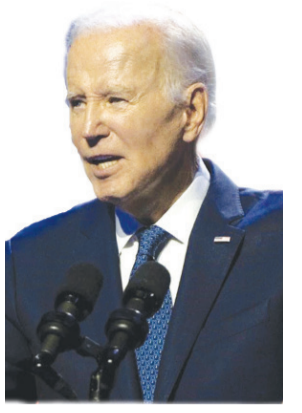


TOP NEWS OF J&K



JAMMU, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 02, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

Film production house acquires rights for book on Sidhu Moosewala



NATIONAL | 7

Characters from 1975 film 'Sholay' spice up Madhya Pradesh elections

INTERNATIONAL | 8

Biden Administration To Build Strategy To Fight Islamophobia Amid Gaza War

e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

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BRIEFLY

Drives dies in road accident in Ramban

JAMMU, Nov 2 (Agencies): A driver was killed after his truck met with an accident on Jammu-Srinagar national highway in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

Quoting an official, that a truck bearing registration number JK03E-8003 fell into a deep gorge near Kela Morh in Ramban, leading to unfortunate death of the driver.

The deceased was identified as Mohd Irfan Dar son of Abdul Qayoom Dar, a resident of Kulgam in southern Kashmir.

A police official said they have taken cognizance of the matter.

Light rain, snowfall over higher reaches of J&K during next 24 hours: MeT

SRINAGAR, Nov 2 (Agencies): Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Thursday predicted light rain or snowfall over isolated higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir during the next 24 hours.

The MeT office said the weather will remain mainly clear to partly cloudy on Thursday, with the possibility of light rain or snowfall over isolated higher reaches tonight.

'The weather will mainly remain dry from November 3-6, while being fairly to generally cloudy with the possibility of light snow over isolated higher reaches from November 7-8,' it said.

From November 9-10 the weather will be generally cloudy with light rain or snowfall over a few higher reaches, the MeT office said, adding that overall there is no significant weather activity till November 10.

Razdan Top in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district has received fresh light snowfall late at night, while light rain showers were experienced in the lower areas, sources said.

Kashmir weather expert Faizan Arif says that under the influence of a very weak Western disturbance, light rain or snow can occur in a few areas today, especially in some parts of

Turn to page 9

Northern Army commander visits Ladakh, reviews operational, security preparedness along the LAC



LEH, Nov 2 (Agencies): The Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Upenendra Dwivedi on Thursday conducted a comprehensive review of operational and security preparedness along the Line of Actual Control

(LAC). The visit, conducted in challenging terrain and harsh weather conditions, highlighted the unwavering commitment and dedication of the deployed troops. Lt. Gen. Dwivedi's inspection focused on the critical military for-

mations along the LAC in the Ladakh Sector. During his visit, he engaged with front-line troops, received briefings from senior officers, and observed various aspects of operational and security preparedness.

Recognizing the tenacity and dedication displayed by the troops despite the severe conditions, Lt. Gen. Dwivedi commended their resilience and unwavering commitment to safeguarding the nation's borders. He praised the

Turn to page 9

Tata Motors to supply, operate 200 electric buses in Jammu, Srinagar for 12 Yrs



NEW DELHI, Nov 2 (Agencies): Tata Motors on Thursday said it will supply and operate 200 electric buses in Srinagar and Jammu for 12-years for Jammu and Srinagar Smart City projects.

The company has supplied the first batch of Ultra EV air-conditioned

electric buses to Srinagar Smart City Ltd, via TML Smart City Mobility Solutions (J&K) Pvt Ltd, a group company, Tata Motors said in a statement.

"The delivery of the electric buses is a part of its larger order to supply, maintain and operate 100 electric buses in

Srinagar and 100 electric buses in Jammu, for a period 12-years for Jammu and Srinagar Smart City projects," it added.

On the delivery of the first batch, TML Smart City Mobility Solutions (J&K) Pvt Ltd Chairman Asim Kumar Mukhopadhyay said, "this marks a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to safer, smarter and greener mobility solutions, and we look forward to playing a key role in shaping the future of public transport in Jammu & Kashmir."

Tata Motors

Turn to page 9

ED officer arrested in Jaipur by Rajasthan ACB

JAIPUR, Nov 2 (Agencies): Rajasthan's Anti-Corruption Bureau on Thursday arrested an ED officer, who is posted in Manipur's Imphal, and an associate here for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 15 lakh, officials said.

The accused officer was allegedly demanding Rs 17 lakh in lieu of settling the case against the complainant in the chit fund case.

According to a statement of the Bureau, those arrested are

Turn to page 9

Kejriwal writes to ED demanding withdrawal of its notice; Claims it is 'Illegal, Politically motivated'

NEW DELHI, Nov 2 (Agencies): Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday, November 2, 2023, demanded the Enforcement Directorate (ED) withdraw its notice, summoning him for questioning, claiming it was "illegal and politically motivated".

The ED has summoned Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for questioning in a money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam. The probe agency will record his statement once he deposes at the probe agency's Delhi office at 11 am.

The ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has remained tight-lipped about whether the chief



minister will appear before the ED or not.

The Delhi Chief Minister's Office said that in reply to the ED notice, Mr. Kejriwal has termed it as "illegal and politically motivated" and aimed at preventing him from campaigning in the poll-bound states.

Mr. Kejriwal also alleged that the notice was sent to him at the

Turn to page 9

ED searches 12 places including premises of Delhi Minister in Hawala transaction case

NEW DELHI, Nov 2 (Agencies): Ahead of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's questioning in connection with the alleged excise policy scam case, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday carried out searches at more than 12 locations in the national capital, including the premises of Minister and AAP leader Raaj Kumar Anand.

The raids were carried out in connection with false declaration of imports for customs evasion of more than Rs 7 crore and international

Turn to page 9

Property used to shelter, harbouring Hizb commander Reyaz Naikoo attached in Awantipora: Police



SRINAGAR, Nov 2 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir police on Thursday attached a residential house in Awantipora area south Kashmir's Pulwama district for harbouring terrorists, officials said.

An official said that the residential house of Azad Ahmad Teji of Beighpora Awantipora was attached under FIR No 58/2020 for voluntari-

ly harbouring to terrorist. He said that the property has been attached on the orders of NIA Court Pulwama under section 33 UAPA Act.

The official said that dreaded terrorists Reyaz Naikoo was holed up and killed in the house during an encounter.

Police once again request citizens not to harbour or give shelter to terrorists, failing

which they will be liable to action under law including attachment of movable and immovable properties. In case of any forced and coercive entry by terrorists into any house or vehicle, the matter should be brought into notice of Police immediately, otherwise proceedings under law shall follow including seizure/attachment of such properties.

Women in Mishri-wala village lead the way in eco-friendly Diwali celebrations



JAMMU, Nov 2 (Agencies): As the festival of lights, Diwali, approaches, a group of dedicated women in Mishri-Wala village in Jammu, are setting an inspiring example by crafting eco-friendly cow dung Diyas to celebrate the occasion. These women are

not only embracing the spirit of Diwali but also championing sustainable traditions that harmonize with the environment.

With Diwali, the festival of lights, around the corner, the air in Mishri-Wala is filled with a sense of excitement and

enthusiasm. However, this year, the celebration has taken on a unique and eco-conscious twist as a group of local women have embarked on a mission to create sustainable Diyas using cow dung.

Rekha Sharma, one of the women leading

the initiative, expressed the motivation behind the project, saying, "We wanted to celebrate Diwali with a deep connection to our roots and nature. The idea of crafting Diyas from cow dung not only pays homage to our cultural traditions but also promotes eco-friendliness. It's a win-win."

The women are meticulously crafting these eco-friendly Diyas by collecting and drying cow dung, and then shaping it into beautiful and intricately designed oil lamps. They are also experimenting with various colors and patterns to add a touch of vibrancy to the traditional Diyas.

Turn to page 9

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Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503

10TH DAY/UTHALA

IN THE LOVING MEMORY OF

SH. OM PRAKASH GUPTA S/O LATE SH. KASHMIR CHAND GUPTA (BASOHLI WALE) PASSED AWAY PEACEFULLY ON 22ND OCTOBER 2023 DEVOTED HUSBAND TO SMT. VEENA GUPTA LOVING FATHER TO CHILDREN & SPOUSES:- MANJULA & SURESH ASHISH & ICHHETA MUNISH & POOJA DOTING GRAND FATHER TO:- ASHISH & ANNANYA ARSHIA & AAYAN AARUSHI & AAHNA BELOVED BROTHER TO:- LATE SH. PURAN CHAND & SANTOSH GUPTA SH. SUBHASH CHAND & SHEELA GUPTA WE WILL MISS YOUR LOVING PRESENCE ALWAYS TENTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON MONDAY, 30TH OF OCTOBER FROM 11:00AM TO 1:00 PM RASAM PAGDI & UTHALA WILL BE PERFORMED ON FRIDAY, 3RD OF NOVEMBER FROM 11:00AM TO 12:00 NOON AT OUR RESIDENCE - K.C.COTTAGE, NEAR LAXMI MANDAPAM MANDIR, W.NO.13, SHASTRI NAGAR, KATHUA, J&K MOB: 9419212998, 8899888108



SHRI OM PRAKASH GUPTA
14-09-1942 TO 22-10-2023

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of Sardarni Rajinder Kour W/o Sardar Bhajan Singh R/o Phase-2, Pandoka Colony, Paloura, Jammu on 30th October, 2023.

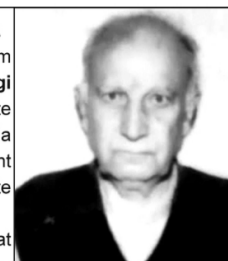
PROGRAMME
Arambh Sri Akhand Path at residence 09:00 AM on 1-11-2023 (Wednesday)
Bhog Sri Akhand Path at residence at 09:00 AM on 3-11-2023 (Friday)
Antim Ardas at Gurdwara Singh Sabha Sarwal on 3-11-2023 from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM (Friday)
GRIEF STRICKEN
Sdr. Mohinder Singh (Father) 9419852888
Sdr. Bhajan Singh (Husband) 7889767740
Sdr. Amarpal Singh (Son)
Sdr. Manjeet Singh (Devar)
Sdr. Surinder Singh Uncle & Sdn. Kulwant Kour (Chachi)



Sardarni Rajinder Kour

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Karmyogi father Sh. Dwarika Nath Goja S/o Late Sona Ram Goja of Goja Mohalla Anantnag presently at Lane No.1, Anant Vihar Lala-Da- Bagh, Near Army Gate Jammu on 28-10-2023 at 07 PM. TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Muthi Ghat Near Director School Edu. Jammu on 06-11-2023 at 9 AM. Karmyogi father Sh. Dwarika Nath Goja
Tej Krishan Goja & Rita G (Son & DIL) 9419101826
Mahraj Krishan Goja & Piyari G (do) 9419205830
Ravinder Goja & Pinky G (do) 9419216561
Ashwani Goja & Lily G (do) 9469160071
Brij Lal Hangloo - Brother-in-law
AND SAMAST PARIVARS OF, GOJA'S, RESHI'S, HANGLOO'S, HANDDO'S, BHAT'S, RAINA'S, SADHU'S & GRAND CHILDREN



Karmyogi father Sh. Dwarika Nath Goja

OBITUARY/10TH DAY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER SMT. PUSHPA KOUL W/O LATE SHRI BANSI LAL KOUL ON 27/10/2023 ORIGINALLY RESIDENT OF NAI SADAK SRINAGAR KASHMIR PRESENTLY RESIDING AT H.NO. 18, LANE NO. 8, ROOP NAGAR ENCLAVE BLOCK B JAMMU. 10TH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED AT MUTHI GHAT NEAR DIRECTOR EDUCATION OFFICE ON 04/11/2023 AT 9 AM. GRIEF STRICKEN
SH. CHAMAN LAL KOUL (BROTHER IN LAW)
SMT. REETA KOUL (SISTER IN LAW)
(SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN LAW)
RAKESH KOUL & NISHA KOUL
VIJAY KOUL & SATYABHAMA KOUL
RAJ KUMAR KOUL & ANJALI KOUL
GRAND CHILDREN:
SHEBU, SHEKU, DIYA, GUGI
SISTER-IN-LAW
SMT. RATNI RAINA
SH. H.N RAZDAN & SMT.NANCY RAZDAN



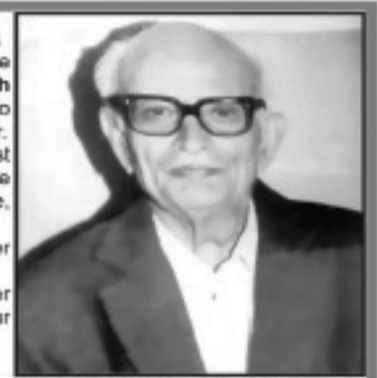
SMT. PUSHPA KOUL

MOBILE NO. 9906009685

10TH DAY/KRIYA & UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Om Parkash Tharmatt S/o Late Sh. Devi Chand Tharmatt R/o Opp. Head Post Office Shakti Nagar Udhampur. 10th Day will be performed on Wednesday, 1st November 2023 at 11:00 AM at Jagriti Oldage Home Gandhi Hall Near Head Post Office, Basilan Bowli Road Udhampur. Kriya will take place on Thursday 2nd November 2023, at Devika Ghat Udhampur at 10:00 AM Uthala will take place on Friday 3rd November 2023, at our residence Shakti Nagar Udhampur at 02:00 PM

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
Smt. Bhrum Vadni (Daughter)
(Daughter)
Smt. Saty Nishita W/o Late Sh. Dr. Vijay Dobila
Son & Daughter-in-law
Sh. J M Tharmatt & Smt. Vikesh
Sh. S M Tharmatt & Smt. Neetu Sharma
Sh. K M Tharmatt & Smt. Sulekha Sharma
Grandson
Shivam Sharma, Roshni, Hemshekha Sharma
Achyut Sharma, Vrinda and Piyush
Mob.: 9419161473, 9419913562, 9906044672



SH. OM PARKASH THARMATT

OBITUARY/10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother Smt. Raj Rani Koul Alias Amie Ji W/o Lt Sh Sarvanand Koul on 27-10-23 originally resident of Janglat Mandi Anantnag Kashmir presently residing at H.No 28 Sec 2 Model Town Gangyal Jammu. 10th Day will be performed at Muthi Ghat Near Director Education Office on 04-11-23. Om Shanti Shanti Shanti



SMT. RAJ RANI KOUL ALIAS AMIE JI

FAMILY IN GREIF
Sh.Ramesh Koul & Neelam Ji - (Son and Daughter-in-law)
Sh. Sanjay Koul - (Son and Daughter-in-law)
Sh. Babloo ji Jad and Sangeeta Bhat - (Son-in-law and Daughter)
9469208958, 9419641316, 9419644604

10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad untimely demise of our beloved Smt Neeraj Dewan who left for heavenly abode on 21-10-2023, the Tenth Day will be held on 30-10-2023 at 10.00 am at our residence Dr. Chowdhary Lane, Roop Nagar Jammu. Kriya at 12.00 (Noon) at our residence on 31-10-2023. Uthala on 3-11-2023 (4 PM) at Aap Shambu Mandir Roop Nagar Jammu.

Grief Stricken
Sh Suresh Kumar Dewan -Husband
Sh Satish Dewan -Brother-in-law
Sh Pawan Dewan -Brother-in-law
Sh Manik and Riya -Son & Daughter-in-law
Sh Danish Dewan -Son
Mb. 94191-31733, 9796605070, 6005652715, 908621788



Smt Neeraj Dewan

10TH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER SMT RATTAN RANI PANDITH W/O LT. SH DAMODHAR PANDITH R/O LEV-ADODRA QAZIGUM KASHMIR A/P LANE NO. 18 BLOCK NO. 87 FLAT NO. 4 JAGTI MIGRANT CAMP NAGROTA, JAMMU WHO LEFT FOR HER HEAVENLY ABODE ON 27-10-2023. MOURNING IS OBSERVED AT LANE 21 BACK SIDE NEAR SHARDA MEDICAL HALL, J&K. TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED AT MUTHI GHAT NAR DIRECTOR SCHOOL EDUCATION OFFICE ON 05-11-2023 (SUNDAY) AT 8 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sh Som Nath Pandita & Lt Veena Ji -Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law
Sh Ramesh Pandita & Rozy Pandita -Son & Daughter-in-law
Sh Chand Krishan Pandita -Son & Daughter-in-law
Sh Vinod Kumar Pandith & Usha Pandith - Son & Daughter-in-law
Lt. Vijay Kumar & Sh Virender Ji -Daughter & Son-in-law
Girja Raina & Sh Ravi Raina -Daughter & Son-in-law
Grand Children: Deepak, Vikrant, Rohit, Ritu, Rahul, Akash, Mayank.
Mob. No. 9797581597, 6006097209, 7889909457



SMT RATTAN RANI PANDITH

ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you the sad demise of our beloved S. Makhan Singh Tara S/o S Dayal Singh Tara R/o Chatha Farm who expired on 26/10/2023(Thursday). Antim Ardas shall be performed as per the below mentioned programme:-
Arambh Sri Akhand Path Sahib at our residence on Thursday 02/11/2023 at 9:30 AM
Bhog Sri Akhand Path Sahib on Saturday 04/11/2023. at our residence upto 09:45 AM
Antim Ardas at Gurdwara Baba Fateh Singh Ji Gandhi Nagar from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM (Saturday) followed by Guru Ka Langar.

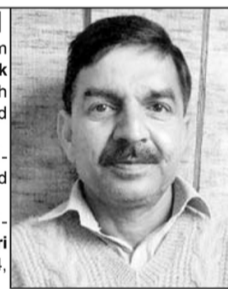
GRIEF STRICKEN
Sardarni Amrit Kour (Wife)
Sardarni Prem Kour W/o Late S Jagbir Singh Tara (Bhabhi)
S Kalyan Singh Tara (Brother)
Daughters in Law & Sons
Sdr. Kamaljeet Kour & S Gajan Singh (GTS DELHI)
Sdr. Rajinder Kour W/o Late S Baj Singh
Sdr. Kamaljeet Kour & S Rajinder Singh Tara (JKAS CUSTODIAN GENERAL J&K)
Sdr. Gurdinder Kour & Er Ranjeet Singh Tara
Sdr. Harpreet Kour & S Parmjeet Singh Tara (TARA ROADLINES BOMBAY)
Sdr. Guneet Kour & S. Devinder Singh Tara (Nephew)
Sdr. Jasneet Kour & S Tavinderjeet Singh Tara (Nephew)
Daughters & Sons in Law
Sdr. Satwant Kour & S Manjeet Singh (Chandigarh)
Sdr. Manjeet Kour & S Bhopinder Singh Oberoi (Oberoi Furniture House)
Sister & Brother in Law
Sdr. Tej Kour & S Gurbux Singh (Oriental Insurance Co)
M: 9419160922, 9419139115



S. Makhan Singh Tara

10TH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

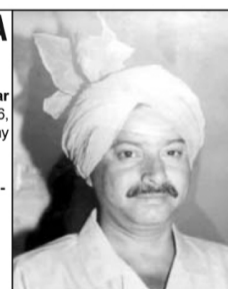
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh Ashok Kumar Gupta S/o L.Sh. Vishwa Nath Pandotra R/o Ward No. 4, Kathua expired on 23-10-2023. TENTH DAY will be performed on 1-11-2023 (Wednesday) at our residence Ward No. 4 Kathua 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Kriya, 13th Day will be performed on 4-11-2023 at 11 AM to 2 PM and Rasam Pagri at 4 PM at our residence Ward No. 4, Kathua. GRIEF STRICKEN
Sunita Gupta- Wife
Sahil Mahajan - Son
Sh. Rattan Lal Gupta & Smt. Champa Devi - Jija Ji & Didi
Sh. Rajinder Mahajan & Smt. Sheela Devi- Jija Ji & Didi
Sh. Rajinder Kumar Padotra & Smt. Renu Bala - Brother & Bhabhi
Sh. Sanjeev Kumar & Smt. Suman Gupta- Brother & Bhabhi
Miss. Sushri Gupta, Sajal Mahajan, Sayam Mahajan Shashat Mahajan - Niece & Nephew
MIS ASHOK KUMAR & CO. KATHUA 9419151851
MIS PADOTRA MEDICAL HALL KATHUA - 9419247612
MIS PADOTRA KARYANA STORE W.NO. 6 KATHUA 9906199700



Sh Ashok Kumar Gupta

10TH DAY/KRIYA/ UTHALA

'Noble Souls Never Die'
In the Loving Memory of Late Sh. Ashok Kumar Anand S/o Late Sh. Hans Raj Anand R/O H. No 236, L. No 9 Shakti Nagar Jammu who passed away peacefully on 23-10-2023. DEVOTED HUSBAND TO SMT. NEERU ANAND LOVING FATHER TO CHILDREN & SPOUSES:- Rupali Verma & Sunil Verma Sonali Verma & Munish Verma DOTING GRAND FATHER TO:- Ashraf, Jeewanishi, Pranav, Adwait BELOVED BROTHER TO:- Sh. Dev Raj Anand & Smt Raj Dulair Anand Sh. Raj Kumar Anand & Smt Rani Anand Sh. Narinder Kumar Anand & Smt Renu Anand Mr.Vinod Bawa & Mrs Sucheta Gupta- Nephew & Daughter-in-Law Mr. Puneet Anand & Mrs Supriya Anand - Nephew & Daughter-in-Law Mr. Ramesh Anand - Nephew Seema Anand - Niece TENTH DAY will be performed on Wednesday 1st of Nov at 11 AM to our residence. 13TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on Saturday 4th of Nov at 12 Noon at our residence and UTHALA from 4 PM to 5 PM at Shiv Durga Mandir, Resham Ghar Colony, Jammu. With Regards: Anand Family MOB: 7889649513, 9797409324



Late Sh. Ashok Kumar Anand

UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Smt. Urmil Gupta W/o Late Sh. Sushil Kumar Gupta (Advocate) R/o H. No. F/17, Shiv Nagar, Behind A.G. Office, Jammu who left for her heavenly abode on 30th October 2023. Uthala will be performed on Friday, 03rd November 2023 at 4:30 PM at Jagat Resorts, Near A.G. Office, Jammu. GRIEF STRICKEN:- (Daughter-in-law & Son)
Mrs. Namrata Mahajan & Sh. Munish Gupta (Daughter & Son-in-Law)
Mrs. Nishi Gupta & Er. Arun Gupta (Nand)
Smt. Indu & Sh. Vinod Gupta (Jalandhar)
Smt. Renu & Sh. Pawan Gupta (Chamba)
Bhabhi & Brother-in-Law
Smt. Kusum Gupta W/o Lt. Dr. S.K. Gupta
Smt. Raman & Dr. Mohinder N. Gupta
Lt. Smt. Nisha & Lt. Justice Vinod K. Gupta
Smt. Anita Gupta W/o Lt. Dr. Arun Gupta
Smt. Sushma & Sh. Ajay Gupta
Grand Children:- Eva, Mahi & Eha
Mob- 9419181923, 9697540600



SMT. URMIL GUPTA

10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

"Always In Our Hearts"
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that our beloved (Papaji) Sub. Sh Chhattar Singh Charak S/o Late Shri Punjab Singh Charak R/o House No.14 (Private), Sec. No.2, Channi Himmat Jammu left for heavenly abode on 23-10-2023. 10th Day will be performed on 1st of November (Wednesday) 2023 at our residence at 11 am. Kriya will be performed on 4th of November (Saturday) 2023 at our residence at 12 Noon. Uthala will be performed on 4th of November (Saturday) 2023 at our residence at 2 PM. Grief Stricken
Smt. Shakuntla Devi - Wife
Brothers & Bhabis
Parth Singh Charak & Bimla Charak
Kehar Singh Charak & Neelam Charak
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Janak Singh Charak & Seema Charak
Charan Dev Singh Charak & Anuradha Charak
Dilawar Singh Charak & Anuradha Charak
Balbir Singh Charak & Neha Charak
Arjun Singh Charak & Priti Charak
Sons-in-law & Daughters
Vijay Singh Manhas & Kamlesh Kumari
Satish Singh Sumberia & Bandana Kumari



Sub. Sh Chhattar Singh Charak

Contact No. 9419797224, 7780824231, 9796027108, 9419122089

KRIYA & UTHALA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER SMT ANJANA KAPOOR W/O SH SUBASH KAPOOR R/O PUNJABI MOHALLA (RAMBAN) WHO LEFT FOR HER HEAVENLY ABODE ON. 22.10.2023. KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 03.11.2023 AT OUR RESIDENCE (RAMBAN) AT 12:30PM AND RASAM PAGRI UTHALA WILL BE PERFORMED AT 3PM TO 4PM COMMUNITY HALL NEAR RAGHUNATH MANDIR (RAMBAN) GRIEF STRICKEN
SUBASH KAPOOR (HUSBAND)
(SONS & DAUGHTERS IN LAW)
PANKAJ KAPOOR & MONIKA KAPOOR
SOURAB KAPOOR & MEHAK KAPOOR
NEETU GUPTA & AJAY GUPTA (DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW)
BANDANA JEEERATH & YOGESH JEEERATH (DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW)
GRAND CHILDRENS ..ANSH, VEDIKA, JIVA, ROHINY, SOHAM ISHITA, YANCHIT
CHEAP CLOTH HOUSE
KAPOOR'S AND ANAND FAMILY MOB.9469366666, 8713022222



SMT ANJANA KAPOOR

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Construction of Ramban Viaduct; a remarkable feat of 1.08 kilometer with 4 lanes completed, says Gadkari

Top News Report

JAMMU / NEW DELHI, Nov 2: Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari in a series of posts said in Jammu and Kashmir, said, "We have successfully completed the construction of the Ramban Viaduct, a remarkable feat spanning a length of 1.08 kilometer with 4 lanes."

He said the project, built at a cost of RS 328 crore, is situated on the Udhampur-Ramban section of National High-



way-44. Gadkari said this extraordinary viaduct is composed of 26 spans and employs a combination of concrete and steel girders in its structural design. Its completion significantly alleviates traffic congestion in Ramban Bazar, facilitating the smoother flow of vehicles, he added.

cantly alleviates traffic congestion in Ramban Bazar, facilitating the smoother flow of vehicles, he added.

The Union Minister said embracing the visionary leadership of PM Narendra Modi, we stand dedicated to providing Jammu and Kashmir with a superlative highway infrastructure. He said this monumental achievement not only propels regional economic prosperity but also augments its allure as a top-tier tourist haven.

DC Kishtwar and team treks 12 hours to reach remote Kuntwara area, listens to public grievances

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Nov 2: The two-day tour of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav and his team to the far-flung Kuntwara area of District Kishtwar concluded successfully on Thursday.

The tour, characterized by extensive trek of 12 hours to and fro by Deputy Commissioner along with his team of officers to reach the remotest Kuntwara area.

Historically, Since 1947, even though the visits by officials have been undertaken but for the first time Deputy Commissioner reached Shandri panchayat of Kuntwara area. This marked a significant step in addressing local grievances and promoting developmental initiatives by district Administration Kishtwar.

The entourage consists of ACD Kishtwar Manoj Kumar, AD FCS& CA Shafkat Keen, BDO Drabshalla, CMO Kishtwar Dr M Y Mir, Chief Agriculture officer Kishtwar Amjad Hussain Malik, Naib Tehsildars, AEE PMGSY Rajesh Sharma besides officials and field functionaries of various line departments.

During the two days visit, a public grievances redressal camp was held in Batkoot village of Kuntwara, in line with the Weekly Block Diwas program. The camp was attended by numerous local residents, prominent personalities, and local Panchayati Raj Institutions



(PRIs) members. Besides, the camp was attended by BDC Chairman Drabshalla Suraj Singh, District officers, AEE Jal Shakti Naveed Ahmed and officials and field functioning of revenue and RDD and agriculture, Revenue and other line departments.

During the public grievance redressal camp, the PRIs highlighted their concerns related to upgradation of local infrastructure in water, power, road, healthcare, education, agriculture sectors.

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav, after patient listening, assured timely redressal of grievances and resolved several issues on the spot through coordination with relevant department officials.

In the camp, the Plans were discussed to expedite PMGSY survey for the Ohli Shandri road and enhance road connectivity in the area. PWD authorities were directed to accelerate the

construction of the Kahaie road under NABARD.

Besides the Camps by Animal and Sheep Husbandry departments were planned for the benefit of farmers and animal husbandry beneficiaries during the public grievance redressal camp.

The Deputy Commissioner committed to establishing a Red Cross Emergency Health Center with a nurse and pharmacist within one month, as well as the coordination of an Ayush Center in the area.

Besides speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner assured that Winter tuition facilities for remote villages of Kuntwara in upcoming winter season to improve education access.

During the camp, under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme the applications from farmers were received besides seed packets were distributed among farmers in presence of CAO Amjad Hussain Malik.

Awareness Programme on Cyber Crime held



Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 2: Training Branch of Cyber Crime of J&K Police, in collaboration with Retired Officers Forum, conducted a programme on Cyber Crime Awareness, in J&K Bharat Scouts and Guides Gandhi Nagar Jammu.

Purpose of the programme was to acquaint general public, senior citizens in particular, about the cyber crime.

Generally senior citizens are not well acquainted with the latest techniques of information technology, with the result many of our colleagues are being duped by virtue of ignorance, as such Retired Officers Forum

felt necessity to arrange one such Programme on the very important subject.

Programme was organized under the chairmanship of ID Soni, Forum President and was conducted by SC Rekhi, General Secretary. Sohail Kazmi, a social activist and Chairman Taskeen Group of Publications and K B Jandial Officer were Special invitees.

Nearly 100 senior citizens participated, including IAS Officers, IGP's, Directors, Chief Engineer, CAO & many more Retired from respectable posts.

K.S Samyal, President Confederation of Voluntary, Social & Charitable Organisation

and Harbhajan Singh, ROF Financial Advisor approached the Members to make the programme a great success.

Gagandeep Singh and Rakesh Sharma from Crime Branch made the participants aware about what to do & what not to do and advised about the precautions needs to be adopted, while using Electronics equipments.

Participants/Members cleared their doubts in interaction session with the officers of Crime Branch. Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner & ROF Vice President felicitated the dignitaries and presented vote of thanks.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI MECH. G.W.D. DIVISION JAMMU
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
E-NIT NO GWD/156 OF 2023-24 DATED: 30.10.2023

On behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT of J&K, the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu invites tenders by e-tendering mode from reputed and registered firms with PHE/I&FC Deptt. J&K Govt. as a Drilling Agency who have sufficient experience in the field of drilling and are well equipped with drilling Rigs suitable for ODEX method.

Name of the Work	Name of the Division	Cost of Tender Document/Tender Fee (In Rs)	Qty.	Estimated cost (value of work) (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Validity of Rates
Deep Drilling of 125 mm dia Bore Hole by using ODEX method including providing, installation, testing, commissioning of Mark-II Hand Pump and construction of platforms at Mohra Dharmsaal Marh NHO Kailash Kumar Pyl. Marh of District Jammu on Turkiye Basis (EPC) under MPI ADS	Jal Shakti Mech. Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu	500.00 (Non-Refundable) Deposited in Govt. treasury through e-challan under the receipt head 0215 in favour of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. GWD Div. Jammu payable at Jammu mentioning name of work	01 No.	Rs. 2.83 lacs	@ 2% of the quoted rates in shape of Fresh CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PHE (M) GWD Division	31 st March 2024

- The complete bidding process shall be online.
- Bid documents can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 30.10.2023 to 08.11.2023.
- The pre bid meeting if desired by the participating firms shall be held in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (M) GWD Division Jammu on 01.11.2023 (1300 hrs).
- The bids shall be submitted/uploaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 02.11.2023 (1560 hrs) to 08.11.2023 (1800 hrs).
- The complete bidding process shall be online and scanned copies of the following documents will have to be uploaded before due date:-
 - Copy of treasury e-Challan/receipt for Rs. 500.00 against the cost of tender document under the receipt Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (M) Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu indicating name of work to be executed. It may be noted that the receipt of the e-challan should be of the date after the issuance of publication of the e-tender.
 - The tenders shall be accompanied with an earnest money of 2 % of quoted rates in the shape of CDR/FDR, from a scheduled Bank payable in JAMMU. The CDR/FDR shall be pledged to Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (M) GWD Division Jammu, valid for a period of 12 months from the last date of submission of bids. The earnest money deposit shall be refunded in favour of unsuccessful tenderer immediately after finalization of the tender, whereas it shall be retained in case of successful tenderer till signing of agreement and furnishing of performance security
 - Copies of tender documents, terms and conditions duly signed and stamped (each page) by bidder.
 - Scanned copy of Experience certificate of having completed one similar work during last five financial years. The experience certificate shall have been issued by an officer of the rank not below an Executive Engineer of any Government Department/Semi Government/PSUs.
 - Scanned copy of Registration of Water Well Drillers issued by Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Jammu. In case the bidder is not able to furnish the Registration with the cover 1st of this bid document, he can produce the same before the opening of cover 2nd of this bid document.
 - Scanned copy of the latest Income tax return certificate.
 - Scanned copy GST return in FORMGST-3B of the latest quarter.
 - Scanned copy of documentary proof of ownership or on hire basis of requisite machinery like Air Rotary (ODEX) Drilling Rig. In case of a firm having these machine/s arranged on hire basis the firm shall produce a copy of an agreement with the actual owner (Registered Drilling Firm) of the machine for lease of the machinery and expertise, duly attested by a Magistrate First class valid for a time period of not less than 06 months from the last date of submission of bids.
 - Average Annual financial turnover during any three financial years out of the last 05 years, ending 31st March of previous financial year, issued by a registered Chartered Accountant under his seal and signature shall be Rs 25.0 lacs.
- The Technical Bids of the tender document received shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (M) GWD Division Jammu on 09.11.2023 (1560 hrs). If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids shall be opened on the next working day during the office hours.
- The Financial Bids of the tender document of the qualified bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (M) GWD Division Jammu. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids shall be opened on the next working or as to be decided by tender opening committee.
- Other details can be seen inside the detailed tender document.
- Account Head: MPLADS
- AAA No. 207-DDCJ of 2023 Atd 30.10.2023
- Status of Funds: Available
- Technical Sanction No. 505 of 10/2023 Dt. 30.10.2023

GWD/4429-31
DATED: 30.10.2023

DIP/J-10458/23

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti Mech. G.W.D. Division
Jammu

PNB organizes symposium, competition, quiz programme

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 2: In observance of Vigilance Awareness Week from October 30 to November 5, 2023, Punjab National Bank (PNB), Circle Office, Jammu organized Symposium Competition and Quiz Programme at Model Institute of Education and Research, B.C. Road, Jammu which was coordinated by Sudha Gaur, Senior Manager, Punjab National Bank and Anubhav Uppal, Manager, Punjab National Bank. The theme of the Symposium was "Say No To Corruption, Commit To The Nation".

Dr. Pramod Kumar Shrivastava, Principal, MIER has also addressed students about Vigilance Awareness.



At the outset, Sudha Gaur addressed the teachers and students and spoken about Vigilance Awareness Week 2023 to spread the message that the evil of Corruption needs to be eradicated from the society and vigilance plays a pivotal role for which each

one of us need to contribute our best and also said that there has been a very close bond of PNB and MIER for the past so many years.

Thereafter, Symposium competition and Quiz programme was organized in which questions based on Banking, Finan-

cial and Vigilance aspects were asked. The students whole heartedly participated in the event.

Aditya Raina, Armaan and Anshita were declared First, Second and Third in Symposium and Team-Edison -Shivansh and Balraj Singh, Team -Newton -

Ishit Gupta and Sartaj and Team - Einstein -Dinakshi Bhat and Reyansh clinched the first three spots respectively in Quiz Competition.

Dr. Pramod Kumar Shrivastava, Principal of MIER thanked Punjab National Bank, Circle Office, Jammu for organizing this event and sensitizing the teachers and students of the Institution about Vigilance Awareness and also said that Punjab National Bank has always ensured service to the society as well as the Country and has the distinction of being the only Swadeshi Bank -"Of the People, By the People and for the People."

A memento was presented to the Principal on behalf of PNB for their contribution towards the society in rendering education to the children.

Army honours it's martyr soldiers at Patahirri

Top News Report

KUPWARA, Nov 2: Continuing its rich traditions Indian Army's Kupwara Terriers organised a commemoration ceremony at Patahirri Garrison to honour the sacrifice of Late Rfn Ab Waseem Akram Lone, Late Rfn Tariq Ahmad Lone and Late NK Ab Majeed Bhat from Kupwara who laid down their



lives on November 2, 2015 and November 4, 2019 respectively while performing the duties in service of the mother

land. Officers, jawans, families and Veer Naris (widows) laid wreath followed by two minute

silence to remember the ultimate sacrifice of the bravehearts at the memorial.

After the ceremony a brief interaction was held with the family members to address any issues being faced by them. Kupwara Terriers expressed gratitude to the families and assured continuous support and assistance to them.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
e-TENDER NOTICE

The Deputy Chief Engineer/BR/Workshop, Northern Railway, Jalandhar Cantt, for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open-tender under Single Packet System for the undernoted work:-

S. No.	Tender Notice No.	Name of work	Approx Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Date of opening	Bidding start date on IREPS	Cost of tender form Rs.	Completion period of work
1.	OT-12-2023-JRC	Fabrication & Erection of side pathway on various bridges under the jurisdiction of SSE/BR/AFK.	Rs. 1,35,67,621.97	2,17,800.00	22.11.2023	08.11.2023 to 22.11.2023	0	06 Months

Date & Time for submission of Tender and opening of tender: Up to 15:00 hrs. on dates shown against each and opening of tender thereafter at 15:00 hrs on same date.

Website Particulars where complete details of Tender can be seen & downloaded: The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway website i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in.

No. 80-WD/3/Bridges/Invitation. Dated: 31.10.2023

3409/2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

EDITORIAL

PROTECT
FOREST

Forest is very important for us. Forests have a very important place in biodiversity. The vegetation and trees growing in forests are as important for us as water is essential for us.

Nature has given us so many beautiful things. We should respect them. On the contrary, in pursuit of money, people are cutting trees like gold and are using them for their personal gains.

Forest is a beautiful gift given by nature, which we all accept. Forests provide living space to many creatures and animals. Many types of herbs are found in forests. These herbs are very important in our medicine.

Why do we need forests? This is very important for us so that we can know this. If forests remain intact then our life will also continue like this. We get vital air oxygen from forests.

The plants growing in forests are also very beneficial. We get vital air from the trees and plants growing in forests.

Apart from all this, we get many direct benefits from forests. In ancient times, when humans originated, they used to live their lives in these forests only.

They ate and lived in this forest. Today, things used in our daily life like chairs, tables etc. are made from trees growing in forests. Along with this, the paper we use to print from the computer is also obtained from the trees growing in the forests.

Similarly, forests should be conserved. Forest Conservation Act is made in our country to save forests. Under the Forest Conservation Act, no one can pluck even a single leaf from a tree without the permission of the Forest Department. This is the government's decision.

We can conserve forests in this way. We should think about this also. We should try to save trees.

While on one hand we get direct benefits from deforestation, on the other hand we also suffer many losses due to cutting of trees. We are responsible for all the harm caused to us by forests like shortness of breath, increasing heat.

To avoid all this, it is important that we protect trees. Now how can we protect trees?

You should give information about forests and gardens around you to the nearest forest department so that they can take those places under their protection.

If someone cuts trees from the forest or any of your friends does such work, then explain to them the importance of trees. Without trees our life becomes like gas without cylinder.

If someone does deforestation, then motivate them to plant two trees instead of one so that trees can be saved. By doing this, our trees will also be saved and our daily furniture demand will also be fulfilled.

We also know that animals live in forests. In such a situation, if we protect forests, we not only remain happy but the non-speaking animals also remain happy.

If wild animals remain alive and safe, we will also survive.

We get vital air i.e. oxygen only from trees. In such a situation, if we do not conserve trees and forests, then nothing will happen. Our first objective should be to save trees and plants.

In 'hate wars' of today, no one can be a winner

By: Abhijit Bhattacharyya

Two conflicts -- the "intra-racial Slav war" of Eastern Europe's Balkan-Black Sea axis and the "hate war" in the Levant today -- have brought the world to the precipice of fiery bloodshed and astronomical slaughter, endangering the very future of the human race. As the prospect of self-restraint and an urgent ceasefire appear to be a mirage, let's try to see the possible implications of such mindless massacres.

War has been seen from several angles due to its multi-dimensional depiction, definition and description through the ages. Fifth-century BC Greek historian and geographer Herodotus penetratingly observed: "In peace, sons bury their fathers. In war, fathers bury their sons". These words, uttered thousands of years ago, remain valid even today.

Several eminent scholars and battlefield commanders of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries have had the caustic wisdom of reminding the eternal truth which is known to all, but are seldom remembered or followed in reality. American writer Ernest Hemingway appears to be a practitioner who has clinically diagnosed a debilitating psychopath: "There's no hunting like the hunting of man, and those who have hunted armed men long enough and liked it, never care for anything else thereafter". Was Hemingway referring to bloodthirsty Napoleon, Hitler, Mao Zedong, or the Huns and Mongols, or the fanatic leaders of Islam-Christianity religious wars called the Crusades?

In today's twin wars, will French poet-philosopher Paul Valery repeat his words: "War is massacre of people who kill each other for profit of people who know each other very well, but don't massa-

cre each other"? Or how would the warring parties and their powerful proxy backers, operating from behind the lines in the Balkan-Black Sea belt or the Levant, react to H.G. Wells' advisory: "If we don't end war, war will end us"? Will the fighters at the front and the faceless financiers of arms bazaar behind the scenes see logic of the legendary Wells?

Similarly, how did France's legendary philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre, the leading light of the existentialism theory, clinically diagnose: "When the rich wage war, it's the poor who die"? Was he troubled by the post-Second World War (after being prisoner of war for a year) super-rich West's romance with needless intervention in poverty-afflicted distant non-Western lands, resulting in the loss of millions of innocent lives from Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, Sahel, the Maghreb and Levant with devastating consequences?

Again, how can one not criticise as well as adore William Tecumseh Sherman, the American Civil War's successful battlefield general, for his war-aborrence words that "I am tired and sick of war"? And that: "Its glory is all moonshine. It's only those who have neither fired a shot, nor heard shrieks and groans of the wounded, who cry aloud for blood, for vengeance, for desolation. War's hell". Was Sherman foreseeing the Balkan-Black Sea war between two Slav nations and Israel-Hamas mass competitive manslaughter as if the world's fighting a war to end all wars?

Finally, how does one see the ceaseless mindless violence of humans being transformed from race, religion, ethnic divisions, to hate war for land grabbing of the twenty-first century? How true or untrue are words of Spanish-Amer-

ican poet philosopher George Santayana: "Only the dead have seen end of the war"?

The two major conflicts raging today have the distinct flavour of "hate war". A peculiar psyche of hatred on part of all the belligerents is giving shape to wholesale ethnic cleansing and savagery, raising the possibility of the emergence of a post-war victor without any vanquished.

While not being a "hate war", this was seen in ancient India too when the Pandavas emerged victorious after the Great Mahabharata War of total annihilation of the opponent in Kurukshetra, when not a single "enemy cousin brother" of theirs could be present at any post-war peace treaty. All had died in the war which ended for the Pandavas as total, true and

yet a pyrrhic victory. Consequently, the victorious Pandavas just couldn't celebrate in a graveyard without even a single surviving vanquished.

In the West, however, the Age of the Crusades (1060-1200 AD) could be seen as a precursor to the modern "hate wars", the first impulsive spark of which was ignited in 1009 by a mentally unstable Caliph al-Hakim of Egypt, who ordered the systematic demolition of Constantine's "Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre" in Jerusalem. What happened in 1009 AD in Jerusalem appears to be recurring in the same Levant in 2023. The same hatred, the same mass murder and the same bloodthirsty leadership; both on and off the battlefield.

That said, whatever be the outcome of the two wars of today, tomorrow is unlikely to see any real peace. It's more likely the embers of a mutual retaliatory hate war will linger for long as the defeated seek revenge.

Let's just look at the history of the twentieth century, arguably the bloodiest in modern history had begun. Hermann Goring, one of the top Nazis, had, perhaps unwittingly, correctly referred to the Second World War as the "Great Racial War". It was truly a race war in spirit and substance, launched by "pure" Aryan Germans to eliminate the "impure blooded inferior" Slav Russians across two continents.

The mass murder of the mid-20th century restarted soon after the Great War, in carefully orchestrated remote areas, to avoid the wholesale destruction of the West. That was how race, religion and now hate war arrived at the tri-junction of Asia-Africa-Europe.

How prescient could H.G. Wells have been in The War of the Worlds? "The houses caved in as they dissolved at its touch, and darted out flames; the trees changed to fire with a roar. You understand the roaring wave of fear that swept through the greatest city in the world just as Monday was dawning -- the stream of flight rising swiftly to a torrent, lashing in a foaming tumult round the railway stations. Did they dream they might exterminate us?" Wells' early 20th century scene is playing out in the 21st century. The motto and single point of this "race war" is simple: it's "death to all"! There is no space for mutual co-existence in this situation of "either you or me". The "survival of the fittest" seems to be the future that lies ahead for us.

The person who would have been the happiest at seeing today's scenario would be German philosopher Hegel, who rejoiced over Napoleon's bloody campaign of Jena on October 14, 1806. Herodotus will not see any father burying his son, or the reverse, as there will be no one left to bury. The "hate war" will leave everyone dead.

BENEFITS OF MICRO SCHOOLING in India

By: Vijay GarG

The field of education has always been in a state of flux, and with the development of trends and innovations over time, the education system is undergoing an unparalleled transformation. Similarly, the ways and methods of teaching our children have transformed the rapidly changing world.

The increasing accessibility of the Internet has also led to the emergence of online schooling. During the pandemic, online schooling witnessed a massive leap across countries, and hence, gradually, its adoption in schools and institutions can be seen over time.

Lina Ashar, Founder of Dreamtime Learning Hub, has shared how micro-schooling can emerge as an educational model in India.

RISE OF MICRO-SCHOOLING

Micro-schooling is becoming the recent trend, giving a new edge to the learning process and developing more curiosity among learners. It is characterized by its small-scale and personalised approach to education.

As families struggle to adapt to a changing educational landscape, many seek options that provide students with more freedom and personalised learning opportuni-

ties. Micro-schooling can be a game-changer in terms of the transformation of teaching and learning methods.

POTENTIAL FOR MICRO-SCHOOLING IN INDIA

As micro-schooling is growing globally, India too has the potential to adopt this model. The digital future of education empowers learners by enhancing connectivity and expanding access to educational resources. Through technological integration and connectivity, education can become more inclusive, personalised, and accessible to people across the globe.

BENEFITS OF MICRO-SCHOOLING

1. Personalised learning
Micro-schools can provide personalised learning opportunities due to their smaller class sizes.

This allows educators to gain a better understanding of each student's strengths and weaknesses, as well as their interests and learning styles, allowing them to tailor the curriculum accordingly.

2. Flexibility and adaptability

With fewer class sizes, educators can create learning experiences tailored to students' individual needs. This flexibility allows students to explore interesting topics, apply them to the real world, and pursue their interests. Regarding adaptability,

micro-schools can respond quickly to changes and challenges in the educational landscape.

3. Strong sense of community

Micro-schools are characterised by a strong sense of community fostered by the close relationship between students, parents, and teachers. The school's small size allows for deeper connections and improved communication, resulting in a supportive and caring learning atmosphere.

4. Integration of technology
Micro-schools also have the potential to leverage technology effectively. They can incorporate online resources, virtual learning tools, and educational platforms to enhance the learning experience.

This blend of in-person and online instruction can offer a more comprehensive and flexible education, allowing students to access a wide range of resources and learning opportunities beyond the physical boundaries of the classroom.

5. Development of key skills
Micro-schools often emphasise the development of problem-solving abilities, critical thinking skills, and creativity, allowing students to become more self-assured and independent learners.

6. Fostering collaboration
Micro-schools foster a sense

of community and collaboration among students. Children develop closer relationships with fewer peers, enabling meaningful interactions and effective teamwork.

Collaboration encourages critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and the development of socio-emotional competencies is essential for success in today's world.

7. Expanded learning opportunities

Micro-schools can tap into many resources beyond traditional textbooks. With the flexibility to explore diverse learning materials, including online resources, guest speakers, and field trips, micro-schools expose students to a broader range of perspectives and experiences. This cultivates curiosity, creativity, and a lifelong love for learning.

8. Encouraging extra-curricular activities

Engaging in extracurricular activities outside of the standard micro-school curriculum, such as joining a club, attending a workshop, or participating in community activities, allows the child to expand their learning opportunities and develop specific interests outside of the micro-school setting.

(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist Malout)

Will do justice with minorities if voted to power: Bukhari

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 2: Apni Party President Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari said that his Party will do justice with the minorities if voted to power in Jammu and Kashmir.

Altaf Bukhari assured the delegation led by District President Minority Cell, Dalbir Singh that he would do justice with the minorities in Jammu and Kashmir for their social, political, and educational upliftment.

On this occasion, the Apni Party Senior Vice President, Ghulam Hassan Mir, and Provincial President, Jammu, S. Manjit Singh were also present in the



meeting with the delegation of Apni Party's minority cell.

In this meeting, the delegation held threadbare discussion regarding the Sikh community and protection of cultural heritage of the minorities in Jammu and Kashmir.

They informed that the Punjabi language is being spoken by a large section of people in Jammu and Kashmir irrespective of regional or religious identity.

"The language is a binding force for the communities and therefore, it must be promot-

ed and recognized as one of the official languages in Jammu and Kashmir," the deputation informed the Apni Party President, during their meeting.

They also demanded reservation of two Legislative Assembly seats i.e., one each in Jammu

Region and Kashmir Region.

After hearing them, Altaf Bukhari assured his Party's commitment towards the upliftment of minorities in Jammu and Kashmir.

As far as the demand of Punjabi language is concerned, he assured the delegation that the Punjabi language would be considered, and it is in the agenda of the Apni Party.

Extending his support, he said that the demand of two Legislative Assembly seats should be accepted by granting two Legislative Assembly seats each in Jammu and Kashmir Regions to the Sikh Community.

Pkl doc saves man mid-air after he gets acute abdominal pain, urinary retention

Top News Report

CHANDIGARH, Nov 2: A timely help by a doctor on air saved a 25 year old young man who got an acute abdominal pain and urinary retention during a flight from Bangalore to Chandigarh on Monday.

The young man was perfectly fine when he boarded the flight from Bangalore. During midway of flight he started feeling discomfort that later developed into a severe pain.

Unable to bear the pain he asked the plane crew for help. The crew



announced the young man's condition and urged some doctor on the flight to take care of him.

On realizing it, Dr Jaslovleen Kaur who was traveling in the same flight immediately rushed to the help of a young man who was in deep pain.

Dr Jaslovleen, who works as neurologist at Paras Health, Panchkula stabilized the man by starting intravenous injections and other medications.

She monitored the young man throughout the flight and later accompanied her to Paras Health emergency after landing.

The patient's parents were informed who rushed to Paras Health.

Luckily our son got timely help on flight thanks to quick action from Dr Jaslovleen Kaur, said parents, adding that their son is recovering well now.

JSS Jammu shines bright in CBSE Cluster XVIII Athletics Championship

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 2: Jammu Sanskriti School (JSS), Jammu, proudly announced its exceptional performance at the CBSE Cluster XVIII Athletics Championship held at Partap World School, Pathankot, from October 26th to 29th, 2023.

The talented athletes from Jammu Sanskriti School, Jammu displayed remarkable prowess, clinching a total of two gold and two silver medals in various categories under the mentorship of Pankaj Kumar, Athletic Coach and Yogesh, HOD PHE.

In the under 19 category, Tanvir Singh of Class 11th emerged as a star performer, securing two Gold medals, one in the 100-meter race and another in the



200-meter race. His outstanding achievements earned him the prestigious title of Best Athlete in the CBSE Cluster Championship.

Sulakshya Singh of Class 12th in the under 19 category demonstrated great determination and talent, earning a Silver medal in javelin throw. Anubhav Angral of Class 8th in the under 17 category exhibited his prowess by winning a Silver medal in the 200-meter race.

These outstanding performances have

not only brought glory to Jammu Sanskriti School, Jammu but have also secured a spot for these talented athletes in the upcoming National Athletics Meet, scheduled to take place in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

Rohini Aima, Principal-cum-Vice Chairperson JSS expressed her heartfelt congratulations to all the winners for their exceptional achievements. She applauded their dedication, hard work, and sportsmanship.

GDC Kishtwar hosts painting and debate competitions

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Nov 2: Eco-Club Govt. Degree College (GDC) Kishtwar, in collaboration with Pollution Control Committee (PCC) Kishtwar, successfully organized Painting and Debate competitions on the topic "Say no to Corruption; Commit to the Nation" as part of the weeklong observance of Vigilance Awareness Week from 30th October 2023 to 5th November 2023.

The events were held under the guidance of Principal of the college Dr. Jyoti Parihar and conensorship of Dr. Sehrish Gazal (HoD Env Sciences).

The aim of the event was to foster a sense of responsibility and commitment among the youth towards building a corruption-free society.

The event witnessed fervent participation from more than 60 students, as well as teaching and non-teaching staff of the college.

Dr. Jyoti Parihar, Principal GDC Kishtwar, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest,



while Mukesh Singh Bali, District officer, PCC Kishtwar, was the Guest of Honor.

The lively and thought-provoking debates, along with the visually captivating paintings, highlighted the students' creativity and their strong belief in the power of honesty and integrity.

The event served as a platform for the young minds to express their views and contribute to the fight against corruption.

The adjudication panel, consisting of Dr. Tariq Tamkeen, Prof. Mussarat Mattoo, Prof. Satish, Prof. and Sonika Sen had the arduous task of evalu-

ating the participants' performances and determining the winners.

The painting competition saw remarkable performances, with Shiveta Sharma, Mamta Kumari, and Aiysha Kouser securing the first, second, and third prizes, respectively.

In the debate competition, Abroo Wajid, Pooja Thakur and Aditi Sharma emerged victorious, capturing the first, second, and third positions showcasing their talents and dedication towards creating awareness about the detrimental effects of corruption on society.

The chief guest at the event delivered an inspiring speech highlighting the theme of the competition, encouraging students to stay away from corruption.

Their words of wisdom motivated the students to become responsible citizens and contribute towards building a corruption-free society.

Additionally, Bali, a prominent figure in our community, shared his insights on the pervasive problems caused by corruption in our society.

He highlighted the detrimental effects of corruption and urged everyone to take a collective stand against this pressing issue.

Dr. Tariq Tamkeen also addressed the audience by sharing his valuable insights.

Dr. Sehrish Gazal, presented a formal vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all participants for their exceptional performances. Special appreciation was extended to the Pollution Control Committee Kishtwar for their invaluable support in organizing the event.

BJP dedicates library to Parihar brothers

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 2: Jammu and Kashmir BJP General Secretary Sunil Sharma, and party's Nanaji Deshmukh Library and e-library Incharge Prof. Kulbhushan Mohtra, inaugurated newly established library in Kishtwar district office in presence of district office bearers, senior leaders and prominent citizens.

Sunil Sharma on this occasion, said that the district library has been dedicated to BJP senior leader Anil Parihar and his brother Ajit Parihar, the great nationalists, who were gunned down by militants in 2018 as they had been uniting the people of the district to defeat the nefarious designs of anti-India forces. He said



that such brave persons who attain martyrdom for the cause of nation always remain in the heart of the people and this library will prove to be a source of reminding the people of the supreme sacrifices of the Pari-

har brothers.

Prof. Kulbhushan Mohtra said that the BJP has already established a library in its headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, which has been dedicated to a great nationalist and inspiring

ideologue Nanaji Deshmukh. Today, this library is serving a large population, particularly the students, scholars and book lovers. In this library, the visitors find books on varied subjects and similar facility will be added to the Kishtwar district library.

District President Chuni Lal Shan expressed gratitude to the party for dedicating the library to Parihar brothers, terming it as a tribute to them.

Tariq Ahmed Keen, Rajinder Singh, Akshay Sharma, Pradeep Parihar, Raj Kumar Badyal, Roshan Lal Sen, Hans Raj Bhutyal, Gulab Chand Bhagat, Basant Raj Thakur, Raj Kumar, Lalit Sharma, Rocky Goswami, Anjali Chouhan Anand and others were prominent among those present on the occasion.

Dagger Parivaar School celebrates annual day in Baramulla

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Nov 2: Dagger Parivar School, a centre for care, is designed for specially-abled children of Baramulla, with a current strength of 103 children with different medical conditions.

The school is a joint initiative of the Chinar Corps and the Indrani Balan Foundation, Pune, and was established on October 20, 2021.

GOC 19 Infantry Division, chairman Indrani Balan Foundation, Pune, as well as other civil and army officers and parents of the children, were present.

The specially abled

children presented different cultural events and dance performances, which enthralled the audience. The school was established with the aim of empowering gifted children to recreate their world.

Specially abled students are being provided with facilities so that they can be integrated into mainstream and other educational institutions. So far, with the hard work and dedication of the teachers and management, eight children from this school have been transferred to different government and private schools.

Talking to the media, Janhavi Dhariwal Balan, the founder of the Indrani

ni Balan Foundation, said that the foundation had established 11 schools in collaboration with the Army with one dedicated to specially abled children.

She added that these children have more abilities than normal children, but providing them with multiple opportunities is the main objective of the foundation.

GOC 19 Infantry Division Major General Rajesh Sethi said that the Army, in collaboration with the Indrani Balan Foundation, will certainly upgrade the infrastructure of the school so that more such children get a chance to explore the opportunities here.

One of the parents of a specially abled child praised the work of the Indian army and the foundation. He shared the challenges of raising special needs children, but the school has given such parents hope.

Targeted killings, attacks on police, civilian expose BJP leadership's claims of normalcy in J&K: Rattan Lal

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 2: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of the J&K National Conference, asserted today that the BJP government at the Centre has pushed Jammu and Kashmir into unprecedented political uncertainty due to its inability to maintain law and order in the Union Territory and not restoring democracy.

Responding to a statement by the General Secretary of BJP that "Jammu and Kashmir is writing a new story of development day by day," the senior NC leader sharply criticized the governments at the Centre and UT for the failure to ensure the safety and security of

Jammu and Kashmir's citizens and police personnel.

He drew attention to the increase in targeted killings and consistent attacks on the police/civilian pointing out the significant discrepancy between the BJP leadership's claims of 'normalcy' in J&K and the actual situation on the ground.

The Provincial President said that the BJP leadership's fear of a poor performance in upcoming elections is leading them to offer unfounded excuses for delaying the polls.

He emphasized that the BJP's reluctance is not merely strategic but a clear neglect of democratic governance principles.

Moreover the statehood is a basic right of every J&K citizen and must be reinstated promptly.

He believes that the call for statehood echoes strongly among the people.

Correcting the BJP leader about the DDC polls in 2020, Rattan Lal Gupta reminded the BJP leadership that the Alliance led by the National Conference had secured 112 seats in 2020, whereas the BJP had won only 75 seats. In Kashmir, the BJP managed only 3 seats in DDC election out of 140.

The senior NC leader claimed that the Modi government has not only failed to eliminate corruption but also seen



corruption increase significantly in Jammu and Kashmir under its regime. "The corruption situation is evident from the case of IAS Officer Ashok Parmar, who became a whistleblower about widespread corruption in the Jal Shakti Department," he added.

Addressing claims of the Modi Government's achievements by the BJP leader, Rattan Lal said that the Modi Government's real accom-

plishments include dividing the Dogra State into two parts increasing unemployment, inflation, recruitment scams, and selective killings. He criticized the central government for its low measures, such as profiting from the sale of government office scrap and earned Rs 500 crores thus boosted the economic condition of the country.

Rattan Lal reaffirmed his dedication to the well-being of Jammu and Kashmir's inhabitants, asserting that only the NC can meet the area's expectations. He vowed to keep advocating for their rights and striving to reestablish democracy in the region.

SBI RSETI Udhampur conducts Awareness program

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Nov 2: State Bank of India Rural Self Employment Training Institute, Udhampur organized awareness programme at Ladda approx 110km away from udhampur to aware the general public about various skillful training program, banking social security schemes, loan schemes and online frauds.

The programme was attended by Director Rseti Mr Rajan Khatak, Mr Ankush senior faculty and Mr Ashok Kumar from Horticulture dept.

Director SBI RSETI highlighted various skillfull programmes for unem-

ployed youth conducted by RSETI for self employment. He also made the participants aware about boarding & lodging facilities provided by the Rseti and registered couples of applications for free of cost training program in different trades. Ankush Sharma faculty RSETI also made the participants aware that RSETI is providing free of cost with boarding and lodging facility for unemployed youth courses like tailoring, parlour, electrical plumbing etc. He also registered couple of application for training.

Ashok also addressed the participants about various scheme of Horticulture department.

I live in a dream of your love: SRK to fans camping outside Mannat on actor's 58th birthday

I am but a mere actor, said Shah Rukh Khan, bowled over by the enduring love of fans who waited for hours to catch a glimpse of the superstar as he turned 58 on Thursday.

In what has become an annual affair, hundreds of fans from different corners of the country gathered outside Mannat, Shah Rukh's Bandra home, to celebrate his birthday, according to videos on social media.

And Shah Rukh didn't disappoint them. The actor, dressed in a black T-shirt and cargo pants, appeared on the elevated ramp constructed at his residence. He greeted the fans with folded hands, flying kisses and struck his signature arms-wide-open pose.



Shah Rukh, who made a spectacular comeback to movies with blockbusters 'Pathaan' and 'Jawan', later posted a heartfelt message for his fans on X.

"It's unbelievable that so many of u come & wish me late at night. I am but a mere actor. Nothing makes me happier, than, the fact that I can entertain u a bit. I live in a dream of your love. Thank u for allowing me to entertain you all. C u in the morning...on the screen & off it," he wrote.

SRK's 'Pathaan', which released in January, turned out to be a bona fide blockbuster, raking in more than Rs 1,000 crore at the worldwide box office. The film marked his first leading man role in four years.

Arshad Warsi to judge Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa



Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa is set to make its grand ghar vapsi on Sony Entertainment Television after a hiatus of 12 years.

Expressing his excitement about making a ghar vapsi on television with this show, Arshad Warsi shares, "I am thrilled to be joining the judging panel of Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa this year. Dance has always been one of my greatest passions and I have loved watching the fabulous performances on this stage over the years. I have tremendous respect for the contestants who will step out of their comfort zone to take up this challenge, and pour their heart and soul into perfecting each performance. It takes courage to put yourself out there and I hope my feedback and encouragement will help them become better performers over the course of this journey. My goal is to inspire them to dance from the heart and have fun while they're at it. And of course, I am looking forward to being entertained and inspired by their talent and creativity. I can't wait for this new season to begin!"

Film production house acquires rights for book on Sidhu Moosewala

Production house Matchbox Shots has acquired the rights to Jupinderjit Singh's book on the life and murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala.

The book, 'Who Killed Moosewala? The spiraling story of violence in Punjab', will be developed either into a movie or a series, a press release said.

The book, which was published in June this year, offers a spine-chilling account of crime, fame and tragedy in the life of Moosewala.

"The book delves into the ominous influence of drugs and the eruption of violence driven by gangsters' growing dominance in Punjab. The narrative paints a comprehensive picture of the dark underbelly of an industry often glamorised but rarely understood," it added.

Jupinderjit said the book generated a lot of interest from various production houses after its publication.



book generated a lot of interest from various production houses after its publication.

The showrunner of Kaala Paani, Sameer Saxena, says one should move away from the herd mentality on OTT and come up with fresh ideas to keep the audience invested

Kaala Paani Ki Asli Dewaar To Bahar Hai... Aur Wo Eeton Se Nahi, Paani Se Bani Hai... from dialogues to casting to performances to location, showrunner Sameer Saxena has done it again with Netflix's latest series Kaala Paani. It has been co-directed by Saxena and Amit Golani. The executive producer behind web series like Panchayat and Gullak, Saxena reveals how he loves to experiment.

Leaving Kaala Paani on a cliffhanger was all part of the plan, so that viewers remain hooked. "We wanted the viewers' first reaction to be 'why' and then them asking for season two. But at the same time, we feel it's a very correct ending. So wouldn't change a thing about the whole series," says Sameer.

Recalling how the whole idea of giving a new definition to Kaala



Paani came into being, he adds, "It is Biswapati Sarkar's story and he stumbled upon this idea during a family vacation to Andaman and Nicobar long back. One of the guides told him that the place was known as Kaala Paani

and kaal meant mrityu (death), so there was no escape from here. When he shared the idea of being stuck in a place with me, it immediately got me interested. We had the idea during the pre-pandemic stage. Also, the subject of sur-

vival drama wasn't much explored till now."

So, did Covid inspire the plot of a possible viral outbreak? "Not at all. It only helped us feel the reality of our thoughts and added weight to the drama, as we knew that people would relate to it."

Lasting impression Except Mona Singh, Kaala Paani doesn't have many known faces, yet the performances of the cast has become a talking point on social media. While Mona sticks around for just one episode, the other actors, Sukant Goel (Chiranjeevi aka Chiru), Vikas Kumar (Santosh Savla), Arushi Sharma (Jyotsna Dey) and Radhika Mehrotra (Ritu Gagra), leave a lasting impression.

The fact that the cast didn't stereotype the local tribe of Andaman and Nicobar in the series deserves a pat on

the back for the makers. Saxena reveals how they developed a whole new tribe (Orakas) from a scratch, right from the language, dressing to everything else. While primary characters were played by actors, a lot of secondary roles were taken by locals of Andaman. He adds, "Orakas are a completely fictitious tribe in the series, but we wanted to treat them as characters just like everyone else. Also, we ensured that we do not end up copying from anywhere else."

Novel approach One change that Saxena hopes for in the film and OTT industry is that everyone should try to move away from herd mentality of copying what has worked with the audience in the past. "We should always try to give something new because that's what the viewers expect from us."

Mira Nair reveals she had recommended Irrfan Khan's name to Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu

Oscar-winning Mexican director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, known for films such as 'Birdman' and 'The Revenant', was keen to work with Irrfan Khan, says director Mira Nair who had suggested the actor's name to the filmmaker.

According to Nair, Inarritu was looking for an Indian actor for one of his projects and happened to ask her for a recommendation.

"I remember well when I had visited him (Irrfan) he was really ailing but still fighting... My other friend, the great filmmaker Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu had said, 'I'm really looking for this Indian everyman'. I said, 'There are many but there's one great one'. And it was going to be Irrfan... But such is life," the 66-year-old director said on Tuesday night during a session at the Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival here.

Irrfan died in April 2020 following a battle with a rare form of cancer.

Nair, who worked with the actor in 'Salaam Bombay!', 'The Namesake', and her short in the anthology film, 'New York I Love You', recalled meeting Irrfan for the first time at the National School of Drama (NSD) in Delhi.

She felt that he was the perfect choice for the role of one of the

key characters, Salim, in 'Salaam Bombay!'. But she later realised that casting him in that role would not be correct given the plot of the film. He eventually appeared in a small role in the 1988 film, which marked his acting debut. 'Salaam Bombay!', which was also Nair's filmmaking debut, is known for realistically depicting the daily life and struggle of children living in Mumbai slums.

"I was interested in street kids playing with themselves. It was an amalgamation of street kids and actors, that's when I went to the National School Drama and met 18-year-old Irrfan Khan. I was like, 'He is the man!'. I asked him and he dropped out of NSD. We all, including Irrfan, Raghubir Yadav, our cinematographer and street kids (sometimes) lived together in an empty flat in Peddar Road (South Mumbai).

"Irrfan was six-feet-four and these kids were malnourished. They reached his torso. He was cast in my head as Salim, one of the main kids. We did a workshop but visually I couldn't see them in a frame because Irrfan would tower over them, even though he was an amazing street kid." Nair said it was "very difficult" to recast that role in 'Salaam Bombay!', but she did so after



promising to collaborate with Irrfan on a full-length film later.

"One of the very difficult things, which one has to do, one has to respect intuition and correctness. He understood (this) after he wept. I just told him, 'Irrfan bhai I can't do this, I can't see you as Salim because you don't fit now with the rest of the four'. There's one scene that he could play and he played the part with great brilliance.

"He said, 'Mira, you owe me'. I said, 'I owe you forever'. It took me 15 years to find Ashok

in 'The Namesake'. It took just a phone call and he was ready. We remained great friends right from 'Salaam Bombay!'. He did not need any explanation."

The director said she enjoys working with both actors and non-actors depending on the need of the film.

Citing the example of her 2001 movie 'Monsoon Wedding', Nair said the only person she was keen to work with was veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah. Later, she cast others including Shefali Shah and Tillotama Shome, then

a newcomer.

For the role of Shashi aunty, played by actor Kamini Khanna, Nair had initially cast one of her childhood friends, who later backed out of the project.

"I went walking in Vasant Vihar park (in Delhi) and I saw a woman in salwar-kameez and sneakers, I followed her. I asked her if she had acted, she said, 'Yes, in a music video'. I asked her if she could come to my house. I took out Shashi aunty scenes and started reading with her. Her name is Kamini Khanna and she got the role opposite Kulbhushan Kharbanda. Later, she moved to Mumbai and has played Shashi aunty (kind of) roles about 18 times."

"Sometimes, it (casting) happened instinctively and out of necessity. I'm comfortable with non-actors. You have the beauty of working with pros opposite non-actors, like Denzel Washington opposite Sarita Chaudhary (in 'Mississippi Masala'). She was a film student then, I loved her lack of vanity, look and her intelligence. The alchemy that happens between someone who knows the tricks of the trade and someone who doesn't happen... I look anywhere where the spirit can take me."

Robert De Niro lashes out at former assistant who sued him, shouting: 'Shame on you!'



Actor Robert De Niro shouted "Shame on you!", as he testified in a New York courtroom, directing the comments toward his former executive assistant and vice president who seeks millions of dollars after accusing her onetime boss of being abusive.

Graham Chase Robinson watched with her lawyers while De Niro's anger built as attorney Andrew Macurdy pelleted him with some tabloid-style accusations his client made about De Niro's behaviour toward Robinson as she served his needs, large and small, from 2008 until several months into 2019.

Robinson, 41, seeks USD 12 million in damages for emotional distress and reputational harm that she claims has left her jobless and unable to recover from the trauma of working for De Niro. She was making USD 300,000 annually when she quit, frustrated by her interactions with De Niro's girlfriend and the effect she believed the girlfriend was having on the actor.

The jury is also considering evidence pertaining to a lawsuit De Niro filed against Robinson in which he claimed that she stole things from him, including 5 million points that could be used for airline flights. De Niro is seeking the return of three years of Robinson's salary.

spoke with Robinson on the telephone. "That's nonsense," De Niro answered. "You got us all here for this?"

Macurdy told De Niro he called Robinson "b** to her face." "I was never abusive, ever," the actor snapped back, though he conceded that he might have used the word in conversations with her. And the claim that he told Robinson he preferred that she scratch his back rather than using a back scratching device drew another angry rebuke from De Niro, who said it might have happened once or twice, but "never was with disrespect or lewdness."

Finally, he angrily looked toward Robinson and shouted: "Shame on you, Chase Robinson!" Quickly, he blurted an apology in a quieter voice, as he glanced toward Judge Lewis J Liman. The actor admitted that there were no written rules for those who worked for him because, he said, he relied on the "rules of common sense." He said he promoted Robinson with the title of vice president of his company, Canal Productions, at her request but he added that her duties didn't change.

At times, De Niro would flatly deny something, only to later admit that there might be truth to it in a manner different than how it was suggested.

Asked if he once yelled at Robinson when she was in Europe and had failed to call and remind him of an important meeting in California, De Niro answered that he hadn't, only to quickly add: "I raised my voice."

"I got angry that one time," he said. "I berated her. I wasn't abusive. I was upset." "You called her a brat," Macurdy said.

"I could have," De Niro answered. Sometimes, De Niro sounded like he wanted to leave the witness stand. "I don't have time for this," he said at one point.

He rejected Macurdy's suggestion that he sued Robinson before she sued him because he wanted publicity.

"It draws attention to me. It's the last thing I wanted to do," De Niro said.

Projects worth Rs 6.80 lakh crore ready for Ground Breaking Ceremony in UP

LUCKNOW, Nov 2 (Agencies): The Yogi Adityanath-led government in Uttar Pradesh, which set a record by signing MoUs worth over Rs 38 lakh crore during the Global Investors Summit, is set to translate this investment into reality through a Groundbreaking Ceremony (GBC). Currently, more than 8,000 projects totaling approximately Rs 6.80 lakh crore are ready for implementation through GBC, expected to begin early next year.

According to government officials, they set targets for all departments for the ground-breaking ceremony. So far, more than 8,000 projects, with a total investment potential exceeding Rs nine lakh crore, are prepared for GBC. Of these MoUs have been signed for more than 6,000 projects and around 2,000 projects are non-MoU.

Notably, Uttar Pradesh signed over 26,000 MoUs, potentially bringing in more than Rs 38 lakh crore in investments. The gov-



ernment assigned 33 departments to implement MoUs worth over Rs 9 lakh crore. The Additional Sources of Energy department achieved the most success by getting MoUs worth more than Rs 1 lakh crore ready for GBC. The department signed a total of 503 MoUs with a combined investment potential exceeding Rs 8 lakh crore.

The Energy department aimed for Rs 1.25 lakh crore for GBC and achieved over 83 percent of its target with 111 projects worth Rs 1.04 lakh crore ready for investment. Similarly, UPCIDA

has prepared MoUs worth more than Rs 94,000 crore for GBC. They had a target of Rs 2 lakh crore and have achieved over 47 percent of it.

Noida Authority is also prepared for significant investments, with 115 projects worth Rs 54,000 crore ready for GBC. They achieved 61 percent of their Rs 90,000 crore target by signing 426 MoUs, whose investment potential was more than Rs 1 lakh crore. Higher Education has consent for 257 projects worth Rs 51,000 crore in GBC.

Deputy CM Brijesh Pathak said that through the new industrial policy, the single window system and ease of doing business has expanded the opportunities in Uttar Pradesh and the government has been successfully able to attract industrialists to the state.

Through a set target, every department is making an effort, and these investments will soon materialize through the ground-breaking ceremony. Uttar Pradesh's image has changed, attracting investments exceeding 37 lakh crore.

Meanwhile, the opposition in the state questioned the GBC preparations, with Samajwadi Party leader Ameenque Jamai stating that the government talks about investments but does not implement them on the ground. He emphasised the need for actual groundwork before such ceremonies can effectively attract investment to the state.

Notice sent to Apple, CERT-In has started probe: IT Secretary on hacking attempt alert issue



NEW DELHI, Nov 2 (Agencies): CERT-In has started its probe in the Apple threat notification issue raised by opposition MPs, and a notice has been sent to the company, IT Secretary S Krishnan said on Thursday.

He hoped that Apple would cooperate with the investigation by CERT-In on the issue. "CERT-In has started its probe... they (Apple)

will cooperate in this probe," Krishnan told reporters on the sidelines of an event related to the Meity-NSF research collaboration.

Indian Computer Emergency Response Team or CERT-In is the national nodal agency for responding to computer security incidents as and when they occur.

Asked if a notice has been sent to Apple, the IT Secretary answered

in the affirmative.

Several opposition leaders on Tuesday claimed they have received an alert from Apple warning them of "state-sponsored attackers trying to remotely compromise" their iPhones and alleged hacking by the government, a charge IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnav rejected but assured a thorough probe.

Those who received such notifications included Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, party leaders Shashi Tharoor, Pawan Khera, KC Venugopal, Supriya Shrinete, TS Singhdeo and Bhupinder Singh Hooda; Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav.

BJP leaders stage dharna at Rajghat, demand Delhi CM Kejriwal's resignation

NEW DELHI, Nov 2 (Agencies): Delhi BJP leaders staged a dharna near Mahatma Gandhi's memorial at Rajghat on Thursday, demanding Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's resignation over the alleged excise policy scam.

Kejriwal skipped questioning by the Enforcement Directorate on the day and went on campaigning in Madhya Pradesh while terming the summons by the agency as "politically motivated" and issued at the behest of the BJP. "There was a scam



of thousands of crores of rupees in the excise policy and even the children in Delhi know that Kejriwal was the mastermind behind it," Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said at the sit-in.

Top BJP leaders, including MP and former Union minister Harsh Vardhan, MP Manoj Tiwari and Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri were present at the dharna.

Telangana women can benefit by up to Rs 4,000 per month if Congress voted to power, says Rahul Gandhi

HYDERABAD, Nov 2 (Agencies): Women in Telangana can benefit up to Rs 4,000 if Congress is voted to power in the November 30 assembly polls, by way of social pension, savings on LPG cylinder and free travel in government buses, AICC former chief Rahul Gandhi said on Thursday.

Addressing a women gathering at Ambatipalli village near Medigadda (Laxmi) barrage of Kaleshwaram project, he also said the Congress has decided to "give back" all



the money allegedly "looted" by Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrababoo Naidu.

"Telangana women were the most affected by the loot of the chief minister here. The Congress party has decided

to deposit the amount looted by the chief minister in your bank accounts," Rahul said.

He said, as the first step, every month, Rs 2,500 will be deposited as social pension into women's bank accounts.

Also, Rs 1,500 will be saved as the Congress, if voted to power, will supply a LPG cylinder, which is now costing Rs 1,000, at Rs 500 and another Rs 1,000 by way of free travel on government buses.

"With all these you will benefit Rs 4,000 every month. This is called Parajala sarkar (people's government)," he said.

Alleging that Rs 1 lakh crore was looted in Telangana, the Gandhiscion said the BRS, BJP and MIM are contesting on one side in the upcoming polls even

as the fight is between Congress and the KCR-led party.

"MIM and BJP are supporting BRS. So you will have to support Congress fully to remove Dorala sarkar (feudal regime) and establish Parajala sarkar (people's regime)," he said.

Alleging that the Kaleshwaram Project has become like an "ATM" for KCR for making money, Rahul said in order to run this machine, all the families in Telangana would have to "shell out Rs 31,500 per annum till 2040".

"Not Much Progress In INDIA, Congress More Interested In...": Nitish Kumar

PATNA, Nov 2 (Agencies): Speculation over the future of the INDIA bloc ramped up Thursday after Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar blamed the Congress for lack of progress in preparing for the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

Mr Kumar said this is because the Congress - one of the group's biggest members and assigned the "leading role", according to the Bihar leader - is preoccupied with state polls; party-ruled Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh vote this month, as do Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Mizoram.

Addressing a Communist Party of India rally in Patna, Nitish

Kumar remarked with a chuckle, "We have been speaking to them... pushing them forward in INDIA alliance. But, of late, there has not been much progress on that front. The Congress seems to be more interested in the five assembly polls."

"We agreed to assign Congress the leading role. But it appears they will call the next meeting only after they are through with the state elections," the Janata Dal (United) leader said.

The last meet of the INDIA group was on August 31-September 1 in Mumbai, after which it was announced the Congress would set the next dates. There

was talk it may be in Delhi but no news has emerged since. There was also buzz it would be in Madhya Pradesh but that too did not happen.

Nitish Kumar is widely seen as one of the founding members of the INDIA bloc; in fact, it was the Bihar Chief Minister who sounded out senior opposition leaders on the prospect of uniting to defeat the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, using his seniority to act as an intermediary between them and the Congress.

Mr Kumar met Congress boss Mallikarjun Kharge and top leader Rahul Gandhi in May,

after which he crisscrossed the country, meeting top leaders, including those like Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who have difficult relationships with the Congress, but came into the INDIA fold anyway.

The first meeting of the INDIA bloc was held in Patna in June, at which Mr Kumar once again had to play peace-maker; this was after the Aam Aadmi Party threatened to boycott the meeting because the Congress had not backed its campaign against the Delhi administrative services ordinance.

Nitish Kumar's comment also comes after

a squabble between the Congress and the Samajwadi Party over seat-sharing for the Madhya Pradesh election. Akhilesh Yadav claimed an agreement that his party would contest six seats was ignored. "If I knew, we wouldn't have spoken to Congress," he said.

On Monday, however, Mr Yadav downplayed the fight, telling NDTV he remains part of the INDIA group.

And, in another sign that all is not well between the two parties, they have traded banners hailing their figureheads - Mr Yadav and Rahul Gandhi - as future prime ministers.

I-T dept conducts searches at Telangana Congress candidate Laxma Reddy's residence

HYDERABAD, Nov 2 (Agencies): The Income Tax Department officials are carrying out searches at the residence of Congress leader K Laxma Reddy here on Thursday, sources said.

Reddy is the Congress candidate for the Maheshwaram assembly segment for the November 30 assembly polls.

The Income Tax Department along with Election Commission officials are conducting the searches.

Reacting to the searches, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC)

official spokesperson Gouri Satish accused the ruling BRS in Telangana and the BJP-led Centre for the I-T and EC searches on the Congress candidate.

Both BRS and BJP are working together and they are trying to demoralise Congress candidates by such acts, he alleged.

"BRS and the BJP are only one party. Both are planning on how to control Congress. People have decided to support the Congress party in the November 30 assembly elections in Telangana and they (BRS and BJP) are

unable to digest the public acceptance and hence resorting to such things," he alleged.

"On behalf of Congress we are warning the BRS and BJP leaders not to do such things," Satish said.

The people of Telangana should be aware that BRS and BJP are "two sides of the same coin", he said.

The officials are also conducting raids on the premises of Badangpet Municipal Corporation Mayor Chigurintha Parijata Narasimha Reddy since morning in the city.

Navi Mumbai man loses Rs 1.4 crore to cyber fraud

THANE, Nov 2 (Agencies): The Navi Mumbai police in Maharashtra have registered a case against five people for allegedly duping a 58-year-old man of nearly Rs 1.4 crore by promising him high returns, an official said on Thursday.

Citing the complainant, the official said the accused convinced the man, who lives in Vashi, that he would get handsome returns if he invested in shares through them.

They then provided him links and made him pay Rs 1.37 crore

between July and October this year, the official said.

When the man did not receive any money despite follow-ups, he approached the police.

The Navi Mumbai police on Wednesday registered a case under the Indian Penal Code and IT Act.

The FIR names the accused as Aryan Bhavar, Aryan Gupta, Emma, Gloria and Group Admin of 'Stock Market Alliance VIP 991', the official said, adding that the cyber police are probing the matter.

Characters from 1975 film 'Sholay' spice up Madhya Pradesh elections

BHOPAL, Nov 2 (Agencies): Popular characters from the 1975 Hindi blockbuster 'Sholay' have entered the political discourse ahead of the November 17 Madhya Pradesh assembly elections.

The opposition Congress and the ruling BJP are accusing each other of looting the state drawing parallels with the film's characters, who were associated with crime in some way or the other.

The Congress said the "bonhomie" between its state president Kamal Nath and senior leader Digvijaya Singh was akin to the bond shared by 'Jai' and 'Veeru', played by Amitabh

Bachchan and Dharmendra respectively, in the film, while Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said Jai and Veeru were fighting over the distribution of "plundered booty".

Nath termed Chouhan 'Gabbar Singh', the movie's lead villain.

Elections to the 230-member Madhya Pradesh assembly will be held in a single phase on November 17.

Noted scriptwriter and filmmaker Rumi Jaffery told PTI, "It is a matter of satisfaction that dialogues and characters pictured by us decades back in films like 'Sholay' or 'Mughal-e-Azam' are still relevant and people are using them even

today. These characters are timeless and will remain so."

The Jai-Veeru duo entered the political arena in the state after a protest over ticket distribution led Nath to make his "tear clothes of Digvijaya Singh and his son Jaivardhan Singh" remark. It sparked speculation that all was not well between the two former Congress chief ministers.

Responding to a question, Congress general secretary in-charge of Madhya Pradesh Ran-deep Singh Surjewala equated the friendship between Nath and Singh with the one shared by Jai and Veeru.

The BJP seized the



opportunity to hit back at the grand old party on the issue.

CM Chouhan took a swipe at Singh and Nath, referring to them as Jai and Veeru who, he said, were fighting between themselves over the distribution of "plundered booty".

Veteran journalist Girija Shankar told agency, "It is a needless controversy and Chouhan should not have entered into it. By targeting Jai-Veeru (Nath and Digvijaya), he (Chouhan) automatically became Gabbar as Jai-Veeru were known for their friendship and

not remembered as thieves."

Chouhan invoked the characters after reports said Singh and Nath were in Delhi on Tuesday to meet the Congress leadership.

In a video statement shared on his X account, Chouhan said, "Jai-Veeru duo was called to Delhi. As newspapers reported, they (Congress leaders) are saying that the BJP is creating confusion (about differences between Nath and Singh). Why has Delhi (Congress leadership) called them? Jai and Veeru are fighting between themselves over the 'loot ka maal'."

North Korea has likely sent missiles as well as ammunition and shells to Russia, says Seoul

Both Russia and North Korea dismissed weapons shipment accusations as baseless

SEOUL (SOUTH KOREA), Nov 2 (Agencies): North Korea has likely supplied several types of missiles to Russia to support its war in Ukraine, along with its widely reported shipments of ammunition and shells, South Korea's military said Thursday.

The assessment was released a day after South Korea's spy service told lawmakers that North Korea recently provided more than a million artillery shells to Russia amid deepening military cooperation between the two countries, both key US adversaries. In a background briefing for local journalists, South Korea's military said that North Korea is suspected of sending an unspecified number of short-range ballistic missiles, anti-tank missiles and portable anti-air missiles to Russia, in addition to rifles, rocket launchers, mortars and shells.

The contents of the briefing were shared with The Associated Press.

Last week, South Korea, the US and Japan strongly condemned what they call North



Korea's supply of munitions and military equipment to Russia, saying that such weapons shipments sharply increase the human toll of Russia's war in Ukraine. Any weapons trade with North Korea would be a violation of multiple U.N. Security Council resolutions, which Russia, a permanent U.N. Security Council member, previously endorsed.

Both Russia and North Korea dismissed the weapons shipment accusations as baseless.

Outside speculation about North Korean arms shipments

flared after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un travelled to Russia in September to meet President Vladimir Putin and visit key military facilities. The U.S. and its allies accuse North Korea of seeking high-tech Russian technologies to modernize its arsenal of nuclear weapons and missiles in return for its shipments of conventional arms.

In a private briefing with lawmakers on Wednesday, the National Intelligence Service — South Korea's main spy agency — said that more than a million North Korean artillery

shells have been sent to Russia since August via ships and transport planes. The NIS said the shells roughly amounted to two months' worth of supplies for the Russians, according to lawmaker Yoo Sang-bum, who attended the NIS briefing.

The NIS assessed that North Korea has been operating its munitions factories at full capacity to meet Russian munition demands and has also been mobilizing residents to increase production.

The NIS said North Korea, for its part, is likely receiving Russian technological assistance over its plan to launch its first military spy satellite into space. North Korea's two recent attempts to launch a spy satellite ended in failure due to technical issues. The North failed to follow through with its vow to make a third launch attempt in October, without giving any reasons.

South Korea's military said North Korea also seeks to receive nuclear-related technologies, fighter jets or related aircraft equipment and assistance on the establishment of anti-air defence networks from Russia.

China On "Constant High Alert" After US, Canada Ships Cross Taiwan Strait

BEIJING, Nov 2 (Agencies): China said Thursday its troops were "on constant high alert" after US and Canadian warships passed through the Taiwan Strait, their second joint passage in two months. The USS Rafael Peralta, an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer, and the Royal Canadian Navy's Halifax-class frigate HMCS Ottawa conducted a "routine" transit through the strait on Wednesday, the US Navy said.

"Troops in the theatre remain on constant high alert, and will resolutely protect national sovereignty and security as well as regional peace and stability,"

Senior Colonel Shi Yi, a spokesman for China's Eastern Theatre Command, said in a statement.

Shi slammed the latest transit as a "public hype" and said its naval and air forces had "trailed their entire course."

The ships' passage comes after two warships belonging to the US and Canada sailed through the narrow waterway separating the island and mainland China on September 9.

The United States and its Western allies have increased "freedom of navigation" crossings by naval vessels both of the Taiwan Strait and the disputed South China Sea, to reinforce that both are international waterways, angering Beijing.

The Seventh Fleet said in a statement the transit had been made in accordance with international law and "through a corridor in the Strait that is beyond

the territorial sea of any coastal State".

"Cooperation like this represents the centrepiece of our approach to a secure and prosperous region where aircraft and ships of all nations may fly, sail and operate anywhere international law allows."

Taiwan's defence ministry said Thursday it was monitoring the passage on Wednesday night, but added that "the situation was normal".

China, which claims Taiwan as its own territory to be seized one day, has stepped up military and political pressure on the self-ruled island as relations have plunged in recent years.

In September, China sent in 103 planes around Taiwan within a 24-hour period, which Taipei described as "a recent high".

Biden Administration To Build Strategy To Fight Islamophobia Amid Gaza War

WASHINGTON, Nov 2 (Agencies): The administration of US President Joe Biden said today it would develop a strategy to combat Islamophobia -- an announcement that comes as tensions simmer nationwide over the war between Israel and Hamas.

"President Biden ran for office to restore the soul of our nation. He is unequivocal: there is no place for hate in America against anyone. Period," White House spokeswoman Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement.

"For too long, Muslims in America, and those perceived to be Muslim, such as Arabs and Sikhs, have endured a disproportionate number of hate-fueled attacks and other discriminatory incidents."

The strategy will be developed in concert with the communities concerned, the White House said.

Jean-Pierre singled out what she called the recent "barbaric" killing of a six-year-old Palestinian American boy outside Chicago, which police have linked to



the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas.

The US government has already launched a plan to counter anti-Semitism across the country.

The promise to do something similar to protect the Muslim community is not new, but today's announcement appeared to indicate new momentum, at a particularly charged moment.

The war launched after the bloody Hamas attack on Israel has left Muslim Americans fearful of a wave of hostility similar to that seen after the 9/11 attacks in 2001.

The response to the war by Biden, who went to Israel in a show

of support for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, has prompted criticism from Muslim and Arab Americans.

The 80-year-old Democrat has been accused of turning a blind eye to the suffering of Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip, but the US leader has defended his actions, pointing to his efforts to get humanitarian aid into the besieged territory.

A survey conducted by the Arab American Institute showed that Arab American voters have massively turned away from Biden: support for the incumbent, who faces reelection next year, dropped from 59 percent in 2020 to 17 percent now.

Pressure Mounts On Benjamin Netanyahu As Israel-Hamas War Rages

TEL AVIV, Nov 2 (Agencies): Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu built his reputation as a security hawk on the back of his service in an elite special forces unit that carried out some of Israel's most daring hostage rescues.

His legacy as his country's longest serving leader will now be shaped by one of the worst security failures it has known and by the fate of more than 200 hostages seized by Palestinian Hamas gunmen from Gaza who Israel says killed 1,400 people on the deadliest day of its 75-year-old history.

The scale of the killing, accounts of trauma and images of the violence that emerged from the southern Israeli communities around Gaza have shaken the country.

In his sixth term as prime minister, Netanyahu, 74, heads one of Israel's most extreme right-wing coalitions and has come under increasing pressure as the initial shock has given way to fury at the failures that allowed the attack to take place.

He has refused to accept responsibility, saying only that everyone will have to answer difficult questions when the war with Hamas is



over, and in one of his rare press conferences, dismissed a question asking if he would resign.

But the mood of the country has turned, according to opinion polls showing a large majority blaming him, underpinned by images of cabinet ministers being abused in public when they step out of their official cars.

An Oct. 18-19 Maariv newspaper poll showed former Defence Minister Benny Gantz, an opposition centrist party head in a newly formed unity government, was favoured for prime minister by 48% of respondents, compared with only 28% for Netanyahu.

"Netanyahu is going to go. Just like the top military, the intelligence and GSS (intelligence service) officials. Because they failed," the daily newspaper Israel Hayom wrote in an editorial this week.

Facing trial on corruption charges, which he denies, his popularity had already been dented by a bitter battle over plans to curb the powers of the Supreme Court, which brought hundreds of thousands of Israelis to the streets for months.

For now, political consequences have been put on hold as Israeli jets carry out airstrikes the Gaza health ministry says have killed more than 8,000 Palestinians and Israeli tanks have smashed their way deep into the blockaded enclave.

But much will depend on the result of the operation, whose declared aim is to destroy Hamas forever and whether his own party will continue to support him in the face of the increasingly loud calls for change.

"THE GOVERNMENT MUST DELIVER," HIS ALLY SAYS
"I'm not concerned

about the polls, I am concerned about delivery of results and I think Prime Minister Netanyahu and the government must deliver," said Danny Danon, a former Israeli ambassador to the United Nations and a member of Netanyahu's ruling Likud party in parliament.

"We have seen too many cycles in the past where pressure forced the government not to complete the mission and to leave Hamas in power," he said.

"If the government will not deliver what it promised which is the eradication of Hamas, I am sure it will not be accepted - not by the public and not by the political system."

But the military test, though daunting enough on its own, is not the only challenge.

Netanyahu, who burned through the goodwill even of allies like the United States in the battle over judicial reform, is viewed with deep suspicion in much of the world due to his alliance with hardline religious and nationalist parties.

In addition to pressure over issues like the relentless expansion of Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank, there has been

mounting alarm internationally at the scale of casualties during the bombing of Gaza.

The economy, squeezed by the uncertainty over the judicial overhaul process, which was strongly opposed by most of the business community, has been further hit with businesses in sectors ranging from construction to food services reporting sharp drops in revenue.

Netanyahu, normally a smooth and assured figure, has appeared increasingly erratic, notably in an incident this week in which he sent out a late-night tweet blaming his intelligence chiefs for failing to warn him of the Oct. 7 attack.

The tweet was deleted the following morning and Netanyahu issued an apology but the damage was done and there was a firestorm of criticism from the press and across the political spectrum.

"He is a man who is unfit to serve as prime minister," an editorialist in Yedioth Ahronoth, Israel's biggest selling newspaper, wrote this week, adding that Netanyahu should have resigned or been removed immediately after the Oct. 7 attack.

Australian police arrest host of lunch that left 3 guests dead from suspected mushroom poisoning

Patterson always insisted she was innocent, reportedly saying in August that she had unwittingly bought the mushrooms from an Asian grocery store and that the poisonings were accidental.

MELBOURNE, Nov 2 (Agencies): Australian police on Thursday arrested the woman at the centre of a mushroom meal mystery that left three people dead and a local preacher fighting for his life.

The arrest of 49-year-old Erin Patterson is the latest twist in a saga that has gripped the nation and thrust the spotlight on the small rural town of Leongatha, 110 kilometres (70 miles) southeast of Melbourne.

Police said they arrested Patterson in the morning and began

a search of her home with the help of "technology detector dogs", which can sniff out electronic devices such as USB keys.

Homicide squad investigators will question her once the search of her home is complete, said Detective Inspector Dean Thomas of the Victoria police homicide squad.

"Today's arrest is just the next step in what has been a complex and thorough investigation by homicide squad detectives and one that is not yet over," Thomas told reporters, without

taking questions.

The probe had been subject to "incredibly intense" media and public interest in Australia and internationally, he said.

"I think it is particularly important that we keep in mind that at the heart of this three people have lost their lives," Thomas said.

In smaller communities, "a tragedy such as this can reverberate for years to come", he added.

Patterson, who denies any wrongdoing, has not been charged.

She served the mush-



rooms as part of a beef Wellington dish on the afternoon of July 29 to her estranged parents-in-law Don and Gail Patterson, local Baptist pastor Ian Wilkinson and his wife Heather.

Later that night, the

two couples were taken to hospital with food poisoning symptoms as their health rapidly deteriorated.

Within a week, three of them were dead.

Police believe their symptoms were consis-

tent with those caused by eating highly toxic death cap mushrooms.

"Devastated"

Of the four, only 69-year-old pastor Wilkinson survived after spending nearly two months gravely ill in hospital. He was released on September 23.

He appeared for the first time in public in early October at a memorial for his wife, with a local newspaper describing him as "frail-looking" and "using a walking frame".

Police had named community newsletter editor Patterson as a suspect soon after the

fateful meal.

Patterson always insisted she was innocent, reportedly saying in August that she had unwittingly bought the mushrooms from an Asian grocery store and that the poisonings were accidental.

"I am now devastated to think that these mushrooms may have contributed to the illness suffered by my loved ones," she said in a statement provided to Australian media at the time.

"I really want to repeat that I had absolutely no reason to hurt these people whom I loved."

A memorial service for Don and Gail Patterson was held at the end of August. Reverend Fran Grimes told the congregation that the community was trying to "shield and protect the family from heartless speculation and gossip".

Death cap mushrooms sprout freely throughout wet, warm parts of Australia and are easily mistaken for edible varieties.

They reportedly taste sweeter than other types of mushrooms but possess potent toxins that slowly poison the liver and kidneys.

PM Modi introduced historic changes for welfare of J&K: Khatana

Top News Report

NEW DELHI, Nov 2: Bharatiya Janata Party MP Rajya Sabha (Nominated) Er. Gulam Ali Khatana today presented the keynote address at the two-day long national seminar on "Socio-economic Transformation, Inclusive and Sustainable Development." The event was organized by the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.

In his opening remarks, Er. Gulam Ali Khatana highlighted the remarkable socio-economic transformation that has taken place in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir following the historic abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A. The discussion primarily centered around the significant improvements in socio-political and economic conditions, with a particular focus on the wel-



fare of Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), and those residing along the International border.

MP Khatana underscored the far-reaching changes that have been implemented to promote inclusive development and uplift the marginalized communities. Notable measures mentioned in his speech include political reservations for Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in local bodies, panchayats, and the assembly, ensuring their

active participation in the democratic process. Additionally, citizenship rights have been granted to West Pakistan Refugees, Gorkhas, Valmikis, and women who had married outside the state, marking a significant milestone after seven decades of Indian Independence.

He commended the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government for their commitment to the development of the region. Under their stewardship, Jammu and

Kashmir has witnessed a surge in developmental activities. The introduction of geotagging for local produce, such as Saffron, Pashmina, Basohli paintings, and Basmati rice, has been a pivotal step towards enhancing the visibility and accessibility of these unique products, both within India and on the international stage.

Khatana shed light on the positive transformations that have taken place in Jammu and Kashmir, fostering socio-economic development, inclusivity, and sustainable progress in the region.

The seminar, organized by the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, has brought together experts, scholars, and policymakers to deliberate on these crucial issues, providing a platform for meaningful discussions and insights that can drive progress in the socio-economic landscape of the Union Territory.

LTSU starts 1st batch of RESEED course



Top News Report

JAMMU / CHANDIGARH, Nov 2: Lamrin Tech Skill University (LTSU) announced the commencement of the first batch of its specialised course 'Reinforcing Skill Education For Employability Development (RESEED)' to train real estate professionals on Thursday.

This highly focused research based real estate education program is envisaged under centre for specialized training to address both practical

and technical aspects of the sector, including its regulation under RERA. It is expected that this innovative course will usher in an era of transparency and promote sustainable growth of the real estate industry in India.

Dr. Sandeep Singh Kaura, Chancellor of LTSU said, "Real estate sector in India has matured and become much more organized and transparent. As the sector matures, all the stakeholders also evolve and one of the key needs for the hour,

therefore, is the up-skilling of people involved in the sector."

To address this gap, the Steller School of Real Estate is aimed at providing the new age knowledge and skills to the young workforce aspiring to join the real estate industry and working professionals already in this high growth industry, said Dr. Kaura, who is also Adviser, National Skill Development Corporation & NSDC International and Adviser to Government of Punjab.

RESEED will build a learning ecosystem to provide best skills to youth to make them employable globally, said Ashima Nanda Aggarwal the director of Nobel Mark School Tech.

Couple charge sheeted for issuing fake Diplomas of different trades

Top News Report

JAMMU Nov 2: Economic Offences Wing - Crime Branch Jammu produced 301 page preliminary charge-sheet in case FIR No. 11/2017 U/S 420,465,468,471,120-B RPC P/S Crime Branch Jammu against accused Husband-wife duo - 1) Gurbaksh Singh @ G.B Singh (MD-Kissan Institute of Technology, R.S Pura) S/o Late S. Sewa Singh R/O H.No. 64 W.No. 08 R.S.Pura Jammu A/P H.No.177 near Geeta Mandir Bakshi Nagar Jammu and 2) Bharti Bhat (Principal KIT, R.S Pura) W/o Gurbaksh Singh D/o Jia Lal Bhat R/O H.No.177 near Geeta Mandir Bakshi Nagar Jammu for cheating students by providing them fake diploma certificates of Plumber, Electrician etc. posing as Managing Director and Principal of Kisan Institute of Technology R.S. Pura, Jammu, knowingly that they were not authorized to conduct such examinations and issue diplomas for various NCVT and SCVT trades, which were further used by students for job in PHE Department as skilled workers.

Brief facts of the case are that a complainant titled Harpreet Singh & others V/S Executive Engineer PHE Department, Division Poonch, was received in Crime



Branch Jammu from the Vigilance Commission J&K to the effect that some candidates having Plumber/Electrician diploma certificates from Kissan Institute of Technology R.S. Pura, Jammu were engaged by the Executive Engineer, PHE Poonch, as need based casual labourers but on verification of their diploma certificates through Directorate of Technical Education, it was found that these diploma certificates were fake. It was also revealed that permission/affiliation granted by the Directorate to the Kissan Institute of Technology, R.S. Pura, Jammu an Industrial Training Institute (ITI) for running the courses under NCVT and SCVT was also kept in abeyance till further orders and the institute was not allowed to make any admissions in any of the trades from August, 2016. However, the institute in violation of the norms and the standing orders and in furtherance of a criminal conspiracy admitted the students and issued them fake diploma cer-

tificates, which were used by these candidates in order to secure Govt. job through fraudulent means.

On receipt of the complaint alongwith the verification report instant case was registered by Crime Branch Jammu under the relevant sections of law for indepth investigation.

During the course of investigation, material evidence in the form of documentary record, FSL report was collected from concerned quarters besides statements of complainant/witnesses u/s 161 Cr.PC was recorded and also keeping in view the circumstantial evidence enumerated above, it has been found that the accused cheated the students by providing them fake Plumber/Electrician diploma certificates /diplomas for NCVT trade and SCVT trades, knowingly that they were not authorized to conduct such exams and issue such diplomas.

Offences U/S 420,465,468,471,120-B RPC has been proved against accused persons.

In the meantime EOW-CB Jammu also produced charge-sheet in another case FIR No. 68/2022 U/S 420, 465, 468, 471/RPC P/S Crime Branch Jammu for judicial determination.

RGS hosts enchanting Halloween-Themed celebration for students, parents

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 2: Ranjit Global School (RGS) hosted a Halloween-themed celebration for its kindergarten students and their parents. The event was a delightful blend of creativity, learning, and fun.

Children attending the kindergarten at RGS transformed into little ghouls and cosmic beings, showcasing their talents in Halloween-inspired costumes and cosmic attire. The classrooms were adorned with a variety of captivating themes, including a cosmic theme, creating a lively



and enjoyable atmosphere where students could dance and laugh to their hearts content.

Dr. Baljinder Kour, the esteemed Principal of RGS took the opportunity to enlighten the attendees about the historical origins of Hal-

loween, tracing it back to European countries where people began dressing up as ghosts with the belief that it would ward off evil spirits. This educational aspect added depth to the celebrations. The event also had the

privilege of hosting distinguished guests R.S Chowdhary, Former SP and member of the National investigating Agency, Dr. Manmeet Singh Chairman RGS, Fmr. Sarpanch S. S. Charak, Arvinder Kour, Former Assistant Pro-

fessor Ranjit College of Education now serving as Government teacher at High School Bandhura Kh Jammu, Akshay Parihar Centre Manager Paceit and Medical Jammu, Sonia Sharma Academics Head Paceit and Medical Jammu, Kashmir & Ladhak.

Their presence at the celebration added prestige and significance to the event.

RGS is committed to providing a holistic education experience that combines fun, learning, and cultural awareness. The Halloween-themed celebration was a testament to commitment

GDC Neeli Nallah organizes Crafts Demonstration Awareness Program



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Nov 2: GDC Neeli Nallah Udhampur organized three days Crafts Demonstration Awareness Programme under District Level Gandhi Crafts and weaves Mahaotsav in collaboration with Handicraft Service Centre, Udhampur. The programme was organized

under the able guidance of Prof. Hans Raj, principal of the College. The programme started with keynote addressed by Mr. Surinder Pal, Sr. Assistant Director, HSC Udhampur. In his address, he briefed about the importance of awareness programme. Further, Prof. Hans Raj, Principal, in his welcome address emphasizes that Hand-

icraft goods help to create more job opportunities in the society. Handicrafts are hugely important to societies especially to those situated in rural areas. Handicraft business provides employment opportunities even with low capital investment.

There is a huge demand for handicraft items both locally and internationally. On the first day, Ms. Deepa Soni, Sh. S.S. Balaria, Ms. Ramneek Kour, Ms. Shepali Sharma aware the students about artistic Designing, Basholi Painting, Handlooms and Chamba Embroidery respectively. On day 2, practical demonstration was given on the same. In the demonstration of various arts- basholi painting, clay art, chamba embroidery

etc. students of the college participated with great enthusiasm. On the third day, programme was concluded with competition to evaluate the students how much they learnt through this workshop. In the basholi painting competition, Manik secured 1st position, Mahida Mir secured 2nd position and Priti Bharti secured third position. In the clay art competition, Shruti Dogra and Rushi Dogra secured first position, Parul Verma and Sheriya Sharma secured second position and Varun and Rashu Devi secured third position.

The winners were also awarded with prizes. All the staff members were also present in this program.

FROM PAGE 1

Northern Army commander visits Ladakh, reviews operational, security preparedness along the LAC

soldiers for their unwavering dedication and emphasized the critical role they play in ensuring the security and sovereignty of India. The Ladakh Sector has witnessed increased focus and vigilance since border tensions escalated in 2020. The Indian Army continues to maintain a robust presence along.

Kejriwal writes to ED demanding withdrawal of its notice; Claims it is 'Illegal, Politically motivated'

behest of the BJP. Meanwhile, In anticipation of protests by

the AAP workers, multiple layers of barricades have been put up at the ED office on the Tughlaq Road. A large number of police and paramilitary personnel have also been deployed, an official said.

ED searches 12 places including premises of Delhi Minister in Hawala transaction case

hawala transactions. An ED source said, "Raaj Kumar Anand, Cabinet Minister is being searched by ED today in connection with money laundering investigations initiated under PMLA." The source said: "The investigations were initiated based on the Prosecution Complaint filed by DRI alleging false declarations in imports for customs evasion of more than Rs 7 crore and international hawala transactions." The court has taken cognisance of the complaint, the source said. "Around 12 premises are being searched at different locations including Delhi," the source added.

Tata Motors to supply, operate 200 electric buses in Jammu, Srinagar for 12 Yrs

said till date it has supplied more than 1,000 electric buses across multiple cities in India, which have cumulatively clocked more than 9.6 crore kilometres, with an uptime of over 95 per cent.

ED officer arrested in Jaipur by Rajasthan ACB

Naval Kishore Meena, Enforcement Officer of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in Imphal and his local associate Babul Meena The complainant informed the Bureau that a bribe amount of Rs 17 lakh was allegedly demanded by Naval Kishore Meena for settling the case registered against him in the office of the ED in Imphal. After verifying the complaint, the ACB team arrested the two for allegedly taking a bribe amount of Rs 15 lakh. Naval Kishore is a resident of Vimalpura village of Bassi of Jaipur district, while

his associate Babulal is working as a Junior Assistant in Sub Registrar Office of Mundawar in newly formed Kotpulti-Behror district.

Women in Mishri-wala village lead the way in eco-friendly Diwali celebrations

Rajesh Singh, a local resident, lauded the effort and said, "It's heartening to see the women of our village take the lead in promoting sustainable Diwali celebrations. These eco-friendly Diyas not only reduce the environmental impact but also provide a source of livelihood for the women involved."

The project has not only attracted attention locally but has also garnered appreciation on social media, inspiring others to embrace eco-friendly practices during the festive season. The women hope that their initiative will serve as a model for more sustainable and environmentally conscious Diwali celebrations in the future.

In a world where environmental concerns are paramount, the women of Mishri-Wala village have shown that embracing tradi-

tion can coexist with responsible ecological practices. As Diwali approaches, their eco-friendly cow dung Diyas are a shining example of how to celebrate a festival while respecting the environment.

As the Diwali festival draws near, the women of Mishri-Wala continue to craft their unique Diyas, illuminating not only their homes but also the path towards a more sustainable and eco-friendly celebration of this cherished festival of lights.

Light rain, snowfall over higher reaches of J&K during next 24 hours: MeT

north Kashmir. 'Overall, no significant weather activity is expected during the next 10 days,' he said. He said the minimum temperature in the Kashmir plains should settle between 2 and 5°C, while maximum temperatures can hover around 20-22°C. 'The minimum temperature recorded in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, at 6.7°C on Thursday, followed by Qazigund 4.0°C, Pahalgam 2.8°C, Kupwara 8.5°C, Kokernag 6.5 and Gulmarg at 3.9°C,' the MeT office said.

Markets jump in early trade after two days of fall

BSE jumps 593.8 points to 64,185.13; Nifty climbs 179.3 points to 19,168.45

MUMBAI, Nov 2 (Agencies): Equity benchmark indices rebounded nearly 1 per cent in early trade on Thursday after a two-day decline, following a rally in global markets amid the US Fed keeping rates unchanged.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 593.8 points to 64,185.13 in early trade. The Nifty climbed 179.3 points to 19,168.45.

Among the Sensex firms, IndusInd Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Axis Bank, Titan, Infosys, Bajaj Finance, State Bank of India, Tata Consultancy Services, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank were the biggest gainers.

Tata Steel emerged as the only laggard.

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

The US markets ended with gains on Wednesday.



"Even though the pause decision of the Fed was on expected lines, the commentary was not hawkish as the market feared.

The Fed chief Jerome Powell's comment that "despite elevated inflation, the longer-term inflation expectations remain well anchored" was taken by the market as a slightly dovish statement.

"The implication of this statement is that the Fed may not hike rates again in this rate hiking cycle. Consequently, the bond yields declined sharply.

The benchmark 10-year bond yield declined 17 bps to 4.75 per cent,

and the equity markets responded positively," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude jumped 0.99 per cent to USD 85.47 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,816.91 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

The BSE benchmark declined 283.60 points or 0.44 per cent to settle at 63,591.33 on Wednesday. The Nifty went down by 90.45 points or 0.47 to 18,989.15.

Zero cannibalisation of Venue from Exter: Hyundai Motor India COO Tarun Garg

Launched in July at a starting price of Rs 6 lakhs, the mini sports utility vehicle Exter competes directly with Tata Motors Punch.

NEW DELHI, Nov 2 (Agencies): The launch and success of the mini sports utility vehicle (SUV) Exter has greatly added to Hyundai's monthly sales volume and there has been zero cannibalisation of the sub-compact Venue SUV from Exter, said Hyundai Motor India (HMI) chief operating officer (COO) Tarun Garg.

"Exter is consistently clocking 8,000 units/month, showcasing what a success it has been among customers. Before Exter was launched, we were doing 49,000 units per month in domestic sales which has now grown to 55,000 units per month," Garg told TNIE in an interaction.

The COO added that contrary to the market belief that Exter would impact Venue sales as they are essentially 'small SUVs', the cannibalization of the Venue model from Exter has been negligible.

"Like earlier times, Venue SUV continues to do 11,000 plus units per month. Many customers from hatchbacks in the industry are shifting to Exter as this particular segment (mini SUVs) has grown from 10,000 units to 20,000 units," said Garg. Launched in July at a starting



price of Rs 6 lakhs, Exter competes directly with Tata Motors Punch.

The Venue model which comes at a starting price of Rs 7.90 lakhs operates in the high-volume sub-compact SUV segment and competes with models such as Maruti Suzuki Brezza, Tata Motors Nexon, Mahindra XUV 300 and Kia Sonet.

Garg said that the company's decision to offer 6 airbags as standard across its lineup is turning out to be a game-changer for them.

"As customers are seeking better safety features, the 6 airbag feature has led to traction in the entry-level segment and has improved sales for models such as Grand i10 Nios, i20 and Aura. Our portfolio of small cars

is doing well unlike the segment (for the Pv industry) which has seen a sharp decline," added Garg.

In an industry first, Hyundai on October 3 announced that all the company models will be fitted with 6 airbags as standard, across all variants, including the base trim.

At present, most carmakers offer the 6 airbag feature on the top-end variants of their model while the base models are fitted with either two or four airbags.

Giving a highlight of sales, Garg said that year to date (January-October), Hyundai has achieved a growth of 9.5%. Owing to its strong SUV lineup with models such as Venue, Exter, Creta, Alcazar and Tucson, this segment now

contributes to 59% of Hyundai's sales.

In the festive heavy month of October, Hyundai registered total sales of 68,728 units, up 18% year-on-year. Its domestic sales stood at 55,128 units, up 15% and SUV share here surged to 63%.

Garg said that now that only 2 months are left for the calendar year 2023, Hyundai is looking to close this year with a growth of 8-8.5% over last year.

Hyundai sold about 292,000 PVs between January and June 2023 and over 5.52 lakh units in CY22.

Garg expects the PV industry to close CY23 with about 4.1 million units, a growth of 7-7.50% year-on-year.

As for this year's festive season with Dhanteras and Diwali soon to arrive, Hyundai is looking at a similar growth of 8-9%.

The COO also subsidised concerns related to high inventory levels at dealer showrooms. "We have managed this well very well as we have only 21 days to inventory at showrooms. We have made sure that we are not taking the inventory at showrooms to an alarming level."

India's economy on right track, but rising unemployment poses threat

NEW DELHI, Nov 2 (Agencies): India is poised to be the fastest-growing economy in FY24, but generating employment for its vast population still remains a challenge.

While India's strong growth and economic indicators have been praised by many top global financial institutions and brokerages, the country's performance has been largely inconsistent when it comes to employment generation.

Unemployment rate at 2-year high

Recent data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), as reported by Bloomberg, reveals a worrying trend: the country's unemployment rate has reached its highest level in over two years, primarily due to escalating joblessness in rural areas.

The overall unemployment rate surged to 10.05 per cent in October from 7.09 per cent in September, marking the high-



est rate since May 2021. This discrepancy illustrates that job growth isn't keeping pace with India's economic expansion.

Notably, rural unemployment has climbed to 10.82 per cent from slightly above 6 per cent, while urban unemployment has seen a modest decline to 8.44 per cent.

Weak rainfall significantly reduced farming output, denting potential work opportunities in rural areas.

While the festive season spurred robust manufacturing and consumption, contributing to improved job growth, the global demand slowdown has prompted several major companies to slow down their hiring in India, evident in their Q2FY24 results.

In such a scenario, urban job growth is also expected to dwindle in the third quarter.

Not enough jobs
While India's economy is

poised to grow at over 6 per cent in FY24, ranking among the world's fastest-growing economies, it falls short of generating adequate employment opportunities for the multitude of job seekers.

Data from the CMIE indicates that nearly 10 million individuals entered the job market in October, eagerly seeking employment. However, a disconcerting trend looms on the horizon.

Prominent IT companies Infosys Ltd. and Wipro Ltd. have recently announced plans to halt the hiring of college graduates. This move could potentially leave thousands of freshly graduated engineering students without job prospects.

Not just IT firms, but several other major companies from other sectors are also expected to cut down on hiring after the ongoing festive season, further disrupting the balance between economic growth and job creation.

Three-day week work from office at Infosys



BENGALURU, Nov 2 (Agencies): After Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) made it mandatory for its employees to work from office for all five days a week, the country's second largest IT services company Infosys has asked its employees in entry to mid-level roles to work from the office thrice a week from November 20.

From March 2020, employees have been working from home, and in April last year,

the company began its hybrid model, offering flexibility to employees. In an email to employees, it said, "To strengthen engagement of our workforce in hybrid model and to ensure we lead from the front, all our offshore employees are required to work from respective base location offices for three days a week effective November 20, 2023." If they are not in base offices, it said they can start working from base location with effect

from December 4, 2023.

Infosys in its recent earnings conference said they want to remain flexible with its employees. "Every quarter, every week, we are seeing more and more employees back into the campus and we believe this will continue on," Salil Parekh, CEO and MD, Infosys, said. The announcement comes at a time when its founder Narayana Murthy urged the youth to work 12 hours a day.

Puneet Arora, managing partner, Biz Staffing Comrade, said, "There's no doubt people want to continue to work remotely, but there's a disconnect between what people think that they want, versus what in the long run might be good for them."

Whole genome sequencing personalising TB therapy, ensuring complete treatment: Expert

NEW DELHI, Nov 2 (Agencies): A new technique that uses whole genome sequencing can help personalise drug therapy in tuberculosis (TB) patients and ensure complete treatment for the disease, according to a biotechnologist. Anirvan Chatterjee, founder & CEO of HaystackAnalytics, a start-up incubated at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, noted that the method provides a means for conclusively ascertaining drug resistance in a TB patient. Complete treatment of TB patients is significant as being a transmissible disease; TB presents the risk of spreading and evolving into a superior drug-resistant version of itself. Caused by the bacteria Mycobacterium tuberculosis (MTB), TB is an infectious disease that spreads through the medium of air when people with lung TB cough, sneeze, or spit. The symptoms include prolonged cough, chest pain, weakness or fatigue and fever.

"Currently every TB patient undergoes a Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) as the primary screening for confirmation of TB and detection of resistance to 1 or few drugs. If found resistant, the patient is advised more tests to get the complete drug-resistance profile," Chatterjee told

agency in an interview. NAAT is a molecular test that detects the DNA of the TB-causing bacteria in a patient's sputum or other respiratory sample. Leveraging whole genome sequencing (WGS), a method for analysing entire genomes, on a TB positive patient's sample can eliminate this need for multiple tests and provide a comprehensive drug resistance profile against all the drugs currently prescribed by the World Health Organization (WHO), according to Chatterjee. "In case a WGS report is available for a TB patient, the therapy can be fully personalised while adhering to the drug combinations determined by the WHO," he said.

The WGS testing process involves sequencing the entire DNA of the TB-causing bacteria in the patient's sample. Then, by analysing data from about 4.5 million data points on the genome using bioinformatics and machine learning technologies, the resistance of the bacteria to any of the 18 antibiotics is ascertained in under two weeks once the sample has reached the lab. "For the report, we analyse the (bacterial) strain type, depth of sequencing, coverage of the genome, drug resistance mutations which have been validated to be associated

with in-vitro resistance, phylogenetic association with global strains," said Chatterjee, who was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Oxford, UK, when he developed this technology.

He, along with colleagues from many international institutes, has published multiple research papers where TB-positive samples from patients in Mumbai, Oxford, and Birmingham, UK, were analysed for drug resistance to first- and second-line anti-TB drugs. "First-line tuberculosis (TB) treatment includes four drugs (rifampin, isoniazid, ethambutol, and pyrazinamide), but with the spread of multidrug-resistant strains, there

is a growing need for data on second-line drugs, including the fluoroquinolones and aminoglycosides," the researchers wrote in their study published in the Journal of Clinical Microbiology. The incomplete drug resistance profile adjudged in a microbial culture test together with long waiting times for results not only enhances the risk of the spread of TB, but also the risk of it becoming more drug-resistant, according to Chatterjee. According to the National Anti-TB Drug Resistance Survey (NDRS) 2014-16, Multi-Drug Resistant TB (MDR-TB) was 6.19 per cent of all TB patients, or about 9.1/lakh population. "For every untreated or

incorrectly treated TB case, there are 2.3 new potential TB patients. Mathematically, this amounts to the possibility of replacing a treatable disease with a very difficult-to-treat disease," said Chatterjee.

According to the WHO, multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) remains a public health crisis and a health security threat, with only about 1 in 3 people with drug-resistant TB accessing treatment in 2021. The National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) in India lays down guidelines for clinicians around managing and treating drug-resistant TB patients in its document "Guidelines for Programmatic Management of Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis in India". The NTEP advises, "Genetic sequencing can be used when reliable Drug Susceptibility Test (DST) is not available". However, it also says that "concerns regarding costs, integration into existing laboratory workflows, and technical training have hindered (the technology's) uptake". Chatterjee said his start-up HaystackAnalytics has received a BIRAC grant from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) to make this technology available and accessible in India.

"We validated our technology and with that, we have been able

to bring down the cost of the test significantly. Currently, the test is available in India at Rs. 6,450," said Chatterjee, whose validation work is published in the Global Journal for Antimicrobial Resistance. "Not only is the technology more superior, the turnaround time quicker, but also the (drug-resistance) information is much richer," said Chatterjee. Having been operational for more than a year and a half, he said, HaystackAnalytics has partnered with pathological laboratories across the country to enable them to make this test available to doctors and, through them, to their patients.

"A typical pathological lab associated with HaystackAnalytics for providing WGS-based testing of TB samples would perform pre-sequencing processes such as sample collection, sample decontamination, microbial enrichment, and DNA extraction. Since TB drug resistance testing is performed in central processing laboratories, these labs are fully equipped to perform these steps," explained Chatterjee. Chatterjee's eventual goal is for the WGS test to be included in the NTEP as, according to him, that is when "this entire conversation around TB elimination by 2025 (in India) will start looking real."

Master Blaster Sachin Tendulkar's statue stands tall at Mumbai's Wankhede ahead of India-Sri Lanka game

MUMBAI, Nov 2 (Agencies): The drummers beat their drums to frenzy, the band boys and girls clanged their cymbals, working their way to a crescendo — and then, silken-shirted and loose-limbed, Sachin Tendulkar sauntered into the stadium, as if oblivious of all the fuss, as if getting a statue unveiled in one's hometown, in one's home stadium, is a commonplace occurrence.

He pressed a button, and voila — the red silken curtain hiding his statue disappeared, revealing the bronzed Tendulkar in the act of lofting the ball straight and high, presumably beyond the straight boundary.

It's something of a novelty — Kapi Dev, probably the greatest Indian cricketer ever, doesn't have a statue representing him; there's none, also, for Sunil Gavaskar, probably the greatest Indian Test batsman.

Curiously, two statues of former cricketers were erected in the current century, in Pune and Visakhapatnam — and they represent not a modern great but relatively unknown play-



ers from an era long gone, DB Deodhar and CK Nayudu.

Tendulkar should be extremely proud of himself but, as is the wont, he did say that he was truly humbled on being immortalised through a statue. "I was delighted, to be honest," said Tendulkar about being told early this year that a statue memorialising him was being planned. "I didn't know how to react. I'm truly humbled when I stand here and go to the ground, where thousands of images come to my head. It's truly God's gift, to walk on that turf, which has

given everything to me."

The Tendulkar iconography, 10 years after he closed his 24-year-old career, reached a high point with his statue. He's been called the 'god of cricket', and today officials/politicians such as Sharad Pawar and Rajeev Shukla and Jay Shah spoke with near reverence about him. Mumbai Cricket Association officials heaped praise on Tendulkar, referring to him as 'god'.

Tendulkar looked thankful, but in a sort of banal, unsurprised manner, for being called god

on a daily basis could become quite persuasive.

The Indian cricket team, though, seems to have more pressing matters at hand — at least Rohit Sharma, the care-free and laugh-a-minute captain, hadn't noticed the huge Tendulkar in metal looming large over the square boundary. "Statue?" he said, looking surprised. "Oh yes," he said when reminded that Tendulkar's statue was unveiled a couple of hours previously. "When we reached practice, we saw the statue. But we didn't get to see it so closely because we were practising... We just came and we saw the statue and then we came back."

Rohit was unsure about the shot the bronzed Tendulkar has presumably played. "I haven't even seen the shot yet. It's over cover, is it?" he said. "Straight lofted shot? Ah, yes."

"Now what should I say in that? Straight lofted shot statue has been made there," he said, bursting into uncontrollable laughter. "It's nice. I hope you guys enjoyed it."

In search of 7th heaven

Unbeaten India take on Sri Lanka, look to seal semifinals berth with 7th win in a row



MUMBAI, Nov 2 (Agencies): Six wins in a row, unbeaten in the tournament so far, having clobbered teams such as Australia, Pakistan, New Zealand and England — Rohit Sharma's men are living up to the pre-tournament hype. A win against Sri Lanka today would guarantee them a place in the semifinals.

The banana peel — that's what India must beware against, and that's what Sri Lanka, struggling so far, could be. Even the great Sachin Tendulkar is fearful about jinxing the Indians by uttering words that are too hopeful. "They've put up a great brand of cricket, and I'm extremely happy," Tendulkar said. "Is se zyada bolkar nazar nahin lagaunga — I don't want to jinx them by talking too much! They know what to do."

Tendulkar was in the team when India last played Sri Lanka at the Wankhede — the 2011 World Cup final on April 2, Tendulkar's "happiest day in my life". That Sri Lankan team was quite competitive, and was denied the title only due to the heroics of Gautam Gambhir and MS Dhoni.

The Sri Lankan team that confronts India now is on shaky ground, having lost to Afghanistan in the previous match. They've logged

just two wins and another loss would push them to the edge.

The Indians indeed know what to do. They would be very confident, for things have gone just brilliantly for them. The formula has been to bat second and chase down the opposition's total; the one time they batted first, they got only 229 on the board, but their pacemen put up a remarkable performance, in helpful conditions, against England in Lucknow.

Rohit has been leading the assault on the opposition bowlers, with 398 runs in six innings; Virat Kohli has 354 from his six innings; KL Rahul has 216 from five innings; but after them, there's a bit of a gulf — the next best is Shreyas Iyer, 134 from six at an unimpressive 33.50, and Shubman Gill averages 26, with 104 runs. The worst-case scenario would involve a failure of both Rohit and Kohli, and the others scoring their average scores.

But a batting nightmare is unlikely at the Wankhede, for the pitch here gifts runs in abundance. In the two World Cup games here so far, South Africa batted first twice and put up 399 and 382. These numbers would cheer Rohit and Kohli and, even more, Gill and Iyer. Rohit said that in the

absence of the injured Hardik Pandya, he's keeping his options open. "In this tournament, the spinners actually are the ones who are stopping the run flow in the middle overs," he said. "All sorts of combinations are possible."

As for himself, he'd continue to play "according to the situation", as he did in the low-scoring game against England.

Rohit is going through a career high — captain, big scorer — but he's seen the lows, too. He's a wise man of 36 and is not going to be beguiled by praise or good fortune. "When things look good, everything looks good. I know how this thing works — one game here and there, and suddenly I'll be a bad captain," he said. "I know how it works."

'Asia Cup mauling will add motivation'

Memories of Sri Lanka's humiliating defeat to India in the Asia Cup final in September will add extra motivation to the team when they face the hosts, coach Chris Silverwood said.

India bundled out Sri Lanka for just 50 for a 10-wicket win in the final of the Asia Cup in Colombo. "I'd rather hope that the defeat in the Asia Cup would give more motivation to the boys to come out and obviously fight tomorrow, show plenty of spirit and get stuck in to the Indian side," Englishman Silverwood said. "They're a very good side, we know that, we've seen them play some superb cricket this tournament so far. I think any team in the world would want an attack like that, to be honest. But I think it's a good opportunity for our boys to show what they're made of as well," he said.

ICC World Cup: De Kock, Van der Dussen and bowlers power South Africa to massive win over New Zealand

PUNE, Nov 2 (Agencies): Quinton de Kock and Rassie Van der Dussen brought cricket back to prominence in South Africa amid the euphoria over the country's epic triumph in rugby, their scintillating hundreds ensuring a 190-run hammering of New Zealand in the World Cup here.

De Kock (114 off 116 balls) hit his fourth century of the tournament to go level with Kumar Sangakkara who achieved the feat in the 2015 edition, while Van der Dussen blazed away to a 118-ball 133 as South Africa racked up an imposing 357 for four after being asked to bat first.

New Zealand were bowled out for 167 in 35.3 overs.

So far, only three batters have scored four or more centuries in a single edition of World Cup.

The Proteas have displaced India at the top of the points table following the win. Both are on 12 points, though India have played one game less.

David Miller blasted 53 in 30 balls to provide the final flourish four days after the whole country was basking in

the rugby team's record fourth World Cup triumph in Paris where the Springboks beat New Zealand's All Blacks, their biggest rivals in the sport.

New Zealand's reply was horrendous as they lost their in-form batters Devon Conway and Rachin Ravindra with just 45 runs on the board.

Marco Jansen (3/31) struck the first blow with the new ball, getting the dangerous Conway (2) to edge one to Aiden Markram at second slip.

It was Jansen again who gave South Africa the second breakthrough as he dismissed the in-form Ravindra (9), who went for a pull shot but ended up top-edging it, putting the Proteas on top.

Gerald Coetzee struck with his third delivery of the spell as Will Young poked at a short-of-a-length delivery outside off to give De Kock a regulation catch and leave the Kiwis reeling at 56 for three in the 11th over.

It became 67 for four when Kagiso Rabada sent back skipper Tom Latham in a rather soft dismissal after the batter went for his shot too early.

From there, it was a matter of time before the New Zealand innings folded with plenty of overs remaining.

Meanwhile, left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj (4/46) bowled James Neesham with a turner that would make the late Shane Warne proud.

Glenn Phillips delayed the inevitable with his 60 off 50 balls.

Earlier, taking dew into account, New Zealand's stand-in skipper Latham opted to bowl first at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium whose stands were half-full with some people gathered outside when the in-form De Kock and skipper Temba Bavuma walked out to bat.

However, dew was not a factor as South Africa proved to be too good for their opponents who suffered their third defeat of the tournament in seven outings. For the Proteas, it was their sixth win in seven matches, the margin of victory doing their net run rate a world of good.

After Bavuma's (24) dismissal, in De Kock and Van der Dussen, the South Africans had the perfect duo to set the tone, and they did exactly that with a 200-run partnership in little



over 30 overs.

Riding on a bit of luck with one of his shots falling in a no man's land, De Kock stepped outside against Mitchell Santner and hoisted the seasoned left-arm spinner over the long-on boundary for a six.

Van der Dussen, too, got into the act and looked comfortable while accumulating his runs.

Dealing with two set batters was not the only challenge for the Kiwis as they also had players getting injured, the last thing for a team that was already grappling with injuries to key players heading into this match.

After Matt Henry hurt his right hamstring and received treatment, Jimmy Neesham also had some injury issues.

Meanwhile, Luck also smiled on Van der Dussen as he got more than one reprieve on

way to his century.

First, De Kock reached his hundred in style, smashing Neesham on the inside for a maximum. Soon, Van der Dussen got to his ton with a four.

Batting on 104 off 105 balls, Van der Dussen shifted gears and launched into Neesham for two consecutive sixes, the first one was thanks to Trent Boult tipping the ball over the ropes while trying to catch it.

Then, Van der Dussen carted Tim Southee for a maximum over long-on.

By the time De Kock and Van der Dussen were dismissed, they had done enough for South Africa to aim for 350.

Then, Miller produced a few big hits to prop them up towards the end.

Manchester United Dumped Out Of League Cup By Newcastle, Arsenal Lose At West Ham

LONDON, Nov 2 (Agencies): Manchester United's defence of the League Cup came to a limp end in a 3-0 home defeat by Newcastle on Wednesday as Arsenal were well-beaten 3-1 at West Ham.

Liverpool overcame Bournemouth 2-1 to progress to the quarter-finals, while Chelsea saw off Championship side Blackburn 2-0. In a repeat of last year's final, which Erik ten Hag's men won 2-0, both managers named much-changed sides at Old Trafford. But it was Newcastle's strength in depth that showed as United slumped to an eighth defeat in 15 games in all competitions this season -- their worst start to any campaign since 1962/63.

"This is not good enough. We have to take responsibility, I have to take responsibility," said Ten Hag. "I feel sorry for the fans, it is below our standards and we have to put it right." Tino Livramento and Lewis Hall have had to wait for their chance to shine since signing for the Magpies but the young full-backs played a huge role as Eddie Howe's side got revenge for

defeat at Wembley in February. Livramento's surging run set up Miguel Almiron to open the scoring on 28 minutes.

Chelsea loanee Hall then volleyed home a brilliant effort from the edge of the box just eight minutes later.

Joe Willock's solo run and stunning finish then drew the sting from any chance of a United fightback on the hour mark. After eliminating both Manchester City and United, Newcastle's reward is another tough draw away to Chelsea in the last eight.

Rice defeated on West Ham return

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta was left to rue leaving Declan Rice out on his return to the London Stadium, with the England international alongside Bukayo Saka, Martin Odegaard and William Saliba on a star-studded Gunners' bench.

Aaron Ramsdale was handed a rare start since he was dropped in favour of David Raya, but it was a night to forget for the Arsenal goalkeeper.

Ben White beat Ramsdale to

Jarrod Bowen's dangerous in-swinging corner but could only head into his own net after 16 minutes. Mohammed Kudus made it 2-0 on 50 minutes with a brilliant touch and low finish from Nayef Aguerd's long ball forward. Rice was then introduced to a mixed response from the West Ham faithful. But any hope of an Arsenal revival was quashed by Bowen's strike from the edge of the box that Ramsdale should have done better to keep out. "I am responsible for that," said Arteta. "We're out of the cup and we wanted to play a very different game."

Odegaard grabbed a consolation deep into stoppage time, but it was too little, too late as Arsenal's 30-year wait to win the League Cup goes on.

Liverpool, Chelsea progress

Liverpool had to see off a spirited effort from Bournemouth and appalling weather conditions as Storm Ciaran swept in at the Vitality Stadium.

Justin Kluivert had cancelled out Cody Gakpo's opener with his first Bournemouth goal.

But Darwin Nunez came off

the bench to win the tie with a spectacular dipping strike from outside the box.

Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp said victory would make a long journey back north on the team bus rather than a flight due to the stormy weather more palatable. "Now we drive home. Long trip. But with going to the next round it feels much better," said Klopp.

Liverpool will host West Ham in the quarter-finals next month. Benoit Badjiashile and Raheem Sterling were on target as Chelsea secured a rare home win under Mauricio Pochettino to reach the last eight.

Everton's upturn in form continued with a comfortable 3-0 win over Burnley.

James Tarkowski, Amadou Onana and Ashley Young scored on the night the Toffees remembered former chairman Bill Kenwright, who died aged 78 last week.

Fulham will travel to Goodison Park in the next round after they avoided an upset by winning 3-1 at Championship high-flyers Ipswich.

IND vs SL, World Cup 2023: Suryakumar Yadav has another chance to establish himself, says Aakash Chopra

MUMBAI, Nov 2 (Agencies): Former opener Aakash Chopra believes that India's World Cup 2023 match against Sri Lanka provides a chance for Suryakumar Yadav to strengthen his place in the playing eleven before Hardik Pandya returns to the team. Suryakumar has scored 51 runs in his two matches, including a crucial 49-run knock in India's match against England in Lucknow.

"Suryakumar Yadav has another chance to further establish himself because Hardik Pandya isn't available for this match and the next. People are saying he might be directly available for the semifinals. So it will be a race between Suryakumar Yadav and Shreyas Iyer," Aakash Chopra said in a video shared on his YouTube channel.

Chopra also hopes that Shubman Gill performs well and scores runs in India's 2023 World Cup group stage match against Sri Lanka, which is scheduled to take place at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Thursday, November



2. Shubman Gill has managed only 104 runs with a disappointing average of 26.00 in his four innings up to this point. As the tournament enters its crucial stages, the opener will be eager to improve his performance and make a more significant contribution.

"Shubman Gill has scored runs in one match. It was against Bangladesh in Pune. Other than that, there hasn't been another very big knock, and as you go closer, as it is about the semi-final and

final for India, you need to go there with performance. India were in a slight spot of bother in the last match as well when the ball was moving. Of course, that was against England in Lucknow but that won't happen here. So Shubman Gill - score some runs," Chopra added.

Aakash Chopra emphasized the importance of the Sri Lanka match for Shreyas Iyer as well. In the current World Cup, Shreyas has accumulated just 134 runs with an average of 33.50 in his six innings.

Vigilance Awareness Week observed at GHS Bijarni Doda



Top News Report

DODA, Nov 2: To mark the celebration of "Vigilance Awareness Week", an awareness programme was organized by the staff of HWC- Sub Centre Bijarni at Govt High School Bijarni in Medical Block Ghat, District Doda on Thursday.

The awareness programme was held on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Doda and guidance of Block Medical Officer Ghat Dr Ab Gafour Ahmed, under the theme, "Say No To Corruption: Commit To The Nation".

Speaking on the occasion, Faizan A Trambo

oo from the health department said that the initiative aimed to raise awareness about the detrimental effects of corruption on society. Trambo, also urged the audience and appealed to everyone in Govt or Private sector to uphold integrity in public governance and to support the fight against corruption.

On this occasion, Faizan A Trambo also administered the integrity pledge to staff, students and those present in the programme, demonstrating a collective commitment to maintain the highest standards of

integrity and ethics.

The staff of GHS Bijarni appreciated the efforts of the health department and thanked BMO Ghat for organizing such an event which will help in achieving the goal of corruption free society.

Meanwhile, awareness on health and hygiene was also given among the students by Sapna Manhas (CHO/MLHP).

Among others, the awareness programme was attended by I/c Headmaster GHS Bijarni Ajay Sen, Ehtsham Aziz, Kirna Rana, Anita Devi, Lalita Rana, Shanza Banoo, Rajni Sen, Suhaib Nisar and students of the school.

NHM employees demand release of due salary



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Nov 2: The employees working under National Health Mission have urged the LG administration to intervene in pending wages of NHM employees.

Dr Nazir Hussain, Medical Officer, District President NHM employees Association Kishtwar

said they have suffered immensely due to non release of wages for the month of September/October.

He further said, "The employees under NHM serve in the most difficult situations and terrains drawing meagre wages which in itself is cause of stress. Now non release of salary is making things difficult". It has become a habit on part of the Government that they never release the salary to NHM employees on time.

Despite these desperate times we are working 24 hrs and augment the health services to the general masses, but in return, we have been deprived of our basic dues.

Gilco Group set to launch new project

Top News Report

JAMMU / CHANDIGARH, Nov 2: Gilco Group is all set to launch its latest project on Airport Road. The new project will meet the demands of modern living but will also exceed expectations in terms of design, quality and infrastructure.

With a track record of meticulous planning and unwavering attention to detail, Gilco Group is

known for raising the bar in the real estate sector.

The group has made a mark in both residential and commercial segments, creating iconic landmarks that captivate both homeowners and businesses. Their legacy speaks for itself, with a consistent commitment to delivering state-of-the-art projects that push the boundaries of urban living and commercial excellence.

One Week MSME sponsored A-ESDP starts at SKUAST Wadura



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Nov 2: The Division of Plant Pathology at the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) in Wadura, Kashmir, hosted a groundbreaking training program on Mushroom Production Technology.

The programme was organized by Dr. T.A. Wani, an Associate Professor, and was proudly sponsored by the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

The event was graced by the presence of esteemed guests and dignitaries, including the Chief Guest, Dr. Rihana Habib Kanth, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, SKUAST Kashmir.

The event commenced with a warm welcome by Dr. Aasha Nabi, who extended greetings to the distinguished guests, including the Chief Guest, Dean Rihana Habib Kanth, Heads of Departments, Professors, trainees, students, and members of the media.

Dr. Aasha Nabi emphasized the importance of such programs in fostering practical skills among youth, especially those who are unemployed. Her introductory speech set the stage for an enriching and pro-

ductive event.

Dr. T.A. Wani, the Programme Coordinator, took the stage to provide an overview of the role played by MSME in driving economic growth and development in India.

He discussed the primary objectives of the training program, which are to empower the youth with the skills required for successful mushroom production.

The programme is aimed at equipping participants with practical knowledge that can be applied in entrepreneurial endeavors.

Dr. Ali Anwar, Head of the Division of Plant Pathology, congratulated Dr. T.A. Wani for his efforts in organizing the program and expressed his appreciation for the trainees' interest in mushroom production.

Dr. Anwar emphasized the significance of mushroom production in the agricultural landscape and encouraged the trainees to make the most of this opportunity. Dr. Rihana Habib Kanth, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, added grace to the event by commending the Division of Plant Pathology at FoA Wadura, SKUAST Kashmir, for hosting the MSME-sponsored programme.

She assured the trainees of her personal commitment to support and guide them, offering one-to-one interactions to help them implement the skills they gain during the training program.

She also extended her congratulations to HVC SKUAST-Kashmir and the Head of the Division of Plant Pathology, Dr. Ali Anwar, for the allocation of the ACRIP on Mushroom to the division, highlighting its significant contribution to the field.

The programme was concluded by Dr. Vikas Gupta, who extended heartfelt gratitude to all those who contributed directly or indirectly to the success of the event.

He offered special thanks to Dean FoA, the Head of the Plant Pathology Department, and the organizers of the program for their dedication and commitment.

Dr. Tanveer expressed gratitude to Prof. Nazeer Ahmad Ganai (Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Kashmir) and Prof. Haroon Nayak (Director Planning & Monitoring, SKUAST Kashmir) and Dean FOA Dr Rehana Habib Kanth for facilitating these training programs for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

SBI Card & Reliance Retail come together to roll out Reliance SBI Card

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 2: SBI Card, India's largest pure-play credit card issuer and Reliance Retail, India's largest retailer, have come together to launch the co-branded 'Reliance SBI Card'. This one-of-its-kind lifestyle-focused credit card offers a holistic and rewarding shopping experience to customers across segments with varied spending needs, right from mass to premium. The card enables cardholders to unlock rewards and benefits while transacting at Reliance Retail's extensive and diverse ecosystem, ranging from fashion & lifestyle to grocery, consumer electronics to pharma, furniture to jewelry, and many more. Additionally, Reliance SBI Card users can also enjoy thoughtfully curated offers rolled out by SBI Card on an ongoing basis.

This synergistic alliance between the two industry leaders aims to leverage the extensive network of SBI Card with the vast consumer reach and unique retail proposition of Reliance Retail to bring a spectrum of exclusive rewards, ranging from special welcome benefits to tailor-made travel and entertainment benefits, as well as special spends-based milestone rewards like renewal fee waiver and Reliance Retail vouchers for transacting across the Reliance Retail network. The partnership aspires to redefine cus-

tomers experience and create a new benchmark for credit card rewards in the Indian market.

The co-branded card has been launched in two variants - Reliance SBI Card and Reliance SBI Card PRIME, each meticulously designed to bring varied rewards and lifestyle perks for distinct consumer needs.

V Subramaniam, Director, Reliance Retail Limited, said, "At Reliance Retail, we are always looking for new ways to delight our customers by making their shopping experience more enjoyable every day. Our co-branded credit card with SBI Card is one more step towards this commitment. We are excited to partner with SBI Card, a leader in the card industry, to offer Reliance SBI Card with a wide range of benefits, exclusive discounts and rewards for shopping with us online and at all our stores. Together with SBI

Card, we hope to continue to exceed expectations and bring joy to our customers."

Abhijit Chakravorty, MD & CEO, SBI Card, said, "We are delighted to partner with Reliance Retail that has redefined India's organised retail.

This partnership is a result of our shared focus on customer-centricity and commitment to provide world-class customer experience.

At SBI Card, we have always believed in delivering products to our customers that offer strong value while addressing their lifestyle needs. Reliance SBI Card has been developed as a holistic product that is relevant for major consumer segments. It is a powerful addition to our robust co-brand portfolio, and we expect this to become a popular credit card given the universal usage avenues that it offers."

The annual renewal fee of Reliance SBI Card PRIME is Rs 2,999 plus applicable taxes and that of Reliance SBI Card is Rs 499 plus applicable taxes. Cardholders can avail renewal fee waiver upon achieving the annual spends milestone of Rs 3,00,000 on Reliance SBI Card PRIME and Rs 1,00,000 on Reliance SBI Card. This card is made of recycled plastic and has been introduced on RuPay platform.

Reliance Retail has a diversified portfolio of stores and digital commerce platforms across various consumption baskets under its umbrella. The key retail brands include - Reliance Smart, Smart Bazaar, Reliance Fresh Signature, Reliance Digital, Reliance Trends, JioMart, Ajio, Reliance Jewels, Urban Ladder, Netmeds, and many more.



GDC Darhal observes Vigilance Awareness Week

Top News Report

DARHAL, Nov 2: To become a part of activities organized to commemorate Vigilance awareness Week 2023, the NSS Unit (IMDAD) of GDC Darhal in collaboration with Treasury Office Darhal organized pledge taken ceremony with a primary objective to instill the true spirit of participation in vigilance and to reaffirm everyone's commitment to upholding integrity in public governance.

The theme of the event was "Say No to Corruption; Commit to the Nation" with a spe-

cial focus on engaging young individuals in vigilance awareness in honor of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary.

A significant number of students and staff of both the organizations enthusiastically participated in the event, showcasing their knowledge and dedication to this vital cause. The commencement of the event was marked by a solemn integrity pledge taken by all the staff and students of the college.

The pledge represents a collective commitment to fostering integrity and ethical conduct in both

official capacities and personal lives.

Following the Integrity Pledge, a poster making competition was organized in which the students showcased their hidden potential by shedding light on the far-reaching consequences of corruption touching upon its political, economic, environmental and social impact.

In poster making competition Hibza Malik, Kashish Fatima, Areeba Kossar, Sarya jabeen and Aleena Anjum clinched the best poster award.

The event was organized under the guid-

ance of Prof. Mussaraf Hussain Shah, Principal of the College.

He apprised the students about the demerits of corruption and how it could have a drastic influence on students and society at large.

He emphasized that corruption creates a vicious circle that effects the economy and society as whole. Further he asked students to keep a vigil over any sort of corruption happening around them.

While speaking on the occasion Treasury Officer Darhal, Zafer Javed released a message, in which special focus was

given on preventive vigilance and importance of integrity and transparency in public service and public governance. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch NSS (PO) and the performance of the students were adjudged by Prof. Tahir Mahmood.

The faculty members who make the event successful were Dr. Ahsan Ul Rehman Rizvi, Dr. Mohd Akhlaq, Dr. Mohd. Raiz, Dr. Mukhtar Hussain, Zahid Nabi Bhat, Fayaz Ahmed Bhat, Dr. Mehwish Bukhari and Waqar Lodhi, Accountant Darhal Treasury.

Dimple leads protest demanding restoration of J&K statehood



Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 2: President, Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir, Sunil Dimple held a protest calling the central government for the restoration of J&K's statehood, implementation of conditions tied to the instruments of accession, Article 370, Article 35-A, and the unification of J&K, Ladakh, POK, Gilgit, and Baltistan within the J&K state.

Dimple stressed the urgency of reinstating J&K's statehood before the upcoming elections. He revealed that they have filed petitions in the Supreme Court, anticipating a decision soon regarding the abroga-

tion of Article 370, Article 35-A, and the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood.

He criticized the BJP for their decision to abrogate Article 370 and expressed strong confidence that the Supreme Court would ultimately reverse this decision.

Dimple believed in the strength of their case and the eventual victory in the Supreme Court, which would result in the return of J&K as a princely state, complete with the instrument of accession conditions, along with POK, Gilgit, and Baltistan as integral parts of J&K and India.

Highlighting the challenges faced by Jammu

and Kashmir, Dimple underscored the rising levels of poverty, unemployment, and the adverse consequences of the abrogation of Article 370.

He demanded the resumption of the "darbar move," an administrative tradition involving the shifting of the government's capital between Jammu and Srinagar.

Other leaders present in the protest include Vicky Mahjan, Kal Kumar, Akbar Khan, S Mangu Singh, S Partap Singh, Pedro, Gopal Sharma, Jeet Kumar, Vikram, Vicky, Gopal Das and Sunmukh Singh.