

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

8-year-old girl drowns in Kishanganga river in Gurez

BANDIPORA, Oct 28 (Agencies): An 8-year old girl drowned to death in Kishanganga river in Neeru village of Gurez in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Saturday afternoon, officials said.

An officials told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the girl identified as Iqra Bano, daughter of Mohammad Jamal Mir of Neeru slipped into Kishanganga river near his village. He said that soon after a rescue operation was launched, however, by the time the girl was rescued she had died.

"After completing medico-legal formalities the body was handed over to the family for last rites," he said.

3 drug peddlers arrested in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, Oct 28 (Agencies): Three alleged drug peddlers were arrested in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district and contraband substances were recovered from their possession, police said on Saturday.

They said a police party of Police Station Kunzer intercepted a person identified as Nazir Ahmad Malik alias SP, a resident of Wanigam at a checkpoint established at Chandil Wanigam, Baramulla.

"During search, 110 grams of contraband Charas-like substance was recovered from his possession," a police statement said.

During questioning, he confessed that he had brought contraband substances from one lady Afroza Begum of Sari Mohalla Singhpora Pattan.

"Upon his disclosure, a Police Party along with Magistrate rushed to the house of said lady and was apprehended. Contraband Charas like substances weighing 140 grams was also recovered from her possession," police said.

Similarly, a police party of Police Station Baramulla at a checkpoint established at Drangbal, Baramulla intercepted one person identified as Abdul Majeed Mir of Bagh-i-Islam Baramulla.

"During search, 265 grams of contraband

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Indian Athletes Create History, Bag 111 Medals In Hangzhou Asian Para Games

HANGZHOU, Oct 28 (Agencies): Indian para athletes created history on Saturday as they ended their Hangzhou Asian Para Games campaign with an unprecedented 111 medals, the biggest haul for the country in any major international multi-sport event.

With 29 gold, 31 silver and 51 bronze in their



kitty, the Indian para athletes won four medals more than the record tally of 107 won by the able-bodied athletes in the Asian Games held from September 23 to October 8.

India ended at fifth place in the medals tally, a remarkable achievement in itself, below China (521 medals: 214 gold, 167 silver, 140

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BSF lodges strong protest with Pakistani counterpart over unprovoked firing along IB in Jammu

JAMMU, Oct 28 (Agencies): The Border Security Force (BSF) on Saturday lodged a strong protest with the Pakistan Rangers over the recent unprovoked firing and mortar shelling on forward posts and villages along the International Border here, officials said.

The cross-border

shelling by Pakistan Rangers, the first major ceasefire violation since 2021, started around 8 pm Thursday in the Arnia area of R S Pura sector and lasted around seven hours, leaving a BSF jawan and a woman injured.

The protest was registered at a

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Missing Sopore SPO traced in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Oct 28 (Agencies): A Special Police Officer (SPO), who had gone missing from his home in Duroo area of Sopore, has been traced and brought back to his hometown, officials on Saturday said.

An official said that Tahir Ahmed Dar had gone missing from his home two days ago.

He said that the cop was traced to Srinagar last evening and was brought back to his hometown.

"After legal formalities, he will be handed over to his family," he said. (KNO)ore SPO Traced In Srinagar.

Two JKAS officers transferred

SRINAGAR, Oct 28 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Government on Friday ordered transfer and posting of two JKAS officers in the interest of administration.

Ata-ul-Munim Tak, Deputy Secretary to the Government, Health and Medical Education Department have been transferred and posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Marwah. He will also hold the charge of the post of Sub-Registrar, Marwah, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Moshin Raza, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Marwah, holding additional charge of Sub-Registrar, Marwah was transferred and posted as Deputy Secretary to the Government, Health and Medical Education Department.

'No civilian deaths': J&K DGP presents five-year report card



LETHPORA (Pulwama), Oct 28 (Agencies): Director General of Police (DGP), Jammu and Kashmir, Dilbag Singh on Saturday pre-

sented the report-card of five years, stating that there have been no civilian deaths or collateral damage during this period while terrorism

graph is also coming down drastically.

Addressing the passing out parade of 307 officials at CTC Lethpora, Pampore in Pulwama district, the DGP said that "zero" word has been most popular in J&K since the past five years. "The five-year report card of J&K suggests that there has been zero collateral damage, zero law and order incident and zero civilian causality. The

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Terror module busted with arrest of four: Punjab Police



CHANDIGARH, Oct 28 (Agencies): The Punjab Police Saturday said it has busted a terror module with the arrest of four operatives of the banned pro-Khalistani group Babbar Khalsa International.

Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said the terror module was tasked by its handlers to carry out targeted killings.

Police also recovered six pistols and 275 cartridges from them.

"In a major breakthrough, @sasnaragpolice has busted a terrorist module and arrested 4 operatives of outfit BKI (Babar Khalsa International) The BKI module was tasked for targeted

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FFMA holds executive body meeting, discusses future plans



JAMMU, Oct 28: Freedom Fighters Memorial Association (FFMA) today held an executive body meeting to discuss future plans.

Chairman of Freedom Fighters Memorial Association, Rajiv Mahajan chaired the meeting where important affairs and upcoming

programmes were discussed.

It was attended by Patron-in-Chief, Ved Gandotra, Vice Chairman R.C Puri (retd) KAS, President Prof.S.S Bhalwal, General Secretary Karnail Chand, Vice President Pritam Sharma, Advisor Ravinder Mittal and Secretary Parbhat Kapahi.

The objectives of the

meeting were to prepare the readiness and checking of the prerequisites and requirements that need to be done before future events.

The members were informed of the necessary preparations to be made in this light and the agenda of the association's upcoming programmes which will be held in Jammu was

highlighted.

Speaking at the meeting, the Chairman discussed the issue of the Association's Office which is constructed on Dogra Shaurya Sthal, adjoining to the Ved Mandir Jammu. He said that the association has regularly taken up the matter of office with JMC and the land has been developed as a beautiful park. He said that there is a conspiracy going on to encroach the park land and office of the association at Dogra Shaurya Sthal.

He appealed to Mayor Jammu Rajinder Sharma and JMC Commissioner to pay a visit to the Dogra Shaurya Sthal and see the dilapidated situation of the

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Mandeep Bhandari appointed Additional Director to J&K Bank Board



SRINAGAR, Oct 28 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday appointed

Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr Mandeep K Bhandari as Additional Director to the Board of Jammu and Kashmir Bank.

Dr Bhandari has become 12th Director on the Board of Jammu and Kashmir Bank.

Those who are already on the Board include Baldev Prakash, MD & CEO, Santosh

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BCCI Imposes Two-Year Ban On J&K Cricketer

JAMMU, Oct 28 (Agencies): The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Saturday imposed ban on a cricketer from Jammu and Kashmir for submitting multiple birth certificates.

The handout issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) said that Vanshaj Sharma, resident of Bishnah, Jammu has been banned by the BCCI for submitting multiple birth certificates with different date of birth.

For this act, he has been banned from participating in all BCCI tour-

naments for a period of two years from October 27.

The handout further stated that after completion of two years ban, the player can only participate in Senior Men's Tournament conducted by the BCCI and will not be allowed to play in any age group tournaments of the BCCI.

JKCA has been informing from time to time that the players should not resolve to such acts as the punishment given by the BCCI adversely affects the career of the player.

In the instant case, Vanshaj

Sharma migrated to another state and applied from there as member of U-23 Men's team of Bihar, it further read.

However, it said that since he was first registered by the JKCA in 2021-22, his data was available with the BCCI and despite him having changed the Association; he was caught for submitting multiple birth certificates.

As a consequence of which he has been banned from participating in any tournament for two years and from participating in age group tournaments for the entire life.

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SOS Int'l delegation meets CS; Govt assures of resolving all genuine concerns of PoJK refugees

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 28: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has assured that it will address the concerns of Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) displaced persons.

The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, made this commitment after a high-level delegation from the 'S.O.S. International,' an organization representing PoJK Displaced Persons, led by Rajiv Chuni accompanied by V K, Datta, Bhairam Singh, Ved Raj Bali and S D Gupta met with him and submitted a memorandum outlining various issues faced by the PoJK refugees.

The delegation highlighted that the transfer of land under Section 254-C of the 1965 Act has been stopped in compliance with a government order. They requested that the transfer of land under this section should be



allowed for PoJK Displaced Persons without delay.

Some displaced persons were allotted lands under Section 254-C, Section-3A, but there was no record of their allotments available with the Provincial Rehabilitation Officer (PRO) in Jammu.

The delegation urged that these individuals should be allowed to file their claims based on their allotments.

The delegation mentioned that PoJK displaced persons face

hurdles in applying for cash assistance under the 'PM Central Assistant Scheme for PoJK DPs.' They requested that unnecessary conditions be removed to facilitate the scheme's smooth implementation.

They proposed that the post of the PRO, Jammu, should be made permanent and upgraded to the Rehabilitation Commissioner, Jammu, to better serve PoJK displaced persons living across the country. Addition-

ally, more employees should be appointed to meet the needs of PoJK displaced individuals.

The delegation suggested that displaced persons registered outside J&K should be allowed to file their claims for financial assistance based on their records of displacement from PoJK, JKUT Domicile, and Legal Heir Certificates without requiring a State Subject Certificate (PRC).

Some properties of displaced families

from Mirpur city have been submerged due to the construction of the Mangla Dam. The delegation requested that the compensation amount, which is reportedly ready with the Custodian Department of PoJK Government, be received by the Government of India and handed over to the legal heirs of the affected families.

They emphasized the need for the full implementation of the rehabilitation package passed by the J&K Government Cabinet in October 2014, endorsed by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, and submitted in both Houses of Parliament on December 22, 2014, with regard to PoJK displaced persons.

The government has given its assurance that it will address these concerns and take necessary actions to redress the grievances of PoJK displaced persons.

EJAC (R) urges Govt to redress employees' demands

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 28: The J&K Govt. Employees Joint Action Committee (R) called on all government employees to unite on a common platform to collectively advocate for their legitimate demands.

Addressing a press conference here on Saturday, Babu Husain Malik, the State President of the Committee, said, "Government employees have been facing delays in receiving their GP Fund advance and final payment, which has been pending for a significant period, ranging from one year to six months."

He expressed concerns about the delay in the maturity payment of various insurance schemes, such as Savings, Life, and Investment (S/L/I), which has been pending for a considerable time.

He also highlighted the need for timely disbursement of gratuity and leave salary payments to employees and



retirees and urged the government to expedite the resolution of pending cases under SR0-43, which is likely related to government regulations or orders.

Other demands presented during the conference include Regularization of Daily Wagers, Casual Laborers, Contractual Employees, Home Guards, Rehbar E-Khel, and Anganwari Workers and Helpers, removal of Pay Anomalies in the Clerical Cadre, enhancement of Medical Allowance from Rs. 300 to Rs. 1000, holding of Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) after every six months to facilitate promotions and career advancement for employees,

release of 4% Dearness Allowance (DA) on the pattern of Central Government from July 2023, restoration of Old Pension Scheme, etc.

Senior Trade Union leaders Yashpal Sharma, Darshan Magotra, Kulwant Singh Sambyal, Surinder Radotra, Naresh Kumar, Meenakshi Sharma, Munish Sharma, Neeraj Sharma, Vikas Chander, Arun Sharma, Parshotam Sharma, Kamla Sharma, Vijay Kumar, Darminder Singh, Surinder Bakshi, Sham Singh, Pawan Kumar, Rafiq Malik, Mohd Sadiq, Lekh Raj, Rohit Seth, Yashpal Sharma, Mohd Issar and Naresh Singh were also present.

Seminar on absolute health through Yoga organized

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 28: Yoga can improve symptoms of almost all Physical & Mental Ailments. This is, as per the researches made up by the scholars, based on the experiences of saints & sages.

Regular yoga practice creates mental clarity and calmness, increases body awareness, relieves chronic stress, relaxes the mind, centre's attention and sharpens concentration.

It was explained in details by Dr Shreyansh Jain, State Yoga Commissioner and Chairman J&K Confederation of Voluntary, Social & Charitable Organisation, held in the office of Vichar Kranti Manch



International in a seminar organized by the Confederation.

I.D Soni, a social reformer, educationist, writer and President Home for Aged & Infrims, was the Chief Guest on the occasion, while Sohail Kazmi, a renowned journalist and Chairman of Group of Taskeen Pub-

lications, presided over the function.

Kasturi Lal, President of the Confederation, welcomed the VIPs and participants.

Jain, who was the main speaker of the seminar, explained how diseases can be cured with Yoga, by excretion of toxins from the body, by correcting the irregu-

larities of dietary habits, sufficient intake of fresh air, avoiding tension & balance of elements in the body.

K.S Samyal, Confederation Advisor, narrated the spiritual aspect of yoga by Bhaktiyog, Gyanyog & Karmyog. Also threw light on eight fold yoga Yama Niyama etc.

Soni, Chief Guest, advised to adopt natural and spiritual way of life.

Kazmi appreciated the efforts taken by confederation in organizing yoga seminar. Sarla Kohli, former Principal GGM Science College and Vice President of Confederation also graced the occasion and extended her good wishes for the role of confederation.

Chander Mohan Sharma, Gen Secy Vichar Kranti Manch International, thanked the dignitaries and NGOs who participated in the seminar and appreciated the efforts of the confederation in making aware the public about the values of yoga in maintaining health through it.

DGP presents 5-year report card: Zero collateral damage, Zero law & order incidents

TOP NEWS REPORT

LETHPORA, Oct 28: Jammu and Kashmir's Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh while presenting the report-card of five years stated that there has been zero collateral damage, zero law and order incidents and zero civilian casualties while terrorism graph is also coming to zero.

Addressing the passing out parade of 307 officials at CTC Lethpora, Pampore in Pulwama district, the DGP said that "Zero" word has been most popular in J&K since the past five years. "The five-year report card of J&K suggests that there has been zero collateral damage, zero law and order incident and zero civilian causality. The graph of terrorism that

brought a bad name to J&K is also coming down to zero," the outgoing police chief said.

He said that this year, Operation Capacity Building was launched to lace the 43 police stations with the latest weaponry and anti-terror teams. "In the first phase, we covered 21 police stations and today, teams have been launched for the remaining 22 police stations. These police stations are being covered under zero terror plan," DGP Singh said.

He said that three terror incidents were reported in Anantnag district while 36 police stations showed a 100 per cent terror free record.

"The police stations covered under OP Capacity Building will have drone availability, latest weaponry and 14

member squad each for tackling terror incidents," he said, adding that with the help of these new teams, area domination will get further strengthened.

The J&K police chief said that the killing of 5 terrorists in Machil, Kupwara signifies that the enemy continues to disrupt the peace in J&K. "Our border grid is so strong and we will ensure all bids are foiled on the LoC," he said.

The DGP said that all the achievements police have achieved were impossible without public support.

"J&K police is the people's police, working for the safety of youth, people and the children who leave their homes for school for a better future. We urge people to continue their support to police for better tomor-

Road Show organised under Millet Promotion Campaign by Agriculture Deptt

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Oct 28: As the Government of India has decided to make "International Year of Millets 2023" a people's movement to promote Indian millet-based recipes and value-added products, the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare organized Roadshow and millet campaign under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme launched in the state.

The walkathon was flagged off by District Development Commissioner Kathua Rakesh Minhas, and Vice-Chairman, DDC Kathua Raghunandan Singh (Bablu) along with Chief Agriculture Officer Kathua Sanjeev Rai Gupta.

The Roadshow-Millet campaign commenced from Executive Engg. (PWD) Office, Near District Library Kathua en route Shaheedi Chowk, Old Govt. Girls Hr. Secondary School via court



road and finally culminated at Office Complex of Chief Agriculture Officer, Kathua. More than 250 people including farmers, children, officers/officials from APFWD Kathua took part in the campaign.

DC Kathua Rakesh Minhas, said "He appreciates the efforts of APFWD in making such public events successful. Such events create awareness among the masses and celebration of IYOM 2023 is a worldwide event, widely campaigned to grow millets. Also, the objective behind organizing such events is to encourage people to adopt a healthier lifestyle by utilizing the millets in every day diet. Millets have cultural

and historical importance too in various regions of the country as well, he said.

Raghunandan Singh, Vice Chairman, DDC Kathua also thanked APFWD Kathua for promoting such activities which help in raising farm income, public health and cultural significance.

Sanjeev Rai Gupta, Chief Agriculture Officer Kathua said "In order to increase production and productivity of Shree Anna, incentives are provided to the farmers on crop production and protection technologies, cropping system based demonstrations, production & distribution of certified seeds of newly released varieties/hybrids. Integrated

Nutrient and Pest Management techniques, improved farm implements/tools/resource conservation machineries, water saving devices, capacity building of farmers through trainings during cropping season, organizing events/workshops, distribution of seed mini-kits by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) Kathua.

Women Self Help groups of the district were also promoted by incentivizing value addition of millets. He also said" APFWD Kathua had set target of 400 ha of area under millets cultivation during Kharif 2023, and various dry land areas/ Kandi belts of Hiranagar, Kathua, Billawar and Bani Sub division were brought under millet cultivation. Millet seeds of various types and varieties viz. Kodo, Kangni, Phoolan, Sankhi, Bajra, Sorghum, Jowar, Ragi were distributed among farmers of Kootah, Bobiya, Ras-

sana, Chann Morian, Chann Khatriyan, Hatli, Hote, Dhanni, Bakhta, Borthoin, Bhoond, Basohli, Phinter, Billawar, Gujroo Nagrota, Ramkot, Thara Kalwal to raise the area under Millet cultivation.

District Agriculture Officer (Ext). Kathua Murari Lal said, "This event is being organized to sensitize students, teaching staff, farmers and workers of various departments about the potential health benefits of millets".

Ashok Kumar, Area Development Officer (Veg.), Anil Kumar, Asst. Soil Chemist, Ashwani Kumar, Mushroom Dev. Officer, Raj Singh & Rajesh Mankotia, Subject Matter Specialist (District Level), Purshottam Gupta, SDAO Kathua, Ashwani Sharma, SDAO Hiranagar, AEOs, JAEs, AEs and other officials from Agriculture Production & Farmers' Welfare Kathua participated in the campaign.

DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS REASI FINAL SHOW CAUSE NOTICE

SPO Raju Sharma No. 341/SPO-RSI
S/O Sh. Romesh Chander R/O Poura Jagir
Tehsil Pouni District Reasi.

I, Amit Gupta-JKPS, Sr. Superintendent of Police, Reasi serve this notice upon you SPO Raju Sharma No. 341/SPO-RSI S/O Sh. Romesh Chander R/O Poura Jagir Tehsil Pouni District Reasi on the following grounds:-

- Whereas, you have been engaged as SPO in J&K Police, vide PCR Jammu OB No. 221 of 2019 dated 04.10.2019 and joined on 07.10.2019 at PCR Jammu;
- Whereas, you were transferred from PCR Jammu to District Reasi vide ZPHQ Jammu Order issued under endst. No. PS/5-03/2022/695-97 dated 20.04.2023 and reported at DPL Reasi on 27.04.2022.
- Whereas, you were posted at Police Station Ransoo from more than 01 year. On 01.08.2023 you were directed to report at DPL Reasi for further duties and relieved from P/S Ransoo vide DDR No. 09 dated 01.08.2023 but you didn't report at DPL Reasi on due time and were marked absent vide DDR No. 09 dated 02.08.2023 w.e.f 01.08.2023 in the daily diary of DPL Reasi and still running absent. You didn't bother to inform the department by any means of communication for your un-authorized absence.
- Whereas, in past you were absent vide DDR No. 07 dated 29.08.2022 in the daily diary of Police Station Ransoo and resumed duties vide DDR No. 05 dated 06.11.2022 after remaining un-authorizedly absent for a period of 70 days.
- Whereas, the repeated practices of absenteeism clearly indicates that you have failed to prove yourself an efficient SPO and not interested to serve the Police department any more.
- Whereas, you were informed through the medium of a Notice issued by Dy.SP DAR DPL Reasi vide P/S office endst. No. DAR/N-05/2023/1174-76 dated 07.08.2023 through your local Police Station i.e P/S Ransoo and you have noted the same on 10.08.2023.
- Whereas, a Show Cause Notice has also been issued to you vide this office No. Estt/162/S-9/2023/52835-42 dated 04.10.2023 through your local Police Station i.e P/S Ransoo but nothing has been heard from your side.
- Whereas, you didn't bother to resume your duties despite of being noted which clearly indicates that you're non-serious towards your duties and not interested to serve more as SPO, there seems no logic to retain you in the rolls of SPOs of this District.

In view of the facts enumerated herein above this notice is served to you to show cause as to why you should not be disengaged from the service of SPO by this office, you are directed to resume duties and explain your position before the Undersigned in person within a week's time positively from the receipt of this notice. It will be the last and final chance if you want to say anything with regard to resumption of your duties as SPO. In case, no response from your side it shall be presumed that you have nothing to say in this regard and you are not interested to serve more in the department anymore and you will be disengaged from SPO service.

No:-Estt/162/S-9/2023/52835-66.

DIP/J-10222/23

(Amit Gupta)-JKPS
Sr. Superintendent of Police
Reasi

EDITORIAL

BIGGEST
CHALLENGE

Terrorism is continuously spreading in India at a high level, but it is also spreading not only in India but also at the international level. It is becoming a cause of problems for the people. Due to which there is fear and panic among the people. Some communities together that carry out some man-made incidents are called terrorism.

The way India is facing a lot of challenges. Like poverty, population, growth, illiteracy and equality, the biggest challenge is terrorism. Be it a big or small country, people in every country have to face problems every day due to terrorists.

Terrorism is at its highest level in India, but now it has become an international problem not only in India. Fear and panic among people is continuously increasing. Terrorism is a group that is formed by people together and spreads violence. Such as riots, theft, rape, kidnapping, fight, quarrel, bomb blasts, all these accidents are called terrorism.

The biggest objective of terrorism is to destroy the social and political system. Its biggest impact is on the general public. Terrorists work only to tell all this to the government of the country, but the common people are oppressed. Because of which someone's brother, someone's sister, someone's mother, someone's father can get hurt and no one has anything to do with all this. Due to this, he hesitates to leave the house and fear spreads among them.

In 2001, terrorists entered the country's most secure building, Parliament House, during the day and there was an encounter with police and security personnel. In which many terrorists were killed, at that time an atmosphere of panic was created in the entire Parliament.

In 2006, Mumbai local train was targeted and 7 bombs were blasted in 11 minutes. In which many children, old women and young people lost their lives. In 2008, terrorists entered Mumbai's Hotel Taj and Hotel Oberoi, and held many people captive there for several days.

Pulwama terrorist attack took place on 14 February 2019. About 36 soldiers were martyred in this attack and many soldiers were also injured.

There is a very long list of terrorism attacks in India. In this, many small children are given wrong education and they are made terrorists when they grow up. In this, money is given to people and terrorist work is done, bomb blasts are carried out. Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi were assassinated due to terrorism.

The best solution to end terrorism is to give the best education to everyone. When everyone gets good education, their thinking will change, their power of thinking and understanding will change and they will be able to walk on the right path because an educated person can never lose his/her life. Does not do bad nor thinks about the bad of others.

To deal with terrorism, all the countries will have to remain united and they will have to work together. In India, Anti-Terrorism Day is celebrated on 21st May, because a single person cannot fight this problem, only when everyone will fight together, this problem will be solved. Will be able to get rid of.

The country always spends a lot of money to eliminate the problem of terrorism, but no solution has been found. The epidemic is spreading like a disease. If we really want to stop terrorism, we should be fully responsible, and it will be stopped only when no one will ever fall for the greedy words of some bad and troubled people and will do all the work with their own thinking.

To integrate border areas, devise a new philosophy

By: Claude Arpi

French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau had once said: "Nothing is so gentle as man in his primitive state, when placed by nature at an equal distance from the stupidity of brutes and the fatal enlightenment of civil man."

Jawaharlal Nehru too was a romantic; he wrote thus about the inhabitants of the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA): "I am not at all sure which is the better way of living, the tribal or our own. In some respects, I am quite certain theirs is better... There is no point in trying to make of them a second-rate copy of ourselves."

Though constitutionally a part of Assam, in the 1950s the NEFA was administered by the ministry of external affairs, with the governor of Assam, seconded by a senior officer (often from the ICS), designated as an adviser to the governor.

In 1955, Dr Verrier Elwin, the famous British anthropologist who had just taken Indian citizenship, joined as adviser for tribal affairs. Verrier's concept of the development of these areas was expounded in his celebrated book, *The Philosophy of NEFA*, which became a sort of "bible" for all the officers serving in the NEFA.

Near 70 years later, one realises that this romantic view of the border areas amounted to the segregation of a large chunk of the Indian population. Verrier Elwin and Nehru only looked at the anthropological side of the problem, forgetting the strategic as well as the economic aspects of border development; it resulted in a huge development gap between the frontier areas and the rest of India.

All factors, including military, need to be taken into consideration

to arrive at a holistic "philosophy".

However, the first Prime Minister took an excellent initiative: he created a separate cadre for India's frontier areas, namely NEFA, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan: "These primitive people especially have to be dealt with care and friendliness and require expert knowledge which our average administrator does not possess. Hence the necessity for a specially trained cadre."

It was the Indian Frontier Administrative Service (IFAS). This was shut down in the 1960s.

Today India is changing fast, particularly the border areas. One could say that the New Philosophy of the Northeast (this is also valid for Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh or Ladakh) is at present being rewritten and this time it should not to segregate the border populations but to integrate them into India.

Take the example of the Chumig Gyatse Holy Waterfalls in the Yangtse sub-sector of Tawang. This is one of the most sacred places in Arunachal Pradesh, blessed by Guru Padmasambhava, the great yogi and tantric master who lived in the 8th century AD; it has now been opened to visitors.

The Great Guru extensively visited the border areas and his legacy can still be found in many places (for example, the Taktsang monastery near Tawang, Rewalsar in Himachal Pradesh or Gurudongmar in Sikkim).

On the exact spot where the Guru is said to have created 108 waterfalls, the Yangtse clash took place between the Indian Army and the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) on the night of December 9, 2022.

Several other border areas are now being opened to visitors.

An article in a national newspaper mentions: "The Indo-Tibetan

Border Police (ITBP) has decided that tourists, mountaineers, and trekkers will no longer need an Inner Line Permit to visit Milam Glacier [located at 18,000 feet]. The Inner Line Permit has been one of the most mandatory requirements for decades now. It is one of the most famous places for adventure enthusiasts in the Kumaon Himalayas [of Uttarakhand]."

The article explains: "The Inner Line Permit requirement had many adverse effects on the tourism sector." But it goes beyond that: these areas are within Indian territory and there is no reason why permission should not be required to visit them. The "susceptibility" of the northern neighbour should not be New Delhi's concern.

Interestingly, one newspaper had reported in 2015: "As villages along the international border in Uttarakhand face out-migration on an unprecedented scale, uninhabited areas lie open to territorial claims by the Chinese."

The reporter had studied the case of Niti, the last Indian village, located 26 km south from the Niti Pass which demarcates the border between Tibet and India, 88 km from Joshimath. For centuries, the village saw traders, pilgrims and officials freely moving between the two countries and the area flourished. Unfortunately, all this stopped in 1962.

In 2015, only 35 families remained in the village, while a few decades ago there were 250. After the trade with Tibet (today China) stopped, the area is virtually closed to outsiders and slowly it became a "ghost" region, with most young people moving to the plains in search of education or a better life.

Hopefully, the "philosophy" is changing fast and the village can now develop with eco-tourism.

In Ladakh too, the UT adminis-

tration along with the Indian Army and the ITBP are making all-out efforts to change the trend to stop the out-migration. For example, on July 15 and 16, a Nomadic Festival 2023 took place not far from the Line of Actual Control in Hanle, famous for its observatory and white cranes. It was open to any visitor who could witness cultural troupes from different villages in Changthang presenting dance, songs and traditional sports: "The main focus of the festival was to present a kaleidoscopic view of the nomadic lifestyle and traditions of the people of the region... Nomadic communities in Ladakh lead a challenging but self-sufficient lifestyle, adapting to the harsh climatic conditions and high altitudes. They have a deep connection with nature and maintain a strong sense of community and cultural identity," said a release.

A couple of months later, Umlingla, the world's highest motorable road at 19,024 feet, entered a Guinness World Record by hosting the World's Highest International Fashion Runway, under the Vibrant Ladakh Festival.

All this is good for the local population as well as the defence forces: a populated border is a stronger border.

But the real factor that the Government of India, the UT administration and other stakeholders should not forget to keep in prime focus is the environment. Nobody wants to see another Joshimath or Chunthang (Sikkim), where a number of people lost their lives due to man-made disasters.

And perhaps the government should also think of re-creating an IFAS cadre, with motivated and dedicated officers ready to serve at the remote borders of India.

How Israel's war against Hamas is roiling politics in Britain

By: Farrukh Dhondy

Yes, the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, the bombings of civilians and the war crimes of Vladimir Putin and gang -- not to mention the cannon fodder they have made of their own young and old men -- compelled the world to take political sides. Yes, the sides were sometimes not very clear. Some of those who supported Russia's attempt to annex Ukrainian territory insisted that it was preventing Nato from attacking Russia. Others, though sympathetic to the Ukrainian civilians criminally bombed by Russian missiles, still maintained that America was responsible for Russia's actions... and so weiter!

The conflict in Israel-Palestine has divided the world, not only through political allegiances and points of view, but morally, religiously and with interpretations of history and even pre-history as considerations.

The stances of Joe Biden and the United States were predictable. They voiced absolute support for Israel after Hamas launched its murderous attack across the Gaza borders, killed a few hundred people and took perhaps 140 hostages. The high command of Hamas undoubtedly knew that the Israeli government of Behnchomin (sic) Netanyahu would respond with a slaughter of Palestinian civilians, the blockade of food,

water, medicines, power, etc, and even an invasion of Gaza. Hamas seemed to want to provoke such retaliation, calculating that it would divide the world into open pro and anti-Israeli factions and alter the balance of world politics.

Would that inevitable change or factionalisation benefit the Palestinians in the end?

I have heard idiot British conservatives, some of whom I have counted as friends, despite our diametrically opposed political stances, saying that the Israelis should purge the Gaza Strip of all Palestinians and even that Iran should be obliterated by nuclear bombs. Yes, gentle reader, mad! -- but not untypical of the less cautious members of the party of Hedgie Sunoch and Cruella Cowardperson.

Hedgie pledged his unwavering support to Israel, taking a moral stand against Hamas' terrorism. His stance has nothing to do with the fact that Britain sells heaps of armaments to Israel and certainly nothing to do with the fact that Mrs Hedgie gets millions of pounds in unearned dividends from her shares in Infosys which has deep and remunerative contracts in Israel. Anyone who suggests that Hedgie's morality is influenced by these two capitalistic or personal concerns should be immediately deported to Rwanda.

Cruella, the home secretary, has repeatedly announced that

Hamas is a terrorist organisation and that anyone supporting it will be dealt with. She hasn't in this instance mentioned Rwanda, but we know that she dreams of sending people she doesn't like to that country, we can assume that she dreams about doing just that. Her dreams are of course (sic) a personal matter, but she has instructed the police, who must obey her, to arrest and charge anyone who utters a word in support of Hamas.

Now, gentle reader, there have been mass demonstrations in all British cities in support of Palestine and against the Holocaust-ish bombing of Palestinians in Gaza and now in the West Bank. The majority of these demonstrations vociferously demand the ceasing of the bombing and the end of the blockade which has starved Palestinians of the necessities of life. Of course, a few chanted pro-Hamas slogans.

Cruella was incensed that the police hadn't arrested those of the 120,000 people who demonstrated in London, who had chanted these slogans. She called the London Metropolitan Police chief to remonstrate. He is supposed to have explained to her that the law didn't proscribe having opinions. Nevertheless, a dozen or so foreign nationals have now been earmarked for deportation to their native countries for shouting things like "Viva Hamas". I sincerely

doubt if these shouts would have brought the walls of Jericho, or the Houses of Parliament tumbling down, but there we are -- dreams must come somewhat true.

The leadership of the Opposition Labour Party, virtually a government in waiting, hasn't had an easy ride over the issue. Sir Keir Starmer, the Labour leader, went on the radio when the dispute began to say that Israel was quite justified to starve Gaza of water, food and medicines. Whoops! Scores of Labour councillors resigned from the party. It was clear that very many of Starmer's Labour MPs disagreed with his anti-humanitarian stance.

What impelled this worthy to put his foot embarrassingly in his mouth?

Sir Keir has in the years since the disastrous humiliation of Labour at the polls in 2019, been an anti-anti-Semitism crusader. He went as far as to expel Jeremy Corbyn from the party alleging that he was unrepentant about alleged anti-Semitism during his former leadership of the party. The purge of supposed anti-Semites continued. But this statement was a step too far. Muslim Labour MPs objected to Sir Keir's statement and he immediately backtracked, "clarifying" his stance by insisting he had been misunderstood and of course humanitarian aid should reach the beleaguered Palestinians. He publicly called for restraint in the Israeli reaction.

Doda Police organizes band show in memory of police martyrs

TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Oct 28: Doda Police organized a "Band Show" at different prominent places in Doda Town in the loving memory of those Police Martyrs who have laid down their lives for the peace, prosperity and sovereignty of nation.

The event was organized by Susheel Kumar DySP DAR Doda under the guidance of Abdul Qayoom, SSP Doda.

In this event, Police Band contingent of District Police Doda in colourful ceremonial dress displayed the 'Show'



with patriotic songs at different prominent locations in the Town which was witnessed by huge gathering of locals.

The aim of organizing this event was to spread

the message of oneness, patriotism besides highlighting the bravery of Martyrs who have lost their precious lives and given their today for our tomorrow.

Pertinently, Doda Police has been organizing a number of programmes in the memory of police martyrs and to pay respect and homage to them.

Amar Singh Club organizes expo 'Panache'

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 28: Amar Singh Club Jammu on Saturday organised a two-day gala event, an expo "Panache" on the eve of Karwa Chauth and upcoming Diwali Festival.

"Panache" exhibition is exclusively organised to give all the empowered and upcoming women entrepreneurs to showcase and sell their products.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar along with Secretary of the Club Anil Kapahi and other executive members of the club.



Various stalls were put up to display top clothing brands designer wear, bangles, makeup articles and designer kitchen wares.

Besides this, Tarot card readers and Mahendi artists were also present.

The event was managed by Pans & Pots co., P.P Concepts in association by Kaushvi events and was supported by Print & Copy (printing Partner), Asura Studios (Designing & Digital Art). The Food Court was

managed by Gaurav Gumble.

Ramesh Kumar applauded the role of women as entrepreneurs and stressed upon the need to bring them on such platform more often to encourage and help them to get recognised in their respective business. He said a self built strong women is an asset to the nation.

Anil Kapahi thanked the team of club members especially Dr. Neerupama Dogra, Vikram Puri, Raman Gupta, Pooja Puri and all the people who came and became a part of this extravaganza.

SBI Card announces Festive Offer 2023

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 28: SBI Card, India's largest pure-play credit card issuer, has rolled out many exciting offers for its cardholders across India for festive season 2023. Millions of SBI Card customers can take advantage of around 2200 merchant funded and cash back offers across online and offline merchants in key cities, including tier 2 and tier 3. The expansive spread of offers range across a wide set of popular categories including consumer durables, mobiles, laptops, fashion, furniture, jewellery, and grocery. SBI Card has lined up many EMI focused offers with several mar-

quee brands to ensure that cardholders can make large purchases with ease. Festive offer 2023 for SBI Card customers includes over 600 national level offers, and over 1500 regional and hyperlocal offers that will be valid till 15 November 2023. As part of this festive offer, SBI Card customers in over 2700 cities can benefit from up to 27.5% cash-back and instant discount offers across various partner brands that include Flipkart, Amazon, Myntra, Reliance Retail group, Westside, Pantaloons, Max, Tanishq, and TBZ, among others. Importantly, SBI Card's EMI focused offers are available across leading brands in consumer durables, mobile,

and laptop segments. Key brands include Samsung, LG, Sony, Oppo, Vivo, Panasonic, Whirlpool, Bosch, IFB, HP, and Dell, and many more.

According to Abhijit Chakravorty, MD & CEO, SBI Card, "As a customer-centric brand, we have always focused on ways to enhance our customers' overall experience. This includes continuously making their shopping experience more rewarding. SBI Card festive offer 2023 is a great example of our sincere intent to do so. We hope that this initiative will enrich and add to our cardholders' festivities."

To know more about festive offers by SBI Card, one can visit www.sbicard.com.

NC leader Naseer demands installation, repairs of street lights in Kishtwar

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Oct 28: National Conference Senior Leader Kishtwar, Naseer Bagwan alleged that Municipality Kishtwar have failed to provide the basic facilities including drainage, finished streets and street lights.

He said in absence of street-lights, People face problems to walk in lanes there particularly

during evenings.

He said that a few months back several high intensity street lights were installed in different parts of Kishtwar town including Bus stand to Dak Banglow, Hidyul Chowk, Faisalabad Chowk, Bagwan Mohallah, Malipeth, Umar Mohallah and other busy intersections which were aimed for proper lightning of busy streets and roads

are damaged and not working properly.

He said that Kishtwar town have maximum connectivity with interconnected streets like Jamia Masjid street, Gudhali, Kripak street, Tapple, Mattoo street and Akhyarul Aloom street but unfortunately no street light is in function for the night visibility in these links, said and added that in absence of street lights

everyone faces inconvenience especially during evenings he added.

We have many times urged the KMC to install street-lights in our locality but no action has been taken so far.

He appealed to the Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar to direct the concerned officials to install and repair street-lights on priority in our locality.

DC Kishtwar dispatches essential medicines for Marwah, Warwan Zone ahead of winter

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Oct 28: In a proactive and commendable initiative, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav, along with the presence of Chief Medical Officer Kishtwar, Dr. M.Y Mir today dispatched off essential supplies of medicines and heating appliances to Marwah and Warwan Zone in preparation for the upcoming winter season, from DC Office Complex Kishtwar here.

The event was attended by Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Balbir Kumar; BMO Dachhan Krishan Singh Katoch; and District Immunization Officer Kishtwar, Dr.



Sajjad in addition to the dedicated staff of the CMO Office Kishtwar.

Expressing his gratitude, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar extended his appreciation to the Jammu & Kashmir Medical Supplies Corporation (JKMSCL) for providing the essential medicines. This supply

is expected to benefit approximately 26,000 residents in the Marwah and Warwan areas.

Moreover, heating appliances have been dispatched to CHC Marwah, PHC Afti, and NTPHC Inshan, ensuring that healthcare facilities are adequately equipped to meet the

demands of the harsh winter. He added.

He further stated that, this initiative demonstrates the commitment of the local administration to safeguard the health and well-being of the residents in Marwah and Warwan, particularly during the challenging winter months.

Kishtwar Police launches special drive by affixing stickers on wrongly parked vehicles

TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Oct 28: In an effort to enhance road safety and reduce the alarming rate of traffic violations, Kishtwar Police, under the guidance of SSP Khalil Poswal, launched a massive drive against traffic violators led by SHO Kishtwar, Insp. Parvaiz Ahmed Khanday, spearheaded the initiative, supervised by DySP Hqrs Dr. Ishan Gupta, in collaboration with the traffic police lunched special drive targets various traffic violations, including vehicles parked on the roadside, failure to wear seat belts, riding



without helmets, triple riding, overloading and lacking essential vehicle documents.

SSP Kishtwar issued a stern warning to all vehicle operators in the district, emphasizing the strictest action against overloading. He further stressed

that traffic violators bear direct and indirect responsibility for fatal road accidents, which result in the loss of precious lives.

In an appeal, SSP Kishtwar urged parents to refrain from allowing underage children to operate

scooters and motorcycles, contributing to the menace of traffic violations.

He reaffirmed the commitment of the Kishtwar Police to continue this drive until all violators are guided to follow traffic rules and prioritize road safety.

GDC Kathua celebrates UT Foundation Day 2023

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Oct 28: In a bid to showcase all the positive changes that have taken place since the creation of Jammu and Kashmir as a Union Territory four years ago, Science Club of GDC Kathua, under the patronage of College Principal Prof. Seema Mir and under the aegis of Higher education Department, organized College Level and Distt Level activities to celebrate UT Foundation Day of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Distt Level event was inaugurated with the kindling of lights by Prof. Raj Kiran I/C Principal, Prof. Jaswinder Singh, IQAC Coordinator, Dr. Pankaj Gupta (Organizing Secretary), Prof. R. K Pandita, Prof. Sanjeev Gupta, Prof. Shivani Kotwal, Dr. Ram Singh, Dr. Deepshikha Sharma, Dr. R. K. Manhas, Dr. Anupama Arora along with other senior faculty members.

The activities organized by the college

included Essay writing competition, Photography competition, Painting and Videography competition under the theme "Badalta Jammu Kashmir: Aman aur Taraqqi ki Nayi Tasveer". Students from the colleges of Distt Kathua viz. GCW Kathua, GDC Marheen, GLDM DC Hiranagar, GDC Ramkote, GDC Billawar, GDC Basohli, GDC Mahanpur along with the Host College Participated with great enthusiasm.

Principal Prof. Seema Mir highlighted the positive changes that have taken place since the creation of Jammu and Kashmir as a Union Territory. She noted that the UT administration had carried out a number of extensive reforms and social programmes over the years, allowing J&K to significantly improve its services and infrastructure. While appreciated the role of organizing team, Prof. Seema Mir congratulated the winners of each activity.

Prof. Rakesh Singh,



Convener Science Club, encouraged participants to avail this opportunity to express themselves about the change they have witnessed during this period. He reiterated the people centric approach and urge to reach them to make them part of the wave of progress and development.

Prof. Raj Kiran Sharma, Chief Guest of the event praised the efforts of organizing team in organizing this distt level event. She

highlighted the development activities carried out in the college and UT during last four years.

She encouraged the students to actively participate in the activities which are extremely important for inculcating the spirit of patriotism.

At the outset, Prof. Shivani Kotwal, Convener Debate and Symposium Committee in her welcome address introduced the theme of the event and welcome the Chief Guest, Guest

of Honour, Participating students and faculty from the Host college and participating institutions.

In the Essay writing Competition, the first position was clinched by Ragni Devi of GDC Kathua whereas second and third positions were bagged by Konika of GDC Marheen and Riya of GDC Hiranagar resp. The event was judged by Dr. Deepshikha, Dr. Ram Singh and Dr. Chetna Gupta. Prof. Shivani Kotwal

and Prof. Shub Kumar were the incharge of the event.

In the painting contest, Tania Rajput of GDC Kathua grabbed the first position whereas 2nd and third positions were clinched by Lovely Thakur of GDC Ramkote and Rawani Jasrotia GDC Hiranagar respectively. The contest was adjudged by Dr. Anupama Arora, Dr. Ambica Sharma and Dr. Pankaj Gupta were

incharge of the event.

In the Photography competition, the first position was clinched by Rahul Singh of GDC Kathua whereas second and third positions were bagged by Susheel Kumar of GLDM DC Hiranagar, and Tinia Rajput of GCW Kathua. The Jury members of the event were Prof. Amrik Singh, Prof. Kaurab Singh & Prof. Jagdish Lal. Dr. Verinder Singh and Dr. Rachna were the incharge of the event.

In the videography contest, Lakshmi Devi GDC Kathua grabbed the first position whereas 2nd and third positions were clinched by Lalit Verma of GDC Basohli, and Shubam Kumar of GDC Marheen respectively. The contest was adjudged by Prof. Madhvi Manohar Lal, Dr. R. K. Manhas, and Prof. Sunita Devi. Dr. Suresh Sharma and Prof. Neha Bandral acted as the incharge of the event.

In the valedictory, the chief guest, guest of honour, other dignitaries and jury members

distributed the trophies to the winners.

The proceedings of the event were nicely conducted by Alisha and Ananya, NSS Volunteers.

At the end, Dr. Pankaj Gupta, Assistant Professor in Chemistry and Organizing Secretary expressed gratitude to Chief Guest, Guest of Honour, all attendees, participants and contributors.

The whole event was organized under the overall supervision of Prof. Seema Mir, Principal, GDC Kathua and by the combined efforts of Prof. Rakesh Singh, Convener, Dr. Pankaj Gupta, Organizing Secretary, and members of organizing team Dr. Roshan Lal, Prof. Shivani, Dr. Shub Kumar, Dr. Suresh, Dr. Neha, Dr. Verinder Singh, Dr. Rachna Devi and Prof. Neha Mahajan. Among others, who are present in the occasion were Prof. Himani, Prof. Manmohan Singh and Prof. Ritu Raj.

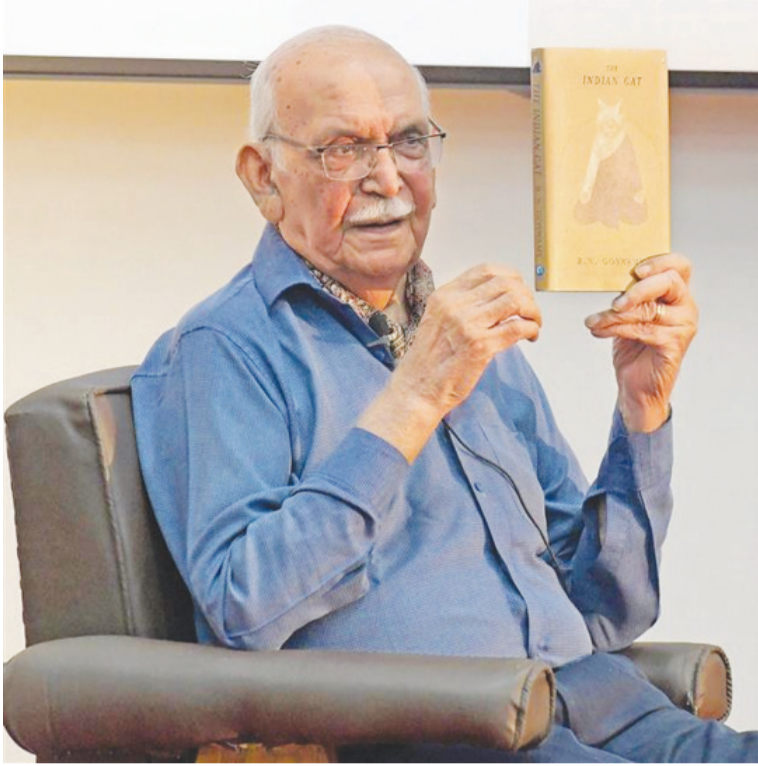
When renowned historian BN Goswamy releases his book, *The Indian Cat*, in Chandigarh to a packed auditorium, the only thing one can gather is pearls of wisdom

A purr-fect session! At the packed auditorium of the Government Museum and Art Gallery, Sector 10, cat-lovers are overwhelmingly outnumbered by cat-haters, but that is not a deterrent for the session to be thoroughly enjoyable. Not when renowned art historian Prof BN Goswamy is at the helm of things!

Not a cat-lover by his own admission, Goswamy talks about the cat, which according to him is an abstraction, just an idea for most people rather than the real thing. And with a 55-minute-long session, he contextualises its existence — in stories, in paintings, poetry and proverbs.

This 55-minute-long session also sums up his two years of research on this subject, which finally takes the shape of the book, *The Indian Cat*. His 27th! It has stories from the Jataka Tales, Panchtantra, Anwar-i-Suhayli and others. It also features a series of paintings (58 to be precise) from various artistic traditions, depicting the cat in various moods, and a selection of poetry by renowned poets like Mir Taqi Mir, Allama Muhammad Iqbal and Jibanananda Das, among others.

Feline love
But first thing first. How did a cat-hater get interested in the species enough to come out with a volume? In-between showing the slides of all his cat-centric paintings, he says, "I had visited a dear friend, Ursula Dohrn, in Zurich many



years ago. She loved cats, and had many. They were all over the place — sitting on the sofa, on her shoulder, generally lurking around, demanding attention. When I complained to her about distractions they caused, Ursula told me 'You are an art historian, Brijinder, are you not?' When I replied in affirmative, she told me, 'Then, you should love cats: all art historians do. Annemarie Schimmel does: she has in fact even written more than one book on them. Stella Kramrisch is a cat-lover too. The next day a book was delivered to my apartment. Annemarie Schimmel's work — Die Orien-

talische Katze."

Though Ursula's comments stirred his feelings, it was great Sanskrit scholar, C. Sivaramamurti, who introduced him to the term marjara-nyaya. Marjara in Sanskrit means cats. Marjara-nyaya refers to the behaviour of a kitten, who submits itself to its mother as it is picked up by the scruff of the neck. In Vaishnava bhakti, when a devotee approaches God in utter surrender, he or she follows marjara-nyaya.

Once the concept took roots in his mind, his involvement with cats started getting stronger in a more meaningful way. No, Gos-

wamy still does not have any pet cat. He is happy to deal with the idea of cats rather than the cats. He put his focus on Indian cats, though his search for the history of domestication of cats took him back to the 4000 BC Egypt.

History revisited
According to Goswamy, in India cat found a place in Buddhist literature. But most Jataka stories are unkind to the species. Goswamy's painting section, both in the book and the slide show, however, makes it up to them. The Mughal miniatures give cats a prominent place. Goswamy highlights a few paintings, which are essentially improvised versions of European paintings, in which cats become the signature stamp.

There is no clear reason behind the Mughal painters' insertion of cats into the European milieu, except for that cats are revered in Islam. Prophet Hazrat Muhammad loved cats and he had a pet cat named Muezza.

It seems Goswamy's book is righting the wrong done to the cats in ways more than one. He has dedicated one complete section to the cats to talk their mind about the proverbs and common sayings based on them. "If I were you, I would start reading the book from the last chapter."

He lets the cat out of the bag playfully, before ending the purr-fect session!

Tara Sutaria on playing the titular role in *Apurva*



As a young actress, Tara Sutaria says she is lucky to have bagged her first titular character in the upcoming movie *Apurva*, an opportunity she believes comes few and far between in the film industry. The 27-year-old, known for films such as *Student of the Year 2*, *Marjaavaan* and *Ek Villain Returns*, credited *Apurva* director Nikhil Nagesh Bhat and producer Murad Khetani for being by her side. "There is a huge responsibility to play a title role. But I also feel if you truly have belief, if

you really love what you do that responsibility is less. I am lucky to have the support system that I have had on this film. I had Murad sir and Nikhil sir to back me, support me, understand me and believe in me... I'll be very honest this has been an experience of a lifetime," Sutaria said.

Set in Chambal, *Apurva* is billed as the story of an ordinary woman who faces extraordinary circumstances and will do anything to survive. The thriller also stars Abhishek Banerjee, Rajpal Yadav and

Dhairya Karwa. Sutaria said playing the role of *Apurva* was challenging but the team made the process much easier.

"As a young actor, it's a unique position to be in because roles like this are not often written. When they are written, as a young person in this industry it's very exciting. You feel like this is the shot to get it right," Sutaria says.

"As an audience member, this is the kind of film I want to watch. This is different from how I'm perceived, therefore it's more exciting and rewarding... This is the kind of film I resonate with."

Growing up, the Mumbai-born actor said she was much more into theatre. If she wasn't at her ballet or singing class, Sutaria said she spent most of her evenings at the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) in Mumbai, watching musicals and operas.

But she has always connected with the thriller genre for some reason, "I love thrillers, edge-of-the-seat stories that make me feel excited. I love the horror genre as well. *Apurva* will start streaming on Disney+Hotstar from November 15.

Taylor Swift enters billionaire club with several historic achievements

Riding on the wave of success, country-pop singer Taylor Swift's annual income has crossed over \$1 billion, putting her into the 'billionaires' club.

The singer's Eras Tour has proven to be one of the most successful musical tours ever, generating millions, while her re-recorded versions of her previous albums *Speak Now* and *1989*, both being titled (Taylor's version), were also a hit.

In addition, the singer had already gained over a billion streams on Spotify, making her one of the 'most listened to' artistes ever.

This accomplishment is particularly monumental as Taylor is among the very few who've achieved such a milestone 'through music and performing alone.'



According to a Bloomberg report, the singer's 53 US concerts this year added \$4.3 billion to the country's gross domes-

tic product. The Eras Tour in itself is predicted to gross a staggering income of \$4.1 billion.

Beyonce to hold premiere of *Renaissance: A Film by Beyonce* in London

American singer Beyonce is holding two premieres for her highly anticipated concert film *Renaissance: A Film by Beyonce*. The world premiere will take place in London on November 30 and the US premiere will be held in Los Angeles on November 25. Days before Beyonce's Parkwood Entertainment and AMC Entertainment release the movie in theatres on December 1, these events will take place.

On November 9 at BeyonceFilm.com, tickets for worldwide regions, such as Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, South America, and the Caribbean, will go on sale. At her final show in Kansas City earlier this month, Beyonce unveiled the trailer for the concert documentary about her *Renaissance* World Tour, which is presently the singer's highest-grossing tour to date. Tickets are cur-



rently on sale in the US, Canada and Mexico.

Renaissance: A Film by Beyonce follows the superstar singer embarking on the monumental tour in support of *Renaissance*, the album that helped her become the most decorated artiste in the history of the Grammy Awards. Locations weren't announced for the premieres, but an invite for the world premiere in London included the dress code 'formal opulence'. The dress code for the L.A. premiere will be 'Cozy opulence' — a play off the singer's song *Cozy* from *Renaissance*.

Beyonce made an unexpected appearance at Taylor Swift's concert film premiere, *The Eras Tour*, earlier this month at The Grove's AMC Theatre.

Beyonce's tour began in Sweden in May and has earned rave reviews for the star's dance and

vocal performance, along with its detailed production and light work, dazzling costumes (new ensembles throughout the entire tour), and daughter Blue Ivy's special appearances. The tour, which has reached 2.7 million fans, trended heavily on social media and became another Beyonce pop culture moment, especially with its fashion as fans sported everything from disco cowboy hats to shimmering silver ensembles to metallic sequins. Paul McCartney, Zendaya, Tom Holland, Ariana Grande, Chris Rock, Selena Gomez, Issa Rae, Lizzo, Megan Thee Stallion, Pedro Pascal, a number of the Kardashian family members, Cardi B, Gabrielle Union, Lenny Kravitz, Frank Ocean, Kelly Rowland, and Tracee Ellis Ross were among the many celebrities who attended the live performances.

Sunny Deol, Bobby to appear on next episode of *Koffee With Karan 8*

The first episode of the famous talk show *Koffee With Karan Season 8* premiered on Thursday which featured power couple Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone.

The episode received a massive response from the audience and now fans are wondering who will be gracing the coffee couch in the next episode.

Well, Karan Johar just dropped a hint about the next guests on the chat show. On Friday, during an Instagram live session, he said that the next episode will feature the siblings.

However, KJo didn't reveal the names of the celebs, but as per recent buzz, the Deol brothers, Sunny Deol and Bobby Deol will be seen grac-

ing the famous *Koffee With Karan* couch in the next episode *Koffee With Karan Season 8*.

Sunny and Bobby earlier appeared on the chat show in the first season that aired in 2005.

During the live session, KJo also answered several fans' questions.

A fan commented that they would love to see cricketers on *Koffee With Karan Season 8*, to which he replied, "Will they come? I don't know. I'm not sure. I would love to have them. They are national icons, and celebrated illustrious personalities. But I think with what happened last time I'm not sure they will even take my call. I'm scared to even call and I'm such a big fan and have so much



respect in my heart. I don't want to be rejected." New episodes of the

show will be released every Thursday on the OTT platform Disney+Hotstar.

Rohal Pal gets candid about his character in *Campus Beats Season 2*

Rohan Pal, who essays the role of Figo in Amazon miniTV teen drama series *Campus Beats Season 2*, is enjoying his stint.

He says, "We started preparing for the show two months before it started."

There were a lot of acting workshops, dance rehearsals and look tests.

I took the challenge to find who Figo was by answering hundreds of questions for him, making that personality up, and dressing up as Figo, giving a very bold style statement.

Honestly, it has also taught me and given me something to live with even after the season.

In the show, I am a



bully, a rich kid, but it is not the case in real life.

So, in rehearsals, in safe spaces, in acting workshops, in my own home, in my room, I would practice for hours, thinking about things I could do."

He further commented on his character's graph change in the second season, "Until now, everyone who has seen Figo perceives that he is very negative in everything he does, and he doesn't have a soft spot for anyone."

This might change in this season, giving viewers a different side of his personality.

And to unfold how he changes; viewers must watch *Campus Beats*."

'My Soil, My Country': Centre's big plan in the offing

The soil will be used to create a unique garden, Amrit Vatika, in the vicinity of India Gate and National War memorial.

NEW DELHI, Oct 28 (Agencies): One of the biggest programmes of the Central government on national integration — Meri Maati, Mera Desh (My Soil, My Country) — will culminate in the lawns of Kartavya Path in Delhi, after a two-day function that starts on Monday.

Around 20,000 volunteers of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, along with representatives of state governments and local bodies, are expected to bring more than 8,500 kalash (urns) carrying soil from their villages and cities. The soil will be used to create a unique garden, Amrit Vatika, in the vicinity of India Gate and National War memorial.

On October 30, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan volunteers and representatives of blocks and urban local bodies will put their share of earth in one giant urn, or Amrit Kalash, which reflects the spirit of Ek Bharat



Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB), said Govind Mohan, secretary of culture ministry.

"The soil brought will be mixed in the large rotating Kalash prepared for the purpose. The mixture will be used to develop Amrit Vatika along the Kartavya Path at a designated site near India Gate and National War memorial. We have planned indigenous plants for the garden spreading over 12,000

square metres. It may take 4-6 months to complete the project," informed Mohan.

On October 31, the last day of the programme, the Ministry of Culture will organise a couple of cultural performances in the afternoon, after which Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the Amrit Kalash Yatris (volunteers) from 7,000 blocks of 766 districts and commemorate the brave hearts who laid

down their lives for India. The event will mark the culmination of a mega celebration — Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Commemoration and Celebration of 75 years of India's Independence — which was launched in March 2021.

A majority of volunteers will be travelling in special trains plying for the event. Some will take buses to reach Delhi. Nearly 4,400 participants are part of the state contingents travelling with the volunteers. However, there will be no official representation from the non-BJP ruled states and Manipur.

EBSB is an initiative announced by the PM for enhancement of bonding between the states, thereby boosting the unity and integrity of India. The ministry has also planned to build a memorial, a 75-metre-long wall with quotes of great leaders, along the Kartavya Path.

Shocked and ashamed that India abstained from voting for ceasefire in Gaza, says Priyanka Gandhi



NEW DELHI, Oct 28 (Agencies): Slamming the BJP government at the Centre for abstaining from voting in the UN for a truce in Gaza, Congress on Saturday said the stand went "against everything our country has stood for throughout its life as a nation".

"I am shocked and ashamed that our coun-

try has abstained from voting for a ceasefire in Gaza," Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi said in a statement posted on X.

Gandhi wrote that India was founded on the principles of non-violence and truth for which freedom fighters laid down their lives. "These principles form the basis of the Consti-

tution that defines our nationhood. They represent the moral courage of India that guided its actions as a member of the international community," the Congress leader said.

Gandhi said that to refuse to take a stand and watch in silence as every law of humanity was being pulverised, food, water, medical supplies, communication and power cut off to millions of people and thousands of men, women and children in Palestine annihilated, went against everything India stood for.

Gandhi cited Mahatma Gandhi saying 'an eye for an eye makes everyone blind' to remind the warring parties of the dangers of retribution.

Actor-politician Suresh Gopi apologises to woman journalist for misbehaviour

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, Oct 28 (Agencies): Actor-turned-politician Suresh Gopi on Saturday tendered an apology for his alleged misbehaviour with a woman journalist during an interaction with reporters, saying he only treated her with affection.

The former BJP Rajya Sabha MP said he had never been disrespectful to anyone in his life on or off the stage and apologised to her if she had suffered agony due to his behaviour.

He said he had treated the woman journalist affectionately in the presence of other mediapersons.

"But, in my opinion, whatever she feels about it should be respected. I tender an apology if she felt bad or suffered stress anyway. Sorry," Gopi, also a national award-winning actor, said in a Facebook post.

Earlier, Democratic Youth Federation of India, the youth wing of the ruling CPI (M), Network of Women in Media,



Kerala and Kerala Union of Working Journalists (KUWJ) condemned the BJP leader's behaviour.

The KUWJ had termed Gopi's behaviour an 'insult' to all working women and demanded an unconditional apology from him.

The row erupted after a video surfaced online purportedly showing Gopi placing his hand on the shoulder of the journalist, who pushes it away twice, during a media interaction in northern Kozhikode on Friday.

Fake abortion-inducing drugs valued at Rs 40 L seized in Gujarat

AHMEDABAD, Oct 28 (Agencies): Gujarat Food and Drug Control Administration (FDCA) officials have seized counterfeit abortion-inducing antibiotic drugs and medicines worth nearly Rs 40 lakh from two separate locations in Sabarkantha district of the state.

Two individuals have been detained for questioning in this regard.

The seizure was made on October 27, officials informed on Saturday.

Acting on a credible tip-off, the FDCA officials conducted a raid at a medical shop in the Girdharnagar area of Himmatnagar and the raid led to the confis-



cation of a substantial quantity of counterfeit antibiotic drugs, according to a statement issued by FDCA Commissioner H.G. Koshia.

The seized counterfeit drugs were purported to contain components such as cefixime,

azithromycin, and bacillus, and were estimated to be worth Rs 25 lakh, as per Koshia's statement.

Notably, these components are typically used to treat severe medical conditions. The medicines bore the name

of the manufacturer as 'Meg Life Sciences, Sirmaur, Himachal Pradesh.'

However, subsequent inquiries with the Himachal Pradesh drug controller revealed no such company existed.

Further raising suspicions, the shop owner, Harsh Thakkar, could not produce any sales or purchase records for these medicines, ultimately confirming their counterfeit nature, as detailed in the release.

Four samples of the confiscated medicines have been dispatched to a laboratory in Vadodara for thorough analysis.

Meanwhile, authorities are actively interrogat-

ing Thakkar to ascertain the origin of these fake drugs.

Later in the day, the FDCA team carried out a subsequent operation, this time raiding a residence located near Himmatnagar town hall.

During this operation, they seized abortifacient drugs and other medicines valued at Rs 12.74 lakh.

Further investigations uncovered that the owner of Swaminarayan Medical Agency, Dhaval Patel, had stored these medicines at his residence for illegal sale, operating without the requisite permissions from authorities.

Congress will pass bill guaranteeing protection of land, forests, tribal people's rights in Mizoram: Ramesh

NEW DELHI, Oct 28 (Agencies): The Congress on Saturday promised that if it forms the government in Mizoram it would pass a new bill in the very first session of the new assembly guaranteeing the protection of the land, the forests and the rights of the tribal people of the state.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the Modi government "bulldozed" amendments to the Forest Conser-

vation Act during the monsoon session of Parliament that evoked tremendous opposition and outrage across the country, even more so in the northeast.

The Indian National Congress promises that the first session of the new Legislative Assembly of Mizoram led by the Congress will pass a new bill that guarantees to protect the land, the forests and the rights of the tribal people of the state, Ramesh said.

As forests are in the



concurrent list, this bill will be sent to the President of India for assent under the provision of Article 254(2), he said.

This is what the Mizo National Front (MNF)

government should have done immediately after the Monsoon session of Parliament but didn't do it because it dances to the tune of the BJP, Ramesh alleged.

The Congress leader said that the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) will also not pass such a bill as "they are a party without an ideology, without a programme or an organisation for the people of Mizoram, and will compromise with the BJP in no time".

Polling for the 40-member Mizoram assembly will be held on November 7, and the counting of votes will take place on December 3.

Mukesh Ambani receives Rs 20 crore extortion call; death threat in case he fails to pay



MUMBAI, Oct 28 (Agencies): Reliance Industries Limited chairman Mukesh Ambani has received an extortion-cum-death threat

via email, officials said here on Saturday.

The email demanding Rs 20 crore threatens to shoot Ambani, 66, if he fails to cough up the

amount. A company source, while confirming the development, declined to comment saying the police are probing the matter.

A complaint has been registered by the Gamdevi police station and investigation has begun into the antecedents of the email threat.

In the past few years, Ambani and his family have been repeatedly threatened.

200-Crore Election "Freebies" Seized In 3 Weeks In Rajasthan

JAIPUR, Oct 28 (Agencies): Rajasthan Police seized election "freebies" worth 200-crore, including cash, liquor, narcotics and jewellery, since the Model Code of Conduct came into force on October 9, a top official said Saturday.

Leading a team of 12 officers, Inspector General of Police Vikas Kumar has formed a 'Storm Club' to keep a strict vigil across the state and ensure voters are not illegally influenced by the candidates during the campaign for November 25 polls.

"So far, we have made recoveries to the tune of 214 crore, which includes 25 crore cash, liquor worth 20 crore and jewellery and gold worth 20 crore," said Mr Kumar, a 2004-batch IPS officer.

Besides, drugs worth 60 crore, petrol, diesel and illegally stored fertilizer meant to influence voters were also seized across districts, added the officer.

He credited the officers working in the war room of 'Storm Club', an acronym for Supervision, Tracking, Operation, Recordkeeping, Monitoring, Control and Command, Liaison and Unified Base.

"This entire work is being done under operation MONACO (Monitoring of Nakas Augmented with Coded Operation). As many as 650 check posts with unique code and monitoring have been set up across the state and are under constant monitoring at the war room," he said.

The officer, who is credited with unearth-

ing a fake arms licensing scam in Jammu and Kashmir during a probe of underworld activities in Rajasthan, said illegal arms and ammunition were also recovered during the vigil since October 9.

Mr Kumar, currently Rajasthan Police's nodal officer to the Election Commission for expenditure monitoring, said the department has initiated certain schemes for rewarding the officers or naka party for the seizures.

"We have registered several cases for the seizures done as all of them were meant for election campaigning in the state," he said.

Rajasthan will be going to polls on November 25. The seizure of "freebies" during the last elections amounted to 65 crore.

Uttar Pradesh labourer dies as part of dilapidated school building falls on him



ETAWAH, Oct 28 (Agencies): A 22-year-old labourer was killed when a portion of a dilapidated building was pulling down fell on him in Uttar Pradesh's Etawah, police said on Saturday.

The work of pulling down the damaged building of a school located in Jajepura village was going on when the incident took place on Friday evening, Sahasraun Station House Officer (SHO) Vishnu Kant said.

The beam of the building suddenly fell on Himanshu and he died on the spot. His father, who was also working as a labourer, had a narrow escape, the SHO said.

A senior official rushed to the spot after getting information about the incident. The body has been sent for post-mortem, Kant added.

Man dies in custody in Uttar Pradesh, family alleges thrashed by police

PILIBHIT, Oct 28 (Agencies): The family of a 40-year-old man who allegedly died at a police station in the district claimed on Saturday he was beaten up in custody, a charge denied by officials.

The alleged incident took place at Barkhera police station on Friday. Bashir Khan alias Pahalvan, a resident of Paharganj locality, was detained by police based on his wife's complaint. Khan's family members alleged he died after being assaulted by police.

A complaint has been submitted to the police on behalf of Jameer, the brother of the deceased.

Meanwhile, Bisalpur Circle officer (CO) Satish Shukla said a panel of doctors con-

ducted the post-mortem of Khan and the procedure has been videographed.

Further action will be taken after an investigation based on the complaint received from the family members and the autopsy report, Shukla added. The police have denied receiving any complaints. They also rejected the allegations against them in this case and said the accused was a criminal.

According to the CO, around 20 cases related to serious crimes, including murder, and deadly assault, and under the Goonda Act, are registered against Khan in Pilibhit and neighbouring districts.

According to the complaint lodged by Jameer, Shabana, the wife of

Bashir Khan, had on Thursday lodged a complaint at the Barkhera police station that her husband was having an affair.

Police reached his house late Thursday night. It is alleged that the policemen dragged Khan out of his house, and punched and kicked him. The police then took him to Barkhera police station.

Jameer further claimed that he followed the police jeep to Barkhera police station, and when he met his brother, he was bleeding from his mouth and was lying unconscious in the lock-up.

As soon as the news of the death of the accused spread, his family members also reached the police station.

Hamas vows 'full force' after Israel steps up Gaza ground operations

US says 'not drawing red lines' for Israel

JERUSALEM, Oct 28 (Agencies): Hamas said on Saturday its militants in Gaza were ready to confront Israeli attacks with "full force" after Israel's military widened its air and ground attacks on the Palestinian enclave.

The Palestinian militant group that rules Gaza said earlier its fighters were clashing with Israeli troops in areas near the border with Israel after Israel reported intensified attacks in Gaza.

"In addition to the attacks carried out in the last few days, ground forces are expanding their operations tonight," Israeli military spokesman Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari said in a televised news briefing on Friday evening, raising the question of whether a long-anticipated ground invasion of Gaza may be beginning.

He said Israel's air force was conducting extensive strikes on



tunnels dug by Hamas and other infrastructure.

The armed wing of Hamas said late on Friday its fighters were clashing with Israeli troops in Gaza's northeastern town of Beit Hanoun and in the central area of Al-Bureij.

"The Al-Qassam brigades and

all the Palestinian resistance forces are completely ready to confront (Israel's) aggression with full force and frustrate its incursions," Hamas said in a statement early on Saturday.

"Netanyahu and his defeated army will not be able to achieve any military victory," it said refer-

ring to the Israeli prime minister.

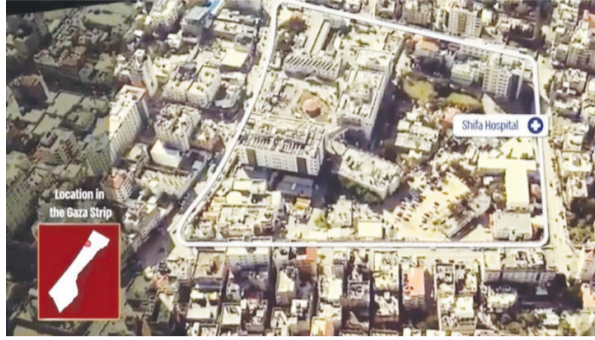
Israeli ground forces had massed outside Gaza, where Israel has been conducting an intense campaign of aerial bombardment since a deadly October 7 attack by hundreds of Hamas gunmen on Israeli communities near the strip. Israel says 1,400 people, mostly civilians, were killed and more than 200 taken hostage, some of them foreign nationals or with dual Israeli nationality.

Al Jazeera, which was broadcasting live footage overnight showing frequent blasts in Gaza, said Israeli air strikes had hit areas around the enclave's main hospital.

Agency was unable to verify the reports of the strikes near Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza City.

Israel's military accused Hamas on Friday of using the hospital as a shield for its tunnels and operational centres, an allegation the group denied.

Israel posts video of Gaza hospital, alleges it's Hamas' key operations base



TEL AVIV, Oct 28 (Agencies): Israel Defence Forces' (IDF) spokesman Rear Adm Daniel Hagari said the Hamas terror group's main base of operations is under Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, The Times of Israel reported.

In a briefing for reporters, Hagari said Hamas had many underground complexes under Shifa, the largest hospital in the Gaza Strip, which they are using to direct attacks against Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also levelled similar allegations against Hamas. "Hamas-ISIS is sick. They turn hospitals into headquarters for their terror.

We just released

intelligence proving it," posted Netanyahu on X.

Hagari also said, "We have concrete evidence that hundreds of terrorists flooded into the hospital to hide there after the massacres of October 7."

He said Israel has intelligence that there are many tunnels leading to the underground base from outside the hospital, so that Hamas officials do not need to enter the hospital to reach it. But Hagari added that there is also an entrance to the underground complex from within one of the wards, The Times of Israel reported.

"Hamas terrorists operate inside and under Shifa hospital -- and other hospitals in

Gaza -- with a network of terror tunnels," he said, adding, "Shifa is not the only hospital -- it is one of many. Hamas' use of hospitals is systematic."

Additionally, the IDF alleged that Hamas' internal security has a command centre inside Shifa Hospital, from which it directs rocket fire on Israel and stores weapons.

Hagari also levelled accusations against Hamas of using the hospital, with 1,500 beds and some 4,000 staff, as human shields.

"Hamas uses Shifa hospital as a shield for Hamas terror infrastructure," Hagari said, adding, "Hamas wages war from hospitals. By operating from these hospitals, Hamas not only endangers the lives of Israeli civilians; but also exploits innocent Gazan civilians. Hamas terrorists operate inside hospitals precisely because they know that the IDF distinguishes between terrorists and civilians."

Israeli military says warplanes are bombing 'Hamas tunnels' in Gaza, signaling new stage in offensive

JERUSALEM, Oct 28 (Agencies): Israeli warplanes bombed Hamas tunnels and underground bunkers in the northern Gaza Strip, the military said Saturday, signaling a further escalation in its campaign to crush the territory's ruling militant group after its bloody incursion in southern Israel three weeks ago.

Fighter jets hit dozens of underground targets, the military said. As part of the stepped-up bombardment, Israel also knocked out communications and created a near-blackout of information, largely cutting off the 2.3 million people in besieged Gaza from contact with the outside world.

The Israeli military said Friday it was expanding ground operations in the territory, another sign that it was moving closer to an all-out invasion of Gaza. Military officials have said a key target would be Hamas' extensive network of tunnels and underground bunkers, much of it located under Gaza City in the north of the territory.

Explosions from continuous airstrikes lit up the sky over Gaza City for hours after night-fall Friday.

The Palestinian telecom provider, Paltel, said the bombardment caused "complete disruption" of internet, cellular and landline services. The cutoff meant that casualties from strikes and details of ground incursions could not immediately be known. Some satellite phones continued to function.

Already plunged into darkness after most electricity was cut off weeks ago, Palestinians were thrown into isolation, huddling in homes and shelters with food and water supplies running out. Attempts to reach Gaza residents by phone were largely unsuccessful early Saturday.

Relatives outside Gaza panicked after their messaging chats with families inside suddenly went dead and calls stopped going through.

Wafaa Abdul Rahman, director of a feminist organization based in the West Bank city of Ramallah, said she hadn't

heard for hours from family in central Gaza. "We've been seeing these horrible things and massacres when it's live on TV, so now what will happen when there's a total blackout?" she said, referring to scenes of families that have been crushed in homes by airstrikes over the past weeks.

Israeli military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said ground forces were "expanding their activity" Friday evening in Gaza and "acting with great force ... to achieve the objectives of the war." Israel says its strikes target Hamas fighters and infrastructure and that the militants operate from among civilians, putting them in danger.

The Hamas media center reported heavy nighttime clashes with Israeli forces at several places, including what it said was an Israeli incursion east of the refugee camp of Bureij in the central Gaza Strip. Asked about the report, the Israeli military reiterated early Saturday that it had been carrying out targeted raids and expanding strikes with the aim of "preparing the ground for future stages of the operation."

Israel has amassed hundreds of thousands of troops along the border ahead of an expected ground offensive. Since mid-week, the military has reported nightly hours-long raids by ground forces into Gaza, saying troops struck Hamas targets with the aim of preparing the battlefield.

The Palestinian death toll in Gaza has soared past 7,300, more than 60% of them minors and women, according to the territory's Health Ministry. A blockade on Gaza has meant dwindling supplies, and the U.N. warned that its aid operation helping hundreds of thousands of people was "crumbling" amid near-depleted fuel.

More than 1,400 people were slain in Israel during Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, according to the Israeli government, and at least 229 hostages were taken into Gaza. Among those killed were at least 310 soldiers, according to the military.

Palestinian militants have fired thousands of rockets into Israel.

The overall number of deaths far exceeds the combined toll of all four previous Israel-Hamas wars, estimated at around 4,000.

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said Friday that Israel expects a long and difficult ground offensive into Gaza soon. It "will take a long time" to dismantle Hamas' vast network of tunnels, he said, adding that he expects a lengthy phase of lower-intensity fighting as Israel destroys "pockets of resistance."

His comments pointed to a potentially grueling and open-ended new phase of the war after three weeks of relentless bombardment. Israel has said it aims to crush Hamas' rule in Gaza and its ability to threaten Israel. But how Hamas' defeat will be measured and an invasion's endgame remain unclear. Israel says it does not intend to rule the tiny territory but not who it expects to govern — even as Gallant suggested a long-term insurgency could ensue.

In Washington, the Pentagon said U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin spoke with Gallant on Friday and "underscored the importance of protecting civilians during the Israel Defense Forces' operations and focusing on the urgency of humanitarian aid delivery for civilians in Gaza." The Pentagon said Austin also brought up "the need for Hamas to release all of the hostages."

The conflict has threatened to ignite a wider war across the region. Arab nations — including U.S. allies and ones that have reached peace deals or normalized ties with Israel — have raised increasing alarm over a potential ground invasion, likely to bring even higher casualties amid urban fighting.

With no electricity, no communications and no water, many of those trapped in Gaza had little choice but to wait in their homes or seek the relative safety of schools and hospitals as Israel expanded its bombing early Saturday.

Throughout the night, orange

fireballs exploded on the horizon above the apartment buildings and refugee camps of Gaza City, briefly illuminating clouds of white smoke hanging in the air from previous strikes. Some bombs hit in tight groups, apparently slamming into the same location.

Lynn Hastings, U.N. humanitarian coordinator for the occupied territories, posted on X, formerly known as Twitter, that without phone lines and internet, hospitals and aid operations would be unable to operate. The Red Crescent said it could not contact medical teams and residents could no longer call ambulances, meaning rescuers would have to chase the sound of explosions to find the wounded. International aid groups said they were only able to reach a few staffers using satellite phones.

The Committee to Protect Journalists expressed alarm, saying the world "is losing a window into the reality" of the conflict. It warned that the information vacuum "can be filled with deadly propaganda, dis- and misinformation."

The loss of internet and phones deals a further blow to a medical and aid system that relief workers say was already on the verge of collapse under Israel's weeklong seal. More than 1.4 million people have fled their homes, nearly half crowding into U.N. schools and shelters. Aid workers say a trickle of aid Israel has allowed to enter from Egypt the past week is a tiny fraction of what is needed.

Gaza hospitals have been scrounging for fuel to run emergency generators that power incubators and other life-saving equipment.

Gallant said Israel believes that Hamas would confiscate any fuel that enters. He said Hamas uses generators to pump air into its hundreds of kilometers (miles) of tunnels, which originate in civilian areas. He showed reporters aerial footage of what he said was a tunnel shaft built right next to a hospital.

16 killed in Kazakhstan mine fire, over 200 evacuated, 31 still missing

ALMATY, Oct 28 (Agencies): At least 16 people have died in a mine fire in Kazakhstan, ArcelorMittal Temirtau, the local unit of the Luxembourg-based steelmaker which operates the mine, said on Saturday.

Eighteen people have sought medical help, it said in a statement. Of the 252 people at the Kostenko mine, 205 had been evacuated and 31 had not been located by 10 am (local time), the company said.

Kazakh Presi-



dent Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, who expressed condolences to the victims' families, ordered his cabinet to stop investment cooperation with ArcelorMittal Temir-

tau. The Kazakh government said it was finalising a deal to nationalise the company that runs the country's biggest steel mill.

North Korea says criticism of its ties with Russia by US and allies 'distorted'



SEOUL, Oct 28 (Agencies): North Korea said on Saturday it was the "steadfast will" of Pyongyang to expand ties with Russia, criticising a recent condemnation by the United States and its allies on Pyongyang's suspected arms deliveries to Russia as politicised and distorted.

North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui denounced military cooperation between the U.S., South Korea and Japan, and said Pyongyang's relations with Moscow will act as a "powerful

strategic" element if security in the region is endangered.

The United States, South Korea and Japan have been stepping up trilateral security cooperation to counter the North's growing nuclear and missile threats.

North Korea and Russia pledged closer military cooperation when their leaders met in September in Russia's far east. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov met North Korean leader Kim Jong Un this month and discussed implementing the agreements reached at the summit.

"It is the steadfast will and stand of the DPRK to comprehensively expand and develop the bilateral relations with the Russian Federation," Choe said, adding that their ties will reach a "new higher phase through full implementation of the agreements." DPRK is the initials of the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"Eye-Opening Experience": US, South Korea Hold Future Combat Drills

South Korean and US troops held joint future combat drills that mobilised various high-tech weapons systems.

SEOUL, Oct 28 (Agencies): South Korean and U.S. troops held joint future combat drills involving drones, an unmanned vehicle and wearable laser sensors this week as part of efforts to modernise their militaries, Seoul's army said on Saturday. The training came as South Korea's military conducts a series of annual Hoguk autumn exercises aimed at improving responses to North Korea's nuclear and missile threats.

More than 120 soldiers from both sides joined forces to fight against a trained team of opposing forces in a mock-up town that appeared similar to the North Korean capital

of Pyongyang, built at the Korea Combat Training Centre in the mountains in the eastern city of Inje.

The drills also mobilised various high-tech weapons systems aimed at beefing up future combat capabilities, with the troops wearing multiple integrated laser engagement systems (MILES), which uses lasers to simulate actual battle.

Several drones were flown for reconnaissance purposes, some also firing an assault rifle, while South Korea dispatched a multipurpose unmanned vehicle to carry wounded personnel.

Choi Jeong-II, a captain of the



South Korean army's 25th Infantry Division, nicknamed the TIGER brigade, said the unmanned assets and the MILES gear helped identify enemies and gauge the allied troops' casualties.

"We were able to confirm the enemy's movements using the drones, and hit them with the cutting-edge strike equipment, which allowed us to maximise the results of the operation while minimising damage to our forces," he said.

First Lieutenant Derek Chen from the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team of the U.S. 4th Infantry Division said the drills offered an "eye-opening experience" and the

assets would be beneficial in future combat operations.

South Korea's army launched the TIGER brigade last year as a pilot unit for future warfare operations using artificial intelligence-powered drones and highly mobile fighting vehicles. It aims to transform all combat units based on that model by 2040.

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The army also held what it called its first international future warfare competition for five days until Saturday, participated by some 300 troops from five countries including Britain, Uzbekistan and Cambodia.

BJP Govt unnecessarily putting people in hardships: Bhalla

TOP NEWS REPORT

SURANKOTE, Oct 28: Congress Working Committee member, Tariq Hameed Karra and JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla on Saturday addressed mammoth public gathering at Surankote organized by JKPC Vice President and DDC member Shah Nawaz Choudhary.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include District Poonch Resident Rajinder Singh Kaka, Dr Jahanzaib Sirwal, Bilal Rashid, Fiaz Diwan, Ch Murtaz, Arif Kazmi, Tahir Mirza, Ch Naiz, Haji Javed, Waheed Shah, Mukadam Akram, Mula Khadam, Mohd Rashid, Madasar Choudhary, Asif Bajjar, Sikander Hayat, Ajaz Chouhan besides others.

Karra said that the process of systematic disempowering one region in Jammu and Kashmir goes on. He expressed that the level of disappointment among the residents of Jammu and Kashmir with the current LG administration has reached unprecedented heights.

Calling out the policies of the incumbent government, he said that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is different now, people are unhappy and disappointed in every region, youth are angry, chaos is everywhere, inflation is touching new heights.

"On the other hand, LG claims that 80 percent people are happy with him and they do not want assembly elections to be held."

He expressed his dissatisfaction with the current work culture in District Poonch, stating that the district's rank on the Good Governance Index reflects the lack of accountability among



government officers. He emphasized that without fixing accountability; the working culture cannot be improved, and urged for measures to address this issue.

Addressing the gathering, Karra said, "unemployment has broken all records. One day the recruitment process takes place, the second day it is cancelled and the third day the inquiry is started. People have

been left to fend for themselves with skyrocketing prices of edibles, gas, and other essential items. Electricity meters are also a strange spectacle, first digital meters were installed and it was said that nothing better could be done than this and now smart meters are being installed. The condition of ration is also very different. During our times, 11 kg ration was provided per person and an additional quota was provided at 15 rupees per kg, but now it is difficult to get 5 kg and an additional quota has been kept, but its price has been kept at 25 rupees per kg. It is higher than the market prices."

He highlighted concerns regarding governance, accountability, public services, and infrastructure development in the district.

"I assure you that Congress will ensure that the people of Jammu and Kashmir receive their rightful entitlements and everything necessary for

sustained peace, enduring prosperity, and equitable development in this region."

Expressing deep concern over the prevailing drug menace, he urged people to play their part in eradicating this social evil.

Bhalla in his address highlighted the prevailing challenges in different government departments, leading to inadequate services for

the people in whole of Poonch District particularly Surankote.

He requested the District Commissioner to hold all officers accountable for their responsibilities in implementing various public-related schemes. Bhalla raised serious concerns about the dilapidated condition of roads, failures in water supply schemes, frequent power outages, and the lack of adequate

healthcare facilities.

He also raised concern over the failure of the government to provide regular water supply to the people of Poonch, specifically in Surankote. He also highlighted the sub-standard quality of roads constructed in villages. Additionally, he also emphasized the urgent need to address the rising drug menace in the district, calling for effective measures to control and combat this issue.

Bhalla said that on the name of modernization government is unnecessarily putting people in problem. "We are not against taking new steps for social reforms but those should only be taken after ground is ready and all preparations are finalised" he said.

CB charge-sheeted Habitual cheater for luring for Govt job

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 28: Economic Offences Wing – Crime Branch Jammu produced 166 page charge-sheet in case FIR No. 60/2023 U/S 420 RPC P/S Crime Branch Jammu in the Court of law against accused Vicky Dogra, son of Tarseem Lal, resident of Ward No. 05, H No 19, Bishnah Jammu for inducing complainant with the promise of managing Govt. job for complainant against monetary considerations and ultimately duping him of his hard earned money.

The accused is a notorious habitual criminal and cheating innocent people, particularly the unemployed youth with false promise of arranging Govt jobs.

Brief facts of the case are a written complaint

was lodged by complainant - Parma Nand S/o Kaka Ram R/o Chhan Arorian Tehsil Hiranagar District Kathua wherein he alleged that he came into contact with accused Vicky Kumar Dogra who induced him that he would get him a loan of Rs 25.00 lakh sanctioned under the Kisan Resource Centre Scheme (KRC) and Rs 15 Lakhs under NGO Scheme and in case he failed to provide the loan then would manage Government job for the accused against monetary considerations. He ultimately cheated him and other innocent people by providing fake orders of Government Jobs.

On receipt of the complaint, a preliminary verification was initiated and the allegations were prima-facie established

and subsequently, the instant case was registered for in-depth investigation. During investigation - Oral, documentary and circumstantial evidence were gathered and it was found that accused Vicky Dogra allured and duped complainant and numerous other unemployed youth on the false promise of arranging them Govt. Jobs. The, offences u/s 420/ RPC have been established and proved against the accused and charge-sheet has been produced in the Court of law for judicial determination. The accused is habitual and notorious cheater involved in criminal cases registered against him in Crime Branch Jammu in which he has defrauded unemployed youth too of their hard earned money.

National Conference on "Role of Social Sciences in Managing Perception & Nurturing Peace in J&K' begins

TOP NEWS REPORT

BHADERWAH, Oct 28: The two-days National Conference on the "Role of Social Sciences in Managing Perception and Nurturing Peace in Jammu and Kashmir" commenced at Bhaderwah Campus here today.

The National Conference is a collaborative effort between the Bhaderwah Campus and Rashtriya Samaj Vighyan Parishad (RSVP) dedicated to the promotion of social sciences.

The event began with great enthusiasm and significance as Dhanantr Singh Kotwal, Chairman District Development Council Doda, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and inaugurated the

conference in the presence of eminent dignitaries including Prof. Rahul Gupta, Rector Bhaderwah Campus, Prof. Sheila Rai, Secretary RSVP, Co 4 RR, Dr. Nagendra Rao, and Dr. Kuljit Singh.

Dhanantr Singh Kotwal, Chairman District Development Council Doda, expressed his appreciation for the initiative and spoke on the occasion, highlighting the importance of such academic discussions in fostering peace in the region.

Prof. Rahul Gupta, Rector Bhaderwah Campus, delivered a formal welcome, expressing his delight at the esteemed gathering and emphasizing the institution's commitment to aca-

ademic excellence and addressing regional challenges. He also emphasizing the role of the armed forces in maintaining peace and stability in the region.

He said "The conference serves as a platform for diverse perspectives, enabling scholars and practitioners to engage in enriching dialogues on the critical role of social sciences in managing perception and nurturing peace," he further added that With a focus on the unique challenges and opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir, the conference aims to provide deeper insights into the socio-cultural and political dynamics of the region.

Additional Deputy

Commissioner Bhaderwah, Dil Mir Choudhary, also addressed the gathering, emphasizing the significance of such conferences in advancing the cause of peace and harmony in the region. "The conference will feature keynote speeches, panel discussions, paper presentations, and interactive sessions, with participation from prominent scholars and experts in various social science fields," he added.

Prof. Sheila Rai, Secretary RSVP, spoke about RSVP's role in promoting peace and shared her views on the perception of peace in Jammu and Kashmir, highlighting the importance of the conference in this context.

Dr. Kuljit Singh, Conventor of the conference in his address, provided an overview of the conference's objectives and the significance of addressing issues related to perception management and peace in the region. "The National Conference aims to bring together scholars, researchers, and experts from diverse backgrounds within the social sciences to explore the pivotal role these disciplines play in promoting peace, understanding, and harmony in the region of Jammu and Kashmir."

He said that participants will share research findings and engage in stimulating discussions on the practical applications of social sciences in con-

flict management and perception enhancement.

The conference will feature keynote speeches, panel discussions, paper presentations, and interactive sessions, with participation from prominent scholars and experts in various social science fields.

Present on the occasion were Dr Jatinder Manhas, Dr Neeraj Sharma, Dr Subash Chander, Dr Cherring Tandup, Dr Umesh Choudhary, Dr Sunil Bhardwaj, Miss Bablu Sharma, Dr Rohit Bhagat, Dr Shayan Javed, Dr Abid Sarver, Mr Mohd Avias, Dr Neeraj Kumar, Dr Ajay Lakhotra members from teaching and non-teaching staff.

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Indian Athletes Create History, Bag 111 Medals In Hangzhou Asian Para Games

bronze), Iran (131: 44, 46, 41), Japan (150: 42, 49, 59) and Korea (103: 30, 33, 40).

The first Para Asian Games was held in 2010 in Guangzhou, China, where India had finished 15th with 14 medals, including one gold. Four year later, India had finished ninth.

The only earlier instance of India crossing the 100-medal mark in a major international multi-sport event (Olympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games) was the 101 medals the country won during the 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games.

Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur said the performance was the result of forward-looking policies and the government's focus on the grassroots.

"This performance reflects the hard work of our athletes and the introduction of the right policies in sports under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Be it the Khelo India Scheme at the grassroots level or the Target Olympic Podium Scheme for elite athletes, the support extended through these schemes is indeed showing results now."

He added that the three-fold increase in the sports budget since 2014 had helped the ministry cater to the needs of the athletes better.

"The increase of sports budget by three times as compared to 2014 has also given us the ability to extend better support to all our athletes, be it in terms of coaches, training, foreign exposure, diet and infrastructure."

Paralympic Committee of India president Deepa Malik told PTI that the performance in Hangzhou gave her hope that the para athletes will bag more medals in 2024 Paris Paralympics.

"We have made history, our para athletes have done the country proud. We will win more medals in the Paris Paralympics than

in Tokyo," she said.

"However, it is not a surprise for us. We expected (to win) between 110 to 115 medals and we ended at 111, the auspicious number (Angel Number)," she added.

On Thursday, India had gone past the earlier highest Asian Para Games tally of 72 medals (15 gold, 24 silver, 33 bronze) achieved in the 2018 edition.

India won 39 more medals than the 2018 edition with athletics contributing 55 (18 gold, 17 silver, 20) out of 111.

Indian shuttlers contributed the second most count with 21 medals, including four gold. Chess and archery gave eight and seven medals respectively while shooting contributed six.

On the concluding day on Saturday, India added 12 medals, including four gold. Seven medals came from chess, four from athletics and one from rowing.

Neeraj Yadav began the day for India with a gold in men's javelin throw F55 with a Games record of 33.69m. Compatriot Tek Chand clinched a bronze with a personal best of 30.36m in the same event.

Neeraj was diagnosed with Post-Polio Residual Paralysis at the tender age of seven but he always had the inclination towards sports and played wheelchair tennis from 2005 to 2012.

His life changed after he participated in the 2015 Delhi State Athletic Meet, winning gold medals in each of the three events — shot put, javelin and discus throw.

The 39-year-old claimed a gold in javelin throw in the Asian para Games in 2018 before securing the yellow metal in javelin and discus throw in Marrakesh Grand Prix last year.

Dilip Mahadu Gaviot added another athletics gold winning the men's 400m T47 race with a time of 49.48 seconds. The 20-year-old from Nashik was only four-year-old when he had lost his right arm in an accident.

Born in a poor family of five members, Dilip found his calling when coach Vajjanath Kale spotted his talent during one of the inter-school events.

Dilip, who completed his schooling from Shahid Bhagat Singh School, went on to finish 4th in World Para Athletics Champi-

onship this year, earning him a Paris Paralympic quota.

Pooja then picked up the last athletics medal by bagging a bronze in women's 1500m T20 race with a time of 5:38.81s.

Chess players saved the best for the last with a seven-medal day, including two gold.

India swept all the three medals in men's individual rapid VI-B1 event with Satish Inani Darpan winning gold while Pradhan Kumar Soundarya and Ashwinbhai Kanchanbhai Makwana bagged silver and bronze respectively. The trio also bagged the team gold.

Kishan Gangoli won a bronze in men's individual rapid VI-B2/B3 event. Gangoli, Somendra and Aryan Balchandra Joshi won a team bronze in the same event.

The trio of Vruthi Saganlal Jain, Himanshi Bhaveshkumar Rathi and Sanskruti Vikas More won a bronze in women's rapid VI-B1 team event.

On Saturday, India also won the lone medal in rowing with Anita and Konganalle Narayana picking up a silver in PR3 mixed double sculls event.

India had sent 313 athletes at the Hangzhou Para Asian Games, the biggest in any edition with 51 Tokyo Paralympians in the team.

India competed in 17 out of 22 events, with the country fielding athletes for the first time in rowing, canoeing, lawn bowl, taekwondo and blind football.

Nearly 4,000 athletes from 43 countries are competing across 22 sports in 566 gold-medal events in the Hangzhou Asian Para Games.

The Hangzhou Asian Para Games were originally scheduled to take place from October 9-15, 2022 but were postponed by a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

BSF lodges strong protest with Pakistani counterpart over unprovoked firing along IB in Jammu

commander-level meeting at the Border Outpost Octroi in Suchetgarh, a BSF officer said.

'No civilian deaths': J&K DGP presents five-year report card

graph of terrorism that brought a bad name to J&K is also coming down to zero," the outgoing police chief said.

He said that this year, Operation Capacity Building was launched to lace the 43 police stations with the latest weaponry and anti-terror teams. "In the first phase, we covered 21 police stations and today, teams have been launched for the remaining 22 police stations. These police stations are being covered under zero terror plan," DGP Singh said as per KNO. He said that three terror incidents were reported in Anantnag district while 36 police stations showed a 100 per cent terror free record.

"The police stations covered under OP Capacity Building will have drone availability, latest weaponry and 14-member squad each for tackling terror incidents," he said, adding that with the help of these new teams, area domination will get further strengthened.

The J&K police chief said that the killing of 5 terrorists in Machil, Kupwara signifies that the enemy continues to disrupt the peace in J&K. "Our border grid is so strong and we will ensure all bids are foiled on the LoC," he said.

The DGP said that all the achievements police have achieved were impossible without public support.

"J&K police is the people's police, working for the safety of youth, people and the children who leave their homes for school for a better future. We urge people to continue their support to police for better tomorrow," the DGP said.

Terror module busted with arrest of four:

Punjab Police

killing," Yadav posted on X. The state police chief said the module was backed by Pakistan-based terrorist Harvinder Rinda who was providing them with logistical support with the help of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

"Drones were used to smuggle weapons from Pakistan," Yadav said.

FFMA holds executive body meeting, discusses future plans

office of FFMA where patriotic functions related to the freedom fighters are organized after regular intervals. He said during Corona period all the activities of the association standstill for the last two years and now we are preparing a future plan to revive all the activities with full strength.

Mandeep Bhandari appointed Additional Director to J&K Bank Board

Dattatraya Vaidya, RK Chhibber, Rajeev Lochan Bishnoi, Naba Kishore Sahoo, Umesh Chandra Pandey, Anil Kumar Goel, Anand Kumar, Sudhir Gupta and Shahla Ayoub.

3 drug peddlers arrested in Baramulla

Heroin-like substance was recovered from his possession," police said. Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law were registered at Police Station Kunzer & Baramulla and investigation has been initiated. Police in Baramulla had urged the common masses that if they witnessed drug peddling or any other crime anywhere, they should feel free to contact the nearest police establishment or dial 112.

Deepening ties: India's bilateral trade with Riyadh at all-time high

Saudi Arabia is pursuing an economic diversification strategy beyond hydrocarbons to newer domains exploring innovative investment tools and new collaborations from across the world.

NEW DELHI, Oct 28 (Agencies): India's trade outreach is fast becoming the centrepiece of its deepening relationship with the Middle East. In particular, India's relations with Saudi Arabia have seen an unprecedented growth in recent years, with a sharp rise in trade and investments. Saudi Arabia's abundance of natural resources, economic and cultural influence, its critical location in the Middle East and connectivity complement India's capability to provide cost-effective technologies, human resources, capital and marketing opportunities. India's growing economy, digital public infrastructure and institutional stability have made it a preferred trade and investment destination.

Saudi Arabia is pursuing an economic diversification strategy beyond hydrocarbons to newer domains exploring innovative investment tools and new collaborations from across the world. India was the fourth country after the UK, France and China to partner with the Saudis to establish a strategic partnership council in 2019. It is aimed at taking forward collaborations on economy and investments, apart from social, political and security issues.

Saudi Arabia contributes to India's energy security and India supports Saudi Arabia's food security. India imports 86 percent of its oil requirement and the Middle East accounts for over 60 percent of it. On the other hand, Saudi Arabia imports large parts of its food needs and manufactured goods including textiles. Therefore, the bilateral relationship is highly



sympiotic.

The Future Investment Initiative (FII), established in October 2019, has grown as a global platform for businesses and countries to identify areas to innovate in for sustainable and inclusive growth. The seventh edition of the FII, held during October 24-25 in Riyadh, had the theme 'the New Compass'. It looked at the emerging world economic order, provided a platform for dialogue between international businesses and leaders, and for trade and investment promotion.

Among the leaders, Piyush Goyal — Union minister holding the commerce, industry, textile, food and consumer affairs portfolios — was instrumental in forging trade and investment linkages between the two countries. Saudi Arabia is interested in Indian collaborations on lab-grown diamonds. Earlier this week, Saudi jewellery firm Dana Al-Alami partnered with Indian firm Green Lab Diamonds. Earlier this month, India and Saudi Arabia committed to exchanging electricity during peak hours, co-producing green hydrogen and renewable energy, and jointly establishing sustainable and

resilient supply chains.

The emerging multi-polar world faces a number of worries — the Israel-Palestine conflict, Russia-Ukraine war, US-China tensions, post-pandemic economic woes, and impending fears of a worldwide recession. In this scenario, an effective bilateral institutional mechanism for trade and investment between India and Saudi Arabia would be mutually synergistic and provide a much-needed economic boost to both.

India's credibility as a trade and investment destination received a major boost from a series of events hosted by India during its G20 presidency. Saudi Arabia is critical to establishing the ambitious new trade route — the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor — that was part of the G20 summit declaration. In recent years, structural reforms in Saudi Arabia on foreign investment, corporate governance and capital markets have increased Indian opportunities. India provides immense cost-effective opportunities for Saudi businesses in the fields of artificial intelligence, robotics, education, health and sustainability. India's trade with the Arab

world has touched an all-time high of \$240 billion. India is Saudi Arabia's second largest trading partner, with bilateral trade reaching all time high of \$52.75 billion in 2022-23. India's major exports to Saudi Arabia are motor vehicles, petroleum products, rice, organic chemicals, copper products, telecom equipment, buffalo meat and aluminium products; it imports crude petroleum, fertilisers, raw plastic, and organic and inorganic chemicals.

Despite the Gulf region being home to the largest Indian community abroad, its enormous economic potential remains underexplored. The six countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain — host over 8.8 million non-resident Indians, constituting over 66 percent of all NRIs. According to the Reserve Bank, the GCC accounted for about 30 percent of all foreign inward remittances in 2020-21. The large Indian diaspora in the Gulf, present at every level from the grassroots to top management, is keen to engage with Indian firms. This is an asset waiting to be tapped to its fullest potential.

Riyadh eyeing diversification beyond hydrocarbons Saudi Arabia is pursuing an economic diversification strategy beyond hydrocarbons to newer domains exploring innovative investment tools and new collaborations from across the world. India was the fourth country after the UK, France and China to partner with the Saudis to establish a strategic partnership council in 2019.

Tata to become 1st Indian iPhone maker as Wistron approves factory sale

The Tata Group is all set to manufacture and assemble Apple iPhones in India for domestic and global markets, announced Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar.



NEW DELHI, Oct 28 (Agencies): The Tata Group has acquired Wistron's operations in India, paving the way for it to manufacture and assemble Apple iPhones in India for both domestic and global markets. The announcement was made by Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar on social media platform X.

He said, "Within just two and a half years, Tata Group will now start making iPhones from India for domestic and global markets from India. Congratulations to the Tata team for taking over Wistron's operations.

Along with his statement, he attached a

press release issued by Wistron, where it announced that it held a board meeting and granted approval to its subsidiaries, SMS InfoComm (Singapore) Pte. Ltd. and Wistron Hong Kong Limited, to sign the share purchase agreement with Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL) for the sale of its 100 per cent indirect stake in Wistron InfoComm Manufacturing (India) Private Limited.

"Upon confirmation and signature of the relevant agreements by both parties, the deal will proceed to obtain the necessary approvals. Following the completion of the

transaction, Wistron will make the required announcements and filings in accordance with applicable regulations," the release added.

This announcement makes it official that Tata Group will become the first Indian firm to manufacture iPhones in India.

Chandrasekhar went on to credit Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the "visionary PLI scheme", stating that it has already propelled India into becoming a "trusted and major hub for smartphone manufacturing and exports".

"The Government of India, represented by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), stands fully in support in growth of Global Indian Electronics companies that will in turn support global Electronic brands that want to make India their trusted manufacturing & talent partner and to realize the PM's goal of making India a global electronics power," Chandrasekhar said.

This achievement not only marks a milestone for the Tata Group, but also reflects the growing prowess of India in global electronics manufacturing.

Vodafone Idea to invest big in 5G rollout: KM Birla

NEW DELHI, Oct 28 (Agencies): Vodafone Idea (VIL) plans to make significant investment in rolling out 5G networks and expanding 4G coverage in the coming quarters, its chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla said at the IMC event. "In the coming quarters, Vodafone Idea will initiate significant investments in order to roll out 5G networks and further expand 4G coverage across the country.

Moreover, the company is determined to realise the government's vision of estab-

lishing a robust supply chain in critical and emerging areas, including Open RAN (Radio Access Network)," Birla said. His comment comes at a time when VIL is facing financial difficulties and losing subscribers. Meanwhile, competitors Jio and Bharti Airtel are strengthening their positions in the highly competitive telecom market by offering 5G services.

Akash Ambani, Chairman of Reliance Jio Infocomm, in his speech at IMC said the impact of Prime Minister Modi's

call to establish India as a global leader in 5G technology has ignited a sense of energy and enthusiasm within the nation.

"We at Jio unleashed the fastest rollout of 5G witnessed anywhere in the world. Deploying a 5G cell every 10 seconds, Jio has installed over 10 lakh 5G cells across all 22 circles of India. I am humbled to share that Jio alone has contributed to 85% of overall 5G capacity in the country" Akash Ambani stated at the seventh edition of IMC.

Entry-level car sales revival vital for passenger vehicle industry: Bhargava

NEW DELHI, Oct 28 (Agencies): Maruti Suzuki (MSIL) Chairman RC Bhargava said that the revival of entry-level car sales is very important for the growth of India's passenger vehicle (PV) industry.

The Chairman expressed hope that demand for smaller cars will make a comeback in the next two-three years.

Bhargava signalled that without this, sustained high growth of the PV industry at 6-7% in a market like India

is very unlikely. "I have been told that the industry is not very optimistic and has projected stagnant growth for the next fiscal (FY24-25). I think this is partly because of degrowth in the smaller car segment," he said after MSIL reported robust figures for the quarter ending September 2023 (Q2FY24).

Hit by distress in the rural economy, rising prices and a shift in preference towards sports utility vehicles (SUVs), the sale of smaller cars this July-

September quarter hit a low of 35,000 units versus 77,000 units in the same quarter a year back, as per Siam data. This was a big drop of 75% from the nearly 1.38 lakh small cars sold in the same quarter of 2018. Maruti faced the maximum impact of this slowdown as it dominates this segment with models such as Alto, Celerio and WagonR.

Bhargava said given the kind of consumer and demography India has, the fact that we have 150-180 million

2W users, demand for entry-level cars has to come back. This can be achieved only if the unfavourable affordability factor gets eroded and the per capita income of consumers rises from the current level, he said. He expects competition (all other carmakers combined) in FY24 to grow at 5.5% while he is hopeful Maruti will clock a growth of 10% and sell over 18 lakh units. When combined with exports, it is likely to hit the 20 lakh milestone in

a single year this fiscal. Maruti net profit up 80% at Rs 3,716.5 crore in Q2

Maruti Suzuki reported an 80% year-on-year rise in net profit at Rs 3,716.5 crore in Q2FY24 on the back of better sales, softening commodity prices, cost reduction efforts and higher non-operating income. Net sales surged 24% to Rs 35,535.1 crore. The company sold 5,52,055 vehicles during the quarter as against 5,17,395 units in Q2 of last fiscal.

Subglacial meltwater flowing beneath Antarctic glaciers could accelerate retreat, study finds

NEW DELHI, Oct 28 (Agencies): Meltwater flowing out to sea from beneath Antarctic glaciers, or subglacial discharge, could be making them lose ice faster, researchers have found in a new study.

Modelling the influence of this subglacial discharge on the retreat of two glaciers in East Antarctica, the researchers found that it raised the glaciers' contribution to sea-level rise by 15.7 per cent -- from 19 millimetres to 22 millimetres -- by the year 2300.

The findings, relevant in a high emissions scenario featuring 20 per cent higher CO2 emissions by 2100, suggested that the subglacial discharge's influence was large enough to make a meaningful contribution to global sea-level rise, the researchers at the University of California San Diego's Scripps Institution of

Oceanography in the US said.

The East Antarctic glaciers, named Denman and Scott, together hold enough ice to cause nearly 1.5 metres, or 5 feet, of sea-level rise, they said in their study published in the journal Science Advances.

Current models making major sea-level rise projections, including those of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), do not take into account this mechanism of subglacial discharge, the researchers said.

Thus, it could mean that current projections underestimate the pace of global sea-level rise in decades to come, they said.

"Knowing when and how much global sea-level will rise is critical to the welfare of coastal communities," said Tyler Pelle, the study's lead author and a post-doctoral researcher at

Scripps. "Millions of people live in low-lying coastal zones and we can't adequately prepare our communities without accurate sea-level rise projections," said Pelle. In Antarctica, subglacial meltwater is generated from melting occurring where the ice sits on continental bedrock.

When subglacial discharge flows out to sea it is thought to accelerate melting of the glacier's ice shelf, which is attributed to ocean mixing that stirs in additional ocean heat within the cavity beneath a glacier's floating ice shelf.

The resulting glacial retreat can then contribute to and drive sea level rise.

The reason why this mechanism of subglacial discharge is not currently considered in sea-level rise projections is because many researchers weren't sure if its localised

effects were sufficiently large to increase sea-level rise globally, according to Jamin Greenbaum, co-author of the study and a researcher at Scripps Institution of Geophysics and Planetary Physics.

A key takeaway of the study, however, is the importance of what humanity does in the coming decades to rein in greenhouse gas emissions, said Greenbaum.

This is because their model found that in a low emissions scenario, the glaciers did not retreat all the way into the trench and thus did not result in making runaway contributions to sea-level rise.

"If there is a doomsday story here it isn't subglacial discharge," said Greenbaum. "The real doomsday story is still emissions and humanity is still the one with its finger on the button."

Excess fluoride in water linked to cognitive impairment in children

NEW DELHI, Oct 28 (Agencies): Long-term consumption of water with fluoride levels far above established standards may be associated with cognitive impairments in children, according to a study.

The research, published in the journal Neurotoxicology and Teratology, was conducted in rural Ethiopia where farming communities use wells with varying levels of naturally occurring fluoride ranging from 0.4 to 15.5 milligrams per litre (mg/L).

The World Health Organization recommends fluoride levels below 1.5 mg/L.

Researchers from Tulane University in the US recruited 74 school-aged children and rated their ability to draw familiar objects such as a donkey or a house, with scores reflecting

any missing details. They used a standard computerised memory test which is language and culture neutral as another tool to measure cognitive ability.

The study found that higher exposure to fluoride in drinking water was linked to more errors on the drawing and memory tests.

"The causal relationship between fluoride exposure and neurotoxicity remains unclear," said lead author Tewodros Godebo, assistant professor at Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

However, Godebo hopes these preliminary findings will spur more research into the potential cognitive impacts of fluoride exposure.

"Though further epidemiological studies are needed to validate the findings, these results

add to the growing concern about the potential neurotoxic effects of fluoride, especially during early brain development and childhood," Godebo said.

"These tests affirmed a clear association between high fluoride and cognitive impairment," he added.

Fluoride is essential for preventing tooth decay. However, its excess intake has been linked to lower IQs in past epidemiological studies in rural communities in China and India, the researchers said.

Past animal research has shown that fluoride can cross the placenta and blood-brain barriers.

In regions with no alternative water sources, this means excess fluoride exposure could be a chronic issue that

begins at conception, they said.

Over 200 million people worldwide are estimated to be exposed to high fluoride levels in their drinking water, according to the researchers.

The Ethiopian Rift Valley, where this study was conducted, is an ideal research area for investigations of potential impacts because those raised in the area have consistent exposure to stable, naturally occurring fluoride levels and share similar lifestyles with surrounding villages, limiting the risk of confounding factors.

Godebo hopes to replicate the results in Ethiopia with a larger group of children and study the cognition of children in low-fluoride Ethiopian communities for potential signs of cognitive impact.

Asian Para Games: India creates history, cross 100 medals

India have claimed 26 golds, 29 silvers and 45 bronze medals.

HANGZHOU, Oct 28 (Agencies): Indian para-athletes on Saturday created history as they claimed their 100th medal of the Asian Para Games in Hangzhou with Dilip Mahadu Gavit claiming a gold medal.

Gavit won a gold medal in Men's 400m T47 event. He claimed the prestigious gold with a brilliant run time of 49.48 secs. For the first time, the Indian para contingent has won 100 medals, making this their most successful Para Asian Games campaign to date. At the time of publishing, India have claimed 26 golds, 29 silvers and 45 bronze medals.

The fact that India's para-athletes have surpassed the 100-medal milestone in the Asian Games is what makes this feat so noteworthy in the ongoing 4th Asian Para Games. The previous greatest medal haul for the country came at the 2018 Para Games in Jakarta. Back then, 72 medals were won, including 15 golds, 24 silvers, and 33 bronzes.

The feat was congratulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi who said these triumphs would be an inspiration for all.

"100 MEDALS at the Asian Para Games! A moment of unparalleled joy. This success



is a result of the sheer talent, hard work, and determination of our athletes. This remarkable milestone fills our hearts with immense pride. I extend my deepest appreciation and gratitude to our incredible athletes, coaches and the entire support system working with them. These triumphs inspire us all. They serve as a reminder that nothing is impossible for our youth" the Prime Minister said in a post on X.

Meanwhile, the flurry of medals on the last day of the prestigious Games continued for India as rowers Anita and Narayana Konganapalle bagged a silver medal in PR3 Mixed Doubles Sculls on Saturday. The mixed doubles pair claimed a podium finish with the timing of 8:50.71.

Suyansh Narayan Jadhav won India's first gold medal in swimming at the sporting event on Friday, clocking a performance time of 32.22 seconds in the

Men's 50m Butterfly-S7 category. Solairaj Dharmaraj won India's 25th gold medal and 98th overall at the Asian Para Games 2023 by setting a new Asian and Games record in the Men's Long Jump T64 category with a leap of 6.80m.

The Indian contingent will look to continue its winning streak in Athletics, Chess, and Rowing on Saturday.

Indian para-athletes won a total of 17 medals, including 7 gold, 6 silver, and 4 bronze medals on Friday. Sheetal Devi started the day on a high note, earning gold in the Archery compound open event. Dharmaraj Solairaj won gold in the men's long jump T-64 event with a leap of 6.80 metres.

Nitesh Kumar and Tarun from India won gold in men's doubles SL3-SL4 badminton. India dominated the men's Badminton singles SL3 tournament, with two podium finishes. Pramod Bhagat won the coveted gold medal, while Nitesh Kumar took home the silver. Thulasimathi won gold in the Badminton women's singles SU5 division, defeating China's Quixia Yang 2-0. Earlier, Raman Sharma won gold in the men's 1500m T-38 event with a time of 4:20.80.

Cricket World Cup 2023: Harbhajan Singh Says "Bad Umpiring Cost Pakistan This Game". South Africa Great Reacts



NEW DELHI, Oct 28 (Agencies): Pakistan suffered a shocking one-wicket defeat against South Africa in their ODI World Cup 2023 match on Friday. Chasing 271, Pakistan gave their best bowling effort to restrict the Proteas but Aiden Markram's 91-run knock and Keshav Maharaj's boundary helped them seal a win in the 48th over. Apart from this thrilling chase, this match also grabbed a lot of limelight when Tabraiz Shamsi survived a close leg-before appeal that went to umpire's call off fast bowler Haris Rauf with eight needed. The incident took place on the final ball of the 46th over.

Commenting on the situation, former India spinner Harbhajan Singh did not mince his words while criticizing the bad umpiring, which eventually "cost Pakistan this game".

"Bad umpiring and bad rules cost Pakistan this game. @ICC should change this rule .. if the ball is hitting the stump

that's out whether umpire gave out or not out doesn't matter.. otherwise what is the use of technology???" tweeted Harbhajan.

However, Harbhajan's words did not go well with former South Africa skipper Graeme Smith as he immediately gave a reference of the LBW dismissal of Rassie Van Der Dussen.

"Bhaji, @harbhajan_singh I feel the same as you on umpires call, but @Rassie72 and South Africa can have the same feeling.?" tweeted Smith.

During the 19th over, Rassie Van Der Dussen was declared LBW out after he was struck on the pads off Usama Mir's delivery. The Proteas batter took the DRS but the decision came as the umpire's call and Rassie had to depart.

Harbhajan also shared his verdict on van der Dussen's dismissal, saying that the batter was not out. The former India spinner added that the technology was used to save the umpire, rather than the batter. "He was not out according to me .. but tech was there to give him out as umpire gave him out.. otherwise umpire would hv looked bad for wrong decision.. they saved the umpire there not the player who could have won the game easily for SA," Harbhajan added.

The win took South Africa top of the table with 10 points from five wins in six matches.

Pakistan, however, have lost four in succession after opening the tournament with back-to-back wins.

They have four points and will need results to fall in their favour if they are to sneak into the semi-finals.

South Africa all but pip Pakistan out of World Cup with narrow win

This is S Africa's first WC win against Pakistan since the 1999 edition

CHENNAI, Oct 28 (Agencies): South Africa took the first giant step towards shedding the eternal chokers tag as they pushed Pakistan towards the World Cup exit door winning a hum-dinger of a contest by solitary wicket here on Friday.

This is South Africa's first World Cup win against Pakistan since the 1999 edition while Babar Azam's men's fourth loss on trot is country's first in global event. Pakistan are on four points from six games and even if they win all three games, there is less than five percent chance of them qualifying for the last four stage.

What looked like a straightforward chase of 271, suddenly became the closest game of the tournament as Proteas slumped from 235 for 5 to 260 for 9, thanks to an inspired phase of high quality pace bowling by Shaheen Shah Afridi (3/45) and Haris Rauf (2/62).

However, Keshav Maharaj (7 not out) and Tabraiz Shamsi (4 not out) added the 11 most precious runs of their career to notch up a special win in 47.2 overs and also take the team to top of points table with 10 points.

"This is not just four most important runs that I have scored but perhaps the only four runs I have scored in the entire year," a beaming Shamsi said after accepting the 'Player of the Match' award for his match figures of 4 for 60.

Maharaj survived a close DRS appeal off Rauf's delivery, courtesy Umpires' Call and once the bowler was on his haunches along with keeper Mohammed Rizwan, the writing was on the wall.

Left-arm spin of Mohammed Nawaz is an apology for slow bowling and Maharaj



let a war cry after slapping it behind the vacant backward square leg for a boundary.

While Babar would feel short-changed as one of the deliveries bowled by one of his pacers brushed Keshav Maharaj's pads but was called wide but he can't deny that his team put up at least 40 runs less of what could have been a par score on good batting track.

His captaincy was also unimaginative as Aiden Markram (91 off 93 balls) showed why he is rated so highly with a quality knock.

Markram was both accumulator and aggressor in equal measure as he used the pace of Rauf and Mohammed Wasim Junior to score a lot of runs.

The inside out six of Iftikhar's off-break was a treat while Quinton de Kock giving a rollicking start also helped. He hit Shaheen for four boundaries and it did set the tempo.

Save Markram, the other small but useful contributions came from David Miller, who hit 29 off 33 balls and Marco Jansen 92 off 14 balls, who always found a way top hit sixes to close in on the target.

Usama Mir (2/45), the concussion substitute did get a couple of wickets but bowled a lot of loose balls for Pakistan's comfort.

Earlier, skipper Babar and Saud Shakeel struck fifties but Pakistan batters frittered away good starts to be bowled out for a below-par 270 after the losers decided to make first use of the strip.

While Babar managed 50 off 65 deliveries, Shakeel made a run-a-ball 52 but Pakistan couldn't build enough partnerships and also faltered in the back end to be dismissed in 46.4 overs after opting to bat. The last five wickets fell for 45 runs.

Left-arm spinner Tabraiz Shamsi, who was playing only his second game, shone with figures of four for 60, while Marco Jansen (3/43) was superb with the new ball, and Gerald Coetzee (2/42) also snapped two.

It all began with a maiden over from Jansen, who accounted for both the openers—Abdullah Shafique (9) and Imam-ul-Haq (12) as Pakistan slipped to 38 for 2 in the seventh over.

It could have been third down for the Pakistan in the same over had Jansen hold on to a caught and bowled chance for Mohammad Rizwan.

Rizwan started on an aggressive note, hitting a six off spinner Keshav Maharaj and constructing a 48-run partnership with Babar (50).

However, the lease of life that Jansen offered him did not last long, as in the 16th over, speedster Coetzee sent him back to the pavilion after being caught behind, with the score reading 86 for three.

While Coetzee continued to suppress Pakistan's scoring rate, they brought up their 100 by the 20th over.

The pair of Babar and Iftikhar Ahmed (21) added 43 for the fourth wicket before the latter became the fourth man to be dismissed, holing out to Heinrich Klaasen off Shamsi in the 26th.

In the meantime, Babar brought up his 31st ODI half-century but right after the landmark, he fell prey to Shamsi in the 28th after an attempted sweep saw the ball take the faintest of nicks before being gloved by Quinton de Kock.

Although initially given not out by the umpire, the Proteas opted for the review at the last moment and the decision went in their favour as Pakistan slumped to 141 for five.

Shakeel and Shadab (43) then joined hands and forged a much-needed partnership of 84 runs, bringing their innings back on track. Soon the team 200 was up by the 37th over but Pakistan couldn't make use of the platform.

In the end archaic batting letting them down.

IND vs ENG, World Cup 2023: KL Rahul hopes to change bitter IPL memories to happy ones in Lucknow

LUCKNOW, Oct 28 (Agencies): India wicketkeeper KL Rahul is back at Lucknow's Ekana Stadium, a venue that has imparted valuable life lessons and left him with a mix of poignant memories. Now with India facing England in the ICC World Cup match on the same ground on Sunday, Rahul aspires to create unforgettable moments against the defending champions.

Sharing the painful process of recovering from injuries, the mental challenges he faced, and the anticipation for the upcoming match against the English team, Rahul's narration evoked a personal and poignant picture.

"I'm at the Ekana Stadium in Lucknow, my home ground when I play in the IPL for the Lucknow Super Giants. It's a ground that's very close to my heart. The last year that we played here, the turn-out we saw from the crowd, the love, and the support that we got last year was unreal. And it's the first time I really got to experience, um, the Lucknow crowd or the support from the whole of UP in full flow. I entered the ground today and I had to do some running," KL Rahul said in a video posted by BCCI.

"And I told my trainer, Rajni, sir, that, you know, my heart is racing because the last time I was here, I had not such a great experience or not such a great moment in my career. Um, so yeah, it was, you know, a bit bittersweet. Also, obviously, the ones that happen at the very end tend to stick with us for a

lot longer and have a bigger impact on us, and that injury obviously had a huge impact on me and and and, and my career. So it wasn't such a happy moment for me. for my family. Um, I've been through, um, been through many injuries now in in the little time that I paid for, uh, for India. And it's not, um, it's not a great feeling for any athlete to keep getting injured so often and to go under the knife and to get surgery is very, um, firstly edifying.

"Secondly, very painful. The process of, you know, getting surgery done. But also the most painful part is doing the rehab after that and trying to get fitter and stronger and convincing yourself that it is not going to happen again. You know it, It's mentally very, very challenging. So, um yeah, when it happened, it was, you know, um, I was obviously frustrated, was very angry at at at what had happened and started questioning why and all of that. But I started seeing the best in what happened much later when I was in Bangalore and realized that it came at a time when I really needed that break away from the game because there's a lot going on with me mentally and for the first time in my career, I felt like I had no answers. Obviously very happy to be back here in Lucknow and to change those memories and to make some new ones and some happy ones. And, uh, yeah, obviously we play, um, a very strong England team. They are the champion team. They're the defending champion. So

they're looking forward to Sunday," Rahul said when he was asked about facing England in Lucknow.

"Now, obviously, it's a long walk to the dressing room, but, uh, yeah, let's go. I'll show you around. So this is a massive dressing room. As you can see, um, it's a nice touch from UPCA to put our pictures and give us our slots. This is where I sit. As you can see, there are pictures of everybody, so I think everyone has taken those slots. Um, it's a bit of a walk for me to enter the ground because I have to go to that other corner and then get out. But yeah, I think it's a good view of what's happening on the ground. So So that's our dressing room. And this is our viewing area. Obviously, you can see a beautiful view of the ground and what's happening.

"Yeah, I haven't really spent a lot of time here while we were playing the IPL. I hope a batsman spends a lot of time on the ground next game and gives me some time to sit here and enjoy. I enjoy captaining him. I enjoy playing with him. He's a he's a character, and, uh, you know, he's He's a life of the party. When, uh, when we were together at Lucknow Super Giants and, uh, yeah, I'm sure I'll catch up with them before the game and, uh, he'll have something funny to say and, uh, a few other guys on the English team that, uh, we played a lot of cricket with, and, uh, they're lovely guys as well. So yeah, it will be nice to meet all of them, but on Sunday it will be, um, you know, electric," Rahul added.

Matthew Wade to captain Australia in post-World Cup T20I series against India

MELBOURNE, Oct 28 (Agencies): After the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, eight Australian squad members will continue their stay in India as they have been selected as part of a 15-player lineup for a forthcoming five-match T20I series against Rohit Sharma's team.

The Australians named their squad on Saturday for the five-game series that commences in Visakhapatnam on November 23, with keeper-batter Matthew Wade to captain an Australian side that includes experienced heads David Warner, Steve Smith, Travis

Head, Glenn Maxwell, Marcus Stoinis and Adam Zampa.

World Cup squad members Josh Inglis and Sean Abbott and traveling reserve Tanveer Sangha will also remain in India, with IPL stars Tim David, Matt Short and Nathan Ellis set to join their Australia teammates in the sub-continent at the completion of the World Cup.

Pat Cummins will return home at the completion of the World Cup to prepare for Australia's home Test summer against Pakistan and the West Indies, with fellow first-choice stars Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazle-

wood, Mitchell Marsh and Cameron Green joining their captain in skipping the T20Is in India.

Selection chair George Bailey is pleased with the mix of experience and youth in the squad chosen to play India and believes they will equip themselves well over the course of the five matches.

"It's an experienced squad with a mixture of players who have had their first opportunity on the international stage and that we hope will continue to develop into important players in our T20 group," Bailey said. "Matthew (Wade) has

captained the team previously, is a leader in the group and we look forward to him taking the reins for this series. Like Mitch Marsh in the South Africa series, this is another great opportunity to further deepen our international leadership experience and depth.

"It's always a great challenge to take on India on their home soil. Most of the squad have extensive experience in playing in India, including eight members of the current ODI World Cup squad, alongside Tanveer Sangha who is currently a traveling reserve."

Shrine Board's Para-archers create history by pocketing two gold, three silver medals at Asian Para Games

TOP NEWS REPORT

KATRA, Oct 28: The Para-archers, Rakesh Kumar, Sheetal Devi and Sarita trained and groomed at SMVD Sports Complex have once again created history and made the country and JK-UT proud by winning five medals at Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, China in different categories of Archery events held in the Para Asian Games started on October 22 and concluded on October 28, 2023.

Rakesh & Sheetal Devi put up a good fight in the high-intensity encounter against home favourite China and won the gold medal in compound mixed team. Besides, Rakesh Kumar secured a brilliant silver medal in Men's Individual Compound Archery event in a closely fought contest against Iran and also along with Suraj Singh clinched silver medal in Men's Doubles Compound Open event.

The phenomenal Shrine Para archer, Sheetal Devi delivered a scintillating performance by clinching the coveted



gold medal in Women's Individual Compound Open event defeating Singapore in a nail biting competition. Besides, Sheetal along with Sarita had won silver medal in women's Doubles Compound archery event. Pertinent to mention that it is a hat-trick of medals for Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar in the Para Asian Games.

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has congratulated the Para archers Rakesh Kumar, Sheetal Devi and Sarita on winning the medals at Asian Para Games and making the country proud by posting on X.

"It is a Glorious Gold for our Para Archery

Mixed Team. Congrats to Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar for their extraordinary performance. This glory is a testament to their precision, dedication and exceptional skills." and "Congratulations to our Para Archers, Sheetal Devi and Sarita, for securing a splendid Silver Medal in the Women's Doubles Compound Event. India celebrates this well-deserved success."

Lt. Governor, Manoj Sinha, who is also the Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board congratulated all the sports persons for their performance in the Para Asian Games

and making the Board & JK-UT proud by winning 05 medal out of total 07 medals in Archery for Team India and also posted on X. "A momentous achievement! Congratulations to Sheetal Devi for spectacular Gold Medal victory in the archery Women's Individual Compound Open event."

Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member, Shrine Board and Chairman of Governing Council of Shrine Board's Sports Complex also extended his congratulations to all the Para archers representing the country in the Para Asian Games and their excellent performance in the events.

Visaxpert opened of its newest branch in Gandhi Nagar Jammu

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU Oct 28: Visaxpert, a trusted name in study abroad consultation, opened of its newest branch in Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

This strategic expansion is in response to the growing demand from students in Jammu and Kashmir looking to pursue higher education in foreign countries. With a specialization in Study Visas for countries including Canada, Australia, Germany, Denmark, and the USA, Visaxpert has established itself as a leader in the industry. Boasting more than 3,000 successful Study Visa applications and counting, the team brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the table.

The company, which has its head office in Ludhiana, has been steadily growing with branch offices located in Pathankot, Moga, and Amritsar. With more than 11 years of rich experience in this sector, the management team at Visax-



pert is well-equipped to guide students in their overseas education journey. This expertise is further solidified with direct tie-ups with over 150 esteemed institutions across the globe. Addressing the media at a press conference, Sunil Arora, MD of VisaXpert, expressed the company's excitement about this new venture. "With over a decade in the industry, this is our 5th branch," he stated. "We recognized the challenges students from regions like RS Pura, Vijaypur, Poonch, Banihal, Srinagar, Udhampur, Rajouri, and more faced in traveling to Punjab for consultations. This new branch is our way of reaching out to them."

Manish Pathania, Director of Visaxpert, emphasized the com-

pany's commitment to providing genuine, reliable, and transparent processes.

"Sending young students to foreign countries is a significant responsibility," Pathania remarked.

"Our success stories from all over India are a testament to our capabilities. The Jammu branch aims to provide local youth with better educational opportunities and help them realize their dreams."

He added, "With our direct collaborations with universities worldwide, we have achieved a success rate of 90% over the years. We strictly adhere to all protocols and procedures, ensuring the best for our clients. The youth from J&K stand to benefit greatly from the expertise and mastery of team Visaxpert."

PTTI Vijaypur holds cricket match among staff and trainees

TOP NEWS REPORT

VIJAYPUR, Oct 28: Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur organized a cricket match between PTTI staff and trainees of various courses under the supervision of Shiv Kumar, Principal, PTTI Vijaypur, here on Saturday.

The objective behind organizing cricket match was to promote sports activities, enhance physical fitness/endurance as well as inculcate a sense of team spirit, sportsmanship among the police per-



sonnel and as a distressing measure.

Principal PTTI Vijaypur, tossed the coin which was won by SI Kapil Raina, Captain Staff Team PTTI Vijaypur, who decided to bat first.

Batting first PTTI Staff Team, Khuswant Singh, DySP (Admn), Davinder Gupta, DySP (R&D) PTTI Vijaypur opened the innings and gave a good start to the team and team set a target of 93 runs in 12 overs for

trainees Team.

In reply, Trainees team successfully chased the target and won the match by two wickets in last over.

Both the teams played good cricket on the ground and it has been close contest.

Among others, Suram Singh SSP, Surinder Kumar SP, Anroop Sharma DySP, Mohinder Pal DySP, Insp. Surinder Pal CLI, Insp. Vishal Kumar CDI, Insp. Kanwal Raina, and Insp. Mulkh Raj were also present during the event.

DPS Jammu students clinch 10 gold medals in inter-district divisional level table tennis championship

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Oct 28: In Inter-District Divisional Level Table Tennis Championship, the students of Delhi Public School (DPS) Jammu brought laurels to the school and their parents by clinching 10 gold medals and 5 silver medals in their respective age groups.

The event was organized by Directorate of Youth Services & Sports held at Udhampur from 19-21 October, 2023. The students also received merit cum par-



ticipation certificates.

Gold medals in U-14 Boys & Girls: Yasha Shree (VII-D), Gunjan Kardotra (VII-B), Satyam Nischal (VIII-F) & Gaurav Singh (IX-B).

Gold medals in U-17 Girls: Mishthi Aggarwal

(XI-B), Ragini Gupta (X-B), Tuhina Kardotra (IX-D) & Chitrani Razdan (IX-A).

Gold medals in U-19 Girls: Iknour Kour (XII-F) & Aarya Giri (XI-B).

Silver medals in U-17 Boys: Samarth Nis-

chal (IX-E), Rudraksh Sharma (X-E) & Ayaan Gupta (IX-D)

Silver medals in U-19 Boys: Rakshan Arora (XII-F) & Rohan Sharma (XI-F).

The esteemed Management DPS Jammu-President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC, Dr. Ritu Singh, Director S.S Sodhi along with Principal-DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chhabra congratulated all the winners, their parents and coach, Meenu Ragesh for their achievement in the event.

Symposium on Role of police in Nation Building organized at GDC Chatroo



TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Oct 28: NSS unit of GDC Chatroo, in partnership with the Jammu & Kashmir Police, hosted a thought-provoking symposium on the crucial role of the police in nation-building. The event took place at GDC Chatroo and was graced by distinguished guests and speakers.

Dr. Ved Kumar, the Principal of GDC Chatroo, presided over the event as the Chief Guest where as Shoket Hayat Mattoo, the SDM of Chatroo, and Sandeep Parihar, SHO Chatroo, were the esteemed Guests of Honour on the occasion.

Earlier in his introductory address, SHO Cha-

troo, Sandeep Parihar, eloquently highlighted the remarkable role and achievements of the police in maintaining law and order, ensuring peace in society, and upholding the values of justice.

The symposium featured five student speakers who delved into the depths of the topic, shedding light on the multifaceted role of the police in our society. For their brilliant performances Mujeeba Malik was recognized as the First-place speaker, followed by Amir Hussain in the Second place, and Sangeeta in the Third place. The judging panel comprised eminent faculty members, including Dr. Athar Hussain, Prof. Mussart

Mattoo, and Prof. Ajeet Kumar.

Later on Shoket Hayat Mattoo, SDM Chatroo, in his address emphasized the significant and indispensable role that the police play in our society, highlighting their contributions to maintaining law and order.

Concluding the event Dr. Ashaq Hussain in his address emphasized that the police serve as a vital pillar of modern society, along with essentials like food, clothing, and shelter. The police act as custodians of law and order, providing protection against untoward incidents he further added.

The event's proceedings were skillfully managed by Dr. Mudassar Nazar, ensuring a coherent and informative session. Other notable individuals present at the event included Prof. Chander Parkash, NSS Program Officer of the College, Mudassar But, Dr. Haq Nawaz, and Dr. Inamul Haq.

Sarveshwar Smile Foundation adopts 10 poor girl students from Panchari Area for free of cost education & uniform

TOP NEWS REPORT

UDHAMPUR, Oct 28: Sarveshwar Smile Foundation, a J&K based (Section 8) Company engaged in social activities, started another women Sticking & Salaie training centre at village Meer Pancheri, District Udhampur.

The programme was inaugurated by Jyoti Pathania, District Mission Coordinator and Pooja Jamwal Gender specialist from Social welfare Department Udhampur.

Jyoti Pathania while inaugurating highlighted the importance of such training which not only empowers them with skill but also makes them financially independent once they start it on commercial line.

Pooja Gupta chairperson of Sarveshwar Smiles Foundation, a Leading entrepreneur & social worker informed the audience that how these free training programmes at doorstep of women



residing in and around Village Chulna, Meer & Saddal in Pancheri area helped them in upgradation of their skill. She also spoke high about participant involvement in Morning Prayer with National anthem & use of bio de gradable material for various stitching designs.

Pooja Gupta conveyed that Sarveshwar Smiles Foundation is committed to bring smile on the faces of women community. She also announced about adoption of 10 poorest of poor girl students from this area gave her com-

mitment for free of cost education & uniform till 12th.

Pooja Gupta also informed that we are going to start another similar programme along food processing activity at village Trelhi in Samba district. She also informed the press how Sarveshwar Smile Foundation actively involved in propagating awareness among Farming community about organic farming, financial literacy & income generation activity.

Sarveshwar Smile Foundation propagate

all its development ventures through its various satellite facilitation Centres. She informed that Sarveshwar Smile Foundation works on the concept of "Rebuilding and Inspiring Lives. By ensuring:-

Optimal services to women community, Promoting Organic farming & Promoting financial literacy to farmers & their families

Dr Rakesh Gupta Project Director of Sarveshwar Smiles Foundation in his address informed how this NGO which was created by two thoughtful ladies Pooja

Gupta & Ms Nidhi Sharma and this foundation is quite active across the UT of J&K in spreading awareness about empowerment of women for their better livelihood. Dr. Rakesh Gupta also, informed the Participants about benefits of such skill trainings which not only empowers them but also gives an opportunity to rural women to support their family in income generation.

Dr Rakesh gupta also conveyed thanks Khajoor singh Founder and Prabhat Singh, Chairman Sanjeevani Jan Kalyan Sewa Samiti from Panchari area for effective coordination in plantation & facilitating smooth conduct of training.

The programme was also addressed by Jeevan Kumar Sharma Chairman Block Development Council.

The programme was coordinated by Surat Singh of Sarveshwar Smiles Foundation.