed.

Meanwhile, Ramesh said credit growth to the industrial sector, which is essential for investment and economic growth, is slowing down. It was just 6.1 per cent year-on-year in August, almost half of what it was last year and only one-third of the level in 2013.

The Congress leader also claimed that the share of bank credit to industry has been cut in half by the Modi government — from 46 per cent of non-food credit in 2013 to just 24 per cent in 2023.

"Inflation remains out of control at 6.8 per cent, way above the RBI's target of 4 per cent. The RBI raised the issue of 'sustained inflationary pressures in cereals, pulses, and spices'.

"The vast majority of Indians continue to face the pressure of price rise on their incomes, finding it difficult to meet basic food, education and other necessities," he claimed.

Ramesh said while Prime Minister Modi lectures others on "revdi" (freebies) and fiscal responsibility, the BJP government's fiscal deficit is ballooning.

"It has grown by almost 20 per cent over the past year to over Rs 6.4 lakh crore in Q1 of 2023-24. The Modi government is incurring debts that will weigh India down in the future, and to show a smaller deficit, is violating all principles of federalism by reducing tax transfers to states," he said.

The spectacular failure of the government's "Make in India" initiative and the ineffectiveness of the production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes are evident in the sluggish export growth in this quarter, at less than 4 per cent, the Congress leader said.

"The worst-hit by the export slump are MSMEs, who face lower profits and higher costs. This is not a new trend — while from 2004-2014, exports grew at an average of 14 per cent per year, under the Modi government, export growth has more than halved, at only 6 per cent," he claimed.

Supreme Court stays demolition of residential properties in Sector 23, Gurugram

Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (as amended by Haryana Legislative Assembly), which provides for denotification of land acquisition where public purpose has become unviable or non-essential.

Taking note of the fact that the petitioners had the benefit of the interim order before the High Court since May 13, 2022, the Bench, which also included Justice PS Narasimha, on Thursday said, "...neither the structures—if any existing—shall be demolished nor the petitioners shall carry

out any improvements or construction in the subject premises."

The order came on a petition filed by Deepak Aggarwal and others after advocates Govind Goel and ML Sharma submitted on their behalf that the Punjab and Haryana High Court erroneously declined the petitioners' plea seeking denotification of acquisition of their land.

The Punjab and Haryana High Court had on September 22 turned down the petitioners' claim for denotification of acquisition of the land in question. The high court held that Section 101A the Land Acquisition Act, 2013, could only be invoked if the public purpose became unviable on account of an act of God or exorbitant financial liability accrued to the Government.

The high court's judgment became available only on October 13 and the petitioners moved the top court on October 16. In the meantime, the Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) demolition men reached the property situated in village Carterpur, Gurugram and started to demolish parts of the boundary wall of the property that houses around 300 people.

The petitioners' land was originally proposed to be acquired by the Haryana Government in 1981 for the development of Sectors 21, 22 and 23 of Gurugram. Having constructions on the land, the petitioners moved the high court in 1984 against the acquisition.

After more than three decades, the high court in May 2014 allowed their petition and held that the acquisition has lapsed under Section 24(2) of the 2013 Act. However, the high court directed the landowners not to deal with the land in question for a year so that the state government may either re-acquire it or avail of appropriate remedy under the law.

After the expiry of the said one-year period, the land was sold to the petitioners as no action was taken to re-acquire the land by the state government which filed a special leave petition (SLP) in the Supreme Court against the HC order after much delay. Though the state's SLP was allowed by the top court on February 20, 2018, the Haryana Assembly passed a law in May 2018 that provided for denotification of land if public purpose has become "unviable" or "non-essential".

Goel contended that the 'non-essentiality' or 'unviability' was much broader concept and the State itself had denotified under Section 101A on account of existence of residential houses and therefore, the petitioners were entitled to denotification in view of thickly populated property in Sector 23 Gurugram that housed hundreds of people. Having invoked Section 101A for de-notifying several properties on account of existence of a thick population, the petitioners contended that the State could not single them out as they were entitled to equal treatment and the State authorities could not cherry pick.

Sensex, Nifty tumble nearly 1 per cent; extend falling streak to 5th day

In Asian markets, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the positive territory while Seoul ended lower

MUMBAI, Oct 25 (Agencies): Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty plunged nearly 1 per cent on Wednesday, in continuation with the pessimistic trend amid the ongoing tensions in the Middle East.

Falling for the fifth day running, the 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 522.82 points or 0.81 per cent to settle at 64,049.06. During the day, it dropped 659.72 points or 1.02 per cent to 63,912.16.

The Nifty fell 159.60 points or 0.83 per cent to 19,122.15.

Among the Sensex firms, Infosys, Bharti Airtel, NTPC, Tata Motors, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank, Tech Mahindra, Titan and Axis Bank were among the major laggards.

Tata Steel, State Bank of India, Mahindra & Mahindra, Maruti and Nestle were the gainers.

In Asian markets, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong set-



led in the positive territory while Seoul ended lower.

European markets were trading in the negative territory. The US markets ended in the green on Tuesday.

"Investor sentiment is on edge as tensions in West Asia continue to drag the market. Despite a drop in oil prices and an optimistic view of the progressing Q2 results season, investors took

a cautious approach due to the expectation that a higher interest rate scenario would continue slowing future growth," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Nair further said that a positive strategy is evident on large-cap stocks, amid growing geopolitical worries and valuation concerns in mid and small-cap stocks, as overall earnings

growth is being sustained.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.30 per cent to USD 88.32 a barrel.

"The market was waiting for an opportunity for profit-booking - the recent hike in bond yields to 5 per cent, increased geopolitical tensions risking a flare-up in the Middle East as well and early in-line corporate results have all just provided the platform for much-awaited correction," said Pawan Bharaddia, Co-founder, Equitree.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 252.25 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

Equity markets were closed on Tuesday on account of Dussehra festival.

The BSE benchmark plunged 825.74 points or 1.26 per cent to settle at 64,571.88 on Monday. The Nifty fell 260.90 points or 1.34 per cent to 19,281.75.

Jio can deploy 5G cell every 10 seconds, deployed 85 per cent 5G network in India: Akash Ambani



NEW DELHI, Oct 25 (Agencies): Telecom major Reliance Jio has deployed 85 per cent 5G network in India and has the capability to deploy one 5G cell in every 10 seconds, the company's Chairman Akash Ambani said.

According to a statement released by broadband speed and quality measurement firm Ookla, the Reliance Jio chairman said that the company has covered the entire country with a 5G network ahead of the promised time frame of December 2023.

"I am particularly proud of our speed of the committed True 5G roll-out. Today,

we have covered the entire country with a robust True 5G network ahead of our promised time frame of December 2023. Eighty-five per cent of the entire 5G deployment in India is made by Jio. We continue to deploy one 5G cell every 10 seconds," Ambani said.

According to the Department of Telecom, over 3.38 lakh base stations for 5G have been deployed across the country.

"Over the past seven years, we've set several global benchmarks, propelling India into digital prominence. Today, our ambitions are even higher, and our faith in India's digital future is as strong as ever. We remain fully committed to achieving the full potential of a digital India, and to help India become a leader on the global stage," Ambani said.

Ookla on Sunday said that Jio has emerged as the number one network in India, winning all nine Speedtest awards presented by Ookla for mobile networks in the market, including all awards for 5G networks.

"Jio has emerged as the #1 Network in India, winning all nine awards for Mobile Networks in the market, including all awards for 5G networks. This is a first for any service provider anywhere in the world," Ookla said.

Axis Bank Q2 results: Net profit up 10% to Rs 5,864 crore; NII climbs 19%

NEW DELHI, Oct 25 (Agencies): Private lender Axis Bank pleasantly surprised the market on Wednesday with its second-quarter results, demonstrating profit growth driven by strong loan expansion.

The bank's standalone net profit in Q2FY24 increased to Rs 5,864 crore, marking a 10 per cent increase compared to the previous year's Rs 5,329.8 crore, as reported in an exchange filing.

The demand for loans remained robust during the September quarter, primarily due to increased consumer spending driving growth in retail credit. As India gears up for the upcoming festive season, there are expectations of further heightened consumer spending.

"With the upcoming festivities, we are already seeing a surge in



demand, which augurs well for business," Axis Bank chief executive Amitabh Chaudhry said in a statement.

Net interest income, the difference between interest earned and expended, demonstrated significant growth by increasing 19 per cent to Rs 12,315 crore for the quarter, compared to Rs 10,360 crore during the same period the previous year.

The net interest margin, which serves as a key indicator of a bank's profitability, reached 4.11 per cent in the September quarter.

This marks a 15 basis point improvement from the previous year and a 1 basis point increase from the previous quarter.

Axis Bank's asset quality improved in Q2FY24, with the gross non-performing assets ratio easing to 1.73 per cent from 1.96 per cent in the last quarter. Meanwhile, provisions and contingencies were down 21.2 per cent from the previous quarter to Rs 815 crore.

Shares of Axis Bank closed 0.77 per cent lower at Rs 956.85 apiece.

Govt sees 'hope' in high retail loan growth even as RBI remains wary

NEW DELHI, Oct 25 (Agencies): Even as the surge in retail loans - especially housing and vehicle loans - is making the banking regulator uncomfortable, the government seems to be happy as it feels the trend signals strong consumer sentiments.

In its Monthly Economic Review, the finance ministry says that increased demand for housing and vehicle loans reflects the confidence of the households in their future employment and income prospects.

The report pointed out that the magnitude of vehicle loans, an important indicator of growth in private consumption, has been growing at double-digits since April 2022, and housing loans have been seeing 'a steady double-digit growth' since May 2021.

"Households are making a smart investment choice of acquiring physical assets, taking advantage of larger credit availability from banks and after a long period of elevated returns



in financial assets," says the report.

It says that the real estate sector has a vast network of forward and backward linkages (such as cement and steel, among others, besides various services), the increase in demand for housing is inducing broad-based growth and job creation.

The banking regulator - Reserve Bank of India - however, has asked banks and NBFCs to be cautious with personal loans recording high growth.

Noting that certain components of personal loans are

recording very high growth, the RBI governor Shakti Kanta Das in its monetary policy statement earlier this month said that RBI is closely watching these loans for any signs of incipient stress.

"Banks and NBFCs would be well advised to strengthen their internal surveillance mechanisms, address the build-up of risks, if any, and institute suitable safeguards in their own interest," he said in his statement.

According to the report, outstanding NBFC retail loans witnessed a growth of 29.6% in FY23, with 36% NBFC's retail

loans being used for the purchase of vehicles. Lending by NBFCs to the household sector rose from 0.2 lakh crore in FY22 to 2.4 lakh crore in FY23, a jump of nearly 11.2 times.

In August, retail loans rose by 18.3% year-on-year and remained the prime contributor of overall credit growth. Credit to the housing sector recorded consistent double-digit expansion (13.8% in August) while vehicle loan growth strengthened to 20.6%. Credit card loans maintained high growth (30.0% in August) reflecting inter alia the buoyancy in demand from contact-intensive services.

Michael Deabrata Patra, the deputy RBI governor, in one of his recent speeches said that conventional wisdom suggests that retail loans being diffused across a wide borrower base mitigate the accumulation of systemic risk, but the RBI is watchful as herding by banks in the retail loan space might lead to potential cascades across the system if defaults do occur.

33 US states sue Meta, Instagram for addictive features harming kids' mental health

WASHINGTON, Oct 25 (Agencies): Dozens of US states, including California and New York, are suing Meta Platforms Inc for harming young people's mental health and contributing to the youth mental health crisis by knowingly designing features on Instagram and Facebook that addict children to its platforms.

The lawsuit filed in federal court in California also claims that Meta routinely collects data on children under 13 without their parents' consent, in violation of federal law.

"Meta has harnessed powerful and unprecedented technologies to entice, engage and ultimately ensnare youth and teens. Its motive is profit, and in seeking to maximise its financial gains, Meta has repeatedly misled the public about the substantial dangers of its social media platforms," the complaint says.

"It has concealed the ways in which these platforms exploit and manipulate its most vulnerable consumers: teenagers and children."

In addition to the 33 states, nine other attorneys general are filing in their respective states, bringing the total number of states taking action to 42.

"Kids and teenagers are suffering from record levels of poor mental health and social media companies like Meta are to blame," said New York Attorney General Letitia James in a



statement.

"Meta has profited from children's pain by intentionally designing its platforms with manipulative features that make children addicted to their platforms while lowering their self-esteem."

In a statement, Meta said it shares "the attorneys general's commitment to providing teens with safe, positive experiences online, and have already introduced over 30 tools to support teens and their families."

"We're disappointed that instead of working productively with companies across the industry to create clear, age-appropriate standards for the many apps teens use, the attorneys general have chosen this path," the company added.

The broad-ranging suit is the result of an investigation led by

a bipartisan coalition of attorneys general from California, Florida, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Jersey, Tennessee, and Vermont.

It follows damning newspaper reports, first by The Wall Street Journal in the fall of 2021, based on the Meta's own research that found that the company knew about the harms Instagram can cause teenagers - especially teen girls - when it comes to mental health and body image issues.

One internal study cited 13.5 per cent of teen girls saying Instagram makes thoughts of suicide worse and 17 per cent of teen girls saying it makes eating disorders worse.

Following the first reports, a consortium of news organisations, including The Associated Press, published their own find-

ings based on leaked documents from whistleblower Frances Haugen, who has testified before Congress and a British parliamentary committee about what she found.

The use of social media among teens is nearly universal in the US and many other parts of the world.

Up to 95 per cent of youth ages 13 to 17 in the US report using a social media platform, with more than a third saying they use social media "almost constantly", according to the Pew Research Centre.

To comply with federal regulation, social media companies ban kids under 13 from signing up to their platforms - but children have been shown to easily get around the bans, both with and without their parents' consent, and many younger kids have social media accounts.

Other measures social platforms have taken to address concerns about children's mental health are also easily circumvented.

For instance, TikTok recently introduced a default 60-minute time limit for users under 18. But once the limit is reached, minors can simply enter a passcode to keep watching.

In May, US Surgeon General Dr Vivek Murthy called on tech companies, parents and caregivers to take "immediate action to protect kids now" from the harms of social media.

Scientists decode what drives obesity



NEW YORK, Oct 25 (Agencies): Nutritional experts have for years debated on the primary culprit for increasing obesity. While diets that are high in fat and carbohydrates contribute to the condition, it turns out, fructose may be one true driver of obesity, according to a study.

According to Richard Johnson, from University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, the primary problem in obesity is fructose - which is present in table sugar and high fructose corn syrup.

Fructose can also be made in the body from carbohydrates (particularly glucose).

When fructose is metabolised, it lowers the active energy in the body (known as ATP, or adenosine triphosphate) which causes hunger and food intake.

What Johnson calls the "fructose survival hypothesis" brings together most of the dietary hypotheses of obesity, including the two that have been most incompatible with each other - the energy balance theory, which proposes too much food (and primarily fat) drives obesity, and the carbohydrate-insulin

model, which puts carbohydrates at the centre of weight gain.

"Fructose is what triggers our metabolism to go into low power mode and lose our control of appetite, but fatty foods become the major source of calories that drive weight gain," Johnson said.

Obesity is a known risk factor for various diseases including heart disease, diabetes, cancer and dementia.

Data from the World Health Organisation (WHO) shows that worldwide, more than 1 billion people are obese - 650 million adults, 340 million adolescents, and 39 million children.

The World Obesity Federation predicts that by 2030, one in five women and one in seven men will have obesity.

The new study published in the research journal Obesity suggests various obesity causing theories are not incompatible with each other, and that they can all be brought together in one unified pathway that centres around one true driver: fructose.

Fruits are high-fructose foods, and fructose significantly stifles active energy. Fat acts as stored energy, but eating high-fructose foods blocks the replacement of active energy from fat storage, keeping active energy low like a bear preparing for a long winter's nap.

"This theory views obesity as a low-energy state," Johnson said. "Identifying fructose as the conduit that redirects active energy replacement to fat storage shows that fructose is what drives energy imbalance, which unites theories."

"While more work is needed to fully validate this unifying hypothesis, this is a hopeful first step in potentially identifying more targeted preventions for obesity and related metabolic imbalance management."

Mumbai matinee starring Quinton de Kock

Opener leads batting carnage with 174 as South Africa trounce Bangladesh for 149-run victory

MUMBAI, Oct 25 (Agencies): Quinton de Kock led South Africa's batting carnage with an incendiary 174 as they crushed Bangladesh by 149 runs to stay on course for a place in the semifinals of the 50-over World Cup.

De Kock smashed the ongoing tournament's highest individual score and South Africa's middle-order hectoring a listless Bangladesh attack to amass 382/5 after electing to bat at the Wankhede Stadium here.

Their fiery pace attack reduced Bangladesh to 58/5 and eventually bundled them out for 233 in 46.4 overs to register their fourth win in five matches.

For Bangladesh, Mahmudullah offered resistance with a run-a-ball 111 but it was not enough to avert a heavy defeat.

De Kock had announced he would quit One-day internationals after the World Cup and the opener appeared determined to make his farewell a memorable one.

South Africa lost Reeza Hen-



dricks and Rassie van der Dussen in successive overs after Aiden Markram, leading the side in the absence of the unwell Temba Bavuma, won the toss and elected to bat.

De Kock combined with Markram (60) in a 131-run stand to steady the innings before he and Heinrich Klaasen tore apart the Bangladesh attack plundering 142 runs from 87 balls.

De Kock duly brought up his

third hundred in five matches and went on to topple India's Virat Kohli as the tournament's leading scorer.

A double hundred looked on the cards too before de Kock before holed out after a 140-ball blitz that included seven sixes and 15 fours.

His exit brought no relief for Bangladesh though as Klaasen and David Miller, who made 34 not out off 15 balls, continued

the mayhem hitting a combined 12 sixes between them.

Klaasen belted 90 off 49 balls and South Africa plundered 144 runs from the last 10 overs to leave Bangladesh with a mountain to climb when they returned.

After six quiet overs, Marco Jansen dented the Bangladesh top-order removing Tanzid Hasan and Najmul Hossain Shanto with successive deliveries.

The match was effectively over for Bangladesh when they slumped to 42/2 inside 12 overs with skipper Shakib Al Hasan and veteran Mushfiqur Rahim also back in the pavilion. South Africa were not equally clinical against the Bangladesh tail though.

Brief scores:

South Africa: 382 for 5 in 50 overs (Quinton de Kock 174, Aiden Markram 60, Heinrich Klaasen 90, David Miller 34 not out).

Bangladesh: (Mahmudullah 111, Gerald Coetzee 3/62).

Another upset? Aussies wary of Netherlands' intentions



NEW DELHI, Oct 25 (Agencies): With their poor start to the campaign in the rearview mirror, Australia will look to continue the momentum when they take on a gutsy Netherlands side in their World Cup clash here today.

Back-to-back defeats against India and South Africa had Australia on the rope, but they managed to turn it around with wins against Sri Lanka and Pakistan to jump to the fourth spot in the standings.

The Pat Cummins' side knows well that they need to keep winning in order to make it to the semifinals, but it will not be easy as standing in their way are Netherlands.

The Oranje are no pushovers as they proved it by dishing out one of the biggest upsets of the tournament by beating an in-form South Africa. They might be down in the seventh place but that upset has them believing that they can

do it again. "Why not? We've come here to reach the semifinals. That's our goal. It's been pretty clear throughout the whole preparation phase.

The South African win just gave us that extra belief that on our day we can beat a good team," bowler Logan van Beek said today.

However, it remains to be seen with the Australian batting firepower finding its range again.

The ruthlessness was on full view against Pakistan when David Warner and Mitchell Marsh shared a 259-run opening stand, and the return of Travis Head is another perk for them.

Netherlands have made a fine impression in the on-going World Cup with some gritty outings, and all-rounder Logan van Beek hoped that a couple of more wins can make people at home "stop joking and start taking us seriously". "I watched a Dutch sport show this morning and they were talking about cricket and laughing how it's pretty similar to a nine to five job, how long it takes, and they're making a few other jokes," he said today. "I hope that another of couple wins, they can stop joking about cricket in the Netherlands and they start talking seriously about how this is actually one of our best sports teams in the country."

Most welcome: Mitchell Marsh happy to vacate slot for Travis Head

NEW DELHI, Oct 25 (Agencies): Australia's Mitchell Marsh could not confirm if opener Travis Head will be back for today's World Cup clash against Netherlands but is ready to move down to No. 3 as and when his teammate returns.

Head fractured his left hand in South Africa last month but has linked up with the squad here as the five-time champions chase a third win in five matches.

Marsh, who made 121 and 52 in his last two outings in the tournament, said Australia would take a call on Head's participation later today.

"He looked good, a bit of range-hitting last night," Marsh told report-



ers. "He says the hand feels good. So, I'm sure if he's fit, he'll be available for selection in the team." Head's return as David Warner's opening partner would mean Marsh would need to drop down to No. 3 and

the all-rounder said it would be a familiar role for him.

"Very happy to go back down to three. I've obviously batted there a lot over the last couple of years, so I feel really comfortable at three."

Team India support staff goes trekking on off-day amidst World Cup 2023 hustle

NEW DELHI, Oct 25 (Agencies): The Indian cricket team's support staff, led by head coach Rahul Dravid and batting coach Vikram Rathour, recently embarked on a challenging trek to Triund in Dharamshala amidst the ongoing ICC Cricket World Cup 2023. The adventurous outing was a refreshing break from the intense cricketing action, offering the staff an opportunity to connect with nature and rejuvenate.

Triund, a picturesque village nestled at the foothills of the Dhauladhar range in Himachal Pradesh, is known for its breathtaking views and serene environment. The trek, which spans approximately 9 kilometers and takes around 4-6 hours to complete, is a popular route among nature enthusiasts.

However, despite the allure of the stunning landscape, Dravid expressed concerns about the



safety of the players. He stated that the trek was too risky for the cricketers due to the treacherous terrain, emphasizing the need to prioritize their well-being during the tournament.

Dravid, a stalwart of Indian cricket and a respected figure in the sport, also used the occasion to advocate for the conser-

vation of nature. He expressed his desire for future generations to enjoy the pristine beauty of such natural landscapes, underscoring the importance of preserving our environment.

Meanwhile, back on the cricket field, Team India has been performing exceptionally well in the World Cup.

They have secured victories in all five matches they've played so far, placing them at the top of the points table.

This winning streak has boosted the morale of the team, setting a positive tone for the upcoming matches.

As the World Cup progresses, the Indian team continues to balance intense competition with moments of relaxation and team bonding.

The trek to Triund was a testament to this approach, providing the support staff with a much-needed respite while also reinforcing the importance of player safety and environmental conservation.

As they gear up for the next phase of the tournament, the team remains focused on maintaining their winning streak while also cherishing these unique experiences off the field.

World Cup 2023: Jasprit Bumrah - the oil in India's bowling arsenal

DHARAMSALA, Oct 25 (Agencies): Daryl Mitchell was well past his century at the HPCA Stadium in Dharamsala. By now, Jasprit Bumrah had figures of 1/42 from nine overs. It's been like that. If one went through the scorecards of all India matches in the ongoing World Cup, they'd hardly notice what Bumrah has done save the match against Pakistan where he delivered Hollywood balls.

But scoreboards do no justice to the impact he has had. Neither does that stat that he has taken 11 wickets in five games. But put it all together with the other numbers — second leading wicket-taker in the tournament behind Mitchell Santner (12), best average (16.27) among bowlers who have played more than one game, best economy (3.8) among the top 60 (yes, you read that right) wicket-takers — it will not be hard to see how Bumrah is the oil of the bowling attack.

It is not just the numbers though. What Bumrah does with his skill is more than that. He conjures magic. Remember the off-cutter to castle Mohammad Rizwan? The sharp outswinger that took the outside edge of Mitchell Marsh against Aus-

tralia? The pitch perfect yorker that hit the base of middle-stump to send Bangladesh's Mahmudullah back? You probably would. But what often goes unnoticed are the yorkers that batters barely survive. Mahmudullah, for example, just before he was dismissed, faced a very similar yorker on middle-and-leg but he managed to bring the bat down in time to dig it out.

Bumrah's ability to keep coming back and hitting those yorkers is second to none. It would not be an understatement to say that not many in world cricket at the moment can bowl yorkers as effectively as Bumrah can. While his incredible skills are well documented — it is what brought him to the international level — what blows one's mind is the consistency with which he is hitting them. And that's before you realise he was out of the game for close to a year. Pffft.

Ask him how he has been feeling since returning to Indian team and he was tongue-in-cheek: "At the end of the day, you guys will anyway decide that I was like this, I was like that, what I am doing. But I don't work like that. I am a little detached person."



To an extent, he has always been like this. His extreme skills has often overshadowed his shrewdness and ability to read the game of cricket. There is one thing, however, that has changed with the rise of Mohammed Siraj. Bumrah used to be the go-to enforcer for Rohit Sharma or Virat Kohli. Not anymore. Bumrah is now the safety deposit.

He will do the job upfront, but he will not be the first pacer to be brought back in the middle-overs when the spinners don't work. It was clear in Ahmedabad as well as Pune. Sharma brought on Siraj, Babar got out, and then came Bumrah to double down on the impact. Three-four overs upfront, two-three in the middle (30-

40), four again at the death... that seems to be the template unless the need arises for Bumrah to bowl in a place where he is usually not needed. For Sharma, every over, every ball Bumrah bowls needs to be savoured, cherished and made the most of. He is India's golden goose with the ball.

It comes as no surprise that KL Rahul, who has the best seat on the field to watch Bumrah, feels lucky. "Really lucky that we don't have to break our bats with his yorkers. We have faced him a little bit in the IPL as well. Really happy that he is back and he is fit," Rahul, who spent a lot of time in rehab with Bumrah at the NCA, told reporters in Pune.

The sentiment is same

across the board. One could see the relief in bowling coach Paras Mhambrey's face on the luxury of having Bumrah back in the team. "Ask me about it man," he said with a wide smile. "It has been tough. You have seen him in the last three games that he has played. He gives you that breakthrough that you require in the power plays. He's well adapted to bowl in the middle overs and he's a top gun dead bowler," Mhambrey had said in Pune. None of this is exaggeration. The joy of watching an elite athlete like Bumrah at his best is not restricted to the Indian team. Check the X (formerly known as Twitter) feed of former West Indian fast bowler, Ian Bishop, and you'll understand. "A Jasprit Bumrah yorker is a treat to behold. He is gold," reads his last tweet on Bumrah after the game against Bangladesh.

Back in Dharamsala, Mitchell took guard against Bumrah in the penultimate over. Mitchell is looking to clear his front leg and swing for the mountains. The pacer though delivers five perfect yorkers and concedes only three runs. The numbers next to his name read 10-1-45-1.

Wasim Akram's Blunt 'Mohammed Shami Remark' Ahead Of India's World Cup Showdown With England

NEW DELHI, Oct 25 (Agencies): As all-rounder Hardik Pandya continues to recover from the ankle injury he sustained during Cricket World Cup 2023 match against Bangladesh, Pakistan legend Wasim Akram has said that the Indian squad "looks good" even without the presence of Hardik Pandya. After his injury, Hardik could not take part of the remainder of the match against Bangladesh before he completely missed India's recent match against New Zealand too. However, the Rohit Sharma-led side went on to win both the matches comfortably.

"This squad looks good even without Pandya. If he is fit then well and good," Akram told Sportskeeda.

The changes in Indian squad for the New Zealand game saw Mohammed Shami getting to play his first game of the ongoing World Cup. The right-arm pacer cashed in on the opportunity as he returned figures of 5 for 54 in 10 overs. "It will be difficult to drop Shami now. I feel India shouldn't risk Pandya (against England) because if it's an

injury to a hamstring or quad, then although you feel good initially, you could pull a muscle in the match. So let him recover 100 percent and then you can play him," Akram said.

"Credit to the team management that whenever any player in the squad comes into the XI, he seems ready. When Shami's ball hits the seam, it can deviate either way," he added.

Shami struck on the first ball of his Cricket World Cup 2023 and never looked back in the game since then.

"It is not easy to come into the World Cup and hit the ground running straight away. He (Shami) is a new ball bowler and sometimes while bowling first-change, you can get emotional and think 'why didn't I get the new ball?' But he has the experience and he made the most of the opportunity that he got to win the game for his country," said the Pakistan great.

India are set to face England next at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, Lucknow on October 29.

Andhra Pradesh excels in badminton at 37th National Games

VIJAYAWADA, Oct 25 (Agencies): Dandu Pooja from Chittoor and Gouse Shaik from Nellore scripted history as they won the State's first gold medal during the 37th National Games Badminton Mixed Doubles match conducted at Panaji in Goa. The duo defeated their opponents, Navaneeth Bokka and K Maneesha from Telangana, with a commanding score of 21-8, 21-17.

In the semi-finals, they triumphed over 2nd seed Delhi players, Kanika Kanwal and Nithin Kumar, with a score of 21-15, 21-18. In another match, the Andhra Pradesh Women's Badminton team showcased their mettle by securing a bronze medal.

The team, comprising Navya Kan-

deri from Chittoor, T Surya Charishma, Donepudi Rashmitha, L Mamikya and Parasa Sonika Sai from Krishna, Chukka Sai Uttejitha Rao from Visakhapatnam, Akanksha Matte from Prakasam, D Sravanthi and D Deepika from Guntur, won the match against the team from West Bengal with a score of 5-0.

Andhra Pradesh Badminton Association (APBA) president Mukkala Dwarakanth congratulated the winners. APBA also lauded principal Secretary of Sports PS Pradyumna, managing director of Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) HM Dhanachandra, along with their staff, for supporting the players.

Army's Youth conclave 2023 concludes with discussion over various topics



TOP NEWS REPORT

HANDWARA, Oct 25: The Indian Army, in collaboration with Kashmir Central magazine, celebrated a resounding success with the culmination of the Youth Conclave 2023 on Wednesday at Environmental Hall Handwara. This transformative event brought together a diverse group of participants, including academia, intellectuals, professionals, creative thinkers, and students from various schools

and colleges.

The seminar fostered an environment of lively discussion surrounding educational reforms, innovation, and cultural celebration.

The Youth Conclave was inaugurated by Shyamala Begum (veer nari), Handwara.

Bashir Assad, a renowned author and senior journalist, set the tone for an engaging and immersive discussion in his inaugural address.

To add colour and

vibrancy to the event, Abdul Rashid Hafiz and a team of talented performing artists provided a captivating glimpse of Kashmir's rich cultural diversity.

The Youth Conclave featured two sessions, with active participation from young minds, complemented by esteemed speakers.

The active and enthusiastic participation of academics, faculty members, and students from various schools and colleges added

depth to the discussions, facilitating a wonderful exchange of ideas.

The organizers express their gratitude for the overwhelming response and the positive atmosphere created by the students.

The event successfully inspired and motivated Kashmir's youth to actively shape their future. Appreciation is extended to all participants from different walks of life, professions, and age groups who graced the occasion.

As a society, we eagerly anticipate more such collaborative initiatives that showcase the vibrant traditions and talents of the region. The organizers also extend their heartfelt appreciation to the Indian Army for providing the occasion and platform for this remarkable event.

Pracheen Kala Kendra & Sanskar Bharti organise Vishwanaad



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 25: A special programme "Vishwanaad" under the joint aegis of Pracheen Kala Kendra and all participants, said that various dance forms gave the feeling of the whole world being one family, called for world peace in which the students from different countries along with Indian students added charm to the programme with their performances.

Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, near Chandigarh was the Chief Guest of this occasion. Dr. Parveen Kataria, Director General, Aryans Group; Dr Shobha Koser, Registrar and Sajal Koser, Secretary

of the Kendra were also present on the occasion.

Dr. Anshu Kataria, while congratulating the entire team of Pracheen Kala Kendra and all participants, said that various dance forms gave the feeling of the whole world being one family, called for world peace in which the students from different countries along with Indian students added charm to the programme with their performances.

Dr Shobha Koser and Sajal Koser said that the message of dance ballet

was that co-existence of innumerable cultures, societies and nations in the universe is world known and experience of cohesion and coercion within this diversity is inevitable too.

Vishwanaad featured about 20 local and foreign students of the Kendra who are taking intense learning of Indian Classical Dance and music under ancient Guru-Shishya Parampara.

In the program, Kazakhstan's duet dance was presented

by Arina and Araye, followed by Ramona of Romania presenting Romanian dances like Chhulia, Andra, Maramures and Batuta.

A beautiful presentation of Kore dance from the remote area of Zimbabwe was presented by Glendale with rhythm and beats. A dance performance celebrating life with the music of Dafli was presented by Pinky, Madhavi and Ishika in Persian dance form which was highly appreciated and enthralled the audience.

GDC Kilhotran organizes intra college competition



TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Oct 25: GDC Kilhotran organised an intra college competition for the events viz., essay writing, painting, photography and videography under the theme 'Badalta Jammu Kashmir, Bhadta Jammu Kashmir, Aman Aur Taraqqi Ki Nayi Tasveer'.

More than 20 students participated under different categories and showed their skills.

The event was organised under the overall patronage of the college principal Dr Javid Iqbal. The event started with a brief introduction by Prof Majid Zargar, HoD Economics who highlight-

ed the achievements and the developmental scenario in Jammu and Kashmir.

The students showed full zeal and zest by portraying the various socio-economic developments taking place in the UT.

The event was also graced by the HoDs of Political Science, Physical Education, Urdu, Hindi and other staff of the college. The event was organised and managed by the Department of Economics under the supervision of the HoD Prof Majid Zargar. A vote of thanks was presented by Prof Arshad Ayoub, HoD Political Science.

Robot-aided surgery has more success rate: Dr Dharmender

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 25: "For the patients suffering from complex urological cancers, the world's most advanced 4th Generation Robot - Da Vinci Xi is a new ray of hope as the robot-aided surgery not only has more success rate but also helps patients with less blood wastage, less pain, less scars and immediate recovery. With the help of newer technologies, we are now able to remove only the tumour and save the kidney in most of the cases", said Dr Dharmender Aggarwal, Consultant, Urology, Uro-Oncology and Robotic Surgery at Fortis Hospital Mohali.

Dr Aggarwal, who has undergone training in complex cancer surgeries and robot-aided Surgery from London and has performed more than 550 robotic surgeries cases till now, added that compared to



the usual stay of 12-14 days in an open surgery, robot-aided surgery allows a patient to walk on the same day of the procedure.

"Robot-aided surgery is the latest form of minimal invasive surgery and provides a 3D view of the operative field via a special camera inserted into the body of the patient. Parts of the body which are difficult to reach with the human hand can be accessed through robot-

assisted arms that can rotate 360 degrees, he said,

While citing stories of successful treatment and saving lives of the patients, Dr Aggarwal said, "A 22-year-old patient had been experiencing blood in his urine (hematuria) along with intermittent abdominal pain from quite some time. Medical examinations revealed a large renal mass (8 cm) in his left kidney and the patient

was advised to undergo a surgery for removal of the entire left kidney. The case was complex as the renal lesion had not only invaded more than half of his kidney, but was also closely attached to major blood vessels. Robot-aided surgery was advised and performed by the team of doctors. The tumour was not only removed completely, but the large kidney lesion was extracted and the remaining kidney was

saved. The patient had a smooth, post-operative recovery and started walking within eight hours of the surgery."

In another case, a 62-year old patient had been experiencing blood in his urine (hematuria) when medical examination revealed a large tumour (7cm) in his urinary bladder, which was invading into its muscles. Following a thorough examination, Dr Aggarwal and his team performed Robot-assisted Radical Cystectomy (extract the entire bladder and nearby lymph nodes). The Patient's entire urinary bladder was removed, ureters were joined to a segment of the small bowel, and a new channel was created to pass urine in the Stoma Bag. The Patient started walking within 10 hours of the surgery and he has recovered fully and is living a cancer-free life now.

LFO-BHF leads 'Save River Tawi' campaign

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 25: The Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation (LFO-BHF), an NGO, in collaboration with the Jammu Municipal Corporation, supported by Govt. College of Education, NSS Unit - 1 of GGM Science College, and N.S.S Govt. College for Women, Parade embarked on a mission to protect and preserve the pristine water of River Tawi.

The "Save River Tawi Campaign," a two-day initiative, unfolded on the auspicious occasion of Durga Ashtami and Maha Navmi at Tawi Ghat, Bikram Chowk.

The primary objective of the campaign was to segregate waste into biodegradable and non-biodegradable categories. This process aimed to allow only 'Holy Saakh' to be gently immersed into the river along with limited bio-degradable items while the non-biodegradable waste was collected for proper disposal and recycling by the Jammu Municipal Corporation. The meticulous execution of this



plan resulted in the collection of approximately 320 kilograms of non-biodegradable waste.

Vivek Parihar, CEO & Founder of LFO-BHF, expressed his gratitude to all the volunteers, partner organizations and the local community for their unwavering support.

He emphasized that initiatives like the "Save River Tawi Cam-

campaign" reflect the NGO's commitment to fostering positive change and creating a cleaner, more sustainable environment for future generations.

On speaking with Ritik, Secretary & Domain Incharge of Environment (Jammu Province) said "The success of this campaign demonstrates that with dedication and collaboration, we can

address environmental challenges and make a difference. LFO-BHF looks forward to continuing its efforts to protect our environment and nurture a spirit of togetherness and responsibility". Volunteers present on the occasion were Vishal, Sachin, Aamir, Shubam, Abhishek Gupta, Abhishek Raina, Navya and Vidit.

Advanced precision surgery for breast lump performed in Jammu: a new hope for patients

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 25: Dr. Vikas Heer and Dr. Paras Khanna, leading Surgical oncologists associated with Aashnaa Oncology Association (AOA) performed an innovative and precise surgical procedure (Wire guided lumpectomy) for a 31 year old patient with occult breast lump at JK Medicity.

This patient from Jammu had previously undergone treatment for carcinoma in her left breast two years ago in which her entire left breast was removed (mastectomy). As part of her regular follow-ups, ultrasound of her right breast showed a suspicious lesion measuring 6mm. This

lesion was not palpable clinically presenting a unique challenge as it was classified as an occult lesion.

Dr. Heer explained that wire-guided lumpectomy is a globally recommended and precise surgical technique. Before the surgery Dr. Sohan Lal Sharma, senior consultant radiologist, carried out the wire localization of the tumor by expertly placing a medical grade thin wire in the tumor under ultrasound guidance. The wire guided lumpectomy specimen was subjected to mammography post surgery to verify complete removal of the wire localized tumor. The patient was safely discharged on the same

day, marking a swift recovery and attesting the excellence of the anaesthesia team led by Dr Jameel Hussain.

Dr. Vikas Heer, an accomplished surgical oncologist with training from the National Cancer Cancer South Korea and Tata Medical Centre is specifically trained in Breast and Gynae-oncology. He also noted that this surgical success marks the seventh case of its kind in the last year, underscoring AOA's commitment to pioneering healthcare in the region.

Dr. Paras Khanna and Dr Gurpreet Kaur, the founder of Aashnaa Oncology Association, expressed their satisfaction with the successful surgery.