

TOP NEWS OF J&K



ENTERTAINMENT

| 6

Ranbir Kapoor reacts to being called 'toxic'



NATIONAL

| 7

CBI summons ex-Uttarakhand Chief Minister Harish Rawat in horse trading case

Daily Evening Newspaper

INTERNATIONAL

| 8

China ex-Premier Li Keqiang, sidelined by Xi Jinping, dies at 68



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-14 Issue-295 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

Promised job in Italy, Punjab, Haryana youths return home after months in Libyan jail

JALANDHAR, Oct 27 (Agencies): Rahul Sharma, from Tewa in Kurukshetra district in Haryana, is back home after enduring a nightmarish time in Libya, and the horrors he suffered continue to haunt him.

Rahul was among 17 the persons who spent two months in a jail at Tripoli, Libya, where they found themselves as they sought to reach Italy to join a promised job. Rahul, who gave up his Home Guard job to pursue his dream of earning big, said: "I was a Home Guard jawan in India. I was promised a job in Italy, but all I went through was only torture, sleeplessness, death, disease and trauma."

"We suspect that more individuals may be stuck based on discussions with returnees and recent contacts. With no Indian Embassy in Libya, we rely on our mission in Tunisia for assistance. We've urged India to enforce stricter agent regulation and have asked the police for stringent action against unlicensed agents."

"We were broken," Rahul added, talking about the collective experience of the group. "We had no change of clothes and had to remain in the same clothes for months. We could even not take a bath. The place was in the middle of nowhere. We saw children walking around with AK-47 guns and heard shots being fired regularly."

Rahul's was elated when he landed a job in Italy that promised him \$2,000 a month. The offer came from a Tewa-based agent, Madan Lal. A Jalandhar-based youth, Anmol Singh, who returned to India with Rahul, had come into contact with Madan Lal as Anmol's sister was based at Tewa.

Rahul reached Dubai on April 8 and was taken to Benghazi in Libya, instead of Italy, and his dreams were shattered. He was told by fellow job-seekers from Pakistan that he had been duped, as they had been — no lucrative job was

Turn to page 9

Firing by PaK rangers along IB continued for around seven hrs, two injured: BSF



JAMMU, Oct 27 (Agencies): The BSF on Friday said the unprovoked firing by Pakistan Rangers along the International Border in Jammu targeting Indian posts and civilian areas continued for close to seven hours.

In an official statement, the Border Security Force (BSF) said the Pakistan Rangers fired mortars and used heavy machine guns, leading

to two non-fatal casualties.

BSF Constable Basva Raj suffered minor splinter injuries in both hands due to shelling. A local, Rajni Devi of Arnia, suffered minor injuries, it said.

The force said the Pakistani firing continued for close to seven hours, starting around 8 pm on Thursday and extending up to 2:45 am on Friday. "BSF continues to

monitor the developments closely while assessing the situation and remains alert to respond as necessary to ensure the safety and security of the border and its residents," the force said.

It said following the start of unprovoked firing, BSF troops retaliated and subsequently Pak Rangers extended their firing to target its border posts adjacent to

Arnia prompting retaliation from its forward defence posts in these areas. At approximately 9:15 pm on Thursday, Pakistan Rangers started mortar firing targeting border outposts and civilian areas, the BSF said, adding some of the shells landed in Arnia town, resulting in minor injuries to a civilian.

"Around 10:40 pm on Thursday, Pakistan Rangers used heavy machine gun fire and targeted our posts. Around 1 am the Rangers again fired and targeted BSF posts, leading to an exchange of fire," the statement said.

Firing continued till 2:45 am, it said.

The BSF said the condition of the injured jawan was stable while material damage was being ascertained.

The intermittent exchange of fire between Pakistani Rangers and

Turn to page 9

LG Sinha inaugurates 4th annual conference of Indian Economics & Allied Sciences Association at KU



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 27: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the 4th Annual Conference of Indian Economics & Allied Sciences Association at University of Kashmir, today.

In his address, the Lt Governor appreciated the endeavour of the Indian Economics & Allied Sciences Association for deliberation on India's development strategy of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat, Develop-

ment issues of J&K, Ladakh and Tribal population in India and comprehensive analysis of policy measures towards the achievement of Viksit Bharat by 2047, during the three-day conference.

Speaking on India's emergence as a strong economic power, the Lt Governor said, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji, the government policies and programmes for holistic development have put the economy on a sustainable path of

high-growth and shaping economic trajectory of India.

"Today, India is the most favourite destination for trade and investment and we continue to be fastest-growing economy in the world. With the vision of inclusive, progressive and sustainable growth, it is being ensured that fruits of our development percolate to the grassroots," he said.

He called for collective efforts to unlock the potential of

Turn to page 9

Senior IPS officer RR Swain given additional charge as J-K DGP



SRINAGAR, Oct 27 (Agencies): Senior IPS officer of the 1991 batch, Rashmi Ranjan Swain would be the new Director General of Police (DGP) and might take over the reins of the J&K Police force in the afternoon of October 31 from Dilbag Singh who would

retire as the longest-serving Police chief of J&K the same day.

A scrupulously honest officer, Swain has many feathers in his cap, besides having the distinction of serving as Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) of both the capital cities of Sri-

nagar and Jammu.

He was on the central deputation for over 15 years and served in many capacities, besides a foreign posting — that is given to outstanding officers for their ability.

Official sources said that the appointment order of Swain as J&K Police chief is expected anytime in the coming days.

PROFILE
From 2001 to 2003, when terrorism was at its peak, Swain served as SSP Srinagar while from 2003 to 2004, he

Turn to page 9

Female tourist dies in Pahalgam

SRINAGAR, Oct 27 (Agencies): A female tourist from West Bengal died in the Pahalgam area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Friday, officials said.

She was found unconscious in Pahalgam following which she was shifted to PHC Pahalgam, they added. "She has been identified as Bandana Auddy (60) wife of Anjan Auddy resident of West Bengal. On her arrival at the health care facility, she was declared dead."

Meanwhile, further proceedings have been initiated in this regard.

Domestic help providers to Submit documents in 20 Days or face imprisonment

SRINAGAR, Oct 27 (Agencies): The government in a stern warning to the domestic help service providers said that those who fail to submit the necessary documents by November 15 will be sentenced to one year of imprisonment.

This was stated by Assistant Labour Commissioner Srinagar, Arshid Qadir on Thursday. "All domestic helper service providers have been registered under three vital acts. We have registered more than 100 service provid-

ers of domestic helpers, under three acts: the J&K Shops and Establishments Act, the Contract Labor Act, and the Industrial Mining Work Sector Act." He further clarified that their registration was carried out in accordance with the required documents.

"In response to incidents from the previous year, the district administration has acted promptly in this matter, and as per their directives, all service providers registered with the Labor Department under

any of the aforementioned acts must fulfill certain formalities," he explained.

He said that until the 15th of November, registered service providers under the Labor Department must obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from various departments, including the Child Welfare Committee, the Anti-Trafficking Committee, and the Anti-Child Trafficking Unit of the police department.

"Moreover, they are required to furnish a

Turn to page 9

Army celebrates Shaurya Diwas to mark landing of forces in Kashmir in 1947

SRINAGAR, Oct 27 (Agencies): The army on Friday celebrated the 'Shaurya Diwas' here to mark the 76th year of the landing of forces in Kashmir which ensured the first civil-military victory of Independent India.

The Indian Army troops landed at the Budgam Airport to evict Pakistani forces from Jammu and Kashmir, a day after the Instrument of Accession was signed between Maharaja Hari Singh and the Republic of India.

During the 'Shaurya Diwas' organised on Friday, a replication of the historic event was performed to pay obeisance to the brave soldiers and the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The audience, including senior Army and Air Force officers, and students, witnessed the re-enactment of history, covering the violation of 'Standstill Agreement' by



Pakistan. The event also depicted the arrival of the Indian Army soldiers on October 27, 1947, to evict the Pakistani Forces.

Speaking on the occasion, the general officer commanding (GoC) of the army's Srinagar-based 15 Corps, Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai said the occasion is celebrated to remember the historic day which ensured Jammu and Kashmir is still an integral part of India.

The Army showed courage in its first big operation in indepen-

dent India and foiled the nefarious designs of the enemy, saving Kashmir from going under Pakistan's occupation, he said.

Lt Gen Ghai recalled the valour of the first Param Vir Chakra recipient, Major Somnath Sharma, who despite being injured led a company and saved the Srinagar airfield from the clutches of the Pakistani tribals, making the supreme sacrifice in the process. The GoC also paid glowing tributes to the bravery

Turn to page 9

Crystal
Telecom - Security - Software

CRYSTAL NEXA/SN SERIES

CRYSTAL CLARITY, ELEVATING CONNECTIONS, INTERCOM REIMAGINED

Ports	4 Ports - 64 Ports
Trunks	4 - 10 Trunk's
FND	Tri-Color
Scheduler	Small, ABS Body
KTS	Pluggable Add on
Paging	Yes
Hotel Fn	Yes
MMOH	Pluggable Add on

www.crystalpbx.com

CADNICA ELECTRONIC SOLUTIONS

Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief & 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

TENTH DAY/KIRIYA

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

Kirya 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/ 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 RAJAINA 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 RAJAINA
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 RAJAINA FAMILY (ORIGINALLY FROM MATHOLA, BHADARWAH)
DUTT FAMILY (ORIGINALLY FROM CHINOTE, BHADARWAH)
KHAJURIA FAMILY (JAGOTA, BHADARWAH)
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- NANAK VIHAR LOWER MUTHI, NEAR GANESH TEMPLE JAMMU 181206.

GRIEF STRICKEN

BASKAR NATH DHAR (HUSBAND)
SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW
RUBY AND CHANDER KANTH DHAR
PUNAM KOUL 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 RAJAINA H/O LT. SMT. CHUNI RAJAINA
GRAND CHILDREN: ISHA DHAR, SHARAN DHAR, HELINA DHAR
7889730582, 8803600461, 9419174669



SMT. PHOOLA DHAR

10TH DAY /KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Jai Ram** S/o Lt. Sh. Tara Chand Verma R/o Shiv Colony Opposite Bali Karyana Store Bantalab, Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 18-10-2023.

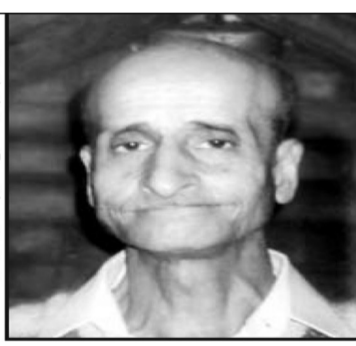
10TH DAY shall be performed at our residence on 27th Oct. 2023 (Friday) at 11 AM

KRIYA shall be performed on 30th Oct, 2023 at 12 Noon at our residence.

UTHALA shall be performed on 30th Oct, 2023 from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM at Baba Kailash Dev Mandir, Bantalab Road, near Radha Swami Satsang Ghar, Bantalab, Jammu-181123.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Usha Rani - Wife
Son & Daughter-in-law
Pawan & Pooja Verma
Pankaj Verma & Taruna Abrol
Daughter and Son-in-law
Rama & Sanjay Abrol
Sonu & Sanjay Soli
Bhabhi & Brother
Smt Chanchala & Late Sh. Jai Krishan Verma
Late Smt Shankutla & Late Sh. Jagdish Chander
Smt Bimla & Late Sh. Devi Lal Verma
Smt Prem & Sh. Satpal Verma
Grand Son and Daughters: Samerth Verma, Pragya Verma, Sadhika Verma
Mob. 9906132394, 7889779128



SH JAI RAM

KIRYA & UTHALA

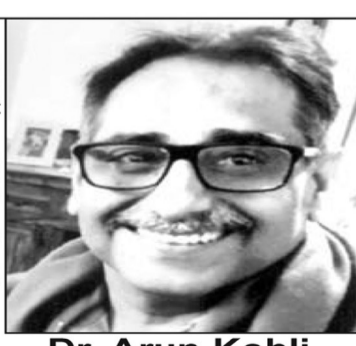
With heavy heart & deep sorrow, it is informed that our most revered **Dr. Arun Kohli** S/o Late Bal Krishan Kohli & Late Damayanti Kohli left this mortal world on 15th Oct., 2023 at Delhi.

Kirya will be performed on Friday, 27th Oct., 2023 at Lakshmi Narayan Mandir, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu at 12.00 Noon (Entry - Back Side Gate)

Uthala will be held on Monday, 30th Oct., 2023 at Lakshmi Narayan Mandir, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu from 3.00 to 4.00 pm (Entry - Front/Main Gate)

GRIEF STRICKEN

M L Gandotra (Father-in-law)
Reena Kohli (Wife)
(Daughter-in-law & Son)
Adv. Hancy & Adv. Raheel Kohli with Kaira (Grand Daughter)
Ashi W/o Late Kulbhushan Kohli (Sister-in-law & Brother)
Veena & Dinesh Maini (Sambandhi)
Ranju & Dr. Rajan Nanda (Sister-in-law & Co-Brother)
Malu & Sanjay Gandotra (Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law)
Shikha & Gaurav Kohli (Daughter-in-law & Nephew)
with Karman (Grand Son)
Mobile : 9810771985, 9419196372, 9419182500, 9419187038



Dr. Arun Kohli
FMR. Dy. Director Health Services, Jammu (J&K)

UTHALA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SMT. CHANAN DEVI** W/O LATE SH BHAGMAL GUPTA, R/O 8-A KALEETH NAGAR, JAMMU ON 25TH OCTOBER.

UTHALA SHALL TAKE PLACE ON (28TH OCTOBER -2023) AT MAHAJAN HALL FROM 4:30 TO 5:00 PM

GRIEF STRICKEN

DAUGHTER IN LAW AND SON
SMT SANTOSH GUPTA W/O - LT SH SUBHASH GUPTA
SMT MAMTA GUPTA W/O - SH SWAMI GUPTA
SMT SAPNA GUPTA W/O SH SHANTI SAROOP GUPTA
SMT ROZY GUPTA W/O SH JYOTI SAROOP GUPTA
DAUGHTERS AND SON IN LAW
SMT RANI GUPTA W/O - SH RAM SAROOP GUPTA
SMT SANGEETA MAHAJAN W/O SH VIRENDER MAHAJAN
SMT VANDANA GUPTA W/O SH ARUN GUPTA
RSVP
M/S DAYAL SHAWL EMPORIUM
M/S RS KASHMIR ARTS EMPORIUM
M/S DAYAL DRY FRUITS
M/S RS TRADING CO.
M/S HOTEL SAHIL PALACE
CONTACT NO. 9419198501, 9419187724, 9419142404, 9086333360



SMT. CHANAN DEVI

FIFTH DAY

With profound grief we inform you about the sad and untimely demise of **Sh. Ajay Gupta** H/o Smt. Rinku Khanna Gupta R/o Udhampur.

FIFTH DAY will be performed on 28-10-2023 (Saturday) at Shiv Mandir Sector 03, Trikuta Nagar Jammu at 11 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt Susheela Khanna W/o Lt Sham Kumar Khanna- Mother
Sh. Akshya Khanna & Manya Khanna- Brother and Bhabhi
Smt Poonam and Prof Lalit Gaid- Sister & Brother in Law
Smt Ritu Gossain and Sh. Manoj Gossain - Sister and Brother in Law



SH. AJAY GUPTA

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt Lalita Misri** W/o Sh P K Misri

10th Day Kriya will be performed at Gauri Shankar Mandir New Palam Vihar, Block T, Sector 109, Gurugram, Haryana 122017 on 30th Oct 2023 at 7 AM.

In Grief : Misri Family

Contact : 9205022161



Smt Lalita Misri

UTHALA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER **SMT. KANTA DEVI** W/O LATE SH. GOVIND RAM RAJAINA R/O 33/1 PATEL NAGAR, TALAB TILLO JAMMU, WHO LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 17/10/2023.

UTHALA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 28/10/2023 (SATURDAY) AT GEETA MANDIR, BAKSHI NAGAR JAMMU, FROM 4 PM TO 5 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

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



SMT. KANTA DEVI

TENTH DAY (KRIYA) & UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Indu Bindroo** W/o Sh. Surinder Bindroo R/o 103, A/D Green Belt Park, Gandhi Nagar Jammu left for her heavenly abode on 21 Oct. 2023.

Tenth Day will be performed on 29 Oct. 2023 (Sunday) at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education at 9.30 AM.

Uthala will be performed at Gurdwara Baba Fateh Singh, Gandhi Nagar Hospital Main Road on 29 Oct. 2023 at 4 PM.

Grief Stricken

Sh Surinder Bindroo -Husband
Brothers-in-law & Sisters-in-law
Sh Satish Bindroo
Sh Pankaj Suri & Smt Santosh Suri
Sh Ashok Mattoo & Smt Rajni Mattoo
Son & Daughter-in-law
Mr Sidharth & Mrs Pallavi Bindroo
Mr Shivam & Mrs Diksha Bindroo
Daughter & Son-in-law
Mrs Deepika & Mr Sunil Mahajan
Mrs Shikha & Mr Varun Magotra
Brother & Sister-in-law
Mr Sanjay & Mrs Rajni Gupta (Jalandhar)
Courtesy from : M/S SHOPPING HUT, R.N. BAZAR
BINDROO SONS, RESIDENCY ROAD
HOTEL GULMOR, S S GURDWARA ROAD.
PH. 7780901699, 9149657346



Smt Indu Bindroo

Sister & Brother-in-law
Mrs Vinod & Mr Virander Gupta (Batala)
Mrs Taruna & Mr Sham Gupta
Mrs Monika & Mr Rajesh Gupta (Ludhiana)

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAAS

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **S. Randhir Singh Chand (Tony)** S/o S. Late Gurcharan Singh R/o Ward No 7 Kama Khan, District Poonch.

10TH DAY will be performed at our residence.

PROGRAMME:-

Arambh Shri Akhand Path at our residence 9:00 am on 27-10-2023.

Bhog of Shri Akhand Path at our residence 9:00 am on 29-10-2023.

Antim Ardas and Kirtan followed by Guru Ka Langar at Gurdwara Bethak Mahant Mohar Singh Ji near Hospital Poonch on 29-10-2023 Sunday (10:00 am onwards).

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sdn. Harvinder Kour (Wife)
S. Jaspreet Singh Chand & S. Gurpreet Singh Chand (Sons)
S. Paramjeet Singh & Sdn. Sandeep Kour (Bhaiya & Bhabhi)
S. Balbir Singh and Sdn. Parveen Kour (Bhaiya and Bhabhi)
S. Jatinder Singh and Sdn. Sarbjee Kour (Bhaiya and Bhabhi)
Sdn Harpal Kour (W/o Late S. Gurdev Singh Sudan) (Sister and Brother-in-law)
Sdn. Jagdeep Kour & S. Satnam Singh (Sister and Brother-in-law)
Sdn. Joginder Singh (Mother-in-law)
PHONE NO: 8082074961, 9419800736



S. RANDHIR SINGH CHAND (TONY)

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
Daughters & Son-in-law's
Sh. Pushkar Nath Pandith & 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

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 Keema 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 Pammy Bhat (Son in law & Daughter)
Sh Sanjay Raina & Smt Varsha Raina (Son in law & Daughter)
Grand Children: Meha, Sagar, Chanchal, Mansi, Varsh
Contact Details:
9149483989,
7051255779,
9018253266,
9419207131,
9419281449.



SH MOHAN LAL BHAT

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 Shiala 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 Vashnavi & Sh Veer Ji Vashnavi (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Smt Sunita Bhat & Lt Sh Piray Lal Bhat
Smt Archana Pandita & Sh Suresnder Pandita
Smt Sonia Pandita & Sh Susheel Pandita (Son & Daughter -in-law)
Sh Anil Raina & Smt Sapna Raina
DEEPLY MISSED BY -
Deepali, Rahul, Sahil, Shraddha, Krishi, Samira, Riya, Gunika, Shrishti, Sheen, Karik
MOB:-9596300463, 9419135800, 9797551511



SMT KANTA SHOURI

10TH DAY/KRIYA

"With smile on your Face, You left us in tears."

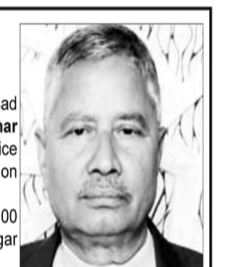
With profound grief and sorrow we sadly inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Shiv Kumar Sharma** (Retd. Teacher) resident of Behind LIC Office Govind Nagar Udhampur who left for heavenly abode on 18-10-2023.

10th Day will be held on 27-10-2023 Friday at 11.00 Onward at our resident Behind LIC office Govind Nagar Udhampur.

Kriya will be performed on 28-10-2023 Saturday at Devika Ghat

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Kamla Devi Retd Physical Education Teacher (Wife)
Smt. Sushma Devi W/o Lt. Kewal Sharma (Bhabhi)
Sh. Tirath Ram & Smt. Rekha Sharma (Brother & Bhabhi)
Sh. Rajinder Kumar & Smt. Anita Sharma (Brother & Bhabhi)
Sh. Bhushan Kumar & Smt. Kavita Devi (Brother & Bhabhi)
Sh. Bimal Sharma & Nirmala Devi (Brother & Bhabhi).
Mr. Sidhant Sharma (Son)
Mrs. Shruti & Mr. Purneet Bauri (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Mrs. Nayan Baskotra & Mr. Anushka Khajuria (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Mob. No.7006645409,9541171023,9060297609,9419695666, 9596811877



Sh. Shiv Kumar Sharma (Retd. Teacher)

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER **SMT. PRABHA WALI (TATHI)** W/O LT. M.K. WALLI ERST WHILE R/O GUND AHALMAR NAISARAK SRINAGAR PRESENTLY AT LANE NO.1-A 76/B ROOPNAGAR ENCLAVE NEAR H.D.F.C BANK JAMMU ON OCTOBER 25, 2023.

TENTH DAY WILL BE OBSERVED ON NOV.02,2023AT 0900 HRS AT MUTHI GHAT NEAR DIRECTOR SCHOOL EDUCATION OFFICE, JAMMU.

GRIEF STRIKES

SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
SANDEEV WALLI AND NEELAM -9796000427
DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW
GOLDY AND R.N. PANDITA -9419121066
PRINCY AND MANOJ GUPTA -996172692
FUPT AND FUPA JI
SHANTA LABROO AND S.K. LABROO -7780963900
NASI, LALITA TIKOO -9643252360
MAMI AND MAMA JI
BABLI AND PRAN NATH KOUL-9796612443



SMT. PRABHA WALI (TATHI)

FIFTH DAY**HEARTFELT CONDOLENCE**

It is with profound sadness that we inform the untimely passing of beloved **Mr. Vijay Kumar Mahajan**. His memory will forever be cherished in our hearts and memories.

5 Days Prayer will be performed at Shiv Mandir Sector-3 Trikuta Nagar, Jammu on 28 October at 11 am.

Will be loved and remembered by:

Mr. Atul (Rinku) & Mrs Sheetal
9419194108, 9906084833



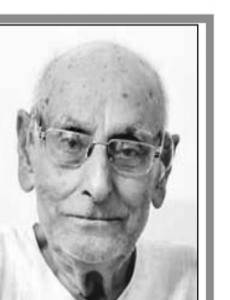
Mr. Vijay Kumar Mahajan

TENTH DAY

TENTH DAY KRIYA of our beloved father **Late Sh. Som Nath Saproo** S/o Sh. Govind Joo Saproo erst-while from Karan Nagar, Srinagar, at present 53 Saraswati Vihar General Lane Anand Nagar Jammu will be performed on 28th Oct 2023 (Saturday) at Muthi Ghaat at 10:00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Veena Saproo (D-in-law)
Naina Saproo Trisal & Ashwani Trisal (D. and S in law)
Pratibha Dhar & Rajan Dhar (D. and S in law)
Sunita Kaul & Upendra Kaul (D. and S in law)
Grand Children:
Suchi, Nidhi, Varun, Arun, Viresh, Mohit, Mehak.
Great Grand Children: Arianth, Khushi, Aryan, Rugvijia
MOB NO. 9419390409



LATE SH. SOM NATH SAPROO

DISCLAIMER

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

PM Modi has taken several path breaking decisions for martyrs' welfare: Dr Jitendra

TOP NEWS REPORT

SAMBA, Oct 27: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Friday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken several path breaking decisions for martyrs' welfare over the last nine years and unlike the earlier governments, the government headed by him is deeply sensitive and concerned about the welfare of Armed Forces and their Martyrs.

No other Government has come out with so many benefits and welfare measures to take care of the families of martyrs as initiated in the last more than nine years, he said.

"Though the loss of a precious life is irreparable to the family and the nation, the Government is very sensitive to the welfare of the families of the martyrs and bears this responsibility with extreme care and concern," said Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space.

Dr Jitendra Singh was addressing a gathering after inaugurating the Shaheed Gate (Gate



in memory of Martyr named after Colonel Narayan Singh (OBE) at Samba district of J&K.

The Union Minister said the Govt. provides an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 25 to 45 Lakh to the next of kin of the martyred soldiers. In addition to this, Rs. 8,00,000 is provided in the form of ex-gratia by the Army Central Welfare Fund. State governments also provide an ex-gratia amount as per their provisions. This is in addition to the Liberalised Family Pension and regular service benefits.

In case of the death of Agniveer in the line of duty, the next of kin will receive over Rs. 1 crore, he added.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, welfare measures

include reservation in jobs and financial support and scholarships to their families for various education needs of the dependent children.

The Minister said, reservation of seats has been ensured in Medical/Dental Colleges for the wards of defence personnel as Government of India nominees. A total of 42 MBBS seats and 3 seats in BDS courses are allotted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. For this, priority is given to wards of personnel killed in action.

Reservation of jobs has also been provided in CPSEs and public sector banks. SAFAL outlets are provided to widows/ dependents of service personnel who

passed away in service/ex-servicemen in Delhi and NCR region.

The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has reserved 8% quota for allotment of LPG distributorship and petrol/diesel retail outlets for defence personnel which also include widows, dependents of members of Armed Forces who died in war. Rail travel concession identity cards are also issued to war widows," he said.

Complimenting the organisers, 'Ek Eint Shaheed ke Naam' institution, Dr Jitendra Singh, who represents Udhampur constituency of J&K in the Lok Sabha, said we owe our secure borders to the supreme sacrifice of our Armed

Forces soldiers.

"We all, the citizens of the country, are able to carry on with their daily life in peace thanks to the gallant soldiers who valiantly guard our frontiers throughout the year, 24x7," he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said there is a sharp decline in the cross-border firing incidents along the LoC and International Border and violence is also down in the Union Territory of J&K during the last nine years, especially in the four years since Article 370 was revoked in August 2019. But the sporadic firing incidents in the recent days and continuing infiltration bids across the LoC prove that we cannot lower the guard against mischief from Pakistan and territories under its illegal occupation.

"India's attitude changed since PM Modi took over charge in 2014, first the surgical strikes by Indian Army in September 2016 and later the Balakote airstrikes by IAF in February 2019 sent a clear signal across the border that terrorist attacks sponsored from across the border will be sternly dealt with, said the Minister.

Khatana urges LG Sinha to expedite selection for Govt jobs

TOP NEWS REPORT



JAMMU, Oct 27: Bharatiya Janata Party MP Rajya Sabha, (Nominated) Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, has urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to expedite the selection process for aspirants of various government posts within the Union Territory especially Sub Inspectors, JEs, Compilers in Finance dept. and waited list candidates of Junior Statistical Assistants who are waiting since last two years.

Addressing a delegation of job aspirants, MP Khatana said that the transformative work done by LG Manoj Sinha in restoring normalcy in the region and fast tracking the developmental works in the short span of time.

He said the selection process for Sub Inspectors, Junior Engineers, Compilers in the Finance Department, and Junior Statistical Assistants has been lingering on for last more than 2 years and these positions are critical to the functioning of the government and the well-being of the Union Territory's residents.

By expediting the selection process, the LG's administration will further enhance the efficiency and effective-

ness of the government's operations, he added.

MP Khatana commended the relentless efforts of the Lieutenant Governor in bringing normalcy to Jammu and Kashmir.

The initiatives taken by LG Sinha, including development projects, outreach programs, and the creation of a conducive environment for businesses, have played a significant role in improving the lives of the people in the region.

He said that creating new job opportunities for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir is essential for the long-term prosperity of the Union Territory. By accelerating the selection process for various government posts, the administration can empower the youth and provide them with opportunities for personal growth and development, which will contribute to the overall progress of the region.

MP Khatana said that during the recent meeting LG Manoj Sinha has assured to expedite the selection process and hoped to see swift progress in the selection process for the mentioned government positions.

Income Tax Department sensitises officers about taxation, financial matters

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 27: Income Tax Department and the office of the Deputy Commissioner on Friday organised an outreach and sensitisation program to promote awareness and understanding of taxation and financial matters.

During the program, Deputy Commissioner Income Tax Jammu, Dr. Mohnish Digra, along with Income Tax Officer Jammu, Rajneesh Gupta, led an interactive session with the Drawing and Disbursing Officers and Assistant Accounts Officers representing different departments.

Dr. Mohnish Digra, emphasised the importance of financial literacy and underscored India's aspiration to become a developed nation by 2047. He highlighted the consistent increase in net Direct Tax collections and the number of income tax return filed over the years.

Furthermore, Dr. Moh-



nish Digra, addressed the audience regarding a concerning trend of claiming wrongful deductions to secure fraudulent refunds, leading to losses for the government. DDOs were sensitised about their role in verifying the legitimacy of such deductions by employees, with a reminder that the Income Tax Department closely monitors such cases.

Rajneesh Gupta, stressed the serious

consequences of claiming fraudulent refunds, including scrutiny of cases, tax recovery and the imposition of penalties under section 270A, amounting to 200% of the evaded tax. He noted that such actions can lead to prosecution under section 276C of the Income Tax Act, potentially resulting in rigorous imprisonment of up to seven years.

Gupta also informed the audience about the

available remedies for rectifying errors, such as filing updated returns under section 139(8A) of the IT Act for Assessment Years 2021-22 and 2022-23, with the payment of 50% and 25% penalties, respectively, in addition to the tax. Revision of ITR for Assessment Year 2023-24 can be done without any penalty.

Throughout the program, interactions took place, addressing vari-

ous issues related to the accurate filing of ITRs, the utilisation of the Income Tax chatbot, different deductions available under the Income Tax Act of 1961 and the benefits of tax calculation under both the old and new tax regimes.

In addition to the district officers, attendees included PO POSHAN, Renu Bhasin and Assistant Commissioner General, Manisha among others.

Amrit Kalash Yatra flagged off from Kishtwar

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Oct 27: In a remarkable display of unity and reverence, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav, in presence of Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Manoj Kumar flagged off the "Amrit Kalash Yatra" here from Mini Secretariat DC Office Complex in Kishtwar as part of the prestigious Meri Maati Mera Desh Campaign launched to celebrate the spirit of India.

BDO Mughalmaidan, Dheeraj Bahadur; DySP DAR Kishtwar Sajjad Khan, staff of RDD Kishtwar; NYC/ Youth

Club Volunteers from all Blocks and police band remained present on the occasion.

The Amrit Kalash, symbolizing the essence of the nation, was received and flagged off with deep respect and admiration, signifying the unity and strength of the community.

The event further fortified the connection between the administration and the people of Kishtwar, demonstrating their shared commitment to the principles and values of our great nation.

This Yatra holds immense significance, as the sacred soil of the district will become

an integral part of Amrit Vatika, signifying the harmonious amalgamation of regional and national elements.

The Mini Secretariat DC Office Complex in Kishtwar was adorned with an impressive program, graced by the melodious tunes of a band from the Police Kishtwar, besides the participants carrying Amrit Kalash from All Blocks, Municipal Council Kishtwar, District Police were garlanded by the dignitaries.

This heartwarming event showcased the cultural richness and unity of the region, making it a memorable day for all participants.



GDC Kunjwani organises workshop on 'Khadi for Nation-Khadi for Fashion'

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 27: NSS Unit of Government Degree College Kunjwani, in collaboration with Khadi and Village Industries Commission J&K, on Friday organized a workshop on the theme "Khadi for Nation khadi for Fashion" under the aegis of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

The aim of the workshop was to bolster the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan which focuses on making India self-reliant, Khadi as a symbol of traditional Indian craftsmanship and self-sufficiency.

The event was held in the College premises under the patronage of

the principal Dr. Ravender Kumar Tickoo. He emphasized that the purpose of the Khadi Mahotsav is to raise awareness among students and youth about the significance of local products such as Khadi and handlooms. These products play a vital role in our economy, ecology and women's empowerment and encourage students to promote and adopt Khadi.

The workshop included a series of activities such as quiz competition, slogan writing, essay writing, jingle contest, short films, e-pledge, khadi yatra, exhibition of khadi products.

DC reviews restoration of Heritage sites

TOP NEWS REPORT

RAJOURI, Oct 27: In a significant stride towards preserving the rich cultural heritage of Rajouri, District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal today convened a crucial meeting with concerned officers to deliberate on the restoration of heritage sites.

This meeting marked a pivotal moment in the efforts to revitalize and conserve the historical and architectural gems that dot the picturesque landscape of the district. The meeting discussed the restoration of several iconic tourism sites, including Dhanidhar Fort, the historic Chingus Fort, Qila Darhal fort, and the sacred Panj Nara Temple and others. The Deputy Commis-



sioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal emphasizing the paramount importance of heritage preservation, asserted that the restoration of these sites stands as a top priority for the government.

Such endeavors are not just about revitalizing stone and mortar but rekindling the narratives of the past and presenting them to future generations. "Our heritage and architectural sites

are the living testimony of our cultural heritage, and they deserve to be celebrated," he said.

The restoration of heritage sites not only holds the promise of attracting tourists and bolstering

the local economy but also serves as a tribute to the craftsmanship, history, and stories that these sites encapsulate. In rejuvenating these sites, Rajouri aims to rekindle the collective memory of its people and offer a poignant reminder of the glorious past that continues to shape the present.

This ambitious endeavor is a testament to the government's unwavering commitment to preserving and promoting the cultural legacy of Rajouri. It heralds a new chapter in the district's journey towards becoming a custodian of its own history, beckoning tourists, history enthusiasts, and admirers of architectural marvels to witness and appreciate the grandeur of the past.

As the wheels of restoration begin to turn, Rajouri District envisions a future where heritage sites are not just consigned to history books but brought to life, allowing visitors to traverse through time and immerse themselves in the captivating narratives etched in stone and heritage.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Rajiv Kumar Khajuria; Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Khurshid; SE PWD(R&B) Rajouri, Devi Dayal; District Statistical and Evaluation Officer, Sandeep Sharma; DPO, Auqil Nuvaid; Chief Education Officer, Sultana Kouser and Assistant Director Tourism, Arief Lone.

EDITORIAL

CEASEFIRE
VIOLATION BY
PAK

The ceasefire between India and Pakistan, which was announced in 2003, is a critical agreement aimed at reducing hostilities along the Line of Control (LoC) in the disputed region of Jammu and Kashmir.

A ceasefire is a temporary cessation of hostilities or a suspension of armed conflict, agreed upon by opposing parties. In the context of India and Pakistan, the ceasefire pertains to the military situation along the LoC, with the goal of reducing cross-border firing, shelling, and other aggressive actions.

A ceasefire is more than just an informal understanding; it is a formal treaty or agreement between the two countries. This means that both India and Pakistan have officially committed to stop aggressive actions along the LoC.

The specific conditions of a ceasefire agreement may vary, but in general, they include No Offensive Actions: Both parties commit to refraining from initiating offensive actions, such as firing artillery, shelling, or conducting military incursions across the border; Establishing communication channels between the military authorities of the two countries to address any issues or violations that may arise; both sides agree to respect the designated ceasefire line or border, in this case, the LoC; Often, a monitoring mechanism is put in place, such as the involvement of third-party observers, to ensure that the ceasefire is being upheld; The ceasefire agreement may also include provisions for resolving disputes and addressing issues that led to hostilities in the first place; a successful ceasefire can serve as a stepping stone towards a more comprehensive peace agreement. It creates an environment where diplomatic efforts can be pursued to resolve the underlying issues.

It's important to note that maintaining a ceasefire can be challenging, as it requires both sides to show restraint and adhere to the terms of the agreement. In the case of India and Pakistan, the ceasefire has been violated multiple times, leading to renewed tensions and military exchanges along the LoC. The violations often result in casualties and disrupt the peace process.

Pakistan keeps violating ceasefire many times. There is a 3,323 km long border between India and Pakistan, of which 221 km is International Border (IB) and 740 km is LOC. India and Pakistan had announced a formal ceasefire on the LOC for the first time in 2003. The ceasefire between the two countries came into effect from midnight on 25 November 2003. The ceasefire agreement has been broken by Pakistan every time since 2014 and there has been an increase in it. The year 2020 has been particularly bad in terms of ceasefire. Pakistan violated the ceasefire 4,645 times in 2020, a new record compared to 1,629 in 2018 and 3,168 in 2019.

Pakistani troops targeted forward posts and villages along the International Border and Line of Control (LoC) in Kathua and Rajouri districts of Jammu and Kashmir. Indian soldiers have also given a befitting reply.

The situation remains complex and volatile, and the international community has been calling for both countries to uphold the ceasefire and engage in dialogue to address the underlying issues. Violations of the ceasefire can exacerbate tensions in the region and hinder the prospects for a lasting peace agreement.

Fresh intake of officers in CBI, IB, RAW, NIA to tackle shortfall

By: Dilip Cherian

Finally, the government is attempting to address the longstanding issue of understaffing in India's premier intelligence and investigation agencies. Now officers with a minimum of five years of service are eligible for induction into R&AW, the Intelligence Bureau (IB), the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Previously, this criterion applied to all agencies except the CBI. This policy is poised to open the door for SP rank officers to enter the CBI.

The chronic shortfall of officers in the CBI has considerably hampered the efficiency of the agency's work. As of this month, there were 42 vacant SP-level positions out of the 73 sanctioned posts. This is the highest vacancy rate among all 17 organizations, closely followed by the IB, with 32 vacancies at the same rank.

SP-level officers are of paramount importance in investigations, as they oversee and directly engage with cases. Given that the CBI handles high-profile cases, the vacancies at the SP level have long impeded the agency's anti-corruption work.

Similarly, the Intelligence Bureau (IB) has expanded its cadre by including IG, ADG, and DG ranks, previously limited to SP and DIG. To ensure a balanced workforce, the number of "hardcore" IB officers, spanning ranks from SP to DG, should not exceed 50 per cent of the total posts, all of which are to be filled by IPS officers.

This updated policy also reflects changes in the empanelment of senior IPS officers. Each state care designates a Central deputation quota, requiring



additional recruitment to provide trained and experienced officers for Central government roles.

Govt mobilises babus for nationwide roadshows

Commencing next month, officials from a dozen allied Central government services, including income tax, customs, central excise, audit and accounts, forests, postal, telecom and other sectors, are set to take on a unique role as "rath prabharis", or special officers. They will embark on a nationwide tour lasting into January next year, covering approximately 2.69 lakh gram panchayats in specially equipped "raths" with the express objective of showcasing the achievements of the Modi Sarkar over the past nine years.

It's not a coincidence that this campaign will be run in the midst of the upcoming assembly elections in five states and the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeks a third term in office.

While the Modi government has previously enlisted bureaucrats to promote and educate the public about its welfare programs since 2014, this marks the first instance in which such

a significant number of officers from allied services are being mobilized to highlight the government's accomplishments, in a blatant blurring of the lines between politics and administration. Sources have informed DKB that a total of 170 babus from various allied services will participate in this initiative, dubbed the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.

Expectedly, opposition parties regard this decision with suspicion, questioning the deployment of civil servants for political propaganda. Critics contend that utilising bureaucrats as "Rath Prabharis" blurs the line between government administration and political campaigning, potentially swaying voters. The INDIA Alliance leaders have demanded a retraction of the order, a weak long shot unless there is a public push-back, which appears unlikely.

Experts, including some former babus, point out the dire implications of this decision on transparency, ethical governance, and public perception. The issue will remain a subject of ongoing scrutiny and debate.

Not to be left behind, the Indian Army too has advised soldiers, when they go on leave, to spread

awareness among local communities about Swachh Bharat and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and other schemes. Unlike babus, however, soldiers can't protest about being used as "pracharakhs".

Moving beyond the G-20 rhetoric?

As the razzmatazz of G-20 fades into memory, there is still work to be done. Dr P.K. Mishra, the principal secretary to the Prime Minister, recently headed a high-level meeting to review the progress made in translating the G-20 Leaders' Declaration in Delhi into tangible action.

The meeting included the Vice-Chairman of the Niti Aayog, the G-20 Sherpa, the G-20 chief coordinator and senior officials from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), among others.

According to sources, a series of seven webinars have been proposed to be organized on themes ranging from nurturing strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth to combating terrorism and money laundering. The webinars will be spearheaded by the respective ministries. The aim is to draw insights from area experts for the effective implementation of the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration and set up a high-level monitoring mechanism to ensure that the implementation remains an ongoing process.

Apparently, Dr Mishra also discussed the upcoming G-20 Virtual Summit, an initiative initially proposed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. However, with the government now increasingly focused on the upcoming elections, the question is how much time will be devoted to matters of governance.

Why the multiple entry-exit system for students is a leap for higher education in India



By: Vijay GarG

The concept of multiple entry and exit options, as proposed in the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), seeks to transform higher education into a more inclusive and student-centred system. The approach offers several advantages, including flexibility for students to learn at their own pace and acquire specific skills and qualifications without committing to a full degree programme. It also promotes lifelong learning by allowing them to return to education at different stages of their careers. There have been concerns though about the implementation of the multiple entry and exit system (MEES).

A parliamentary panel recently expressed reservations about the efficacy of the system, questioning its practicality and impact. While such scepticism is an essential aspect of democratic discourse, it is crucial to

delve deeper into the objectives that the system aims to achieve. "The system is designed to tackle longstanding issues, such as rigid academic structures, high dropout rates and the absence of interdisciplinary learning opportunities. The concerns raised by the panel are indeed valid, but they can be mitigated through a well-thought-out implementation strategy involving all stakeholders, including educational institutions, students

The system is a groundbreaking approach that allows students the flexibility to enter or exit academic programmes at various stages. For example, a student enrolled in a four-year undergraduate programme can choose to exit after one year with a certificate or after two years with a diploma. If the student decides to continue, he or she can complete the full degree. So, the system embodies the principles of flexibility, adaptability and student-centricity. "It is designed to align with global educational norms, such as those in the US, where students have the freedom to switch majors, take academic breaks, or even transfer credits between different educational institutions,"

This modular learning approach breaks down educational programmes into smaller, manageable units, each with its own set of outcomes and credits. These credits are

like building blocks; students can accumulate them along the way and combine them to achieve different qualifications. "Additionally, the model recognises prior learning experiences, such as work experience or informal knowledge acquisition. Suppose a psychology graduate aspires for transition into a data-related field. In that case, the student can seamlessly do so by earning a data analysis certificate."

The concept, therefore, not only promotes lifelong learning but also enhances employability by providing intermediate qualifications that align with specific industries or job roles. It allows students to enter the workforce sooner, which can be particularly advantageous for those seeking immediate job opportunities or career changes.

In today's volatile job market, where career paths are no longer linear, the ability to adapt one's educational qualifications is invaluable. MEES provides this flexibility, allowing students to align their academic journey with their career aspirations dynamically. "Moreover, it encourages a culture of continuous learning. It allows individuals to re-enter formal education at different life stages,

The system is not just an academic concept but has practical applicability in the Indian educational landscape. "The

key to its successful nationwide implementation lies in the establishment of a robust and transparent credit system. The responsibility for ensuring educational quality should lie with higher education institutions themselves,"

A culture of self-regulation and internal quality assurance in that case can maintain high educational standards without adding bureaucratic layers. Sinha feels the concept holds immense potential provided it is executed with careful planning. "The feasibility of implementing it in the Indian education system depends on infrastructure, regulatory frameworks, quality assurance and the integration of educational technology,"

India's diverse education landscape necessitates adequate resources, both online and offline, to support various learning pathways. So, quality-monitoring mechanisms must be in place to uphold educational standards. It's imperative to maintain quality standards to ensure that certificates and diplomas earned through this approach hold value and are respected by employers and educational institutions.

**(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist malout
Punjab)**

Kishtwar Police hosts Cultural Programme



TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Oct 27: Under the direction of SSP Kishtwar, Khalil Poswal, Kishtwar Police organized a heart-warming cultural event at Chowgan Ground, Kishtwar.

This event, dedicated to the memory of our brave martyrs, paid homage to their unwavering dedication and the enduring spirit of our land.

The mesmerizing evening commenced with soul-stirring Ghazal performances that resonated through the air, encapsulating the essence of our rich heritage and the sacrifices of our heroic countrymen.

Renowned local singers including Simridhi Sen, Arzo Farooq, Rudra Sharma, Mohd Aslam, Mumta Shan, Ab. Rashid Dev & others

graced the occasion with their soulful renditions, leaving the audience entranced.

Their melodies paid tribute to our nation's soil and its courageous defenders, adding elegance and grace to the event.

The event was attended by esteemed dignitaries, including Dy SP DAR Sajjad Khan, Dy SP Hqrs Dr. Ishan Gupta, SDPO Atholi Pralahad Baghat, Insp Parvaiz Khanday, and Insp Dil Raj Singh, as well as other officers from the Police and civil administration.

Community leaders and members of the public also gathered to celebrate our nation's heritage and the indomitable spirit of its protectors. Chowgan Ground, Kishtwar, transformed into a cultural haven where artistic expressions intertwined with

reverence for our homeland and its valiant protectors.

In his message SSP Kishtwar Khalil Poswal extended heartfelt gratitude to all attendees, performers and musicians, and supporters who contributed to the event's success. This event serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of cherishing our heritage and acknowledging the sacrifices that have shaped our nation.

The singers and musicians were honored with appreciation certificates by DySP DAR and SDPO Atholi, with wishes for a bright future.

At the end of the event, all participants and spectators observed a 2-minute prayer in remembrance of the martyrs who made the supreme sacrifice for our nation.

Shiv Sena demands befitting reply to Pak for unprovoked firing

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 27: Shiv Sena (UBT), Jammu and Kashmir unit, strongly condemned the violation of ceasefire by Pakistan in the Arnia sector of Jammu.

The unprovoked firing and mortar attacks in the residential areas have caught the attention of the party, which now demands swift action from the Modi government against Pakistan. Shiv Sena called for an immediate suspension of all political, diplomatic, and trade relations with Pakistan.

Speaking to the media at the regional party office, Manish Sahni,



President Shiv Sena, J&K, expressed grave concern about Pakistan's nefarious actions. He stressed that it is high time that terrorism-supporting and weakened Pakistan is completely wiped off the map. He emphasized that Paki-

stan continues to violate the ceasefire, posing a threat to the border areas of Jammu and Kashmir. In the past few days, Pakistan has twice breached the International Border with cross-border skirmishes. Additionally, on October

17, BSF soldiers were injured in a firing incident by Pakistani Rangers. On the night of October 26, there was another exchange of gunfire in the Arnia and RS Pura border areas, which resulted in injuries to a BSF soldier and four

civilians. Mortar shells hit residential areas, causing significant damage to homes.

Sahni pointed questions at the central government led by Prime Minister Modi, asking how long Pakistan's malicious actions will be tolerated and why Pakistan has suddenly escalated ceasefire violations. He also questioned the utility of the bunkers built at great expense, which BJP leaders used to proudly inaugurate after each attack.

Among those who were present include Meenakshi Chibber, Vikas Bakshi, Sanjeev Kohli, Raj Singh.

Oath ceremony of Executive Body of core federation of FPOs held at Handwara

TOP NEWS REPORT

HANDWARA, Oct 27: The oath ceremony of the Executive body of the Core Federation of FPOs was held today at Handwara, in which the portfolios were assigned among members. Dr Firdous Ahmad Raina, Senior scientist KVK Kupwara and the founder of FPO's in District Kupwara was unanimously elected as coordinator, Dr Aaqib Hassan as secretary.

Altaf Ahmad Dar as co-coordinator, Reyaz Ahamd Shiekh as co-secretary, Mohd Ashiq Malik as Treasurer, Mohd Ramzan Ganie as Member Secretary, Mushtaq Ahmad Magray as event incharge, Amina Rashid as Ex- Officio Secretary,



Gulshana Malik as Women's wing incharge, Rubeena Akhter as Deputy incharge women's wing, Shareefa Begum as Arbitrational Tribunal Incharge, Sabreena Rehman as District FPO

incharge Baramulla, Humira Ashiq And Miss.Mubeena Ali as Office assistants Of Core Federation of FPO's regional office Bramri Kupwara. On the occasion, Dr. F.A

Raina(coordinator) while Addressing the executive members promised that he is committed to work for the upliftment of FPO's & Farming Community will be benefited by the approved projects from Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare Govt. of India.

During the pledge ceremony all executive members also pledge to work for the betterment of the core federation & farming community.

At the end Dr.Aaqib Hassan Secretary Core Federation Of FPO'S presented vote of thanks and assured Board of management that he will work with zeal and zest for the Betterment of Core Federation ,FPO's and Farming Community.

Rajan encourages traditional shopping for upcoming festive season

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 27: As the festive season approaches, Rajan Gupta, the President of Sarv Shakti Sena, has expressed a strong message urging the community to support local businesses and embrace traditional in-person shopping rather than relying solely on online purchases.

In an effort to promote the local economy and foster a sense of community spirit, Rajan emphasized the importance of visiting physical markets and stores during the upcoming festivities. He believes



that this approach not only supports local businesses but also enhances the overall shopping experience.

Gupta stated, "While online shopping has its conveniences, it is essential that we

remember the significance of physical markets and stores, especially during festive occasions. By shopping in person, we can connect with our local community, experience the rich cultural traditions,

and help our neighborhood businesses thrive."

Sarv Shakti Sena, under Gupta's leadership, plans to organize events and initiatives that encourage the public to choose traditional shopping methods, such as visiting local markets, boutique stores, and artisan fairs, while taking necessary health precautions.

With the festive season around the corner, Gupta's call for supporting local businesses through physical shopping highlights the importance of preserving traditions and building stronger, more vibrant communities.

Kishtwar Police holds PCPG meeting

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Oct 27: To review the security scenario and crime of the district Kishtwar and Doda in his three-day tour programme, Dr. Sunil Gupta DIG DKR range on Friday held a Police Community Partnership Group (PCPG) meeting at village Panjdihara of Dachhan Kishtwar in presence of SSP Khalil Ahmed Poswal, SDPO Devinder Singh, DSP Ops. Vishal Sharma, Major Sandeep 17RR and Zaheer Iqbal SHO Dachhan.

The public from all corners of area Dachhan attended the meeting. Issues related to VDG's and other civil works



were also raised by the locals.

Listening to the grievances patiently, DIG range assured that their grievances will be resolved on priority. He assured people of area that massive sports activities under civic action programme will be organised in future

to indulge youth to hone their skills.

The prominent persons present include Ex Sarpanch Mangat Ram, Vice Sarpanch Hemraj, Jogindher Dhar BJP, Kishori Lal, Gh Mohd. Sagar who thanked DIG for visiting Dachhan area.

Later, on the DIG con-

ducted a brief inspection of the police station Dachhan. While inspecting the record of police station, DIG directed the DySP ,SHO concerned to act on the different operations launched by the range office by following the guidelines of range office.

At police Station, DIG gave away the appreciation letters to the officials and SPOs of police station who were part of Switzerland trekkers as guide for the Brahma -2 peak. It is also pertinent to mention here that yesterday DIG had held a detailed crime review meeting with all SDPOs, SHOs at DPO Kishtwar in presence of SSP Kishtwar.

Manisha, Preeti, Seema pay obeisance at Tirupati Temple



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 27: Manisha ACG, Preeti Sharma ACD and Seema Parihar SDM paid obeisance at Tirupati Balaji Temple Jammu and participated in the special Abhishek of Tirupati.

They prayed for the welfare of the country. Every Friday the ceremony of Abhishek of Lord Venkateshwar is performed.

Manisha expressed happiness over the temple said that it is a feeling of pleasure and proud that the Tirupati Balaji temple is established here for the people of Jammu. With this temple we are able to witness the culture of south India and this feeling is heavenly. She appealed people to visit the temple and pay obeisance here.

She said that is ready for any kind of help to the temple and devotees. She said the temple is beautifully made in the Majeen area. She said the dedication of Lord Venkateswara temple would give a boost to spiritual tourism and a major fillip to the economic development and employment opportunities in the Union Territory.

On this occasion Subramanyam the Superintendent of temple also appealed transport commissioner to start the bus service for the temple so that devotees can come easily to the temple.

Other dignitaries present on the occasion were Sai Krishna, Temple Inspector Subramanyam, Superintendent Raviteja, Pradhana Pandit Amit Shukla, Veda Pandit.

Contractual system of appointments in Education Deptt marred career of educated youths: AAP

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 27: Strongly assailing the contractual system of appointment in Higher Secondary Schools in Education Department during the year 2019 when thousands of highly educated youth's opted for adjustments getting frustrated and dejected remaining unemployed and feeling themselves as a burden on the parents, the AAP Senior leaders, Ram Singh Chauhan and Kuldeep Kumar Rao in a press release issued here have termed it as a clear bankruptcy of mind of those at the helm of affairs responsible for framing contractual policy of employment of Higher Secondary School Lecturers as also in Colleges as contractual Assistant Professors and worst of it the policy was abandoned when thousands of them attained upper age of

limit prescribed by the government.

The AAP leaders further expressed great surprise and dismay that has now again revived the policy remaining mum over those who attained upper age limit in the previous spell to the annoyance thousands of affected families across J&K, thanks to the non-seriousness of the policy makers.

They further observed that if the contractual policy is being revived keeping an eye on elections in 2024, then ruling dispensation is badly mistaken because first bleeding the wounds of thousands of needy and deserving families who have been rendered hopeless attaining upper age of limit terming the attempt as putting the cart a head of horse.

The AAP leaders further said that the promise of providing 2 crore jobs annually to the

youths of the country in 2014 and 50,000 jobs to the youths of J&K after abrogation of Art. 370 still haunts the minds of young people here, which never saw the light of the day.

Adding fuel to the fire, several thousands of youths engaged on contractual basis, ad-hoc basis, daily wagers or need based arrangements in all departments be it Home Guards, Education, PDD, PHE, Health, Food & civil supplies & so on so forth has compounded the miseries of frustrated youths with every passing day as scores of them are crossing age limit or nearing the same without any hope of Achhe Din, the AAP leaders maintained and said that previous leaders of successive state governments are squarely responsible for the present mess who, without

any planning & application of mind, adjusted the youths simply to create vote banks and appease their kith and kins, has put thousands of youths in great dilemma and worst confusion, they claimed and maintained that Educational Institutions were opened with political considerations without proper infrastructure in place, Health Institutions sanctioned without availability of staff and buildings.

The AAP leaders said that with the abrogation of Art. 370, the highly educated ignored & neglected unemployed youth, had pinned high hopes that really (Achhe Din) will come and concrete educational policy shall mitigate their suffering through proper absorption but unfortunately that did not happen even after waiting for about long 4 years' in the current

dispensation and adhocracy is still prevailing in practice, where by only Matriculates used to be Education Ministers.

It is strongly felt that the most important Education sector is deliberately being ignored so as to keep the masses illiterate which could be easy to rule. It is appealed before the Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha to take cognizance of the deteriorating plight of highly educated unemployed youths and also student community across Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir due to non-availability of teaching staff and to take immediate necessary steps so that filling up of all vacant posts of Teachers in Schools & all the vacant posts in Govt. Degree colleges and Govt. Hr. Sec. Schools is taken up on fast track basis, and future of students is saved to some extent.

Writer-director Atul Sabharwal, who is coming up with spy thriller Berlin, believes every film, small or big, deserves to be in theatres

Variety is the spice of a writer's world. Soon after giving us wondrous depiction of golden years of Indian cinema in Jubilee, writer-director Atul Sabharwal is ready with a spy thriller titled Berlin. The film, which has been selected for two major film festivals, MAMI and Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles, is not like the fantastical Mission Impossible or Ek Tha Tiger's spy-verse. Rooted in reality, Atul shares, "It is more in tradition of authors like John le Carré or Len Deighton."

Most of us may think that thrillers are integral to spy genre, Atul says, "Ingenuity of characters, how they wriggle out of discomfiting situations when caught in a bind is what matters the most." Berlin the title has something to do with Germany. But, since it's a plot point he won't give in what it actually refers to. Yet, one secret he lets out of the bag is that deafness and muteness of one of its lead characters is not a trick/cover. Though his directorial venture Class of 83 and Jubilee, which he wrote, did exceptionally well on OTT platforms, he believes, "Every film small or big deserves to be in theatres."

Serious and sombre For someone who swears by the magic of larger-than-life silver screen, yet whose magic has been discovered on OTT, he finds no contradiction. Rather he wants us to toss this query to the industry bigwigs, who have this deep fear of tragedies even



though our biggest blockbusters have been tragedies. By tragedy he does not mean weepy tragic endings, but films with serious and sombre soul. Having grown up on Doordarshan and films of Satyajit Ray, Bimal Roy, and serials like Buniyaad and Tamas, he observes, "You can't escape the influence of your formative years."

Thus, his bent of mind has always been towards trials and tribulations rather than celebrations. Those of us who believe Punjabis are always balle balle, this Punjabi with roots in West Punjab disagrees and has a credible thesis for it, "Balle balle Punjabi Bollywoodisation happened only during the nineties." Of course, he has not lost the sense of humour that comes naturally to Punjabis. Ask him about the bonhomie between three Punjabis, he and his lead actors Aparshakti Khurana and Ishwak Singh, and he laughs, "It was great; asi pinniyan

khaande rahe te film banande gaye." Mind you, he insists, "I can speak better Punjabi than both of them put together."

Deeply rooted Never mind that he lived mostly in Agra, he has not lost touch with his roots. Currently, he is writing a novel based on his grandparents, who came from West Punjab. Drawn to the rural landscape of Punjab, its folk tales and musicians... if he listens to Asa Singh Mastana and Surinder Kaur, he reads up Avtar Singh Pash, Amrita Pritam and Bhisham Sahni. Plus, he has watched many Punjabi films, the latest being Maurh and Manje Bistre.

Undeniably, he would love to make a Punjabi film and believes that some dose of Punjabi-ness was present in Jubilee too. But, he agrees, "Unless you make it in Punjabi, the real ras won't come through." Viewers may have indulged in guessing games, in Jubilee he and direc-

tor Vikramditya Motwane didn't have specific actors in mind as, "We only wanted to capture the spirit of that era."

Writing, he shares, is part imagination and part research. Hold it, research he thinks is a very academic word and he would rather replace it with taste or aptitude. Yet another word he would like to dispense with is 'merciless'. "Every single line that is added or removed while on the sets where obviously the director in me takes over is a joy. Words like cutting mercilessly are corporate inventions and have no place in the creative process."

Moolah matters Whether OTT is the medium where writers are the uncrowned kings, he quips, "If we are, where is the money?" He agrees that compared to mainstream Bollywood, things are not as skewed on streaming platforms, but adds, "Writers don't get a king's ransom. Actually no one does. The money goes in upping the production values."

Moreover, he opines, "OTT koi kranti thodey la sakta hai... they are here to make money." Spoken like a true Punjabi... frank and upfront. As for Punjabis being a mighty force in the film industry, he views it as a topic of serious research, of ethno movements and how history plays out. Meanwhile, he is busy writing cinematic history and taking us to eras gone by as Berlin too happens to be a period film.

'I feel FOMO about not being a part Bigg Boss 17', says Sara Khan



Bigg Boss fame and TV actress Sara Khan, who was a contestant

on Season 4, recently expressed her FOMO about not being a part

of this season!

Sara said, "Being a part of Bigg Boss will forever hold a special place in my heart. My journey on the show was a great mix of unforgettable moments and valuable lessons. Whether it was building friendships, having fun, or even engaging in trivial arguments, I cherished every bit of it. Today, I can't help but feel a strong sense of FOMO about not being a part of Bigg Boss Season 17."

She further added, "At first it was hard to believe that there will be a phone inside the house! It was indeed shocking to know that the contestants will be allowed to have access to crucial information that can change the entire gameplay, all via the Glance smart lock screen. It's quite a departure from my season, where we could only receive votes through SMS. Bigg Boss has certainly become smart! It will be exciting to see how the Glance Smart Lock Screen will influence the contestants' strategies within the house as they use their Dil, Dimaag and Dum to make the most of it."

Nicki Minaj's studio album 'Pink Friday 2' to release on her birthday

Rapper and singer-songwriter Nicki Minaj announced that the release date of her upcoming fifth studio album 'Pink Friday 2' has been shifted from November 17 to her birthday on December 8, reported People.

The rapper opened up about why she made the decision to push the release a second time and expressed just how "proud" of the project she is.

After revealing that she had several "major, monumental announcements", Minaj shared that "for about two reasons, I have changed my album date." She was wearing "Barbie" bling with pink lipstick and eyeshadow to match.

"The new album date for this incredible body of work that I am so proud of is on a very special day to me and to the Barbz," the "Barbie World" rapper said. "Pink Friday 2, I am so happy to announce, will be out on my birthday, December 8th." "I am so filled with emotion about it because, as y'all know, it's been a long time coming," the hip-hop star added.

According to People, the superstar explained that the date changed largely because the vinyl pressing of the album wasn't going to be ready until the week of December 1. She also clarified that the release had "been changed for some time now behind the scenes" and wasn't pushed because 2 Chainz and her longtime friend and collaborator Lil Wayne are releasing their new joint record, Welcome 2 Collegrave, on November 17. She also opened up



on why it took five years to drop the follow-up to 2018's studio album 'Queen'. "I have never in my life been so in love with something that I'm working on," the "Super Freaky Girl" rapper said. "Pink Friday 2 the album is something that has been coming for the last five years. It is the album that I had writer's block for a long time because I was pregnant and didn't want to say freaky stuff and all that." She continued, "This entire album will be the biggest gift I have ever given humanity thus far. I can stand by that. I will bet any amount of money that Pink Friday 2 the album is going to make people fall in love immediately."

Minaj thrilled the Barbz back in June when she announced her upcoming album would be a sequel to her seminal 2010 record Pink Friday. At the time she revealed with a post on X (formerly known as Twitter)

that the record, originally slated for October 20, would be pushed to November 17.

After teasing that her fifth studio album would be "well worth the wait," she wrote, "I love you guys so much. I am so grateful for the years of support and love you guys have given me. At times maybe I didn't even deserve all that you have poured into me. Nonetheless, you will love this album." Since then, she's given fans a tease of the highly-anticipated project by sharing the fantastical album artwork, dropping the single "Last Time I Saw You" and previewing an unreleased track at the MTV VMAs, which she emceed for the second year in a row. Earlier this year, the hip-hop icon also contributed the hit song "Barbie World" to the Barbie movie soundtrack, reported People.

'I just cried and didn't know why I was crying', Karan Johar reveals his mental health struggles

Karan Johar, the host of Koffee With Karan Season 8, opened up about his own mental health struggles. The filmmaker revealed that he experienced a serious depressive episode in April, during the unveiling of the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre.

Karan Johar's iconic chat programme Koffee With Karan returned for its eighth season on Thursday at midnight. The season opened up with the presence of power couple Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone as guests. Deepika was asked about her experience with depression, which prompted Karan to



share his own issues.

Karan began the segment by recalling sitting in a helicopter with Deepika and Farhan Akhtar on their way back from Shah Rukh Khan's birthday party in Alibaug in 2017.

He spent the entire ride watching Deepika cry and break down in front of him. "I recall holding her hand all the way through. "She just cried, and I looked at her and thought, 'I don't even know how this feels...' until it happened to me." Karan continued, "I think there were three tough years of the pandemic and there was trolling and I didn't realise that I was trying to be tough and resilient and brush

things under the carpet."

He also recalled another incident from NMACC where he felt low. He said, "The legitimate attack I had was at the NMACC launch and Varun Dhawan was gazing at me. I didn't even notice I was sweating. Varun took my hand and asked, 'Are you okay?'" He concluded, "I took off my long and ostentatious jacket and left in half an hour." I just went to bed and cried. "I just cried and didn't know why. I consulted psychologist, who prescribed medication."

Talking about Karan's show, new episodes will be released every Thursday on Disney+ Hotstar.

Ranbir Kapoor reacts to being called 'toxic'



Actor Ranbir Kapoor recently opened up about dealing with negativity and also reacted to the trolls who called him 'toxic'.

Taking to X, Ranbir's fans shared a clip from a conversation in which the Barfi star said, "Hey, I'm not on social media so I don't have the need to deal with it, which is a great thing. But I feel negativity is very important, especially if you are an artiste. You know sometimes a lot of things are written about you as an actor, a lot of opinions are made, which are not necessarily true..."

Ranbir added, "People are allowed to say anything about me as long as they give my work a chance; that has always been my focus — to act. Recently, I was reading some article about being toxic and something related to some statement I made. But I always look at the larger picture."

Katrina Kaif loves to dance Juhi Bhatt in a new music video, Destiny, with singer Arjun Kanungo

Actress Katrina Kaif is over the moon with the response she is getting for the song Leke Prabhu Ka Naam from Tiger 3.

She said dancing is one of her true passions.

The track has been composed by Pritam, and sung by Arijit Singh and Nikhita Gandhi.

The Tamil and Telugu versions have been sung by Benny Dayal and Anusha Mani.

Katrina said, "Leke Prabhu Ka Naam is being celebrated and it is such a wonderful feeling for all of us. Dancing is one of my true passions and seeing the audiences' love for it is just pure joy."

Katrina feels people have a huge expectation from actors to not just showcase their acting skills, but also give them great songs to cherish, "I am aware of the expectations people



have from our songs and it motivates me to

deliver a better performance every time."

2014 is not a date, but a change; people rejected outdated phones to accept us: PM Modi

Was speaking at the India Mobile Congress

NEW DELHI, Oct 27 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday launched a fresh broadside against Congress as he termed 2014 as not just a date but a 'badlav' (change) when people rejected outdated phones with frozen screens to choose a government that has transformed the landscape.

Speaking at the India Mobile Congress here, Modi reeled out statistics to show how India has turned into an exporter of mobile phones from being an importer and how big tech companies -- from Apple to Google -- are lining up to become manufacturers in the country. "2014 is not just a date, it is



'badlav' (change)," he said.

Modi took swipes at Congress-led UPA, saying just like outdated phones whose frozen screens wouldn't work no matter how many swipes were done or buttons pressed, the previous

government, too, was in such a frozen state.

"A restart, or charging the battery or even changing the battery did not work," he said. "In 2014, people left such outdated phones and gave us an oppor-

tunity to serve the country."

After rolling out the fastest 5G mobile telephony network, India is making strides towards establishing itself as frontrunner in the realm of 6G, he said.

The world, he said, is using 'made in India' phones.

India has reached 43rd position in mobile broadband speed from previous rank of 118, he said, adding four lakh 5G base stations had been set up within one year of 5G roll-out.

The prime minister said giving citizens access of capital, access of resources and access of technology is priority for the government.

Bills to replace criminal laws to be cleared by Parliament soon: Amit Shah



HYDERABAD, Oct 27 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the three new Bills replacing Indian Penal Code (IPC), CrPC and Indian Evidence Act will be passed by Parliament

soon. Speaking at the Passing Out parade of IPS cadets at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy in Hyderabad, Shah said India is dispensing with the laws made

during British rule and is entering a new era with new confidence and new hopes.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs is examining the three new bills and they will be passed soon, he said.

The new laws are aimed to protect the people's rights, he said.

Noting that the women IPS cadets' number is increasing, Shah said under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi the country is progressing in women-led development.

Former union and state minister Babanrao Dhakne dies at 86

AHMEDNAGAR, Oct 27 (Agencies): Former union and state minister Babanrao Dhakne died after a brief illness at a private hospital here, his associates said on Friday.

Dhakne was 86 and is survived by his younger son and daughter-in-law who are both independent political leaders.

He was the Minister of State for Energy in the government of former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, and had also handled several key ministries in Maharashtra besides serving as Leader of Opposition and Deputy Speaker of Assembly.

According to an associate, Dhakne was suffering from pneumonia and other illnesses for which he was admitted to a local hospital three weeks ago.

However, during treatment, his condition sud-



denly deteriorated and he breathed his last late Thursday night after suffering a heart attack.

The leader's mortal remains shall be kept for public 'darshan' on Friday and the funeral rites shall be performed on Saturday afternoon at Pagori-Pimpalgaon village in Ahmednagar.

As a young student, Dhakne had carried out his first political agitation in 1951 and had met the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru after which he plunged full-time into politics.

Over the years, he

was associated with several parties like Congress, Janata Party, Janata Dal, Nationalist Congress Party and enjoyed close rapport with former PMs like Indira Gandhi, V. P. Singh and other bigwigs in the Centre and state politics.

He actively took up the causes of the Goa Liberation Movement, peasants, workers, labourers, sugarcane farmers, unemployed youth and carried out several campaigns, sit-ins and demonstrations for them all his life.

NCP Working President Supriya Sule and other leaders have expressed grief over the demise of Dhakne, describing him as "an honest leader of the common masses" and his passing has snapped the links with the old era of leadership.

ED arrests West Bengal Minister Jyotipriyo Mallick in money-laundering case

KOLKATA, Oct 27 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate has arrested West Bengal minister Jyotipriyo Mallick in a money-laundering case linked to an alleged multi-crore ration distribution scam in the state, official sources said on Friday.

The minister was apprehended under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act in the early hours of Friday following over 17-18 hours of questioning, they said.

ED officials said Mallick was taken from his home in Salt Lake area on the outskirts of Kolkata to the central agency's office here around 3.30 am.

He would be produced before a local court where the ED would seek his custody, they



said. "I am a victim of a great conspiracy," the TMC minister said after being arrested by the ED in connection with the alleged ration distribution scam.

Mallick alleged that the conspiracy was hatched by the BJP and its leader Suvendu Adhikari, a former colleague in the TMC.

The ED had earlier

arrested a confidant of the minister Bakibur Rahman whose remand is ending this week. Sources said the central agency might seek to confront the two with each other's version of events in the case.

The agency had launched searches on Mallick's premises on Thursday. It also searched his ancestral house on

Amherst Street in central Kolkata. The alleged scam pertains to reported irregularities in the public distribution system and in the distribution of food grains during the Covid lockdowns.

Earlier on Thursday, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee threatened to file a police complaint if anything happened to Mallick during the questioning as he was unwell and had several medical ailments.

Banerjee also termed the raids by the ED against opposition leaders as "a dirty political game" by the BJP. Trinamool Congress leader and state minister Shashi Panja also criticised the raids at Mallick's residences, asserting that "this is an attack on the culture of Bengal

at the time of Bijoya Dasami and is nothing but vendetta politics".

In response to the arrest of the state minister, the BJP said it was "expected" considering the pace of the investigation in the case.

BJP state spokesperson Samik Bhattacharya said, "The arrest was anticipated after the revelations made by one of his associates, who was apprehended a few days ago. It has once again been proved that the TMC is deeply mired in corruption."

In the past one year, two other MLAs and TMC Birbhum district president Anubrata Mondal have been arrested in connection with school job scams and cattle smuggling cases by central agencies.

Woman From Bangladesh Arrested For Illegally Entering India to Marry Lover

AGARTALA, Oct 27 (Agencies): A Bangladeshi woman, who crossed over the international border to marry her lover, was arrested for illegally entering Dharmanagar in North Tripura district, police said on Friday.

Nur Jalal (34), a resident of Phulbari in Dharmanagar subdivision, a self-styled kabiraj (practising ayurveda), used to frequently visit Maulvi Bazar in Bangladesh. During the visits, Nur, a married man, came in touch with the 24-year married woman at her native village, police added.



"With the passage of time, the woman identified as Fatema Nusrat, fell in love with Nur and around 15 days ago, she reached Dharmanagar illegally to get married," SDPO (Dharmanagar) Debasish Saha told agency over phone. "Both Nur and Fatema

were residing at Phulbari.

Recently, we got information about the presence of a Bangladeshi woman and arrested her on Thursday. She has been sent to judicial custody for 14 days but the man has fled," he said.

Jharkhand teen stabs father to death after mother thrashed, forced to leave home

PALAMU, Oct 27 (Agencies): A 16-year-old boy allegedly stabbed his father to death for driving his mother out of the house in Jharkhand's Palamu district, a police officer said on Friday.

Chotu Sharma, 42, a resident of Pakriya village, was stabbed to death allegedly by his son on Wednesday, the officer said.

The accused fled the scene after committing the crime.

Nawajaypur police station Officer-in-

Charge Sanjay Kumar Rajak said the victim had beaten his wife and drove her away from home over domestic issues a day before the incident occurred.

Peeved over his father's move, the boy killed his father on Wednesday.

The accused's mother had left for her parent's place in the district, the police officer said, adding that the accused boy's paternal cousin witnessed him stabbing Chotu and raised an alarm.

Headmaster of K'taka school suspended for throwing acid on girl student

CHITRADURGA (KARNATAKA), Oct 27 (Agencies): A headmaster of government school here was suspended on Friday for allegedly throwing acid kept for cleaning toilet at a girl student.

Rangaswamy attached to the Government Higher Primary School in Jodichikkenuhalli is the suspended headmaster.

Deputy Director of Public Instruction (DDPI) Ravishankara Reddy has issued the suspension order in this regard.

The victim's parents had lodged a com-

plaint with the Chitradurga Rural police station against the accused headmaster.

On October 25, when students returned to the school after Dasara vacation, the headmaster had asked them to clean the toilets.

When eight-year-old Sinchana, a second standard student, went near the toilets which were being cleaned by the seniors despite being asked not to, the headmaster got upset and allegedly threw acid kept for toilet cleaning on her.

As the girl had suffered serious burn injuries on

her back, the headmaster rushed her to a hospital where she was admitted.

He had maintained that while the seniors were cleaning the toilets, Sinchana had come there and she was asked to go back.

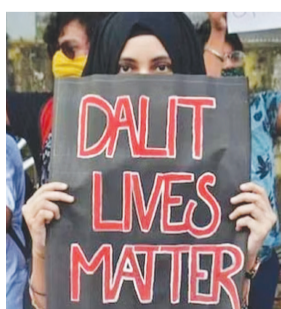
Meanwhile, the powder which was kept in the pocket accidentally fell on her.

The accused further said that the act was not intentional. But, Sinchana's mother after coming to know about the incident had urged action against the headmaster.

Uttar Pradesh: Dalit man tries to immolate self over inaction on his complaint, cop suspended

BALRAMPUR, Oct 27 (Agencies): The Balrampur Superintendent of Police has suspended the Gaidas Buzurg Station Officer (SO) over the self-immolation bid by a Dalit man allegedly after his complaint of encroachment on a piece of land was overlooked.

SP Keshav Kumar said on Friday that no action was taken by the police despite an application by the Dalit man claiming that the other party was erecting pillars on the disputed land. The man attempted



suicide by pouring an inflammable substance on him.

In this case, the role of the police station officer has been found to be flawed, the SP added.

He said that along with the magistrate inquiry, a probe was conducted by the Additional Superin-

tendent of Police to investigate this matter.

The investigation by Additional Superintendent of Police Namrata Srivastava found Gaidas Buzurg police station officer Pawan Kumar guilty.

The SP said the SO has been suspended based on the investigation report.

The victim, Ram Bujharath, had attempted self-immolation in the district on October 24.

He was admitted to a hospital in Lucknow where his condition remains critical, police said.

CBI summons ex-Uttarakhand Chief Minister Harish Rawat in horse trading case

NEW DELHI, Oct 27 (Agencies): The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday summoned former Uttarakhand Chief Minister and senior Congress leader in connection with a case of bribery and horse trading.

Harish Rawat was booked by the central probe agency in 2019 for allegedly being involved in horse-trading. Former Cabinet Minister Harak Singh Rawat and CEO of Samachar Plus News Channel Umesh Kumar are also accused in the case.

CBI sleuths met Harish Rawat at the Jolly Grant Hospital in Dehradun where the former CM is undergoing medical treatment following a minor car accident earlier this week. Officials handed over the summons to

Harish Rawat in the hospital.

The Congress leader shared the images of his meeting with CBI officials on Facebook and wrote: "Today, at Jolly Grant Hospital, a significant organisation also arrived to inquire about my health. Friends from CBI came and served me a notice, which was quite surprising. I remarked that on the day when people come to the hospital to inquire about one's well-being, the CBI must have thought that something more critical was endangering the integrity, unity, security, and democracy of the country. That's why they served me a notice right at the hospital. Bravo, CBI!!"

The case was lodged after the Uttarakhand High Court had on September 30, 2019 allowed the



CBI to file an FIR against the Congress leader after the probe agency submitted a report in a sealed cover on the preliminary inquiry.

In an alleged purported video, Rawat, then chief minister of Uttarakhand, was seen negotiating a deal to buy the support

of rebel MLAs who had switched to the BJP so that he could get back to power.

In 2016, Harish Rawat faced allegations of involvement in horse trading following a sting operation conducted by a news channel. The operation captured Rawat on camera engaging in discussions about the potential poaching of MLAs, raising questions about his political conduct.

After Harish Rawat's government collapsed in Uttarakhand in 2017, the state government and the high court ordered a CBI probe into the matter.

The former Chief Minister has been questioned by the CBI once. Harish Rawat, a five-time member of the Parliament, served as the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand from 2014 to 2017.

Joe Biden's comments linking Hamas attack to corridor 'misunderstood', says White House

WASHINGTON, Oct 27 (Agencies): The White House has said that US President Joe Biden's comments on the India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor and Hamas attack are being "misunderstood" and that Israel-Saudi Arabia normalisation "may have motivated Hamas to conduct those attacks".

White House National Security Council (NSC) spokesman John Kirby was responding to a question on President Biden hinting that one of the reasons behind Hamas' October 7 attack on Israel was the recent announcement of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor that integrates the entire region with a network of rail, road and ports.

Kirby said: "I think you misunderstood him. What he said was that he believed that the



normalisation process and the agreement that we were trying to reach between Israel and Saudi Arabia for normalisation, which we believe is an important stepping stone to getting to a two-state solution, was what may have motivated Hamas to conduct those attacks. I think you misunderstood what he

actually said."

In a joint press conference with Australian PM Anthony Albanese on Wednesday (US local time), US President Biden had said: "I'm convinced one of the reasons Hamas attacked when they did, and I have no proof of this, just my instinct tells me, is because of the

progress we were making towards regional integration for Israel, and regional integration overall. We can't leave that work behind."

Recently, Israeli Ambassador to India Naor Gilon asserted that the recent attacks on Israel are driven to sow unrest between Israel, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf nations.

These attacks also aimed to disrupt the relationships established by the Abraham Accords and the I2U2 grouping, which led to increased communication between Israel and the Gulf countries.

He also mentioned that the attacks targeted disrupting relations which were established by the Abraham Accords and I2U2 grouping which resulted in settlement of communication between Israel and Gulf Countries.

US military says Chinese fighter jet came within 10 feet of American plane over South China Sea



BANGKOK, Oct 27 (Agencies): A Chinese fighter jet came within 10 feet of an American B-52 bomber flying over the South China Sea, nearly causing an accident, the US military said, underscoring the potential for a mishap as both countries vie for influence in the region.

In the night intercept, the Shenyang J-11 twin-engine fighter closed on the US Air Force plane at an "uncontrolled excessive speed, flying below, in front of, and within 10 feet of the B-52, putting both aircraft in danger of a collision," the US Indo-Pacific Command said in a statement.

"We are concerned this pilot was unaware of how close he came to causing a collision," the military said.

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs did not

immediately respond to a request for comment, but in a similar incident in May, the Chinese government had dismissed American complaints and demanded that Washington end such flights over the South China Sea.

China has been increasingly assertive in advancing its claims on most of the South China Sea as its territorial waters, a position rejected by the US and other countries that use the vast expanse of ocean for shipping.

China's claims have led to longstanding territorial disputes with other countries in the South China Sea, one of the world's busiest trade routes. A Chinese coast guard ship and an accompanying vessel last week rammed a Philippine coast guard ship and a military-run supply boat off a

contested shoal in the waterway.

The US and its allies regularly conduct maritime manoeuvres in the South China Sea, and also regularly fly aircraft over the area to emphasise that the waters and airspace are international.

The B-52 was "lawfully conducting routine operations over the South China Sea in international airspace" when it was intercepted by the J-11 on Tuesday, the US military said.

Intercepts are common, with the US saying that there have been more than 180 such incidents since the fall of 2021.

They are not often as close as Tuesday's incident, however, and with tensions already high between Beijing and Washington, a collision would have had the potential to lead to an escalation.

The US military said in its statement that the incident would not change its approach.

"The US will continue to fly, sail and operate—safely and responsibly—wherever international laws allow," the military said.

China ex-Premier Li Keqiang, sidelined by Xi Jinping, dies at 68

BEIJING, Oct 27 (Agencies): Chinese former Premier Li Keqiang died of a heart attack on Friday, barely seven months after retiring from a decade in office during which his reformist star had dimmed. He was 68.

Once viewed as a top Communist Party leadership contender, Li was sidelined in recent years by President Xi Jinping, who tightened his grip on power and steered the world's second-largest economy in a more statist direction.

The elite economist supported a more open market economy, advocating supply-side reforms in an approach dubbed "Likonomics" that was never fully implemented.

Ultimately, he had to bend to Xi's preference for more state control, and his former power base waned in influence as Xi installed his own acolytes to powerful positions.

"Comrade Li Keqiang, while resting in Shanghai in recent days, experienced a sudden heart attack on Oct. 26 and after all-out efforts to revive him failed, died in Shanghai at ten minutes past midnight on Oct. 27," state broadcaster CCTV reported.

Chinese social media experienced an outpouring of grief and shock, with some government websites going black-and-white in an official sign of mourning. The Weibo microblogging platform turned its "like" button into a "mourn" icon in the shape of a

chrysanthemum.

Li was premier and head of China's cabinet under Xi for a decade until stepping down from all political positions in March.

Laying a wreath in August 2022 at a statue of Deng Xiaoping - the leader who brought transformational reform to China's economy - Li vowed: "Reform and opening up will not stop. The Yangtze and Yellow River will not reverse course." Video clips of the speech, which went viral but were later censored from Chinese social media, were widely viewed as a coded criticism of Xi's policies.

"Li has been seen as the representative of the reformists," said Yun Sun, director at the Stimson Center in Washington. "But during his 10 years as the premier, China saw the regression of many policies."

End of an era

Li sparked debate on poverty and income inequality in 2020, saying 600 million people in the increasingly rich nation earned less than \$140 per month.

Some Chinese intellectuals and members of the liberal elite expressed shock and dismay on a semi-private WeChat channel at the passing of a beacon of China's liberal economic reform, with some saying it signalled the end of an era.

"Li will probably be remembered as an advocate for the freer

market and for the have-nots," said Wen-Ti Sung, a political scientist at Australian National University. "But most of all, he will be remembered for what could have been." Alfred Wu, associate professor at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore, said, "All these types of people no longer exist anymore in Chinese politics." Li was less influential than his immediate predecessors as premier, Zhu Rongji and Wen Jiabao, Wu said. "He was sidelined, but what more could he have done? It was very hard for him, with the constraints he faced under Xi."

Adam Ni, an independent China political analyst, described Li as "a premier who stood powerless as China took a sharp turn away from reform and opening". A glowing 2014 state media profile of Li, praising him as "a calm and tough wall-breaker", went viral shortly after his death was announced. It emphasised his hard work and tenacity in pushing for economic reforms.

Li's frequent visits to disaster sites and his easy camaraderie when speaking to ordinary people were also highlighted on Chinese state media.

Some social media users mentioned a song called "Sorry it wasn't you", a veiled reference to Xi. The song went viral around the death of former President Jiang Zemin in November last year before being cen-



sored. Reformist faction waned

Retired Chinese leaders typically keep a low profile. Li was last seen in public during an August private tour of the Mogao Grottoes, a tourist attraction in northwest China. Social media videos showed him in good spirits, walking up stairs unaided and waving to excited crowds. Reuters could not independently verify the footage.

Li was born in Anhui province in eastern China, a poor farming area where his father was an official and where he was sent to toil in the fields during the Cultural Revolution.

While studying law at the prestigious Peking University, Li befriended ardent pro-democracy advocates, some of whom would become outright challengers to party control.

The confident English speaker was immersed in the intellectual and political ferment of the decade of reform under Deng. That period ended in the 1989 pro-democracy Tiananmen Square protests that the

military crushed.

After graduation, Li joined the Communist Party's Youth League, then a reformist-tinged ladder to higher office.

He rose in the Youth League while completing a master's degree in law and then an economics doctorate under Professor Li Yining, a well-known advocate of market reforms.

Li's political experience as a provincial leader in Henan, a poor and restless rural belt of central China, was marred by accusation of cracking down after an AIDS scandal. He also served as party chief of Liaoning, a rustbelt province striving to attract investment and reinvent itself as a modern industrial heartland.

His patron was Hu Jintao, a former president from a political faction loosely based around the Youth League. After Xi took over as party chief in 2012, he took steps to break up the faction.

Li is survived by his wife Cheng Hong, a professor of English, and their daughter.

Pakistani court rejects Imran Khan's pleas for bail, cancellation of FIR in cipher case

ISLAMABAD, Oct 27 (Agencies): A Pakistani court on Friday rejected petitions by jailed former prime minister Imran Khan seeking bail and cancellation of the first FIR in the cipher case for allegedly leaking state secrets and violating the laws of the country.

Khan, 71, was arrested in August after a case was filed against him for disclosing a secret diplomatic cable (cipher) sent by the country's embassy in Washington in March last year. A special court in Pakistan on Monday indicted him along with his close ally ex-foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi in the case.

Khan, the chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, had approached the Islamabad High Court (IHC) with the pleas for bail in the case as well as against the FIR which was registered by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in August.



IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq after the conclusion of the hearing had reserved judgment on October 16 which he announced on Friday.

The case is about a document sent by Pakistan's embassy in Washington in March 2022 that Khan tried to use for political purposes by saying that it was proof of a foreign conspiracy to orchestrate his ouster from power in April last year.

Khan, who served as prime minister of Pakistan from August 2018 to April 2022, is accused of "misuse the contents

of the cipher" to build a narrative that his government was ousted due to a foreign conspiracy hatched by the US, a charge denied by Washington.

Khan and Qureshi have pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on September 30 presented the charge sheet against Khan and Qureshi who signed its copies.

On Thursday, the Islamabad High Court rejected Khan's petition challenging his indictment in the case.

Backed By Jets, Drones, Israel Ground Forces' "Targeted Raid" In Gaza

JERUSALEM, Oct 27 (Agencies): The Israeli army said Friday its ground forces backed by fighter jets and drones carried out a "targeted raid" in Gaza over the past day, as it prepares for a land invasion.

"During the last day, IDF ground forces, accompanied by IDF fighter jets and UAVs, conducted an additional targeted raid in the central Gaza Strip," an army statement said.

"The IDF identified and struck numerous terror targets, including anti-tank missile launch sites, military command and control centres,

as well as Hamas terrorists," it said, saying Friday the area at the end of the activity.

Black-and-white footage released by the military showed a column of armoured vehicles as a thick cloud of dust billowed into the sky after the strikes.

The army conducted a similar ground operation using tanks and infantry the previous night in the northern part of the Palestinian territory.

The latest incursions came after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu repeated earlier this week that Israel was "preparing for a ground

offensive".

On October 7, throngs of Hamas gunmen poured from Gaza into Israel, killing 1,400 people, mostly civilians, and kidnapping 224 more, according to Israeli officials.

In retaliatory Israeli air and artillery strikes, at least 7,028 people have been killed in the Gaza Strip, including 2,913 children, according to figures released by the Hamas-controlled health ministry.

The fatalities in Gaza are the highest there since Israel unilaterally withdrew from the Palestinian territory in 2005.

Pro-China Maldives President-elect says talks on to remove Indian troops: Report

Maldives President-elect Mohamed Muizzu said he has already begun negotiations with the Indian government on removing its military presence from the island nation, calling those talks "very successful already."

MALE, Oct 27 (Agencies): Maldives has started negotiations with India to remove its military presence, President-elect Mohamed Muizzu said in an interview published by Bloomberg News on Friday, as New Delhi and Beijing both vie for influence in the region.

Removing Indian troops was a key campaign pledge by Muizzu, who ousted President Ibrahim Solih last month.

Around 70 Indian military personnel maintain New Delhi-sponsored radar stations and surveillance aircraft. Indian warships help patrol Maldives' exclusive economic zone.



Muizzu said in the interview he had already begun negotiations with the Indian government on removing its military presence, calling those talks "very suc-

cessful already." "We want a bilateral relationship that's mutually beneficial," Muizzu told Bloomberg, adding that Indian soldiers would not be

replaced by troops from other countries.

Asking India to remove military personnel in no way indicated "that I'm going to allow China or any other country to bring their military troops here," he said.

Muizzu's win extends the tug-of-war between China and India for influence over the Indian Ocean.

Successive governments have tilted either toward India or China.

Both Asian powerhouses have invested heavily in upgrading Maldives infrastructure and extended loans, as they compete with each other.

Manjit Singh tours Pak shelling hit IB village in Arnia

Demands immediate release of adequate compensation, construction of civilian bunkers

Top News Report

ARNIA, Oct 27: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and former Minister, Manjit Singh along with other leaders of the Party on Friday toured the Pakistani shelling hit villages and interacted with the affected families.

Following the tour of the villages along International Border especially Bulle Chak village and other villages of Arnia, the Former Minister expressed serious concern over the plight of the border residents who fear threat to their lives, houses and cattle following last night's unprovoked shelling and heavy machine gun fire by the Pakistani Rangers.

He appreciated the Border Security Forces for their prompt response and rescue operation. However, he apprehended that the attempt to disturb peace on the International Border was aimed to target the civilian



population especially farmers.

"Fortunately, there was no loss of life. But the damage to the houses where I have visited were in bad shape. The administration should immediately release adequate compensation in favour of the firing / shelling hit families," he said.

He said that the authorities should initiate a process to see how many bunkers are in work-

ing condition and need for more such bunkers in the villages so that the border residents can take shelters.

"We were informed by the villagers that the bunkers are inadequate in numbers and more bunkers need to be constructed with toilet facilities and separate rooms for the women," he said.

He said that the Interna-

tional Border mostly remained peaceful for the last several years. However, the intention of Pakistan is always to disturb the peace that should be dealt with iron hands by the BSF and Indian Army.

He extended his gratitude to the defence forces and BSF who defend the first line of defence for helping the border families in the need of hour.

He said that the Apni Party stands with the border residents all along the International Border and demand that the Govt should hold a survey and work out where more bunkers should be constructed for the civilian population to avoid any migration of the population to the towns.

The Former Minister was accompanied by District President Rural - B, Advocate Harpreet Singh, Provincial President, Jammu, Youth Wing, Vipul Bali, Bachan Choudhary and others.

Craft demonstration cum Awareness Programme concludes at BDC Samba



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 27: Three-day craft demonstration-cum Awareness Programme concluded on Friday at Bhargava Degree College Samba wherein five resource persons

namely Sanjogita Dogra (Painting), Dheeraj Kapoor (Basohli Painting), Rajender Kumar (Bamboo Craft), Waseem Wani (Khukri-wood Craft) and Khushi Gupta (Embroidery & Crochet) demonstrated their craft and made the

students aware about the rich cultural heritage of Indian Handicrafts.

Around 150 students participated in the programme and took keen interest in the making of the craft and participated actively in the programme.

Earlier the programme was inaugurated on October 25 in presence of the Principal and Vice principal of the college. Assistant Directors of Handicrafts Service centre, Jammu namely Ambika Sambal, Pawan Raina, Anirudh Kapil and Naveen Pathak (CTO) and Anjali Koul (HPO) were also present on the occasion.

HC dismisses PIL on Sarore Toll Plaza

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 27: The High Court dismissed a PIL that sought declaration of Sarore Toll Plaza as illegal. The order was given by the Division Bench headed by Hon'ble Chief Justice N. Kotiwar Singh along with Hon'ble Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi. One Sanjeev Kumar Sareen had filed a PIL (Public Interest Litigation) bearing number WP (C) PIL No. 7/2022 seeking declaration of Sarore Toll Plaza as illegal on the ground that the same was established in violation of provisions of the law. Advocate Karan Sharma represented the Union of India through Secretary Road Transport and Highways (Ministry of Road Transport and Highways) and Chairman National Highways Authority of India (NHA) who were Respondents Number 1 and 2 in the PIL. Whereas, respondent number 3, Deputy Commissioner Samba was represented by Sr. Additional Advocate General S.S Nanda. The Court order states Respondent 1 and 2 have filed their objections, which inter alia reveals that the issue raised in the instant PIL

was already raised in an earlier PIL, registered as PIL No. 59/2019, filed by one Satyam Arora and others, wherein the challenge was also regarding the establishment of Toll Plaza Sarore and the relief claimed in the said PIL was that the Sarore Toll Plaza be shifted to some other place. The said PIL was considered by this Court and was dismissed on 06.10.2020, by observing that installation of a Toll Plaza falls in the realm of a policy decision of authorities and it requires consideration of several factors for its location and this Court does not have the expertise to make such evaluation. Accordingly, the Court proceeded to dismiss the said PIL. Since the subject of the instant PIL is the same, i.e., the establishment of Toll Plaza at Sarore at Jammu at Jammu-Pathankot Highway, though the ground for challenges is that the same has been established against provisions of law, we are of the view that the PIL will be hit by the principle of constructive res judicata and as such, is not maintainable. For the reasons, the PIL is dismissed as not maintainable, the High Court order stated.

JU organises interactive workshop on "Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology: Educational Experience in Russia and India"

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 27: For exploring the educational experiences in two culturally rich nations, Russia and India, Department of Education under the ages of golden jubilee year celebrations organized interactive workshop for research scholars from University of Jammu, Faculty and students of Department of Education on the theme "Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology: Educational Experience in Russia and India" on 27th October, 2023 by Prof. Svetlana Ryzhakova,



Institute of Ethnology & Anthropology, Russia Academy of Sciences, Moscow. The workshop aimed to shed light on the unique aspects of cultural anthropology and ethnology

within their respective academic contexts in Russia and India.

In Russia, renowned for its rich history and diversity, educational experiences are deeply intertwined with the

nation's complex cultural heritage. Russian universities offer a comprehensive study of cultural anthropology and ethnology, drawing on their own multifaceted traditions. Through her

presentation she highlighted how Russian scholars and students approach these fields, emphasizing the role of history, literature, and language in their studies.

On the other hand, India, with its unparalleled cultural diversity and deep-rooted traditions, offers a unique perspective on cultural anthropology and ethnology.

Indian academic institutions provide an inclusive and holistic approach to these disciplines, reflecting the country's varied cultural tapestry.

FROM PAGE 1

Firing by PaK rangers along IB continued for around seven hrs, two injured: BSF

BSF personnel along the International Border in Arnia and RS Pura sectors of Jammu district ended early Friday.

Scores of families that had fled the border hamlets overnight after the unprovoked firing by Pakistani Rangers have now started returning to their homes.

LG Sinha inaugurates 4th annual conference of Indian Economics & Allied Sciences Association at KU

growth-oriented sectors and put a special focus on job creation, infrastructure and investment, women empowerment, MSMEs, skill development, health and nutrition, which are the important pillars of India 2.0.

India is full of optimism, boundless energy and ambition and expected to contribute 15% of global growth in the current Financial Year. We are moving closer to our goal of making this truly the India's century and our economic resurgence will be the key driver of global growth, the Lt Governor said.

At the inaugural session, the Lt Governor shared the socio-economic reforms introduced in various sectors over the past few years to bring J&K UT at par with other developed regions in the country.

We have prepared a blueprint for Governance @ 2047 and executing comprehensive strategies to meet the future goals in key sectors like education, health, human resource, industry, infrastructure, connectivity, tourism, agriculture & allied sectors, he said.

He also commended the important contribution of Indian Economics and Allied Sciences Association in improving the understanding of development process and economic policies of the country.

Prof Sudhakar Panda, President Indian Economics & Allied Sciences Association (IEASA) and Dr Alok Kumar Secretary IEASA also spoke on the occasion and

highlighted the key features of the annual conference.

The Lt Governor also released the Conference Souvenir on the occasion.

Prof Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir; Prof Pulin B Nayak, President Conference IEASA; Prof Dhnanjay Singh, Member Secretary ICSSR; Prof G M Bhat, Chief Coordinator of Conference; Educationists, Economists, Experts, HoDs, Scholars, Researchers and Students were present.

R R Swain gets additional charge of DGP J&K

served as SSP Jammu. Besides, he has also served as SSP Ramban, Poonch, and Leh.

Known for his honesty and dedication, the present J&K intelligence chief also served as Assistant Inspector General and Deputy Inspector General of Police in the J&K Vigilance organisation from 2004 to 2006.

Later, Swain proceeded on central deputation where he served in many capacities including a foreign posting that is only being given to outstanding officers for their ability in their respective fields.

BACK TO J&K

In June 2020, Swain was repatriated to J&K after the J&K government requested the Centre to avail his services.

On June 15, he was appointed as the intelligence chief of J&K replacing B Srinivas, a 1990 batch J&K cadre IPS officer, who has now been posted as DGP Pondicherry.

After taking over as the intelligence chief, Swain destroyed the network that was aiding and fuelling terrorism, and the menace of stone pelting ended, while schools and business establishments functioned normally.

He made it possible to work on a doctrine that killing a terrorist was not enough unless all those involved in harbouring the terrorist were identified and brought to the book.

Strict action was taken against the Over Ground Workers (OGWs) and support networks providing any kind of support to the terrorists.

An important factor of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in Kashmir was funding that was choked by his strict efforts, subsequently leading terrorism to the gasp in J&K.

In November 2021, the State Investigation Agency (SIA) was formed in J&K to

crack down on terror.

The SIA's formation was his brainchild and Swain had the honour to be its first director and solve the decades-old murder case of Mirwaze-e-Kashmir, Molvi Muhammad Farooq.

The SIA investigated and is investigating several terror-related cases including narco-terrorism and has even made the arrests of the accused in other states of the country.

WHAT HE SAID RECENTLY

During his recent briefs on the sidelines of events organised by the J&K Police, Swain said that J&K Police was the unique force that was fighting the enemy that gets support from outside and their fight was for the people who respect the law.

"We endeavour to root out the level of fear from the people's hearts and minds," he said. "A state of non-violence can be achieved only by protecting non-violent people from violence."

Swain said: "It takes a lot of courage since the fight is against few people from within. It needs a lot of courage as other forces do not have to face such things. J&K Police is carrying on the fight silently that too keeping in mind the section of the society which is not heard, be it a poor shopkeeper, a low-ranking government employee, or a lawyer."

He had said that the J&K Police would stand by all those who want to earn an honest livelihood by abiding by the law.

Swain said that a distinction needed to be made between the peace-loving people and those whose ulterior motive was violence.

"Our fight is against those projecting violence. Our fight is for the public and we endeavour to root out the level of fear from the people's hearts and minds," he said.

Swain said that it had been the rich history of J&K Police to work against people involved in unlawful activities for the larger interest of the people.

He said that J&K Police was committed to continue to work for the safety, security, and welfare of the people who abide by the rule of the law to the best possible extent.

A PERSON OF HIGHEST INTEGRITY, COMPETENCY

Swain served as SSP Ramban when former DGP K Rajendra was DIG and SSP Srinagar when he was Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Zone.

Talking to agency, K Rajendra described Swain as an outstanding officer and said that he was a position holder at Hyderabad

Police Academy.

"Swain has always done outstandingly well and he will do wonders as DGP," he said. "Swain is a man of an amicable character and will be the finest J&K DGP."

Rajendra said: "If I am not wrong he was topper during training. He was the best probationary officer, exceeding well during training."

He said post Article 370, Swain's handling of the situation was extremely commendable.

"That surely I know," Rajendra said.

He said that having twice served as SSP, Swain had done outstanding work.

"Swain is a very meticulous person and professionally competent to the core," Rajendra said. "He is a person of the highest integrity and competency, no-nonsense, and very upright."

Domestic help providers to Submit documents in 20 Days or face imprisonment

list of house owners to whom they have provided these domestic helpers. The house owners themselves must also verify whether these maids, servants, or others are registered with any department," he said.

Responding to inquiries about service providers who haven't registered with the department and are employing minors at home, Qadir stated, "We have instructed our field officers to take legal action. Those who have minors in their homes will face a fine of Rs 10,000 and a one-year imprisonment."

Army celebrates Shaurya Diwas to mark landing of forces in Kashmir in 1947

of others, including gallantry award winners Brigadier Rajinder Singh and Lt Col Dewan Ranjit Rai, who gave away their lives to protect the nation.

"Today, we should take a vow not to leave any stone unturned to take Kashmir towards peace and prosperity," he added.

Promised job in Italy, Punjab, Haryana youths

return home after months in Libyan jail

awaiting him or them in Italy or any destination in Europe.

Rahul desperately wished to come back to India, but he found himself 'sold' to criminals in Zuwara, Libya.

"One of the men I was with had managed to hide a phone in his clothing," said Rahul. "Using it, I contacted MP Vikramjit Sahney over the Internet. Subsequently, 11 of us ran away from the place where we were holed up in Zuwara. When we were running, we saw vehicles with big guns parked at homes."

They managed to find help in unexpected quarters. "We were first taken to a hotel by men from the Indian Embassy in Tunisia. However, there was a police raid, and we were arrested and taken to jail!" he said. "Later, the embassy men finally freed us and took us to the airport."

Anmol's sister Ramandeep Kaur, who was married in Tewa, said: "My brother suffered a lot of torture. They (captors) always pulled him by his hair, but he refused to have his hair cut. He has sores and wounds all over his body."

"His liver and kidneys have been damaged and his immunity is compromised due to months of starvation. They had little to eat, and flat breads were thrown at them over the walls, as if they were feeding dogs," she said. "They had to snatch pieces of bread to satiate their hunger. Anmol now stammers while talking and forgets what he is saying. His digestion is still not normal. In jail, they slept in a bathroom in shifts as their bunker didn't have room for all of them to lie down."

"Anmol couldn't sit or lie down for days. He went through repeated torture to protect his hair. The hair of Sukha Singh from Haryana, who returned before Anmol, was cut. A man who tried to run away from the jail fell on the other side of the wall and broke his spine. Guards left him to die a torturous death," Ramandeep added.

The men who have managed to return from the hell in Libya are full of gratitude for Sahney.

Sahney said, "Based on what these men have said, we believe that more individuals are stuck in horrible conditions," he said. "There being no Indian embassy in Libya, we had rely on our mission in Tunisia for assistance. We've urged India to enforce stricter agent regulation measures and have asked the police for stringent action against unlicensed agents."

Markets bounce back in early trade after 6 days of fall

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumps 411.17 points to 63,559.32 in early trade

MUMBAI, Oct 27 (Agencies): Equity benchmark indices rebounded in early trade on Friday after facing massive drubbing of late amid recovery in Asian markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 411.17 points to 63,559.32 in early trade. The Nifty climbed 115.9 points to 18,973.15.

Among the Sensex firms, NTPC, Mahindra & Mahindra, State Bank of India, Infosys and Maruti were the major gainers.

Asian Paints emerged as the only laggard from the pack.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai



and Hong Kong were trading in the positive territory.

The US markets ended lower on Thursday.

The European Central Bank left interest rates unchanged on Thursday for the first time in over a year.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude jumped 1.25 per cent to USD 89.03 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors offloaded equities worth Rs 7,702.53 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data.

Retail onion price up 57 pc; Centre steps up buffer onion sale to provide relief to consumers

The all-India average retail price of onion rose to Rs 47 per kg on Friday, from Rs 30 per kg in the year-ago period, as per the data maintained by the Consumer Affairs Ministry

NEW DELHI, Oct 27 (Agencies): As the all-India average retail onion price rose by 57 per cent to Rs 47 per kg, the Centre on Friday decided to step up the sale of buffer onion at a subsidised rate of Rs 25 per kg in retail markets in order to provide relief to consumers.

The all-India average retail price of onion rose to Rs 47 per kg on Friday, from Rs 30 per kg in the year-ago period, as per the data maintained by the Consumer Affairs Ministry.

In the national capital, retail price of onion was at Rs 40/kg on Friday as against Rs 30/kg in the year-ago period, the data showed.

"We have been offloading buffer onions since mid-August and we are stepping up the retail sale in order to check further rise in prices and provide relief



to the consumers," Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh told agency.

According to the ministry, onion is being offloaded from the buffer stock in both wholesale and retail markets in states where there is a sharp rise in prices.

Since mid-August, about 1.7 lakh tonnes of buffer onion has been offloaded in 22 states at

different locations.

In retail markets, buffer onion is being offloaded through two cooperative bodies NCCF and NAFED outlets and vehicles at a subsidised rate of Rs 25 per kg.

In Delhi too, buffer onion is being sold at this subsidised rate.

A senior ministry official said the delay in kharif onion sowing due to weather reasons has

resulted in less coverage and late arrival of the crop. The fresh kharif onion should have started arriving by now but it has not.

With stored rabi onion getting exhausted and delay in the arrival of kharif onion, there is a tight supply situation, resulting in price increases in both wholesale and retail markets, the official added.

He also mentioned that the government has doubled the buffer onion stock for the current year and this should improve domestic availability and check prices in the coming days.

For the 2023-24 fiscal year, the consumer affairs ministry through NCCF and NAFED has maintained a buffer onion stock of 5 lakh tonnes and plans to procure an additional 2 lakh tonnes of onion in the coming days.

Air India announces senior level appointments; appoints Klaus Goersch as chief operations officer

MUMBAI, Oct 27 (Agencies): Air India on Friday announced the appointment of Klaus Goersch as the Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer, as well as various other senior-level appointments.

In the newly-created position at the airline, Goersch will oversee flight operations, engineering, ground operations, Integrated Operations Control and cabin crew functions.

Air India said incumbent chief of operations R S Sandhu will transition to an advisory role.

In a release, Air India said Sandhu's role includes focusing on the harmonisation of the four Tata Airlines' operating procedures, the Airbus A350 entry-into-service programme and assisting the team in establishing the carrier's new training academy.

A licensed B777/787 pilot, he had served in similar positions in both British Airways and Air Canada.

Air India has also announced the appointment of Manish Uppal, who transitioned from AirAsia India a few months



ago, as Senior Vice President for flight operations.

Besides, Henry Donohoe's corporate safety, security and quality role will be expanded to include emergency response.

His title will be changed to Senior Vice President for safety, security and quality.

According to the release, the inflight product and service design functions being headed by Sandeep Verma will move to Rajesh Dogra's Customer Experience portfolio so that the latter has oversight of all customer interfaces.

Pankaj Handa will lead ground operations, Choorah Singh will be the Divisional Vice President

Integrated Operations Control Centre and JuLi Ng will be the Divisional Vice President for cabin crew.

Goersch, Dogra and Donohoe will report directly to Air India Managing Director and CEO Campbell Wilson.

The existing management committee members Nipun Aggarwal, Satya Ramaswamy, Suresh Dutt Tripathi and Vinod Hejmadi, whose roles remain unchanged, will report to Wilson, it said.

Handa, Singh and Ng will report to Goersch, as will Uppal and Sisira Kanta Dash, senior vice president of engineering. "These changes have been

made with a view to managing succession, streamlining the organisation, optimising talent from within the Tata airline group and positioning it strongly for future growth and success," Wilson said.

About Goersch, Air India Chief said he brings a wealth of knowledge and experience that is valuable to the ongoing transformation at the airline.

"At Air India, we remain committed to building top leadership as we continue to invest in all the resources that are required to take the airline to the upper echelons of global aviation," Wilson said.

Tata Group, which took control of loss-making Air India in January last year, is in the process of consolidating its airline business.

As part of the consolidation, AirAsia India (now AIX Connect) is in the process of getting merged with Air India Express, while Vistara will be merged with Air India.

Vistara is a joint venture between Tatas and Singapore Airlines.

OneWeb satellite service ready to connect all parts of the country from next month: Sunil Mittal



NEW DELHI, Oct 27 (Agencies): OneWeb Satellite communication service is ready to connect all parts of the country from next month, Bharti Airtel Chairman Sunil Mittal said on Friday.

While speaking at the inaugural session of the India Mobile Congress 2023, Mittal said 5G services were launched

last year and Airtel has covered the entire country, covering 5,000 towns and cities along with 20,000 villages till date.

He said that Airtel with the help of Universal Services Obligation Fund has been connecting rural and remote areas, and now satellite technology is available to connect all parts of

the country.

"OneWeb constellation is ready to serve the globe and is ready to serve the country. Anybody, anywhere in the country, in remote parts or in difficult areas, wherever they are located can be connected from next month," Mittal said.

OneWeb, now merged with Eutelsat, will operate commercially as Eutelsat OneWeb with its centre of operations in London.

Bharti Enterprises is the largest shareholder of the merged entity with a 21.2 per cent share.

Bharti Enterprise-backed OneWeb has completed its constellation of over 618 low earth orbit satellites that would allow it to offer broadband internet services from space in every corner of the world.

Diabetes major threat to bone health, reveals new study

NEW DELHI, Oct 27 (Agencies): A new study has suggested that diabetes is linked to bone health, particularly among the elderly population.

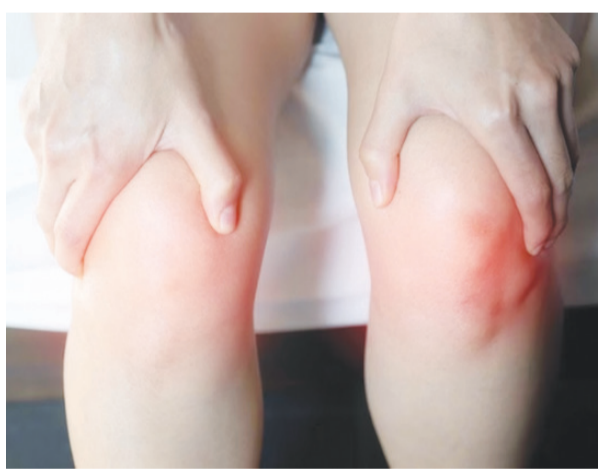
The study conducted at the Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS) found the growing threat of diabetes to bone health and its direct link to osteoporosis.

Professor Sushil Gupta, who heads the research in the Department of Endocrinology, emphasised the critical role of bone mass and muscle mass, known as sarcopenia, in maintaining bone health.

He highlighted the interconnectedness of these two factors, stating that a decline in one contributes to the deterioration of the other. The study revealed a disturbing connection between diabetes and the simultaneous loss of bone and muscle mass.

Preliminary data from the study, primarily focused on the Lucknow region and its neighbouring districts, indicated that a significant 22 per cent of elderly individuals with diabetes faced the challenge of bone and muscle loss.

This issue became even more pronounced,



affecting approximately 40 per cent of those over the age of 70. Furthermore, these trends in India appear to be twice as prevalent as in the Western world.

Dr RN Srivastava, a former professor in the Orthopaedics Department at King George's Medical University (KGMU), identified several key contributing factors to this situation.

"Poor calcium intake is the primary cause. The average daily intake is 200 mg per day, which is way less than the recommended intake of 1000-1200 mg per day. Low exposure to sun — the main and most reliable source of vitamin D — is also a reason," Dr RN Srivastava said, as quoted in a report by agency.

"Estimates show that over 70 per cent of Indians are vitamin D defi-

cient. Lack of physical activity is the third big cause," he added.

Experts have underscored the significance of these study findings and have called for routine monitoring of both diabetes and bone health as a preventive measure to delay potential complications.

Dr Sunil Varma, a general physician and diabetologist, stressed that poor bone health has a detrimental impact on one's overall quality of life. In the case of diabetics, it can also influence their diabetes status, potentially limiting their physical activity.

The survey considered high blood sugar to be in the range of 141-160 units (micrograms per deciliter), with values exceeding 160 units categorised as very high blood sugar.

Heart damage: Another reason to cut down on children's screen time

NEW DELHI, Oct 27 (Agencies): The effects of prolonged screen use during childhood have been extensively studied in recent years. Evidence indicates that excessive screen time is harmful both to neurological development and socialisation. This is because, among other things, they cause us to disconnect from our surroundings, leading to very real addictions that often require intervention from a mental health professional.

Additionally, screen use can cause neuro-cognitive learning disorders at the early stages of personality formation in childhood. But above all, excessive time spent in front of televisions, video games, mobile phones and tablets during childhood and adolescence leads to a sedentary lifestyle. In fact, there is already a proven link between overuse of screens and the increase in sedentary lifestyles among children.

Now, a new dimension can be added to all these reasons for limiting the time children spend in front of televisions, video games and mobile phones. According to a new study, led by Andrew Agbaje at the



University of Eastern Finland in Kuopio and presented at the European Society of Cardiology Congress 2023, sedentary children are at increased risk of heart damage in early adulthood.

In other words, inactivity during infancy may well set the stage for heart attacks and strokes later in life, even if weight and blood pressure are within the normal ranges.

Excessive screen time increases heart weight. The research analysed the cumulative effects of sedentary time on the heart, drawing data from Children of the 90s, a landmark multi-generational study that is unique in its breadth and depth of scope.

It tracked the health and lifestyles of 14,500 babies born in 1990

and 1991 into their adult lives.

Of the children included in the study, 766 — 55% of them girls and 45% boys — were asked at age 11 to wear a smart watch that monitored their activity for seven days. At age 15 they were asked to repeat this, and then again at 24. In parallel, an echocardiographical analysis was taken of each subject's left ventricle at ages 17 and 24, which was then adjusted for height, sex, blood pressure, body fat, tobacco use, physical activity and socioeconomic status.

The results indicated that at age 11 the subjects were sedentary for an average of 362 minutes per day. In adolescence (age 15) this increased to 474 minutes per day, and then

went up to 531 minutes per day in adulthood (age 24). Sedentary time increased by an average of 2.8 hours per day over the 13 years of the study. A large amount of this sedentary time was spent in front of screens.

Most seriously, the echocardiography registered an increase in heart weight among young people that correlated directly to time spent being sedentary. Once they entered adulthood, this increased the likelihood of heart attacks and strokes. This direct relation between accumulated inactive time and heart damage was independent of body weight and blood pressure.

How much you moved as a child...

By now it is common knowledge that sedentary lifestyles increase

the risk of metabolic conditions (such as obesity and type 2 diabetes), neurodegenerative disease and cardiovascular disease in adults. The new study shows that sedentary behaviour at a very early age — especially unrestricted screen time — may lead to an earlier onset of cardiovascular disease in adulthood. For this reason, it is of the utmost importance that parents encourage children and adolescents to move around more, and limit the time they spend watching television or using social media and videogames.

As we have already suggested with regard to premature birth, the list of known, conventional cardiovascular risk factors (smoking, diabetes, hypertension, etc.) should be revised and updated as a result of the study to include the cumulative time spent engaging in sedentary behaviour in childhood.

We should all, from an early age, heed the words of Martin Luther King when he said "If you can't fly, then run. If you can't run, then walk. If you can't walk, then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving."

ICC World Cup: Defending champions England near elimination after Sri Lanka register 8-wicket win

Nissanka, Samarawickrama score fifties for islanders | England suffer batting collapse

BENGALURU, Oct 27 (Agencies): England's reign as the 50-over World Cup champion sunk into serious jeopardy as resolute fifties by Pathum Nissanka and Sadeera Samarawickrama along with a set of on-the-money bowlers spurred tenacious Sri Lanka to an eight-wicket victory here on Thursday.

England, opting to bat first, suffered a baffling batting implosion and were bundled out for a paltry 156, courtesy the five wickets shared among themselves by comeback man Angelo Mathews (2/14) and impressive Lahiru Kumara (3/35).

Despite losing a couple of early wickets, Sri Lanka confidently finished their chase as Nissanka (77 off 83 balls) and Samarawickrama (65 off 54 balls) led the process with an unbroken 137-run stand for the third wicket.

With just two points from five matches, England retain a mere theoretical chance to make it to the semifinals, while the Islanders, who now have four points, can eye a few stronger outings in the remaining four matches.

England might have hoped for a miracle when they dismissed opener Kusal Perera and Lankan captain Kusal Mendis through left-arm pacer David Willey to reduce their opponents to 23 for 2.

But Nissanka and Samarawickrama, two of SL's best ODI batters this year, combined to produce a solid partnership to ease Lanka's nerves.

The right-handers are capable of elegance but with a vic-



tory very much in need the pair traded flair for compactness for a good part of their alliance.

Flashes of their natural batsmanship, though, were there. Samarawickrama delectably drove Willey through the covers, while Nissanka waltzed down the track and smoked leg-spinner Adil Rashid over long-on for a huge six.

Nissanka brought up his fifty, his fourth in the tournament, with a flowing cover drive off pacer Mark Wood and Samarawickrama reached his second half-century of this edition with a wristy single to mid-wicket off Chris Woakes.

But otherwise, the Lankans batted within themselves and gathered runs in a determined fashion to keep England bowlers at bay.

And England lacked determination on the day. It was just a matter of a couple of batsmen sticking out in the middle for the Three Lions to reach a far better and competitive total.

But none barring Ben Stokes (43) and Dawid Malan (28) did not even remotely attempt to bat

with purpose for a team that was playing in a must-win match.

There was a bit of spongy bounce on the M Chinnaswamy Stadium deck and the Lankan bowlers were accurate but the shambolic way in which the England batsmen played could not be shielded.

Opener Dawid Malan who milked 45 runs with his partner Jonny Bairstow, could be excused though.

Mathews, an injury replacement for pacer Matheesha Pathirana, put him in two minds with a delivery that bounced from the length just enough to take an edge off his bat to Mendis behind the stumps.

However, Malan during his 25-ball 28 showed that the pitch is not a hard one to bat on while essaying some gorgeous drives through the off-side.

Unfortunately, several subsequent batters were culpable of playing really poor cricket.

Joe Root got run out while taking off for a non-existing single, captain Jos Buttler made an expansive drive outside the off-stump off Kumara to get

caught behind and Bairstow never timed the pull off Kasun Rajitha to find Dhananjaya de Silva at mid-on.

Liam Livingstone played the wrong line off Kumara to get trapped leg-before. Moeen Ali went for a cut off Mathews when there was no width on offer, and Kusal Perera snaffled the simple offering at point.

These were batsmen who were expected to lead England's batting charge and they failed to respond.

Stokes did try on his own. He had the assistance of fortune as well when Samarawickrama floored a tough chance at point off Kumara when the all-rounder was on 12. England were 86 for 5 then.

The left-hander played some archetypal power-packed shots through either side of the wicket, but the day was not made for a one-man show.

His dismissal, caught by substitute Dushan Hemantha, at deep of Kumara, effectively ended England's chances of posting a challenging total.

Rashid's comical run out while backing up too far could be taken as a symbol of England's drudges with the bat on the day. But the inept batting display of England should not rob the Lankan bowlers of the just credit.

Kumara has the tendency to be all over the place but when he hits his lengths correctly, the right-arm pacer is a different beast who can hustle the batters.

And hustled England were indeed on the day by a vastly superior Lankan side.

"Samajhdaar Ko...": MS Dhoni's 1st Reaction On Rohit Sharma-led India's Chances To Win Cricket World Cup Is Big



NEW DELHI, Oct 27 (Agencies):

The Indian cricket team is going through a great phase at the ODI Cricket World Cup 2023. The Rohit Sharma-led Indian cricket team is currently the only side which has not lost a single match in the ODI Cricket World Cup 2023. The Indian cricket team currently sits at the top of the Cricket World Cup 2023

Rashid's comical run out while backing up too far could be taken as a symbol of England's drudges with the bat on the day. But the inept batting display of England should not rob the Lankan bowlers of the just credit.

All eyes are on the Rohit Sharma-led Indian cricket team to end a long drought of ICC titles. The last time India won an ICC title, MS Dhoni was the captain during the 2013 Champions Trophy. The last time India won the ODI Cricket World Cup

in 2011, MS Dhoni was the skipper. So, naturally, his opinion on India's chances really matters. For the first time, MS Dhoni has spoken about India's chances to win the World Cup.

It's a very good team. Bohot accha balance hai team ka. Harlog acha khel rahe hain (The team's balance is extremely good. All the players are playing well). So everything is looking very good. Isse zyada main kuch nahi bolunga, baaki samajhdaar ko ishara kaafi hai (I won't say anything more than this. For the wise, the signal is enough), said MS Dhoni at an event.

It is often said that the 2011 Indian squad wanted to win the World Cup for the great Sachin Tendulkar. There are those who wonder if

that would be the case for Virat Kohli this time. When Harbhajan Singh was asked this question, he gave a rather eye-opening answer. In a chat on India Today, Harbhajan Singh recently said that he doesn't feel the 2023 World Cup's Indian team is as united as the 2011 World Cup team was.

"There's a big difference between the two teams. That team (2011 World Cup-winning Indian side) was a lot more united. They wanted to win the World Cup for Sachin Tendulkar. He commanded a lot of respect from others. I am not sure about this team. Don't know who all want to win the World Cup for Virat Kohli. But, they want to win for India for sure. This is a big difference," he said.

Harbhajan further explained his point as he said that the entire team respected Tendulkar to the extent that all the players wanted to win the World Cup for him. He isn't sure if players are that united about Kohli in the current team.

Misfiring Pak take on rampaging SA

CHENNAI, Oct 27 (Agencies): Pakistan have underperformed at the World Cup having lost three matches in a row but they are eyeing a winning streak starting with their group match against South Africa, all-rounder Shadab Khan said.

Pakistan began the tournament with wins over Netherlands and Sri Lanka before losing to India, Australia and Afghanistan. The last defeat was a major upset as their Asian neighbours won by eight wickets to leave Pakistan fifth in the standings, but Shadab said they can return to winning ways with their backs against the wall.

"I think we have underperformed in all three matches. We haven't underperformed this



way before. We know that we are not playing good cricket," Shadab said.

"But our team has bounced back from this situation before and hopefully, we will come out of this situation... We have full faith in our team. Our team was playing well before the World Cup. We didn't play well in the World Cup. It's not always the case that we, as a team, did not play well. There are bad days, but I think

we will start our winning streak from today," he added.

Pakistan also have a negative run rate to contend with as they fight for a top-four spot and Shadab said the clash against South Africa is the first of many "do-or-die matches". Shadab identified their fielding as a cause for concern after dropped catches on batting-friendly wickets and also said the fast bowlers were struggling as a unit.

Strange Sightings! Left-handed Jasprit Bumrah, Bowler Virat Kohli And Shubman Gill At Nets Ahead Of England Clash

LUCKNOW, Oct 27 (Agencies): Team India has reached arrived in Lucknow for their next ODI World Cup 2023 clash against England. The Rohit Sharma-led side will be coming to this match after thrashing the mighty New Zealand by four wickets in their previous match. Star batter Virat Kohli played a crucial knock of 95 runs which helped the hosts to chased down the target of 274 in just 48 overs. Apart from him, pacer Mohammed Shami also took a five-wicket haul to restrict the Kiwis at a below-par score.

As the match against England is approaching, the Men In Blue entered the nets for a grueling practice session, where some rare visuals were seen. In a video shared by the Indian Cricket Team on their Instagram, pacer Jasprit Bumrah was seen bowling with his left-hand.

Well, if this wasn't enough then the likes of Virat Kohli, Shubman



Gill, and Suryakumar Yadav also tried their hands at bowling.

Notably, Virat Kohli recently bowled three deliveries for India during the match against Bangladesh, after all-rounder Hardik Pandya picked up an injury during his over.

Talking about the match

against England, Team India will once again miss out on the services of Hardik Pandya, who is yet to recover from his ankle injury that left him unavailable last week.

India play against defending champions England on October 29 in Lucknow and take on Sri

Lanka in Mumbai on November 2, and Pandya is almost sure to miss both the games. He could also miss a potential third match against South Africa in Kolkata on November 5.

It is suspected to be an ankle sprain or a ligament injury but there has been no confirmation on the extent of the damage.

The Baroda player had reported to the National Cricket Academy (NCA) on Monday in Bengaluru for his injury management.

"Hardik is still under medication. While the swelling on his left ankle has subsided considerably, he will start bowling only towards the weekend. Right now, the important thing is to give him time to recover," an NCA source told agency.

Since India are set to make the semifinals having won all five matches so far, Pandya could easily be rested for the next two games, which will allow him to recover fully before the knock-outs.

IND vs ENG: What happened when India last met England in a World Cup match

NEW DELHI, Oct 27 (Agencies): Hosts India will meet defending champions England in a high-profile group-stage clash in the ICC World Cup 2023 in Lucknow on Sunday. While Rohit Sharma's men are still unbeaten in the World Cup 2023, they will be looking to defeat their opponents and advance to the last four stages. England, on the other hand, suffered their fourth defeat of the tournament, falling to Sri Lanka by an eight-wicket margin after being bundled out for a paltry 156.

The last time these 2 teams met at the World Cup was 4 years ago in Birmingham during the 2019 edition. The last time India and England faced each other in a World Cup match was during the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019.

England entered the India



match on the heels of defeats to Australia and Sri Lanka.

The hosts were in a must-win situation, but their victory over India improved their chances, and they advanced to the semifinals after defeating New Zealand in their final group-stage match.

Everything went England's way from the toss, as Eoin Morgan

chose to bat, and Jason Roy and Jonny Bairstow tore into India's new-ball attack. England, after winning the toss, decided to bat first and posted a formidable total of 337/7. Despite a commendable performance by the Indian team, they fell short by 31 runs, ending their innings at 306/5.

The English batsmen, includ-

ing openers Jason Roy and Jonny Bairstow, along with all-rounder Ben Stokes, capitalized on the Indian bowling attack. Stokes scored an impressive 79 off just 54 balls. On the Indian side, despite Rohit Sharma's third century of the tournament (102 off 109 balls, 15 fours) and Virat Kohli's fifth-consecutive half-century (66 off 76 balls, 7 fours), England's total proved to be beyond India's reach.

The match was not without controversy as MS Dhoni, one of India's most experienced players, faced criticism for his inability to accelerate the scoring rate in the end overs. Despite the loss, India has had a strong record against England in World Cup matches, having won several times in the past, including a significant victory in the semi-final of the 1983 World Cup.

Asian Para Games: Para athletes make history



HANGZHOU, Oct 27 (Agencies): India's para athletes have created history by winning the highest number of medals in the Asian Para Games. With 82 medals, including 18 gold, India have gone past the earlier best of 72 medals achieved in the 2018 edition in Indonesia.

India added 18 medals, including three gold. India's medal tally stood at 18 gold, 23 silver and 41 bronze at the end of the fourth day of competitions. India's position in the medal tally,

however, dropped two places to eighth. South Korea and Indonesia moved ahead of India in the tally led by China (156 gold, 128 silver, 108 bronze).

With two more days left in the Games, the country is on course for achieving its target of 100 medals in this edition. India had won 72 medals (15 gold, 24 silver, 33 bronze) in the last edition.

Eight medals, including one gold, were won by track and field athletes. Overall, athletics contributed 45 medals, including 14 gold.

Sachin Sarjerao Khilari won the first gold of the day in the men's F46 shot put event with a Games record throw of 16.03 metres, while Rohit Kumar took bronze with 14.56m.

Para shooter Sidhartha Babu then bagged another gold in the R6 mixed 50m rifle prone SH1 event as he shot a Games record of 247.7.

The compound mixed team of Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar won gold after defeating their Chinese counterparts Lin Yueshan and Ai Xinliang 151-149 in the final.

Gaurav calls on CS Mehta, submits memo; stresses for development of Jammu region

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 27: Gaurav Gupta, former General Secretary of Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Jammu, on Friday met Arun Mehta, Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir, and submitted a memorandum of demands highlighting key demands for the development of the Jammu region.

The former General Secretary appreciated the recent statement made by LG Sinha regarding the transformation of Srinagar into a Smart City.

However, he emphasized the urgent need for similar initiatives in the Jammu region, acknowledging its unique charm and cultural significance.

Gaurav Gupta outlined a series of crucial measures that, if addressed promptly, can significantly contribute to the holistic development of Jammu. Among these measures is the expedited completion of ongoing projects under the Smart City initiative. Timely execution of these projects is seen as essential to fully realize the benefits and potential they hold for enhancing the region's infrastructure and quality of life, he added.

He said tourism is a pivotal



driver for local economies and a platform to showcase the natural beauty and cultural wonders of Jammu region. He stressed the pressing need for increased promotion of the region to attract tourists. This would not only boost the local economy but also significantly enhance the experience of visitors to Jammu, he added.

He said that the Suchetgarh Border's retreat ceremony, symbolizing India's rich military heritage. He called for its wider publicization, as increased awareness and participation would pay tribute to the armed

forces and unlock the tourism potential of the area.

The memorandum also underscored the importance of timely completion of ongoing projects like the Tawi Barrage and Artificial Lake, which can provide recreational opportunities and address water resource management and flood control concerns.

He also highlighted the need to enhance the tourist appeal of Jammu Zoo through infrastructure upgrades and educational programs that connect visitors with regional wildlife and nature. "The historic

Mubarak Mandi Complex holds deep sentimental value for the people of Jammu," he said, calling for its preservation and the expedited continuation of restoration and maintenance works.

Gupta also suggested the installation of prominent hoardings at locations such as the railway station, Jammu Airport, and the bus stand, providing information about the region's significant tourist attractions and cultural sites.

To ensure that visitors to Jammu are well-informed about the region's tourism potential, Gaurav advocated for the establishment of a tourism circuit, encompassing all major tourist destinations and providing a comprehensive experience for travelers. He expressed confidence that, under the present dispensation, the Jammu region can achieve the same level of excellence and progress as Srinagar, setting a shining example for the rest of the country.

The Chief Secretary gave a patient hearing to the issues put forth by Gaurav Gupta, terming all the points as genuine and assured to take adequate measures in addressing the same on priority basis.

PTTI Vijaypur organizes lecture on 'cyber security awareness'

TOP NEWS REPORT

VIJAYPUR, Oct 27: Principal Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur Shiv Kumar organized a Lecture on "Cyber Security Awareness" at PTTI Vijaypur for the awareness of trainees of various training courses undergoing in the Institute. Inspector Vivek Kalsotra of PTTI Vijaypur delivered the lecture and threw light on various prevailing cyber security threats and aware the Police personnel with regard to Do's and Don'ts while handling electronic gadgets.

He highlighted the importance of proper understanding of various forms of Cyber threats and shared essential security tips and tricks to prevent these threats. He briefly explained the modalities being adopted by Cyber scammers and laid stress upon for not sharing any sensitive information viz OTP, Bank Details & passwords etc. on mobile.

Besides this, Principal PTTI Vijaypur also appreciated Police trainees who donated Blood during Blood Donation Camp organized by Emergency Hospital Vijaypur on 25.10.2023 and praised

them for their noble act. The donors were provided with certificates of appreciation. Principal encouraged staff and trainees to donate blood regularly as a single drop of your blood could be a drop of life for someone else.

Among others Kuldeep Raj, DySP (Indoor/Tech) PTTI Vijaypur, Khushwant Singh, DySP (Admn.) PTTI Vijaypur Insp. Mulkh Raj, Insp. Kanwal Raina, SI Kuljeet Singh, SI Over Singh, ASI Sourab Samotra, ASI Narinder Singh, HC Mohan Lal, Narinder Kumar were present on the occasion.

RMPS in collaboration with GS Sports Club organizes Inter-School Sports Meet



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 27: On the eve of International Girl Child Day G.S Sports Club on Friday organized an Inter-School Competition at R.M Public School Chowadi.

The theme of the programme was to empower "Nari Shakti". SSP Mohan Lal Bhagat Staff Officer to ADGP Railways was the Chief Guest, Dr. Sunniya Wani DySP Headquarters was the Guest of Honour.

DySP Sunniya Wani appreciated the role of GS Sports Club for empowering girls and organising such events which gives them the platform to showcase their hidden talent.

She encouraged the girl students to come forward to lead our society to take our developing nation towards new heights.

Chief Guest Mohan Lal Bhagat, while speaking on the occasion, congratulated Management and the staff of R.M Public School and team of G.S Sports Club and its team for organizing such inspiring sports meet for various schools. He encouraged the girls to participate in making Bharat the World Power.

He said females today comprise around 50% of our population and without empowering them it is impossible to make our nation Atam Nirbhar and a World Power therefore everybody in the society needs to uplift the Nari Shakti.

He apprised the girls that our female players have contributed a major share in the medals tally of Asian Games.

He said that today females are leading in every field. He said the

upcoming era in the world is of Bharat and it's the females who will make their maximum contribution for that.

Chairman R.M Public School Rameshwar Mengi, who also presided over the function, urged the students to stay physically fit, work hard to pursue their aims and play an important role in nation building.

Meanwhile Kabaddi tournament was won by Shiksha Niketan Higher Secondary School Gandhi Nagar whereas Kho-Kho was won by R.M Public School Chowadi.

Concluding the function, G.S Sports Club President Atul thanked all the Guests for their commitment to serve in society. The others who were present during the function were Bunny Sadotra (Vice-President), Surjeet Kumar, Mohit etc.

DC Kishtwar distributes vital logistics for Artificial Insemination among 29 newly trained MAITRIs



TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Oct 27: The Animal Husbandry Department Kishtwar organised a commendable event at the Chief Animal Husbandry Officer's office in Kishtwar.

This event marked the distribution of vital logistics for Artificial Insemination and training for A-Help/Pashu Sakhi/Krishi Sakhi besides Milk Recording Kits were also distributed among A-help workers/Pashu Sakhis.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Dr.

Devansh Yadav (IAS) graced the occasion as the chief guest, joined by Mr. Mohd. Iqbal Zargar, Joint Director Planning, and Dr. Ajaz Hussain Patigaroo, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Kishtwar.

The event also witnessed the presence of Amjad Malik Chief Agriculture Officer Kishtwar, Sajid Mustafa, Chief Horticulture Officer Kishtwar, Bilal Ahmed, District Programme Officer of JKRLM Kishtwar, and officers from the Animal Husbandry

Department.

In a significant development, 29 newly trained Multipurpose Artificial Insemination Technicians for Rural India (MAITRIs) were equipped with AI Kits, Cryocans, and other essential resources.

The primary goal is to ensure the provision of round-the-clock Artificial Insemination, Vaccination, and Veterinary First Aid services to the farmers of Kishtwar District.

The MAITRI scheme has a clear and noble objective: to train edu-

cated, unemployed local youth to offer comprehensive veterinary services to rural areas. This includes Artificial Insemination, Vaccination, De-worming, and more, ultimately providing them with a source of livelihood.

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav, personally engaged with the Pashu Sakhis and MAITRIs, emphasizing the importance of acquainting them with the HADP Programme. This knowledge will empower them

to ensure that a maximum number of farmers, especially Self-Help Groups (SHGs), benefit from these schemes.

Dr. Ajaz Hussain Patigaroo, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Kishtwar, provided a comprehensive briefing to the MAITRIs about the services and schemes offered by the department.

This included Artificial Insemination, Sex Sorted Semen technique (SSS), HADP, vaccination, De-worming, Castration, IDDS, IPDP, and more. Dr. Patigaroo also directed the newly appointed MAITRIs to work diligently in the field under the supervision of concerned Veterinary Assistant Surgeons.

Their role will encompass providing AI services to farmers in remote areas and educating them about the department's schemes, ensuring that a maximum number of farmers can benefit from the Animal Husbandry Department's initiatives.

GDC Chatroo organizes intra-college painting competition

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Oct 27: Govt. Degree College (GDC) Chatroo organised intra-college painting competition, Photography and videography competitions under the patronage of Principal, Prof (Dr) Ved Kumar and con- ventionship of Prof. Ajeet Kumar and in collaboration with NSS unit of the college headed by Prof Chander Prakash on the UT Foundation Day.

These events were carried out under the

theme "Badalta Jammu Kashmir, bhadta Jammu Kashmir - Amman aur Tareqqi ki Nay tasveer.

In the painting competition, more than 15 students participated to display their talent and draw painting on the theme Badalta Jammu and Kashmir. The competition was adjudged by Jury members including Dr Athar Hussain, Dr Ashaq Hussain and Prof M.M Mattoo. The participant namely Kajol Devi of semester 5th bagged first position in this com-

petition. Second position and third position was bagged by Shabiba Banoo and Kajol Devi of 3rd semesters respectively.

In the photography and videography competitions Abuzar Butt of 5th semester bagged first position. The proceedings of Photography and videography competitions were carried out by Dr Muddasser Nazar.

At the end the programme was culminated with vote of thanks by Prof Mudassar Butt.

Geetanjali Salon opens 2nd salon in Jammu

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 27: India's leading high-street brand, Geetanjali Salon, a chain of 160 salons pan-India, launched its 2nd salon in Jammu in Gandhi Nagar with exquisite interiors.

It will be a one stop destination for all your hair and beauty needs. Sumit Israni, Managing Director and celebrity hairstylist, is praised for his vehemence for the brand with sophisticated establishments at all prime locations tailored to meet diversified customers and loved by celebrities.



Geetanjali Salon has always been a pioneer in the professional hair care & beauty space over the past 3 decades. We are continuing to make our mark as

India's best high street salon providing exceptional services.

"We believe in customization and personalisation for our clients, and offer them the best-

in-class services and products," said Sumit Israni.

Recently won the best hair colour trophy at Indian Hairdressing Award by Loreal Pro-

fessional, recognised in North India as the best salon chain, best salon interior design and hair color, Geetanjali has been a pioneer in the industry since 1989, with the aim of providing world-class experience for hair, skin, body spa, hands and feet, barbering, Nails services and makeup services.

With over 3 Decades in the industry, Geetanjali has today, become the fastest growing and most stable salon empire in India having over 160 outlets in 40 cities with over 4000 Creative Artists and professionals.