

TOP NEWS OF J&K



JAMMU, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 04, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Missing since 8 days, man found dead in Bandipora village

HAJIN, Nov 4 (Agencies): The body of a man, missing for eight days, was found in the Nichair Nallah in Ban-yari area of north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Saturday, officials said.

An official said that the body was found by some fisherman in Nichair Nallah, following which a police team reached to the spot and retrieved the body.

The deceased was identified as Manzoor Ahmad Khan son of Nazir Ahmad Khan, a resident of Paribal Hajin.

He said the deceased was missing since October 26. "After completing legal formalities body has been handed over to his family for the last rites," he said.

Seven injured in North Kashmir road accident

SRINAGAR, Nov 4 (Agencies): At least seven persons were injured in a road accident in the Pattan area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district on Saturday.

Quoting an official, Kashmir Scroll reported that the mishap took place near Nafees Hotel on the Baramulla-Srinagar highway between a Xylo and i20 Grand.

"In the incident, seven persons got injured and they were shifted to trauma hospital Pattan. They were further referred to JVC Hospital Srinagar for further treatment."

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance and investigation taken up.

Seven Injured in North Kashmir Road Accident.

Six IAS probationers allotted cadre

SRINAGAR, Nov 4 (Agencies): Six probationary officers from the Indian Administrative Services (IAS) in Jammu and Kashmir have recently been assigned their respective cadres.

Of six probationers, Namneet Singh is the only officer to get the AGMUT cadre.

Nepal earthquake: Death toll rises to 140; communication cut off with many areas, say officials



KATHMANDU, Nov 4 (Agencies): The number of those killed in the earthquake of 6.4 magnitude which shook western Nepal just before midnight Friday has climbed to 140, according to the Prime Minister's secretariat. An

equal number of people were injured in the incident. The death toll is expected to rise.

Officials told Associated Press that communication was cut off with many places. Around 159 aftershocks have been recorded following

last night's earthquake, as per the National Earthquake Monitoring and Research Center reported.

Both Nepal Army and Nepal Police personnel have been mobilized to carry out rescue works. Landslides triggered

by the tremor and its aftershocks obstructed certain trails for the rescuers.

According to the National Centre for Seismology (NCS), the magnitude of the earthquake on the Richter Scale was

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Militants attack Air Force base in central Pakistan, says military

ISLAMABAD, Nov 4 (Agencies): Nine Islamist militants attacked an air force training base in the central Pakistani area of Mianwali on Saturday damaging three "non-operational" aircraft, the military said, adding that all assailants had been killed by security forces.

Three militants were killed before they entered the base while the others had been cornered before the clearance operation began, the military said in a statement. It did not mention any casualties amongst security personnel.

The early Saturday attack startled residents living close by when volleys of gunfire broke the morning silence.

"I woke up at around 3 a.m. after I heard mas-



sive gun shots which continued till around 7 a.m.," Zeeshan Niazi, a resident of Mianwali, told Reuters.

The military said nine militants had been killed in the attack on the Pakistan Air Force Training Airbase Mianwali. An earlier statement said that six militants were involved in the attack.

"No damage has been done to any of the Pakistan Air Force's functional operational

assets, while only some damage was done to three already phased out non-operational aircraft during the attack," the military statement said. It earlier said a fuel tanker had also been damaged in the attack.

"Due to the swift and effective response by the troops, (the attack) has been foiled and thwarted, ensuring the safety and security of personnel and assets," the statement said.

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Use, sale of crackers in 5 km radius of IB banned in Jammu

JAMMU, Nov 4 (Agencies): In a major decision amid prevailing tension between forces of India and Pakistan after recent cross border firing, shelling in Jammus' RS Pura division, the Government administration has banned use and sale of crackers in five kilometres radius of International Border.

Police teams also made announcement of this asking people to follow the order else stern action will be taken against violators.

Recently, ceasefire on IB got violated after Pakistani rangers resorted to unprovoked firing and shelling on International Border in Jammus' Arnia with a woman and few BSF personnel got injured in firing, shelling.

The administration has now ordered a ban on use and sale of crackers in five kms radius of International Border.

Decision has been taken to avoid any unwanted situation of heavy sounds of crackers which can put forces, government agencies in uncertainty of firing and shelling on IB.

Teams of police on Friday also made announcement making people aware of this order.

"People are requested to follow this order and any violation shall be taken seriously," teams of police made announcements.

Tangmarg cop killing: DGP Swain visits family, says police have got 'vital leads'



SRINAGAR, Nov 4 (Agencies): Police have got leads in their investigation into the targeted killing of a policeman in Baramulla and vowed to bring the killers and their supporters to justice, Jammu and Kashmir DGP R R Swain said on Saturday.

The director general of police visited slain Head Constable Ghulam Mohammad Dar's residence at Wailoo Kralpora in the north Kashmir district on Saturday. He was accompanied by Additional Director General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar.

Dar was shot dead on October 31.

Talking to reporters outside Dar's residence, Swain said police have vowed to bring the perpetrators of the terror crime to justice.

"We have lost a member of our police

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14 AEEs promoted as XEns in Jal Shakti Deptt

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 54: The government on Saturday ordered regular promotion of 14 Assistant Executive Engineers (Degree Holders) as Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti Department.

"As recommended by the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission/Departmental Promotion Committee, sanction is accorded to the regular promotion of the 14 Assistant Executive Engineers (Degree Holders) as Executive Engineers in the Jal Shakti Department in the Pay Level- 11 (67700- 208700) (Pre-

revised in the Pay Scale of Rs.15600-39100 with Grade Pay of Rs.6600/-)," read an order issued by Shaleen Kabra, Financial Commissioner/Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department.

Those who have been promoted as Executive Engineers include Ram Kumar Gupta, Sonam Wongchuk, Rajinder Raina, Maqbool Hus-sain, Ajay Kumar, Sudhir Sharma, Ajay Gupta-II, Ashish Sharma, Babu Ram, Rajesh Khajuria, Ashok Kumar Sharma, Akhil Dutt, Fayaz Ahmed Dar and Harpal Singh Modi.

Sexual harassment at Bengaluru mall: Retired headmaster surrenders before cops

BENGALURU, Nov 4 (Agencies): A retired school headmaster has surrendered before the police in connection with a sexual harassment case at the Lulu Mall here.

According to the police on Saturday, a probe revealed that Ashwath Narayana (60) used to harass young girls and women in malls.

As per the CCTV footage at the mall, the accused had mis-behaved with several females. He used to

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Novo Nordisk Education Foundation adds another 'Centre of Excellence' in Jammu with GMC

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 4: Cementing its commitment towards managing Type 1 diabetes (T1D) among children in India, Novo Nordisk Education Foundation (NNEF) – a non-government organisation established by Novo Nordisk India – added one more Centre of Excellence (CoE) with Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu.

NNEF has been supporting sustainable care for people living with T1D through Centres of Excellence in close partnership with state governments and prestigious medical colleges.

In this context, NNEF has now developed eight



CoEs with various state governments, including this one at Jammu.

As a public-private partnership, this CoE will cater to the immediate need of building capacity and capability to fulfil the unmet needs of people living with T1D in the country. It will provide holistic care through a host of services, includ-

ing a dedicated dietician for consultation, doctors for regular health check-ups, diabetes monitoring, laboratory tests and efforts to strengthen the overall T1D care ecosystem.

Lauding the development, Vikrant Shrotriya - Managing Trustee, Novo Nordisk Education Foundation said, "We

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Felicitation ceremony organised for NCC Cdts of 2 J&K Bn for their outstanding achievements

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 4: In a remarkable display of dedication and excellence, the National Cadet Corps (NCC) Cadets of 2 J&K Battalion NCC Jammu, under the aegis of Jammu Group, have made their mark and brought laurels to Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh NCC Directorate. The Felicitation Ceremony held today was a momentous occasion to celebrate their achievements at the recently concluded Thal Sena Camp in Delhi, where they secured the 4th position amongst 17



Directorates. 36 Cdts out of a total of 51 Cdts who represented JK&L Dte were from 2 J&K Boys Battalion. Their dedication has not only reflected positively on the unit but also on the entire Jammu,

Kashmir & Ladakh NCC Directorate. In addition to this, Cdt Viohshwar Manhas and Cdt Abishek Saini, selected for the prestigious Youth Exchange Program (YEP) for Vietnam and the Kyrgyz

Republic, we are also honoured. Cdt Kanav Sharma who clinched a Silver Medal in Boxing at the recently held National Sub-Jr Boxing Championship in Aug 2023 was also felicitated. These remarkable

achievements reflect the dedication and potential of our young cadets in various fields, including sports. The Felicitation Ceremony highlighted the spirit of leadership, teamwork, and excellence that the NCC instills in its cadets.

The 2 J&K Battalion NCC, Jammu continues to be a beacon of pride for the JK&L NCC Directorate, and the achievements of NCC Cdts at the Thal Sena Camp 2023 and beyond are a testament to their unwavering commitment to service and excellence.

JYBT initiates construction of Sankat Mochan Lord Hanuman Temple, Dharamshala



Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 4: Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust (JYBT) to announce the commencement of construction work for the "Sankat Mochan Panchmukhi Lord Hanuman Ji Temple" and "Dharamshala" at its B.C. Road Head Office complex.

This auspicious occasion coincided with the Sharadh Navratri in 2023. On the occasion of "Vijaydashmi Parav," the Trust celebrated the installation and inauguration of the idols of Lord Hanuman Ji in the newly constructed temple complex amidst chanting of Vedic hymns and various Hindu religious rituals. Additionally, the Trust has initiated regular "Langar Seva" (community kitchen) in the Bhawan complex, which commenced on October

24, 2023, and continues uninterrupted daily at 1 PM.

Shree Hanuman Ji's "Bhog Prashad" is being distributed to devotees, and it has been a blessing for more than 500 devotees every day, said Pawan Kumar Shastri, President of the Trust, during a press conference held at the Bhawan complex on Saturday.

Devotees who wish to organize the distribution of Bhog Prashad for 100 persons on special occasions such as Sankranti, Purnima, Amavasya Parva, or on the birthdays, marriage anniversaries of their family members, or during the Punyathiti of their ancestors can do so by making a payment of Rs. 2100, he said adding that this is a noble way to seek the blessings of Lord Hanuman Ji. "Members of the Trust,

as well as the general public, who desire to contribute to the construction of the temple and Dharamshala at the B.C. Road Head Office complex are welcome to do so," he said adding that a donation of Rs. 2100 per square foot is suggested for the construction, which is believed to bring prosperity to one's family and invoke the blessings of Lord Hanuman Ji.

For those interested in donating or seeking more information, they can contact the Trust at the mobile numbers: 9419193645, 9419662100, 9596955663, 7051122990 (Helpline Jammu).

Alternatively, donations can be made online or deposited in the Jammu Yatri Bhawan Saving Bank account maintained at Jammu & Kashmir Bank, Residency Road, Jammu, Account No. 0076040100022029, IFSC Code JAKAO-KEEPER. The press conference was attended by notable individuals, including Gurdas Sharma, General Secretary/Treasurer, and Raj Kumar Gupta, Advisor to the President of the Trust.

Lecture on "Cyber Security and Online Safety Issues in today's Era" organized at Govt Polytechnic College



Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 4: Department of Computer Engineering, Government Polytechnic Jammu organized an Expert Lecture on "Cyber Security and Online Safety Issues in Today's Era" under the guidance of Principal, Er. Arun Bangotra.

The resource person for the event was Er. Niraj Dubey, Sr. Faculty at GCET Jammu.

The programme was started with the welcome address by Er. Arun Bangotra, Principal. In his welcome address, Er. Arun Bangotra highlighted the needs of Cyber Awareness among people in today's era.

The resource person, Er. Niraj Dubey laid emphasis on Cyber Security and discussed various tricks to be followed while surfing online.

The students were

provided with information about various platforms available for checking vulnerabilities in various web applications which are frequently used. He also practically explained students about enriching their browsers, two step verification process, Password Analysis, Email ids Vulnerabilities and information linking of phone with their Email id.

He also explained to students about the various spams and frauds which are encountered daily.

He concluded the session on a lighter note by singing a song in his melodious voice.

The Event was coordinated by Er. Heena Gupta. Others present on the occasion were Er. Sanjay Koul, HoD (Computer Engg.), Er. Snehit Kour and Er. Kanav Gupta.

Mehbooba Mufti condemns Cop's killing in Baramulla, Demands compensation, job for kin

SRINAGAR, Nov 4 (Agencies): People's Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday demanded that compensation and a job in civil administration be provided sooner to the family of the policeman killed by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district. She condemned the targeted killing of the policeman — head constable Ghulam Mohammad Dar — who was shot dead by terrorists outside his house at Wailoo Kralpora in the north Kashmir district on October 31.

"We condemn it, what else can we do than condemn it?" the former chief minister said after meeting Dar's family members at their residence on Saturday.

Mehbooba said Dar



was an "honest person" and left behind his wife and seven daughters. There is no male member in the family now.

She requested Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to expedite the SRO 43 case of Dar's family and provide a job to one of his daughters in the civil

administration. Under SRO 43, the kin of those killed in militancy or border firing and the government employees who died while in service are eligible for jobs in the government departments.

Compensation should also be provided soon to Dar's family, the PDP chief urged the LG-led administration.

Govt Polytechnic Jammu inks MOU with Dav University Jalandhar



Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 4: Government Polytechnic College Jammu on Saturday inked Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with DAV University Jalandhar, Punjab for upskilling and enhancing employability of engineering students to latest technologies at Center for Invention, Innovation, Incubation and Training (CIIT) Jammu established at Government Polytechnic Jammu.

The MoU was signed in presence of Sudershan Kumar, Director Skill Development Department, J&K Government between Er. Arun Bangotra Principal, Government Polytechnic Jammu and Dr. Manoj Kumar Vice Chancellor DAV University Jalandhar, Punjab and Dr. Sharanjit Singh HOD Mechanical Engineering and Er. Ved Raj Khullar, Asst Prof DAV University.

The Director, Skill Development, J&K congratulated both the

institutes for collaborating with each other for the benefit of engineering and polytechnic students to enhance their skills and knowledge for better employability and said that purpose of this MoU between two institutes is to enhance the competency of the Engineering & Technical students of DAV University Jalandhar, Punjab by imparting skill training on latest technologies at CIIT Jammu by faculty from Tata Technologies to bridge the gap between Industry and Academia and to enhance the employability of students.

Er. Arun Bangotra, Principal informed that Government Polytechnic Jammu has established a Center for Invention, Innovation, Incubation & Training to impart training in latest trends of Manufacturing Technology, Automobile Engineering conforming to Industry 4.0 with the help of Tata Technologies Ltd Pune.

DAV University Jalandhar, Punjab also agreed

to offer facilities for upskilling of Polytechnic Staff and students to new technologies at their campus.

Dr. Manoj Kumar Vice Chancellor DAV University Jalandhar informed that DAV University Jalandhar, Punjab shall conduct the seminars, conferences and workshops at Government Polytechnic Jammu to promote the start-ups and entrepreneurship ecosystem in J&K.

Er. Inderjeet Singh Workshop Superintendent, Er. Sukhdeep Singh HOD Civil Engg, Er. Raj Kumar HOD Mechanical Engg, Er. Jasdeep Kour HOD I&C, Er. Manjeet Singh HOD Electrical Engg, Er. Sanjay Koul HOD Computer Engg, Er. Ajay Thapa, Training & Placement Officers, Sandeep Nimbalkar Programme Director, Tusher SMEs of TATA technologies Ltd, Er. Nazir Ahmed Media Coordinator and other officers of Skill Development were present.

Chairman NDA meets Prabha Balmukund



Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 4: Sushil Singh Charak, Chairman of Nations Development Association (NDA), a Social Service Organisation, along with former MLA Dhar Balmukund Singh Goutam and Vishwajeet Singh Political Activists on Saturday met Prabha Balmukund Gautam MLA Candidate Dhar.

Sushil Singh Charak presented him with Mata Vaishno Devi's Chunri and Prasad.

NDA held a meeting with Prabha Balmukund Gautam MLA which was organised under the chairmanship of Sushil Singh Charak.

She promised to tackle critical issues plaguing the region, such as unemployment and corruption, by engaging directly with the general public.

Prabha Gautam also praised efforts of NDA for awareness and needy families and asked them to work same for the public.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu
e-mail: xennorth@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. 239 of 2023-24

For and on behalf of Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Jammu, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from the reputed/registered firms/Sole Prop. for the below mentioned work:-

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of document/ tender fee (in Rs.)	Earnest money	Validity of Rates	Bid validity
1.	Providing and Testing of 4500 GPH X 91 Mtr. Head Sub Pump Sets(Stand by) for existing old T/well no.1 and T/well no. 2 at Bagh-e-Bahu Garden under maintenance and up-gradation Capex Budget.	200/-	Rs. 7000/- in the shape of CDR / FDR	180 days	180 days

Date of Publishing : 02-11-2023 02.00 pm.

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 02-11-2023 (04.00 pm).
- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 02-11-2023 (04.00 pm) to 09-11-2023 (02.00 pm).
- The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
- The Technical bids received shall be opened online on 10-11-2023 (02.00 pm) or any other subsequent date in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division North Jammu.
- The Financial bid of the bidders shall be opened online after scrutinizing the technical bid in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The bidder should make payment for cost of bidding document in shape of single window challan of JMC / online payment through the JMC website link <http://www.jmciammu.org/online-payment.html> in the name of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu.
- The original instruments in respect of cost of document, EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR and other relevant document of L₁ bidder will be required to be submitted to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu after opening of financial bids on line. No separate intimation about opening of financial bids will be sent by this office / by the tender opening authority. In case the original documents are not submitted by the L₁ bidder after opening of financial bid, the tender will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.
- The date and time of opening of financial bids will be notified on website <http://jktenders.gov.in> and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.
- The original documents when submitted by L₁ bidder for the cost of tender documents, specified in the tender document should be same as uploaded on line (Scanned copies) otherwise allotment will not be issued, the tenders will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.
- Bid security of successful tenderer will have to be in form of CDR/FDR of any scheduled bank and shall have to be valid for 180 days from last date of receipt of Bid. No exemption of any kind shall be allowed on this.
- Only such firms should submit tender, who have requisite infrastructure and workshop facility for carrying out similar type of job which may be inspected by the competent authority before awarding the job contract so as to access the working capacity of the tenderer. The workmanship and material used should be of high quality and as per the specifications of the job order / tender.
- The bid for the execution of work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the earnest money of the firm shall stand forfeited.
- The tenderers are advised to visit the site of work / inspect the parts to be fabricated before uploading their tenders so as to acquaint themselves with exact measurement and site conditions.
- Special conditions as per Finance Department order No. OM A/24 (2017)-651 dated 07-06-2018.**
 - Furnishing of hard copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as L-1 after opening of financial bids.
 - The cost of tenders should be collected by introducing e-challan or simply uploading a copy of necessary challan / receipt.
 - Similarly, instead of insisting on actual call deposit receipt, a copy of same duly pledged to the concerned department should be uploaded by the tenderers. However, before allotting the work or issuing the supply order, the original CDR/FDR should be obtained and kept on record.
- Other details, instructions and terms and conditions can be seen / downloaded from the bidding document.

JSMNDJ/4015-17
Dated: 01-11-2023

DIP/J-10558/23

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti Mech. Division North
Jammu

EDITORIAL

STUDENT LIFE
AND FASHION

Dear students, if we talk about a student's beautiful personality and complete student life, discipline and hard work are as important as the student life full of 'simplicity'. Because the simplicity of student life hardly has anything to do with student fashion therefore, we should now understand a little deeply what is simplicity and what is fashion?

Perhaps you may feel a little different when answering questions on this issue related to fashion, that is because today there are echoes of fashion in the entire society, and other people also believe that by lagging behind in the matter of fashion, we are not able to keep up with the times. But the truth is that fashion is not the only thing that keeps us with time because to move with the times, we have to examine our inner goodness and raise our skills.

Here we are talking about student life and its lifestyle, so in this student life, the simpler and cleaner our attire is, the better it is. Because if we, as students, pay more attention to these external things and our fashion, then we can also understand what will be the result. But now if we talk about simplicity, it does not mean that we stop being clean, stop wearing clean clothes, do not fulfill our needs, no, it is not so and this has been mentioned in an earlier article also. As much as a healthy mind is important, the body is equally important and cleanliness i.e. simplicity is important for a healthy body.

But now the matter here feels a bit harsh that when a student moves away from his simplicity and follows the path of fashion, then this fashion has a direct impact on the student's attachment to studies. Because the more the fashion increases in student life, the more the student will start moving away from studies. See, fashion is something that we observe from others, even if unknowingly. This is so that we can influence people in a different way. But this cannot continue for long because in such a situation, we keep moving away from studies in our student life, but secondly, it also increases our expenses and such expenses are considered unnecessary. We are not ignorant of the fact that even in our student life we have to fulfill our own and school-related needs. Which our family members are able to fulfill with great difficulty. And if we immerse ourselves in a fashionable environment during such times, it is certain that our expenses will increase. And to meet these increased expenses i.e. our passion for fashion, we will be short of money and fulfilling these will be our first goal rather than giving importance to our studies. In such a situation, no matter what path a student has to adopt to meet his expenses, fulfilling his passion has gradually become a compulsion for the student. By getting into fashion, the student forgets about the financial condition of his family and just wants to prove himself great. So in such a situation, the student completely loses interest in studies and starts living only in a different world of fashion.

Therefore, it is very important that we do not connect our student life with fashion at all and keep ourselves completely connected with studies because our real identity will not be created by fashion but by our good hard work and our skills to reach heights in life.

Why ridicule the faith related to festivals?

By: Vijay Garg

In the festive season, not only the color of faith but also colorless behavior of ridicule is seen. Recently, some people made fun of women on the internet media regarding Karva Chauth. In the name of freedom of expression and interference in the freedom of others regarding fasts and festivals, the behavior has now become common. A lot of negativity is seen regarding festivals related to wishing well being of loved ones. Sometimes these festivals are made a subject of ridicule by citing exploitation of women and sometimes by chauvinistic thinking. Is. With time, the ways of observing the traditions related to fasting have changed a lot. The mean-

ingful changes related to celebrating traditional festivals should also be understood in depth. It is sad that instead of accepting these changes wholeheartedly, there is a competition to share the negative aspects related to them. In such a situation, if it is a matter of independent thinking, then the views of women who want to celebrate these festivals without any pressure should also be respected. It is appropriate to speak logically on a matter related to personal faith, but from the heart The mentality of harboring hatred towards women who are not celebrating festivals is really surprising. Whereas this festive season is like a lifesaver for our economy, social connectedness and the joy of personal

relationships. Loneliness, depression and disintegrating families have become the bitter truth of today's social system. In such a situation, it is necessary to see the positive side of the customs which are playing an important role in fostering community cohesion. Now it is not a compulsion for women to be associated with traditional things. The meaning of these beliefs has changed. A hoy festival like Ashtami was once associated with the wish for good health of sons. Today, mothers perform this ritual for the safety and good health of their children, away from the distinction between son and daughter. Pleasant changes in affection and respect are also seen in the tradition of Karva Chauth

fast. Men also perform the rituals of Chhath with full dedication. Instead of rigid formalities, traditional festivals are now celebrated with spontaneity and a sense of nurturing relationships. At the same time, the mentality of opposition is still limited to its ancient form and giving strange references. of time Instead of highlighting the better changes that have come along, fallacies are resorted to. Without accepting positive changes, neither can the light of these festivals remain in the future. Nor can the remaining restrictions be abolished. Vijay

*(Garg Retired
Principal
Educational
Columnist Malout)*

Digital Library for the benefit of students



By: Vijay Garg

In modern life there have been a lot of changes in our everyday life. We are very happy to live in the advanced age of technology, but still many people are deprived of education and information. The solution to this problem is digital library. If run properly it can lead to a social revolution. Undoubtedly, digital library is also in the interest of the students and it must also be said that without the facility of access to digital library, any educational institution, be it a school or a college, will not be able to access the knowledge. May not remain relevant in the economy. Like Himachal Pradesh,

there is a need for digital library initiative in other states also. News is saying that digital libraries with modern facilities will be prepared in the country's leading state Himachal Pradesh before 31 March 2024. The Honorable Chief Minister of the state has issued instructions to provide free study facilities on touch screens, servers and social sites in the state library and district libraries. Let us consider the importance and relevance of the idea of digital library. O understand. Digital library is a library which has a collection of books in digital or electronic format. It can be used through electronic devices and computers. A digital library is also known as an online library, Internet library, digital repository, or digital collection. It is an online database of digital objects, which may include text, images, audio, video, books in the form of digital doc-

uments. This type of library can be accessed through the internet. can be done. In other words, digital libraries store documents in an organized electronic format and through the Internet or storage. In 1994, the term digital library was first used in the world by the NASA Digital Library. American author Michael Stern hart is the founder of the first digital library project Hart created to make freely available electronic books accessible via the Internet. Digital library brings us to the world We will get lots of resources and we will also get personalized services. We can unlock exciting new opportunities, such as collaboration, data sharing and innovation. Digital libraries that embrace this new dimension will be able to grow and meet the needs of their users. With the presence of a digital library, students' education will not stop even if books are not

available. With a digital library, children will be able to study uninterrupted even if they do not have books. Due to constraints related to physical location Traditional libraries lack the flexibility to include different types of content. But digital libraries store a wide range of content - e-books, magazines, articles, blogs, papers, videos, podcasts and audiobooks - in a virtual environment. Nowadays sophisticated digital libraries store resources in the cloud to make content available to their users anytime and anywhere. Unlike larger universities and libraries, smaller libraries often have new books, magazines, and There is a lack of sufficient resources to purchase other material resources. But the education institution can update the digital library regularly.

*(Vijay Garg Retired
Principal
Educational
Columnist Malout)*

JSS Jammu hosts Behes National Level Debate Competition

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 4: Jammu Sanskriti School (JSS), a paragon of academic excellence, played host to the prestigious Behes National Level Debate Competition, an event that unfolded as a symphony of eloquence and erudition.

This illustrious gathering was graced by luminaries in the field of education and administration, rendering it an affair of exceptional distinction. The distinguished Guests for the opening ceremony were Dr. Ashok Sharma - Director Education as Chief Guest and Subha Mehta - Joint Director Education as Guest of honour and for the closing ceremony was Ishita Rathi Assistant Collector, Jammu.

The inauguration of the competition kindled an atmosphere of pal-



pable excitement, with fervent debaters from all corners of the Jammu and Kashmir converging in an intellectual crescendo. The debates unfurled a tapestry of issues, from the global to the granular, inviting participants to adroitly articulate their viewpoints.

Dr. Ashok Sharma, lauded the participants for their acumen and applauded the institution for its unwavering commitment to intellectual growth. He expounded on the pivotal role of debate in molding visionary leaders and

inculcating a culture of informed discourse.

Subha Mehta, Joint Director Education, accentuated the event's import in fomenting critical thinking and fostering the art of persuasive communication. Her words resonated with the competitors, who had demonstrated superlative skills and erudition throughout the event.

The crescendo of the competition was the closing ceremony, graced by the presence of Ishita Rathi, Assistant Collector, Jammu whose felicitations were

marked by eloquence and grace.

She extolled the winners for their intellectual prowess and emphasized the transformative role of debate in nurturing conscientious and enlightened citizens.

The champions of the Behes National Level Debate Competition were accorded certificates and trophies, honoring their exceptional oratory skills and critical thinking.

The culmination of the event was imbued with a commitment to perpetuate the tradition of cerebral discourse and the

spirit of civil dialogue.

The result declaration marked the culmination of the event in which top 20 speakers from Lions division and 20 cubs division were felicitated and ofcourse the finalists from cubs and lions division.

Teams from GD Goenka won the final match and Team Jammu Sanskriti School, Jammu won the match.

Rohini Aima -Principal Cum Vice-Chairperson extended her profound appreciation to Dr. Ashok Sharma, Subha Mehta, and Ishita Rathi for lending their august presence and unwavering support.

She also asserted that the school also commends the diligence and dedication of the participants, educators, and staff whose collaborative efforts catalyzed this momentous success.

Organ Donation Awareness programme in GMC Anantnag

Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Nov 4: Jammu and Kashmir State Organ & Tissue Transplant Organization (SOTTO) organized an Awareness Programme for faculty, students and paramedical staff of GMC Anantnag in association with the Department of General

Surgery of the GMC.

Principal GMC Anantnag, Prof Dr Anjum Farhana presided over the event.

Head, Department of Surgery Prof Dr Mumtaz-ud-Din welcomed the SOTTO team.

Head of Urology GMC Jammu cum Nodal Officer SOTTO J&K, Dr Elias Sharma delivered

a lecture on Human Organ Donation and Transplantation and he clarified various myths associated with this.

Joint Director, SOTTO J&K, Dr Sanjeev Puri gave a brief presentation about the National Organ Transplant Programme (NOTP) under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. He also encouraged the audience to participate in Organ Donation Pledge Drive under Ayushman Bhav.

Irfan Ahmed, Transplant Coordinator, SOTTO explained the sequence of events in cadaveric organ donation.

The event was coordinated by Associate Prof General Surgery GMC Anantnag, Dr Khalid Bashir.



JK Montessorie School shines in Inter School Rangoli making Competition

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 4: The students of JK Montessorie School won 3rd prize in an Inter School Rangoli making Competition held in Play Way House School under the forum of Youth Talent Search today.

The students from various eminent schools participated in it.

The students painstakingly worked on their rangoli patterns and colours to bring out their talent.

The efforts of the students and teachers were applauded by the Director JKMS. She



encouraged the students to develop the

skilful and colourful attitude in future also.

KCCI team meets with Departmental Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Nov 4: The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) team had a meeting with the Departmental Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry chaired by T. Shiva.

The KCCI team comprised of Ashaq Hussain Shangloo Senior Vice President, Faiz Bakshi Secretary General, Umar Nazir Tibetbaqal Jt. Secretary General, Dr. Touseef Ahmad EC Member & Bilal Ahmad Bhat.

The Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Commissioner/ Secretary Industries & Commerce Vikramjit Singh

, Director Industries Mehmood Shah, Jt. Director MSME and other senior officials were also present.

The KCCI made a representation at the two and a half hour meeting with the standing members committee. The following presentation was made:

The present condition of industry in Jammu & Kashmir can be termed anything but a robust one. It is worth mention that in 2021 when the Central Scheme for Industrial Development of Jammu & Kashmir was announced there were about 39500 MSME's including manufacturing, handicraft and service sector units in organised & un-

organised sector with an asset valuation of around 39000 crores. However, only about 5800 units are housed in organised industrial estates whereas the rest operated in un-organised sector.

The industrial expansion depends upon a robust infrastructure in place vis developed industrial estates, power distribution network, captive water storage, internal roads, connectivity and transport. The Lack of infrastructure hinders industrial expansion. As already mentioned that not more than 20% are housed in Industrial Estates, and hence a need to identify and develop sufficient number of estates with

adequate infrastructure in place before allotment of land to provisionally registered entrepreneurs.

Presently, the land is allotted through On-Line Registration system. The allottee is required to make the unit operational within a period of three years after executing the lease deed. At the time of allotment the industrial estate is like a barren/ remote/ hilly terrain bereft of any development or infrastructure in place. It takes authorities a long time to develop the estate causing delay to the entrepreneurs in setting up and making the unit operational. Moreover, getting term

loan sanctioned by the Bank, power sanction, consent to operate from Pollution Control Committee et el consumes a considerable amount of time. It would require a time bound clearance / sanction for conversion of Provisional to Formal Registration (EM Part 1 to EM Part 11).

KCCI members suggested that the industrial estates be developed before the land is allotted, the time to start operation of the unit be extended from 3 to 5 years, the NOCs / clearances be issued within fixed deadlines, and The erroneous ranking policy linking land allotment to employability be modified.

Police arrests APP leader during protest

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 4: Amit Kapoor, the Vice President of the Aam Aadmi Party in Jammu province, was arrested by the police before he could participate in a protest in front of Maharaja Hari Singh Park.

The protest was planned to address several issues, including concerns about smart meters, the closure of old age pension, and changes related to ration cards.

Amit Kapoor strongly

criticized a new order issued by the LG (Lieutenant Governor) administration regarding ration cards.

The order required all family members to visit the ration depot, undergo KYC (Know Your Customer) verification, and provide thumbprints, which Kapoor argued would cause difficulties for the elderly, sick, and families with members working away from home.

Kapoor accused the LG administration of harassing the common



people with a series of arbitrary decrees, and he highlighted that the government had already reduced the ration quota and stopped sugar rations, causing hardship for the poor.

He mentioned that the

old age pension had been stopped for over a year, and he raised concerns about issues like smart meters and property tax.

Amit Kapoor criticized both the BJP and the opposition for failing to

address the people's issues effectively and called on the public to hold these parties accountable in upcoming elections.

He pledged that the Aam Aadmi Party would continue to protest at the district and tehsil (sub-district) levels on these issues.

Kapoor strongly criticized his arrest by the LG administration, claiming that it was an attempt to stifle democracy by apprehending peaceful protesters.

Junior wing 'Sports Day' held at Lawrance School

Top News Report

MOHALI, Nov 4: The 'Sports Day' of

junior wing students was held at Lawrance Public Senior Secondary School, Mohali on

Saturday. The students from KG, Pre Nursery and Nursery classes took part in events including bucket race, water pouring, hurdle race, lemon spoon race, relay races, beanbag races and net climbing.

The pack your bag race and hoopla race added an extra layer of excitement.

Energetic Bhangra performances by the tiny tots also enthralled the audience.



ARO organizes Outreach Programme for NCC Cadets

Top News Report

NAGROTA, Nov 4: Army Recruiting Office (ARO), Jammu organised an outreach programme for NCC Cadets undergoing ATC-J5 conducted by 2 J&K Bn NCC, Jammu at NCC Camping Ground, Nagrota on 28 Oct 2023.

A total number of 320 Cadets (Girls) attended the same. Staff of Army Recruiting Office,

Jammu briefed the attending NCC Cadets on a number of benefits towards their enrolment as officers as well as Agniveers in Indian Army including provisions of bonus marks being provided to NCC Cadets.

Online notifications regarding various modes of entries into Indian Army are available on the official website www.joinindianarmy.nic.in. Lt Col Suneel Bartwal



GDC for Women Kathua organizes an awareness cum-Orientation Program

Top News Report

KATHUA, Nov 4: Govt. Degree College for Women, Kathua and Institutions Innovation Council (IIC) in collaboration with Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department, Kathua, JK-UT Organizes an Awareness cum Orientation Program (Skill Development) on Mushroom Cultivation under the patronage of worthy Principal of the college, Dr. Savi Behl.

The resource persons in the event were Vinay Gupta, AEA and Rajnish Singh, AEA from the Mushroom Development Department, Kathua.

Rajnish in his presentation throw light on the



technical aspects of the mushroom cultivation. Vinay in his powerpoint presentation talked about the different types of Mushrooms being cultivated in JK UT and their health benefits. He also gave statistical data of the growth of mushroom units in Kathua district and its

role in strengthening the rural economy.

He also explained the procedure for getting benefits of different schemes and how to take full benefit of loans provided by the banks through differential schemes under Mushroom Cultivation. A large number of stu-

dents participated in the event.

After the lecture of the resource persons, a question-answer session was held in which students of the College received answers for their queries.

The College Principal congratulated the organising team

for hosting this fruitful training programme on mushroom cultivation and expressed optimism that this step will prove beneficial in enhancing the skill of the students.

She stressed on Students to adopt mushroom cultivation to become self dependent. She extended gratitude towards the resource person, who despite his busy schedule, spared time for the event.

The event was coordinated by the departments of Food Science, Botany and Zoology. The event was moderated by Dr.Khusboo and formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr.Mehak Jamwal.

'I focus on the character': Dibyendu Bhattacharya, who was last seen in the film Mission Raniganj, says he wants to live as many lives as he can on screen through the characters he essays

Actor Dibyendu Bhattacharya, last seen in the film Mission Raniganj, calls himself a yes man for being unable to say no to offers similar to what he has already done. He explains, "I always say yes to the project because I always think that I can bring out some detailing in the roles offered. I would like to believe that I have successfully managed to bring variety into every role that I have done so far. I take it as a challenge."

Dibyendu hails from West Bengal, his mother tongue helped him play the roles. In Guddu Rangeela, he played Bangali, in Undekhi, he played DSP Ghosh from West Bengal and a Bengali character, D Sen, in the latest theatrical release Mission Raniganj. "Yes, I have played a Bengali guy in all these. I have a huge respect for my mother tongue. I am a proud Bengali and a proud Indian. But I have also performed and appreciated for other roles, be it DSP Ghosh in Undekhi, Prof Mehdi Raza in Rocket Boys or Martin Gilbert Ekka in Maharani Season 2."



He continued, "To me, only the role matters. I focus on the character — whether it is effective or not. The character has to be the catalyst and its action should bring about changes in the script. The role should be substantial, whether it is a Punjabi or Bengali character."

Role call
Not ready to pick between films and OTT, he praises theatre too. He shared, "I love to do theatre because there are thousands of people live in front of me. That's a different kick altogether. Whereas in the case of

OTT platforms, we can watch it in our private domains, so I love every process of it."

Dibyendu's role from Maharani Season 2 is highly appreciated and he shares how the character of honest civil servant Martin Gilbert Ekka came into being. "Working with Subhash Kapoor (creator of Maharani) is always fun. He is a fantastic director, a visionary and master craftsman. When he offered me the character, it was because I resonate with Ekka as far as his love for theatre goes. Even the entry of Ekka starts with the

speech of Mark Anthony from Julius Caesar. The credit goes to Subhash Kapoor for creating a character like this." He is happy that Rocket Boys, a project he has been part of, is nominated for Emmys. "I think money and fame are just the by-products of our profession; it's the validation we seek, which of course comes in the form for awards," he opines.

Being an actor
On the sole purpose of being an actor, Dibyendu shares, "I wish to live as many lives as I can onscreen through my characters. And no one would ever dream as an artiste to be typecast because of how they appear or where they are from. So, I have taken conscious steps to not repeat myself in roles. I try to play things differently each time." As for upcoming projects, Dibyendu has shot for Undekhi Season 3 and currently shooting for Maharani Season 3. He has also done a cameo in Sonu Sood's film Fateh and has an important role in Anushka-starrer Chakda Xpress.

Ajay Devgn pens sweet birthday wish for Tabu



Actor Ajay Devgn on Saturday extended heartfelt wishes to actor Tabu on the occasion of her birthday.

Taking to Instagram, Ajay shared a video on his stories which he captioned, "Sometimes behind the wheels, sometimes behind the screen but it's always an adventure. Happy birthday @tabutiful."

Actors Ajay Devgn and Tabu are considered among one of the most loved Bollywood on-screen pairings. Both actors have collaborated in nine films till now.

They will be seen collaborating for the 10th time in director Neeraj Pandey's upcoming film 'Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha'.

Dum Tha' is touted to be a unique musical love story spanning 20 years.

Apart from this, the duo has shared screen space in films including 'Vijaypath', 'Haqeeqat', 'Thakshak', 'Fitooor', 'Drishyam', 'Golmaal Again', 'De De Pyaar De', 'Drishyam 2' and 'Bhola'.

Meanwhile, Tabu will also be seen in 'The Crew' alongside Kareena Kapoor Khan, Kriti Sanon and Diljit Dosanjh.

It is a story of three women and is touted as a laugh-riot, set against the backdrop of the struggling airline industry.

'The Crew' is all set to hit the theatres on March 22, 2024.

Ajay, on the other hand, will also be seen in producer Boney Kapoor's 'Maidaan' and Rohit Shetty's 'Singham Again'.

Sneha Bhattacharya records title track

After a tough competition in Zee TV's Sa Re Ga Ma Pa, it was contestant Sneha Bhattacharya who got the chance to fulfil her dreams, as she recorded the title track of Zee TV's latest fiction show, Kyunki... Saas Maa Bahu Beti Hoti Hai, along with contestant Nishtha Sharma. Sneha said, "I was definitely very excited to record my first music video with Aman and Munira. They both are lovely people, and we had a lot of fun shooting for the song. It was a new and different experience altogether for me. I have professionally recorded a song before, but this was a music video, which had many elements. I was both nervous and happy while shooting. I love how the audience is showering so much love on the video."



Robert De Niro's former top assistant says she found his back-scratching behaviour 'creepy'

Robert De Niro's former top executive assistant said she found it "creepy" when the actor insisted she scratch his back, an example of behaviour she found controlling and abusive before she quit her job in 2019, she testified at a New York civil trial.

In a full day of testimony, Graham Chase Robinson became emotional several times as she claimed that the trauma she endured before she quit working for De Niro in 2019 after 11 years has left her jobless and depressed.

"I was having an emotional and mental breakdown. I wasn't eating. I wasn't sleeping. Couldn't run. I was overwhelmed," she told jurors on Friday in Manhattan federal court. "I felt like I hit rock bottom." She said she suffers from anxiety and depression and hasn't worked in four years despite applying for 638 jobs.

"I don't have a social life," she said. "I'm so humiliated and embarrassed and feel so judged. I feel so damaged in



a way... I lost my life. Lost my career. Lost my financial independence. I lost everything."

Robinson, 41, is seeking USD 12 million in damages from De Niro, 80, for gender discrimination and retaliation. De Niro has asked a jury to award him USD 6 million on breach of loyalty and fiduciary duty grounds.

Robinson said the back-scratching had occurred several times over the years until she offered a mild protest once, suggesting to De Niro that there was a device he could use instead.

"I like the way that you do it," she said De Niro told her.

She described the comment as "creepy" and "disgusting".

During testimony earlier in the week, De Niro scoffed at the back-scratching claim and other assertions, saying he always treated Robinson with respect and never with "disrespect or lewdness". He also claimed he never yelled at her just before he did in court, shouting: "Shame on you, Chase Robinson!" He quickly apologised for the outburst. Robinson said part of her duties that required her to be available around the clock included helping De Niro navigate a complicated love life that at one point involved a wife, an ex-girlfriend and a new girlfriend that he didn't want the world to yet know about.

Robinson portrayed De Niro in her testimony as sexist with his language toward female employees and discriminatory in how he paid them.

Her testimony was undercut on cross-examination when a lawyer for De Niro confronted her with the fact that the actor's highest-paid employee was a

woman and that a man who worked for one of De Niro's companies, Canal Productions, just like Robinson, was paid less than a third of the USD 3,00,000 salary she secured before she quit.

Robinson testified about several instances when she claimed De Niro, who gained fame and two Oscars over the past five decades in films like 'Raging Bull', 'The Deer Hunter' and the new Martin Scorsese film 'Killers of the Flower Moon', erupted angrily at her, sometimes using profanity. Around Christmas of 2017, Robinson said, an inebriated De Niro called her angry one evening because he couldn't find some presents that had been sent to him from the office for the holiday.

"He was screaming about not being able to find some of the presents," Robinson said. "He was cursing left and right." He then called her an expletive and hung up, she said.

She said she found it "incredibly hurtful... especially when you're just trying to do your job."

Down the memory lane: Rohitashv Gour visits his acting school after 20 years

Rohitashv Gour visited his acting school in Delhi after two decades, rekindling a profound sense of nostalgia and reconnection with his roots. About the same, Rohitashv shared, "After finishing my studies in Himachal Pradesh, I moved to Delhi to pursue a career in acting. Fortunately, I gained admission to National School of Drama. It was my first time living away from home, and it was tough. Adapting to the new city and honing my

acting skills took several years. Looking back now, I'm filled with gratitude. My time at acting school and subsequent performances were instrumental in shaping my career. I always wanted to go back and relive those memories, especially after moving to Mumbai, but it never happened despite my visits to Delhi. Recently, I finally got the chance," he said.

The actor added, "While in Delhi to attend Luv Kush Ramlila as



Manmohan Tiwari, the next day, being a former student of this prestigious institute, I returned to my school after a two-decade absence. As soon as I stepped through the gates, tears welled up in my eyes.

The nostalgia was overwhelming. I spent much time catching up with my teachers and other staff members. Their praise for my work on my show Bhabiji Ghar Par Hain was heartwarming.

Are you ready?: Ranveer Brar sets off elimination with Black Apron Challenge on MasterChef India



Chef Ranveer Brar, who serves as one of the judges on the cooking reality show MasterChef India, is set to throw the Black Apron Challenge at the show's contestant in the upcoming episode.

The prologue to the challenge shows Ranveer cooking mock meat using alternative ingredients, in front of the contestants. However, as the celebrity chef opens the challenge to the contestants, he tells them to replicate the same dish after tasting it as he calls the dish High Stakes.

This tense challenge marks the first elimina-

tion in the MasterChef India kitchen. Eight home cooks, including Kenneth G, Kaushalya Chaudhary, Suraj Thapa, Subhojit Sen, Sima Ahmed, Mohammed Aashiq, Kriti Dhiman and Rukhsaar Saeed, battle in this nerve-wracking Black Apron challenge.

Rukhsaar possesses an immunity pin, but she chooses not to use it for this particular challenge. In another stand-out moment, Kaushalya, a vegetarian, refrains from tasting the dish, as it looks eerily similar to meat.

About the challenge, chef Ranveer said: "The

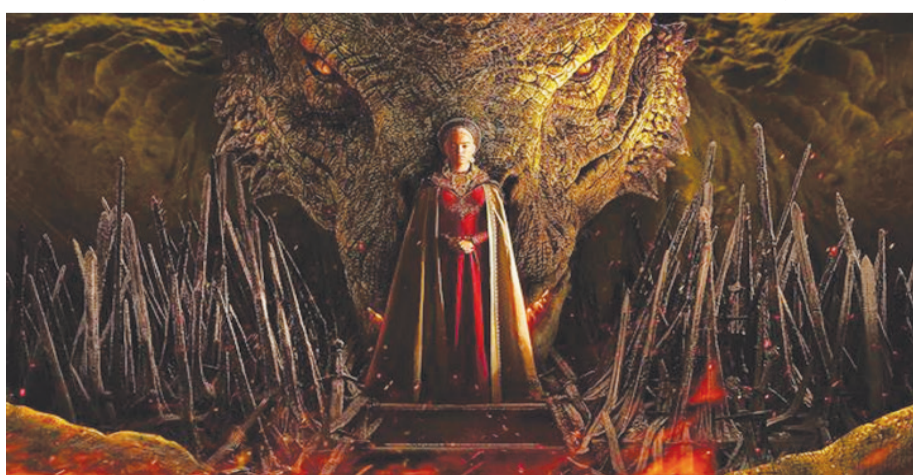
Black Apron challenge is designed to broaden the culinary horizons of our home cooks. Cooking is not just about taste, it is also about innovation and creativity. This challenge will not only push the boundaries of creativity but also test the contestants' ability to adapt to unconventional culinary demands. Replicating the High Stakes dish is a test of their cooking skills and I am proud of how each one of them has stepped up to the plate."

Kaushalya, who faces a unique dilemma, said, "Being a vegetarian, it is incredibly difficult to prepare a dish, one that has meat, without tasting it. However, chef Ranveer Brar guided me thoroughly, sharing intricate details about the ingredients. I am grateful to my fellow contestant, Mohammed Aashiq, who shared his tasting experience, helping me understand the dish better. Making the High Stakes dish is much more than just a challenge. For me, it is a learning experience like no other." MasterChef India streams on Sony LIV.

Second innings: House of the Dragon will return with season two in early summer of 2024, says HBO chief

The second season of Game of Thrones spin-off House of the Dragon will premiere on HBO in "early summer" of 2024. HBO chief Casey Bloys shared the news during a New York press event where the sophomore chapter's first trailer was also showcased.

House of the Dragon, which premiered on HBO in August 2022, is based on George R R Martin's book Fire & Blood, a history of House Targaryen set 300 years before the events described in



Game of Thrones, which ended its eight-season run in 2019.

Season two of House of the Dragon began filming at Warner Bros.

Leavesden Studios April 11 and was unaffected by the Writers Guild of

America (WGA) strike, which began on May 2 and lasted until September 27, as well as the ongoing actors strike by the SAG-AFTRA.

At the event, Bloys also revealed that the second season of another hit show, The Last of Us, will commence production in early 2024. Bloys provided an update about Zendaya-starrer Euphoria as well.

The Sam Levinson-created show's third season is expected to debut in 2025.

On poll eve, PM Modi extends free-ration scheme for 5 years

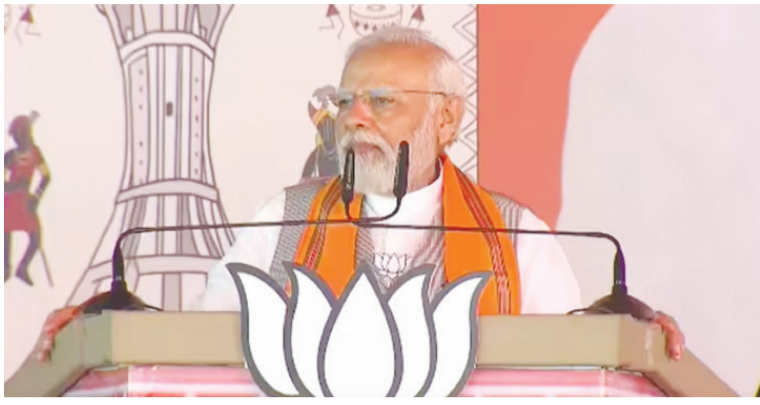
Says biggest caste is poverty, warns against Congress 'caste census conspiracy to divide the poor'

NEW DELHI, Nov 4 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday announced the extension of free ration for the poor scheme for five years, in a mega sop on the eve of elections in Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

Addressing a rally at Durg in Chhattisgarh, which goes to polls in the first phase on November 7, the Prime Minister also declared that poverty is the biggest caste and warned the people against "Congress conspiracy to divide the poor through the new gimmick of caste census".

Speaking of 13.5 crore people coming out of poverty in five years of the BJP rule, the PM said the Congress was seeking to divide the poor through new ploys so that the poor continued to depend on Congress for alms.

The Congress hates a self-confident poor person, said the PM.



"In the war against poverty, the poor are uniting and rising as one caste. The poor have become Modi's army to fight poverty. This unity of the poor is troubling some politicians. They are afraid their web of lies would be exposed if the poor become strong and united. So a new game has now begun to divide the poor, break their unity. Political parties are hatching new conspiracies to spread casteist venom and break the unity of poor people. We have

to foil these conspiracies and together defeat poverty," the PM said at an election rally in Durg attacking the Congress' pro-caste census push.

The PM also attacked the Congress government of Chhattisgarh for corruption and said it did not even spare "Mahadev".

His reference was to ED raids revealing allegations that promoters of Mahadev betting app funded CM Bhupesh Baghel's election expenses.

"The threat of this illegal bet-

ting racket goes right up to the CMO," Modi said accusing the state Congress of "rampant corruption across sectors from recruitment and liquor to PDS and coal".

The PM said the Congress was constantly engaged in abusing India's only OBC prime minister noting, "OBCs will not forgive the Congress for heaping abuses on the backwards."

The PM's veiled attack was on Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's "why do all thieves have Modi surname" statement for which the latter was convicted by a Surat court.

Urging people to choose between "BJP's all-inclusive manifesto and Congress bunch of lies", the PM said, "Congress is busy filling its coffers by plundering the poor. It has no care for the poor which is why it fed poverty over decades of rule at the Centre despite giving the 'garibi hatao' slogan."

ED claims against Bhupesh Baghel part of BJP's conspiracy to tarnish image of Chhattisgarh CM: Congress



NEW DELHI, Nov 4 (Agencies): The Congress alleged on Saturday that the claims made by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) against Bhupesh Baghel are part of a "conspiracy" hatched by the BJP to tarnish the Chhattisgarh chief minister's image and asserted that the people

of the state would give a befitting reply to such tactics in the upcoming Assembly poll.

The opposition party said it would also take up the matter with the Election Commission (EC) as it was a clear case of "violation" of the Model Code of Conduct.

Addressing a press conference here, Con-

gress general secretary Jairam Ramesh claimed that with the defeat of the BJP certain in the Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh Assembly polls, the saffron party is misusing central agencies, such as the ED and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

"The people of Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh have faith in the Congress. The BJP is indulging in vendetta politics," Ramesh said.

Another Congress leader, KC Venugopal, said there is a clear-cut conspiracy to tarnish Baghel's image and people would give a befitting reply to the BJP in the upcoming polls.

Kerala court convicts accused in Aluva child rape and murder case

KOCHI, Nov 4 (Agencies): A POCSO court here on Saturday convicted the lone accused in the sensational Aluva rape and murder case of a five-year-old girl from Bihar.

Special POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) court judge K Soman convicted Ashwaq Alam, a migrant labourer from Bihar.

The judge said the accused was found guilty of all the offences and posted the matter for November 9 for pronouncing the quantum



of sentence. The conviction came 99 days after the crime was committed.

According to the prosecution, on July 28, the five-year-old girl was abducted, brutally raped and killed allegedly by

Alam, who lived in the same building as the victim.

Later, her body was found dumped in a sack in a marshy area behind a local market in the nearby Aluva area on July 29.

Congress will 'certainly win' in Chattisgarh, MP raids will not demoralise party workers: Kharge

BALAGHAT, Nov 4 (Agencies): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday said the recent raids by central agencies in Chhattisgarh can't demoralise their workers, asserting that the party will win the assembly elections there as well as in BJP-governed Madhya Pradesh.

Kharge was addressing a public meeting at Katangi town in the Naxal-affected Balaghat district of MP.

"I was in Chhattisgarh yesterday (Friday) and the force of Modi (Prime Minister Narendra Modi) and Shah (Union Home Minister Amit Shah) was also there. Through ED, CBI and I-T



raids they want to terrorise our party workers so that they sit in their homes. They are thinking that Congress workers will sit at home and get demoralised due to these raids, but it won't happen. The Congress is certainly going to win in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh," he

said. The Congress has been accusing the BJP-led Centre of weaponising the Enforcement Directorate (ED), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Income Tax (I-T) to target its government in Chhattisgarh through various raids.

The Congress president said Modi had once strongly criticised the NREGA scheme, a rural job guarantee initiative, but the same programme helped the government in providing employment during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kharge said their party brought about the 'Green Revolution', which enhanced farm productiv-

ity, in the country to make it self-reliant in food grain production, and claimed that the current government is able to provide free ration to lakhs of people because of that vision of the earlier Congress governments.

He said that the mobile phones and computers that crores of people in the country are using today became possible because of the vision of the then prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Kharge also recalled the contribution of former PMs Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri in the development of the country and slammed Modi for questioning the Congress on this issue.

Legislature Can Enact New Law, But Can't Overrule Judgment: Chief Justice

NEW DELHI, Nov 4 (Agencies): Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud on Saturday said the legislature can enact a fresh law to cure a deficiency in a judgment but it cannot directly overrule it.

Speaking at the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit here, Chandrachud said judges don't think about how the society would respond when they decide cases and that is the difference between the elected arm of the government

and the judiciary. "There is a dividing line between what the legislature can do, and what the legislature can't do when there is a judgment of the court. If a judgment decides a particular issue and it points out a deficiency in law, it is always open for the legislature to enact a fresh law to cure the deficiency," the CJ said.

"What the legislature cannot do is to say that we think the judgment is wrong and therefore we



overrule the judgment. The judgment of a court cannot be directly overruled by the legislature," the CJ said.

He also said judges are guided by constitutional morality and not

public morality while adjudicating cases.

"We have disposed of at least 72,000 cases this year and there's still a month and a half to go," Chandrachud said. Contending that there

are structural barriers in the entry-level of the judicial system, Chandrachud said more women will enter the judiciary if there is a level playing field.

"We need to redefine merit in an inclusive sense. If you open a level playing field for entry, you will have more women in the judiciary," he said.

The CJ also extended best wishes to the Indian men's cricket team for the World Cup and said they inspire him.

Tejashwi Yadav moves SC seeking transfer of defamation case, informs Ahmedabad court



AHMEDABAD, Nov 4 (Agencies): Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav on Saturday informed a trial court here that he has moved the Supreme Court seeking transfer of the criminal defamation case against him and the matter is likely to be taken up on November 6.

The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader, through his lawyer, sought exemption from appearance in the court of additional metropolitan magistrate DJ Parmar, which had summoned him on September 22 in a criminal defamation case against him and the matter is likely to be taken up on November 6.

The court adjourned the case and posted it for hearing on December 2.

The lawyer for complainant Hareh Mehta had argued that since the matter has not been taken up by the apex court yet and no direction has been passed, the trial court must continue hearing the case in Yadav's absence.

Among the grounds

for exemption presented before the court on Saturday was Yadav's official engagement on the day and the fact that he has filed a petition under section 406 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) before the Supreme Court seeking transfer of the case.

As per the case status obtained from the website of the Supreme Court, the said transfer petition is tentatively listed on November 6, the RJD leader said.

In the exemption application, Yadav said he is a law-abiding citizen and deputy chief minister of Bihar and ordinarily resided at his official address in Patna.

"Hence, the applicant-accused has not been able to attend the further proceedings before this court owing to pressing and urgent official commitments, which involve overseeing important projects for the welfare of the general public, which is necessary in view of the forthcoming religious festivities in the state," the application stated.

Yadav further stated

that his transfer petition before the apex court is likely to be taken up on November 6, and sought that further proceedings be conducted in the presence of his lawyer and no objection be taken in this regard.

The court had conducted an inquiry against Yadav under section 202 of the CrPC and found sufficient grounds to summon him based on a complaint filed by Mehta, a 69-year-old social worker and businessman from Ahmedabad.

Mehta had filed his complaint in court along with the proof of Yadav's statement made before the media in Patna on March 21 this year.

"Only Gujaratis can be thugs in the present situation, and their fraud (crime) will be forgiven. Who will be responsible if they abscond after they are offered the money belonging to the LIC and bank?" Yadav had said.

The complainant claimed that the statement was made in public and calling the entire Gujarati community "thugs" defames and humiliates all Gujaratis in public.

A "thug" is a rogue, sly and criminal person, and such a comparison with the entire community will cause people to look at Gujaratis with suspicion, he said, while seeking maximum punishment for Yadav.

Muslim youth 'critical' after shot in the chest by miscreants in Odisha

ROURKELA, Nov 4 (Agencies): A youth was shot in the chest at the Bisra police station area of Sundargarh district by unidentified miscreants on Saturday morning.

While the exact reason for the attack remains to be ascertained, personal enmity could be a possible reason. The injured youth, Irfan Raza (25) has been shifted to a private hospital and is in critical condition.

The incident came against the backdrop of a recent spurt among miscreants about the use of firearms for looting.

Police sources said the youth was alone at a secluded place when two persons reportedly opened fire on him at around 8.30 a.m. He received one bullet injury in the chest and

was immediately rushed to Rourkela Government Hospital. He was later shifted to a private hospital there.

"Some anti-social youths of Nala Road at Rourkela had visited Bisra and the injured person had a fierce quarrel with them on Saturday night," said the sources.

Raza's mother Nusrat Jahan works as a poultry van driver and is unaware of her son's enmity with any of the attackers.



The youth also claimed that he had no enmity with anybody and no previous criminal antecedents.

Zone III Deputy SP (DSP) AK Pradhan said Raza could not see the face of the attacker.

"Those who had quarrelled with him at Nala Road have been identified and will be questioned for their possible involvement in the attack," he said.

"Police are also looking into other angles," he added.

Food vlogger found dead at his house in Kerala



KOCHI, Nov 4 (Agencies): Noted food vlogger from Kochi, Rahul N Kutty, was found hanging at his residence on Saturday, police said.

He was 33. Police said Kutty's parents and friends found him hanging in his bedroom and rushed him to a private hospital.

"We received information from the hospital," police said.

The vlogger was part of 'Eat Kochi Eat', a popular online platform for foodies in which they introduce the least explored food joints in the city.

"We are extremely devastated to share with you all that our beloved Rahul N Kutty has passed away. Kindly keep him in your prayers and wish we & his family find the strength to bear the loss of this beautiful soul," the official page of Eat Kochi Eat posted on Instagram. The page has over 4.21 lakh followers.

Police said a case of unnatural death has been registered and the investigation is on.

Australian premier to protest blogger's vague detention conditions while meeting Chinese president

Yang is being held in a Beijing detention centre awaiting the verdict of a 2021 closed-door trial on espionage charges

CANBERRA, Nov 4 (Agencies): Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Saturday that he would protest a lack of transparency in China's treatment of a detained Australian democracy blogger when meeting with President Xi Jinping in Beijing during a trade-focused state visit.

The detention of Yang Hengjun without conviction for almost five years would be one of the topics raised with Xi when they meet at the Great Hall of the People on Monday. Yang is being held in a Beijing detention centre awaiting the verdict of a 2021 closed-door trial on espionage charges. The 58-year-old's family fears he is dying.

"I'll be saying that Dr. Yang's case needs to be resolved and I'll be speaking about his human rights, the nature of the detention and the failure to have transparent processes," Albanese told at the northern Australian city of Darwin hours before he was to fly to Shanghai.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry this week defended Yang's prosecution, saying his case had been handled in strict accordance with the law.

Albanese would become the first Australian prime minister to visit China since 2016, signaling an improvement in strained relations between the two nations since Australia's centre-left government was elected last year.

Albanese has been raising the plights of Yang and another detained Australian journalist



Cheng Lei, with Chinese leaders since he first met Xi on the sidelines of a Group of 20 summit in Indonesia a year ago.

Cheng was freed and deported last month after three years in a Beijing detention for breaking a government-imposed embargo by a few minutes. Her release was interpreted as a Chinese concession ahead of Albanese's visit.

Albanese would on Tuesday meet Chinese Premier Li Qiang, whose message of congratulations soon after the prime minister's election victory on May 21 last year raised the prospects of a reset in bilateral relations.

Beijing has previously refused top-level ministerial contacts between the two countries.

From the outset of his prime ministership, Albanese had demanded that China immediately lift what he described as 'unjustified' official and unofficial trade barriers costing Australian exporters 20 billion Australian

dollars (USD 13 billion) a year. Those barriers have since been substantially reduced and now cost around 2 billion Australian dollars (USD 1.3 billion).

Albanese credited his government's different approach towards China for what he describes as 'stabilising' the relationship, after nine years of conservative rule in Australia.

"My approach towards this relationship has been patient, deliberate and measured, making sure that both of our interests are put forward because that is the way a good diplomacy works," Albanese said.

"The fact that it is the first visit in seven years to our major trading partner is a very positive step, and I look forward to constructive discussions and dialogue with the president and the premier during my visit to Shanghai and Beijing," he added.

China is concerned with the

level of restrictions imposed on Chinese investment in Australia due to growing security concerns.

Around 400 Australian executives who do business with China are expected to attend a lunch with Albanese in Shanghai on Sunday. Many urge Australia to ease restrictions on Chinese investment.

"Chinese investment shouldn't be a dirty word," David Olsson, president of the Australia China Business Council, told The Australian Financial Review newspaper.

Albanese would visit Shanghai to attend the opening of the China International Import Expo Trade Fair where more than 200 Australian companies would be represented.

During the three-day visit, Albanese would focus on reinvigorating the China-Australia free trade agreement, resolving the remaining Chinese trade bans and finding agreement on how to settle future trade disputes, his office said.

Trade Minister Don Farrell, Foreign Minister Penny Wong and an Australian business delegation are traveling with him.

China is Australia's largest export market, particularly for iron ore, natural gas and critical minerals such as lithium.

Albanese has signaled that Australia won't back China's bid to join the free trade agreement known as the 12-nation Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Israel strikes ambulance carrying injured near Gaza hospital, 15 killed



GAZA, Nov 4 (Agencies): An Israeli air strike on an ambulance being used to evacuate the wounded from besieged northern Gaza killed 15 people and injured 60 on Friday, the Hamas-controlled enclave's health ministry said today.

Israel's military said it had identified and hit an ambulance "being used by a Hamas terrorist cell". It said Hamas fighters were killed in the strike, and accused the group of transferring militants and weapons in ambulances.

Hamas official Izzat El Reshiq said allegations that its fighters were present were

"baseless". Ashraf al-Qidra, spokesperson for Gaza's health ministry, said the ambulance was part of a convoy that Israel targeted near Gaza City's al-Shifa Hospital.

Qidra said Israel had targeted the convoy of ambulances in more than one location, including at al-Shifa Hospital gate and at Ansar Square a kilometre away.

In a statement on the incident, Israel's military gave no evidence to support its assertion that the ambulance was linked to Hamas but said it intended to release additional information.

"We emphasise that this area is a battle zone. Civilians in the area are repeatedly called upon to evacuate southwards for their own safety," the military said.

Agency was unable to independently verify either side's account.

Video shared on social media, which agency has verified, showed people lying in blood next to an ambulance with flashing lights on a city street as people rushed to help.

Another video showed three ambulances standing in a line, with about a dozen people lying either motionless or barely moving next to them. Blood was pooled nearby.

World Health Organisation Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a social media post he was "utterly shocked by reports of attacks on ambulances evacuating patients", adding that patients, health workers and medical facilities must be protected.

"All Options Open": Hezbollah Chief Warns Israel Over Lebanon Strikes

BEIRUT, Nov 4 (Agencies): Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah warned that war between Israel and Hamas could turn into a regional conflict if attacks on Gaza continue, placing responsibility firmly on the United States.

In his first speech since war broke out almost four weeks ago between Hamas militants and Israel, the head of the powerful Iran-backed movement warned that "all options" were open for an expansion of the conflict to Lebanon.

"America is entirely responsible for the ongoing war on Gaza and its people, and Israel is simply a tool of execution," Nasrallah said in a televised broadcast, calling the conflict "decisive".

"Whoever wants to prevent a regional war -- and this is addressed to the Americans -- must quickly stop the aggression on Gaza," he said.

Thousands of supporters gathered to hear the fiery speech at an event in Beirut's southern suburbs, a Hezbollah stronghold, held in memory of the group's fighters killed in Israeli bombardments.

Others gathered elsewhere in Lebanon and the region, including Tehran and Baghdad.

Since Hamas militants launched a shock October 7 attack on Israel from the Gaza Strip, Lebanon's southern border has seen escalating tit-for-tat exchanges, mainly between Israel and Hezbollah, an ally of the Palestinian group, stoking fears of a broader conflagration.

US President Joe Biden has sent two aircraft carrier groups to the eastern Mediterranean.

But a defiant Nasrallah told the United States that "your fleet in the Mediterranean does not scare us... we are ready to face the fleet you threaten us with." - 'Unimaginable price' -



"You Americans know well that if there is war in the region, your fleet will be of no use, nor will air combat help. Your interests and your soldiers and your fleet will be the first to pay the price," he added.

In Washington, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Hezbollah "should not try to take advantage of the ongoing conflict".

"This has the potential of becoming a bloodier war between Israel and Lebanon than 2006," she said. "The United States does not want to see this conflict expand into Lebanon."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned Hezbollah it would "pay an unimaginable price" for any misstep.

The 2006 conflict between Israel and Hezbollah killed more than 1,200 people in Lebanon, mostly civilians, and 160 in Israel, largely soldiers.

Israeli officials say Hamas's bloody raids on October 7 killed more than 1,400 people, most of them civilians.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza says more than 9,200 people have died in Israeli bombardments, mostly women and children.

Nasrallah saluted "heroic" Hamas, calling the October 7 attacks "100 percent Palestinian" and saying the plan was not disclosed to allies in advance.

He praised attacks targeting US bases in the Middle East, after a string of assaults on facilities hosting US troops in Iraq and Syria. Hezbollah along with armed groups from Iraq,

Syria and Yemen are part of a regional, Iran-led "axis of resistance" against Israel and the United States.

- 'Foolishness' - Nasrallah also warned Israel against attacking Lebanon, saying that "all options are open on our Lebanese front".

The current situation at the Lebanon-Israel border is linked "to the course and development of events in Gaza", Nasrallah said, claiming Hezbollah's actions had tied up "a large section" of the Israeli army that might otherwise have been fighting in the Palestinian territory.

He warned that the chance of open conflict was "realistic".

"We say to the enemy that might think of attacking Lebanon or carrying out a pre-emptive operation, that this would be the greatest foolishness of its existence," he said.

Cross-border skirmishes have killed 72 people on the Lebanese side, among them at least 54 Hezbollah fighters but also other combatants and civilians, one a agency journalist, according to an agency tally.

On the Israeli side, at least six soldiers and one civilian have been killed, the army said.

Maha Yahya of the Carnegie Middle East Center, said Nasrallah's speech was "the best middle ground that he could take".

Ultimately "neither Iran nor Hezbollah are interested in getting into a conflict which would probably end up being a zero sum game", she said.

The humanitarian crisis in Gaza is growing as Blinken seeks support for a temporary cease-fire

RAFAH, Nov 4 (Agencies): US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with Arab foreign ministers Saturday to find ways to ease Gaza's growing humanitarian crisis. His mission is complicated by Israel's insistence there can be no temporary cease-fire until all hostages held by Hamas are released.

In unusually blunt language, the United Nations chief said conditions in Gaza are now "horrific" as fighting continues to escalate. With food, water and the fuel needed for generators that power hospitals and other facilities running out, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged an immediate cease-fire to allow humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip.

"An entire population is traumatized, nowhere is safe," he said Friday.

He said he had not forgotten the slaughter of civilians at the hands of Hamas militants when they launched their attack on Israel almost a month ago, but said civilians and civilian infrastructure must be protected. He also said civilians must not be used as human shields, and called upon Hamas to release all of the roughly 240 hostages it has.

Israeli forces have encircled Gaza City, and it has been urging civilians to head south to avoid getting caught up in the fighting as the ground war intensifies.

One man who did just that said even the South did not feel safe. Raed Mattar, who was sheltering in a school in the southern town of Khan Younis after fleeing the north early in the war, said he regularly heard explosions, apparently from airstrikes.

"People never sleep," he said. "The sound of explosions never stops."

About 1.5 million people in Gaza, or 70% of the population, have fled their homes, the United Nations said Friday.

Friday in Tel Aviv, on his third trip to Israel since the war began, Blinken pushed President Joe Biden's calls for a brief halt in the fighting to address the worsening humanitarian crisis.

But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said there could be no humanitarian pause until Hamas releases the hostages it holds.

That stance complicates Blinken's talks Saturday in Amman with diplomats from Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the Palestinian Authority, who remain angry and deeply suspicious of Israel.

In addition to aid distribution, allowing foreigners out and the release of hostages, Blinken is looking to get Jordan and other Arab states to begin to think about the future of Gaza if and when Israel succeeds in wresting control from Hamas.

Arab leaders have thus far resisted American suggestions that they play a larger role in crisis, expressing outrage at the civilian toll of the Israeli military operations but believing Gaza to be a problem largely of Israel's own making.

Still, U.S. officials believe Arab backing — no matter how modest — will be critical to efforts to not only ease the worsening conditions in Gaza but also to lay the groundwork for what would replace Hamas as the territory's governing authority if and when Israel succeeds in eradicating it.

Blinken met first with Lebanon's caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati before his series of talks with the foreign ministers. He will also see Jordan's King Abdullah II, whose country announced Wednesday that it had recalled its ambassador to Israel and told Israel's envoy not to return to the country.

GAZA CITY FIGHTING

Israeli troops have been tightening their encirclement of Gaza City, the main focus of the military's campaign to crush Hamas.

Overnight strikes hit the western outskirts of the city and near Al-Quds Hospital.

Adly Abu Taha, a Gaza City resident who has sheltered in the hospital grounds for the past three weeks, said strikes have repeatedly hit close to the hospital in recent days.



"The bombardment gets closer day by day," he said over the phone. "We don't know where to go."

Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians remain in the city and across northern Gaza. Israel says Hamas has extensive military infrastructure in the city, including a network of underground tunnels, bunkers and command centers. It says its strikes target Hamas, and the militants endanger civilians by operating among them.

In the aftermath of a strike Friday outside Gaza's largest hospital, Shifa, footage showed more than a dozen bloodied bodies strewn next to damaged cars and ambulances. One bleeding boy screamed as he huddled on top of a woman sprawled on the pavement.

The strike came after Israel said Hamas had a command center there — a claim that could not be independently verified and that Hamas and hospital officials deny.

At least 15 people were killed and 60 wounded outside Shifa Hospital, said Health Ministry spokesperson Ashraf al-Qidra. At least 50 others were killed or wounded in a strike outside Gaza's Indonesian Hospital, its director said, without providing more precise figures.

The Israeli military said its aircraft hit an ambulance Friday that Hamas fighters were using to carry weapons. The claim could not be independently verified. It was not clear whether the strike was connected to the one by Shifa Hospital. The military said it took place "near a battle zone," suggesting it was close to ongoing ground battles.

Al-Qidra said a convoy of

Gulab Gaatha enthalls jampacked audiences at Reasi

Top News Report

REASI, Nov 4: The first ever film made on the history of Jammu and Kashmir reached District Reasi where it was showcased twice at Zorawar Singh Auditorium, Reasi with the support and collaboration of District Administration, Reasi.

At the outset Director Natrang Balwant Thakur who is also the writer and the director of the film, presented a brief overview about the making of this historic film 'Gulab Gatha' and thanked Dr. Karan Singh, Chairman of Maharaja Gulab Singh Memorial Trust for giving him this lifetime opportunity to produce this film.

He also thanked DC Reasi Vishesh Mahajan for providing Natrang the local support and logistic help.

He further shared that it took him and my team of scholars, creative people, designers, and actors over three years on research and the mobilisation of resources in creating this master-piece ever produced in Jammu & Kashmir. This is a must-see film for one and all.

Natrang is currently showcasing a series of fifty shows all over Jammu province.

Prominent amongst those who graced the occasion included



Sahitya Akademi Awardee Raj Rahi, prominent artists Sunit Kumar and Shashi Sharma. The show was coordinated by ACR Reasi, Anshumali Sharma on behalf of the District administration and by Sartaj Singh on behalf of Natrang Jammu.

The film 'Gulab Gatha' is about the journey of a soldier who achieves great success at everything he initiated. His unquestionable obligatory obedience towards Lahore Durbar, his unconditional sacrifice and his conception of a kingdom has been regarded and given value in this.

The greatness of leaders is not just in their works but in the way they have been appreci-

ated and personified in the eyes of the people. Napoleon was a military and political hero of France and Alexander has been applauded for his greatness for his conquest.

Gulab Singh as an emperor held the same qualities of being a courageous warrior. He was a normal person with no lineage of royalty but he established himself as a King with the help of his bravery and continued to keep a hold on his empire because of his well-planned strategic and diplomatic intelligence.

The most noteworthy part of the film was the dynamic acting by the local artists who simply created magic on screen with

their highly professional performances.

Sunil Kumar Palwal a meritorious pass out of FTII and popular TV/Film actor has done a great job in portraying different shades of the life of Maharaja Gulab Singh. The lead lady of the film is played by Gauri Thakur.

The prominent amongst others who gave remarkable performances included Arvind Anand, Madan Rangeela, Sudhir Jamwal, Suresh Kumar, Janak Khajuria, Anil Tickoo, Sanjeev Gupta, Neeraj Kant, Vijay Bhat, Subash Jamwal, Sumeet Sharma, Gaurav Jamwal, Rahul Sharma, Aftab Singh Chauhan, Meera Tapasvi, Aarushi Thakur Rana, Brijesh Avtaar Sharma, Lalit Kumar, Aman Sharma, Akshay Razdan, Kanav Sharma, Jatin Sharma, Brighu Sharma, Sumeet Raina, Naresh Kumar, Udit Sagar, Sushant Singh Charak, Vanishika Gupta, Sanket Bhagat and Shivam Sharma.

Technical crew included Maloop Singh (Technical Director) Sanjay Kumar (Cameraman), Kamal Sharma (Makeup), and Neeraj Badyal (Film Editor), Sartaj Singh (Production) Mohd Yaseen and Gaurav Jamwal (Coordination).

Two-Day Advanced Research Methods Workshop concludes

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 4: P.G. Department of Commerce is delighted to announce P.G. Department of Commerce is delighted to announce the successful conclusion of a highly informative and engaging Two-Day Advanced Research Methods Workshop, held on November 3rd and 4th, 2023. Dr. Neeraj Kaushik, Associate Professor, NIT Kurukshetra was the resource person for the workshop. This event served as a beacon for researchers, scholars, and faculty members seeking to delve into the latest advancements in research methodologies.

The workshop's comprehensive agenda covered a wide array of topics, ensuring participants gained a holistic understanding of cutting-edge research techniques. The first day of the workshop commenced with an in-depth exploration of PLS-SEM, encompassing model specification, model estimation, and the intricacies of types of higher-order constructs. The day also delved into specifying, estimating, and validating higher-order constructs, while also addressing non-linear relationships and confirmatory tetrad analysis.

The second day of the workshop was equally engaging, with participants delving into advanced methodologies such as necessary conditions analysis and importance-performance map analysis. During the others sessions of the day emphasis was laid on testing for measurement model invariance, parametric multigroup analysis, and the vital concept of bootstrap. The workshop culminated with insightful discussions on finite mixture partial least squares and prediction-oriented segmentation for partial least squares. The diversity of topics covered in the agenda provided attendees with a comprehensive toolkit of advanced research methodologies, ensuring they leave equipped to tackle complex research challenges. Participants expressed their appreciation for the practical applications and hands-on exercises that allowed them to solidify their understanding of these advanced research methods.

The overwhelming response to this workshop underscores the commitment of P.G. Department of Commerce, University of Jammu in advancing the

capabilities of researchers and academicians in the pursuit of excellence in their respective fields. The successful conclusion of a highly informative and engaging Two-Day Advanced Research Methods Workshop, held on November 3rd and 4th, 2023. Dr. Neeraj Kaushik, Associate Professor, NIT Kurukshetra was the resource person for the workshop. This event served as a beacon for researchers, scholars, and faculty members seeking to delve into the latest advancements in research methodologies.

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Natrang presents Hindi play 'Bhrasht Tantra'

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 4: Natrang presented Hindi play 'Bhrasht Tantra' written and directed by Neeraj Kant here today at three places of Jammu city viz. Jammu Railway Station, Office of the Regional Transport, Jammu and Bahu Plaza, Jammu. The play is based on the youth's perspective on the corrupt administration of the country. The play was showcased in connection with the observance of Vigilance week-2023 organised by J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages.

The play started with the aggression of the frustrated youth who is breathing in the contaminated air of corruption, scandals and dishonesty. Then they hold the common people responsible for this corruption and say that corruption is spread by anarchist elements who get the

protection of those in power. And in this democracy, the general public is completely responsible for establishing power. In this way, full participation of the common people is directly ensured in this corrupt system. Then it is told how corruption starts. A street fruit seller becomes a victim of the corrupt guardians of the system and the prices in the markets increase and the general public bears the burden.

Then, by mentioning the different side effects of corruption, it is told how it affects the common people and the progress of the country. There are no strict rules to stop corruption. The courage of corrupt people is increasing day by day and so are the number of scams.

In another scene it is told that Tatkal tickets are not available to common passengers



for train travel. But due to collusion with the officials, middlemen indulge in black marketing and get huge profits by purchasing tickets and selling them at higher prices. A passenger who is a victim of this fraud takes alertness and informs the Vigilance Department and gets the officer in charge arrested. In this way the solution to the problem is also given.

In one another the

leader is luring the general public by distributing gifts during elections. The officer involved in all this gets his son admitted in college with the money he gets through bribery. But his son, to teach his father a lesson, steals in his own house. A police officer does not file a theft report without a bribe. Thus, he realises the fate of a person having no money to pay as bribe. Upon realizing this, the father takes a

pledge that he will neither take nor give bribe in future. And the play ends with this message that they would say no to corruption and commit to the Nation.

Actors who outshined in their respective performances and left an impact of their acting included Neeraj Kant, Abhimanyu Choudhary, Aadesh Dhar, Kushal Bhat, Chaitanya Shekhar, Vishal Sharma, Sanket Bhagat and Sumit Bandaral.

FROM PAGE 1

Nepal earthquake: Death toll rises to 140; communication cut off with many areas, say officials

recorded at 6.4 and the epicentre of the quake was in Nepal at a depth of 10 km.

The earthquake, which was centred near the western temple town of Jumla in Nepal, struck around 11:32 pm, the NCS said. Nepal's National Earthquake Monitoring & Research Center said its epicentre was at Jajarkot, which is about 250 miles north-east of the Nepalese capital, Kathmandu.

Prime Minister Pushpakamal Dahal 'Prachanda' headed towards the incident site with a medical team Saturday morning.

Earlier, he took to Twitter and expressed grief over the damage caused by the earthquake. "Honorable Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' has expressed his deep sorrow over the human and material damage caused by the earthquake at Ramidanda in Jajarkot at 11:47 on Friday night and has mobilized all 3 security agencies for the immediate rescue and relief of the injured," Nepal PMO posted on X (formerly Twitter).

The earthquake in Nepal triggered strong tremors in Delhi and northern India, sending people rushing out of their homes late at night on Friday.

The tremors were also felt in several districts including, Delhi-NCR, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Expressing his grief over the incident, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India stands in solidarity with Nepal and will extend all possible assistance. "Deeply saddened by loss of lives and damage due to the earthquake in Nepal. India stands in solidarity with the people of Nepal and

is ready to extend all possible assistance. Our thoughts are with the bereaved families and we wish the injured a quick recovery," he in a tweet on X Saturday.

This was the second earthquake measuring more than 6 in Nepal in the last one month. On October 2, a quake of magnitude 6.2 had hit the country.

Militants attack air force base in central Pakistan, says military

Islamist militant group Tehreek-e-Jihad Pakistan (TJP) claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement sent to journalists by its spokesperson.

TJP came to the fore only this year and little is known about the group, which has carried out a string of high-profile attacks in the country, including killing 12 soldiers at a Pakistani military base in the southwestern province of Balochistan in July.

Tangmarg cop killing: DGP Swain visits family, says police have got 'vital leads'

parivar, a noble man, a father, a brother and a citizen of Kashmir. All the officers, including the ADGP, DIG, SSP and SHO, have vowed to go to the bottom of the matter and identify the killer and all those who supported him in any way and bring them to justice," Swain said.

He said the investigation into Dar's killing is on but the details cannot be shared.

"We have got leads in the case and are working on those. We are fully confident that we will bring them (perpetrators) to justice," the DGP added.

He said there is no doubt that some people sitting across the border are trying to disturb the peace here, but asserted that all their ploys would be foiled.

"They have not shunned their plans (of violence). They will continue to make plans, but if we change the atmosphere here and take people along, it will render their plans unsuccessful. They will send people here, but we will create such a situation that they will find no supporters here," Swain said.

The DGP said starting this winter, police will launch a strategy to create such a situation in Jammu and Kashmir where no one will be ready to support terrorists and their handlers across the border.

"Pakistani land is not under our control and they send people, arms and ammunition or narcotics here. They are not sending money to build hospitals, schools or roads. But we will be successful in foiling their attempts when no one here will be ready to support them.

"We will create such a situation here and in this regard, our first action will start from this winter. We will not allow any loss of life of our colleagues or civilians. Whoever supports them, whether they are sitting across the border or here, will be brought to justice," Swain asserted.

Novo Nordisk Education Foundation adds another 'Centre of Excellence' in Jammu with GMC

are delighted to inaugurate yet another Centre of Excellence in India.

According to a recent study by the Indian Council of Medical Research, India has around 101 million people living with diabetes and another 136 million people in pre-diabetes stages. There are over 8.6 lakh

people living with T1D in India, of which 2.8 lakh individuals are below the age of 20 years. It is therefore critical to increase awareness at the grass-root level in India, to help with early diagnosis. We are actively fostering collaborations with government institutions, health authorities and policymakers for better management of diabetes in the country. This collaboration aligns with our vision to improve accessibility through capacity and capability building. We remain committed to fostering healthcare excellence and strengthening the diabetes care system in India."

Dr Ashutosh Gupta – Principal & Dean, Government Medical College, Jammu expressed his gratitude to NNEF and said, "We would like the people of Jammu to know about this special clinic curated to provide quality care for people living with Type 1 diabetes, and benefit from the integrated care available at the institute. It is a proud moment for us as we work to support this initiative. According to Indian Pediatr 2019, the exact prevalence of T1D in India is not known, however, it is much higher as compared to the western population."

Dr Suman Kotwal – Head of Department, Endocrinology, Government Medical College, Jammu lauded this effort and said, "As a recognised state public health institute, we are glad to collaborate with NNEF and provide improved care for people living with diabetes. Despite the severe medical consequences, awareness around Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes continues to be limited in Jammu. With the provision of a holistic care model, we hope to gain improved diagnosis and help people timely initiate their diabetes management journey."

The Centres of Excellence (CoE) are part of NNEF's focused strategic approach towards sustainable care. These public-private partnerships between Novo Nordisk Education Foundation and leading

public healthcare institutions across the nation are geared towards re-shaping diabetes care, promoting healthier lives and empowering communities to continue the work towards defeating this life-threatening disease.

Sexual harassment at Bengaluru mall: Retired headmaster surrenders before cops

spend the weekends at the mall and touch women inappropriately taking advantage of the crowd.

The police suspect that the accused had done this in other malls as well.

He is being questioned by the police. A video of a young woman being sexually harassed by the accused at a mall had gone viral on social media following which the police launched a probe.

The video showed the accused man deliberately touching the back of the woman at the games zone in the crowded mall.

It also showed the man's misbehaviour in another place. The victim had not protested after the misconduct.

The video was uploaded on an Instagram account and went viral on social media with the uploader stating that the incident had taken place at the famous Lulu Mall.

Six IAS probationers allotted cadre

Waseem Ahmed Bhat was allotted Madhya Pradesh cadre while Parsanjeet Kour was allocated Gujarat cadre. Nitin Singh got Uttar Pradesh.

Mohammad Irfan was given Tamil Nadu cadre and Anjeet Singh got Kerala.

Indians yet to warm up to lab-grown diamonds, says Titan

Unlike in markets like the US, for Indians, diamonds are as much an investment as jewellery, and this makes them averse to lab-grown rocks, said Titan

NEW DELHI, Nov 4 (Agencies): Lab-grown diamonds are inarguably shiny, environment-friendly, inexpensive and possess practically every quality of their natural cousins, but still have failed to win the hearts of Indian consumers, going by the experience of India's largest jewellery chain. According to Ajoy Chawla, CEO of Jewellery Division, Titan Co, lab-grown diamonds have not taken off in India because, for Indians, a diamond is as much an ornament as an investment.

The romantic tension between Indians and the natural stones comes as no shock as they stand strong in the motto 'Diamonds are forever' and see the stones as an investment option rather than a mere ornament or a fashion statement.

And for obvious reasons, lab-grown diamonds, though they ape the natural stones right from their texture to their chemical composition, have failed to fulfil the high standards of the Indian family. This is contrary



to the US market wherein lab-grown diamonds now account for 20% of their market share.

"In India, at least, we are not seeing any demand [for lab-grown diamonds]. We have not heard of anything in any of our stores across all our brands that people come seeking for lab," said Ajoy Chawla, CEO of Jewellery Division.

The company, which operates chains and outlets like Mia, and Tanishq, during an investors meeting, said it is now more keen on sourcing the natural

stones of the best quality and has no plans of foraying into the lab-grown market shortly.

"People want certification: Can you please ensure that you also add to your guarantee that our products are natural?" said the company adding it will keep a close watch on how things change in the future.

"So, in the future, what will happen, how it will happen, we are watching and we will figure out how things play out," it added.

"We are keeping a close

watch. And we will, what options we want to explore as we go forward, we see that there is a big impact. But right now we are not seeing and we will keep a close watch," it added.

However, the jewellery brand did take into account the impact of the increase in volume of the lab-grown diamonds but cast doubt on this having any impact on the pricing of the natural stones.

The company also noted the growing popularity of lab-grown diamonds which now hold 20% of the US market share.

It however limited the craze around diamonds to just engagement rings and said diamond penetrations in US households are not a common phenomenon, unlike the Indian consumers.

"In India, the solitaire is being bought not for young brides, but it is being bought for milestones. And a large part of solitaire is also investment led," said the jewellery brand.

Byju's reports EBITDA loss of Rs 2,253 crore in FY22

The core business of Think & Learn - Byju's (excluding all acquisitions) reported a 2.3x growth to reach a total income of Rs 3,569 crore from Rs 1552 crore in the previous year.



BENGALURU, Nov 4 (Agencies): After repeated delays, edtech company Byju's has finally filed its FY22 results on Saturday.

The company posted EBITDA loss of the core business to Rs 2,253 crore y-o-y from Rs 2,406 crore in the previous year.

It said there was a margin improvement from -155% to -63% from FY21 to FY22.

However, the company did not mention its consolidated loss for FY22. In FY21, it reported a consolidated loss of Rs 4,589 crore, and its group revenue stood at Rs 2,428 crore.

The core business of Think & Learn - Byju's (excluding all acquisitions) reported a 2.3x growth to reach a total income of Rs 3,569 crore from Rs 1552 crore in the previous year.

"The takeaways from a uniquely belligerent year, which included nine acquisitions, are life-long learnings.

The core business has demonstrated good growth, underlining the potential of edtech in India, the fastest-growing major economy," founder and group CEO Byju Raveendran said.

He added that the company will continue on the path of sustainable and profitable growth in the coming years.

NeST Group flagship SFO Technologies to go public in two years

KOCHI, Nov 4 (Agencies): The Kochi-headquartered SFO Technologies, the flagship company of the NeST Group, is planning to go public within two years. The 30-year-old NeST group employs 12,000 persons across its divisions working from 25 locations worldwide.

SFO Technologies has earmarked around Rs 800 crore for the next three years towards expansion plans which also include acquisitions, top officials told reporters here. The company, which is into hardware manufacturing, software services, education, retail, food and beverages, is a major offset partner of Indian Defence and Indian Railways.

Dr N Jehangir, chairman and managing director, said the company plans to take the initial public offering (IPO) route to fund major expansion projects. When asked about the size of the IPO, he said the company is "evaluating the final details". SFO Technologies has clocked Rs 2,500 crore turnover in the last financial year and has a growth trajectory of 12% year-on-year, Jehangir said.

Altaf Jehangir, CEO and executive director added: "The company is poised to take on the future challenges

by progressing towards Industry 4.0 across its various plants."

The group's software arm NeST Digital has provided complete branch automation of KFSFE branches including mobile app solutions, solutions like wages protection system for UAE-based banks and GIS solutions to various geographies across the globe, said Nazneen Jehangir, its CEO and executive director.

NeST Digital has already taken up the first level of software business expansion by undertaking projects in e-mobility, next-generation payment solutions, engineering transformation and AI/ML tools.

SFO Technologies, meanwhile, has set up a component park at Aluva in Ernakulam, as part of the Make in India initiative. "We are doing passive component manufacturing like relays, magnetics, transformers, connectors and sensors and have plans to engage in it actively with the vision for capability enhancement. We also plan to set up a technology park in the Bengaluru-Mysuru corridor," said Jehangir. The company plans to expand further to Tier 2 cities in Kerala and Tamil Nadu in the near future.

Pizza Hut India turns to AI as inflation hits sales

NEW DELHI, Nov 4 (Agencies): As Pizza has taken a back seat in India, fuelled by fast food lovers turning to more affordable options, one of the major players in the category has brought in innovative technology to lure these customers back.

Sapphire Foods, which operates brands such as KFC, Pizza Hut and Taco Bell in India, said it has got good results from the introduction of Dragontail solution to manage their pizza delivery.

Dragontail solutions is an AI-based kitchen management system that helps the store manage the production and dispatch of products more efficiently by providing information about the delivery partner's whereabouts. This enables the store to calculate when the delivery



partner will arrive at the store and load the pizza accordingly which in turn helps deliver hot and fresh pizzas to the consumers.

"What it does in a simple manner is that it traces rider availability.. It tells you when to put the pizza into the oven and so when the rider arrives he/she gets hot and fresh pizzas to carry..." explains Sanjay Purohit, CEO of Sapphire Foods.

According to the management, Sapphire Foods is the first player

in the Indian fast food market to use such an advanced technology to upgrade the delivery experience.

Dragontail was acquired by Yum, the American parent of Pizza Hut. It is currently used in several of the Pizza Hut outlets and has been proven successful according to the management of Sapphire.

Inflation Headwinds The development comes amid a sharp slowdown in the pizza and discretionary con-

sumer spending market in India due to the withdrawal of liquidity implemented by central banks across the world.

Pizza Hut, for example, has seen its same-store sales growth from Pizza go down by 20% this quarter. It is betting that this innovation would give a much-needed boost to the operations.

"It's been one or two months since we have rolled it out to all Pizza Hut stores and we are quite confident that this will help us going forward..."

The company also said that they have integrated the technology with delivery platforms such as Zomato, Swiggy etc.. as a major part of their sales happens through these platforms.

"Dragontail is now being integrated with the aggregator platforms so that irrespec-

tive of when the rider comes to the store, we can calibrate when we load the pizza and therefore in the shortest possible time the consumer can receive the pizza and therefore it is hot and fresh..." explains Sanjay stressing that the company believes this to "impact ratings and help build sales."

He also added that despite the temporary decline in the Pizza business, fuelled by persistent macroeconomic conditions the company will remain focused more on the category and the brand.

"Pizza Hut remains an important pillar of our multi-brand strategy.. despite the short-term dip that we have seen, with the above action plan we believe the brand will recover in the medium term," he said.

High mobile phone use may reduce semen count

LONDON, Nov 4 (Agencies): Frequent use of mobile phones, which emit electromagnetic radiation, can lower sperm concentration and total sperm count, finds a study.

However, no association was found between mobile phone use and low sperm motility and morphology, revealed the study published in the journal Fertility and Sterility.

While various environmental and lifestyle factors have been proposed to explain the decline in semen quality observed over the last 50 years, the role of mobile phones is yet to be demonstrated.

To understand, a team from the University of Geneva (UNIGE) in Switzerland led a cross-sectional study based on data from 2,886 Swiss men aged 18 to

22, recruited between 2005 and 2018.

The data revealed an association between frequent use and lower sperm concentration.

The median sperm concentration was significantly higher in the group of men who did not use their phone more than once a week (56.5 million/mL) compared with men who used their phone more than 20 times a day

(44.5 million/mL).

Semen quality is determined by the assessment of parameters such as sperm concentration, total sperm count, sperm motility and sperm morphology.

Many studies have shown that semen quality has decreased over the last fifty years.

Sperm count is reported to have dropped from an average of 99 million sperm per millilitre to 47

million per millilitre. This phenomenon is thought to be the result of a combination of environmental factors (endocrine disruptors, pesticides, radiation) and lifestyle habits (diet, alcohol, stress, smoking).

Data analysis also seems to show that the position of the phone -- for example, in a trouser pocket -- was not associated with lower semen parameters.

Delhi air pollution: How to protect your eyes from heavy smog

NEW DELHI, Nov 4 (Agencies): The national capital of India, New Delhi, is currently grappling with its highest recorded Air Quality Index (AQI) of the year. Several parts of the city have plunged into the 'severe' AQI category.

The situation has cast a hazy cloud of concern over the region, as air quality has deteriorated significantly.

As the city's residents endure the perils of the polluted air, medical professionals are sounding the alarm, urging people to take precautions when venturing outdoors.

The impact of inhaling this polluted air has manifested in various health issues, including prolonged coughing, sneezing, wheezing, shortness of breath, burning and watery eyes, headaches, and fatigue.

The adverse health effects of air pollution, caused by emissions from vehicles, industrial processes, and other sources, are alarming and, in some cases, life-threatening.

Conditions like asthma, bronchitis, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are among the health issues associated with air pollution.

Dr Meenakshi Dhar, Head & Prof, Dept of Ophthalmology, Amrita Hospital, Faridabad, told IndiaToday.In, that air pollution causes irritation, tearing, itching and discomfort in the eyes.

"It can lead to allergic conjunctivitis, which can be avoided by washing the eyes more frequently, wearing protective glasses or driving with windows closed in a car. Get an eye check-up done in case of symptoms and take lubricants and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory eyedrops," said Dr Meenakshi Dhar.

Wearing masks and staying indoors when necessary are practical steps individuals can take to protect themselves from hazardous air quality.

"The extreme pollution that we are now facing, particularly smog, is very harmful and affects our eyes in several ways. Dry eyes, conjunctivitis and eye allergy-characterized by itching, redness, discharge, eyelid swelling, and blurring of vision are some of the health effects on eyes due to pollution," Dr Neeraj Shah, Chief Medical Officer, Cataract, Cornea & Refractive Services, Sankara Eye Hospital, earlier told agency.

He added that long-

term exposure to air pollution results in eroding of eye health and vision in general. Harmful air pollutants like carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxide and particulate matter cause irritation and inflammation.

Wear sunglasses to help shield your eyes from pollutants and reduce irritation.

Using over-the-counter artificial tear drops can help keep your eyes moist as most people suffer from dry eyes during this time.

Proper hydration can prevent or alleviate dry eye symptoms. Drink lots of water to keep your body hydrated.

Limit your outdoor time. On days with high pollution levels, try to reduce your outdoor activities to minimise exposure.

Try to avoid touching your eyes very often.

Do not rub your eyes as it causes dryness and lowers vision.

If you have any symptoms of eye infection like redness, itchiness, burning sensation, swelling and blurry vision, then immediately consult an ophthalmologist.

Avoid self-medication/over-the-counter medication as these may lead to further complications.

Diabetes is triggered by this ingredient. We're not talking about sugar

A study found that removing the saltshaker from the table can play a role in preventing type 2 diabetes.

NEW DELHI, Nov 4 (Agencies): For people already concerned about their susceptibility to type 2 diabetes, it's not just sugar they should be worrying about.

A study has suggested that excessive salt consumption may also contribute to an elevated risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

The study, conducted by Tulane University and published in Mayo Clinic Proceedings, involved a comprehensive survey of more than 4,00,000 adults registered in the UK Biobank, focusing on their salt intake habits.

Over an average follow-up period of 11.8 years, the study

identified more than 13,000 cases of type 2 diabetes among the participants.

The research showed that people who "sometimes," "usually," or "always" added salt to their meals had an associated 13%, 20%, and 39% higher likelihood of developing type 2 diabetes, as opposed to those who "never" or "rarely" used salt.

Dr Lu Qi, the lead author of the study and a distinguished chair at Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, said, "We are already aware that limiting salt intake can reduce the risk of cardiovascular diseases and hypertension, but this study, for the first time, demonstrates that



removing the saltshaker from the table can also play a role in preventing type 2 diabetes."

While the precise mechanisms linking high salt consumption to an increased type 2 diabetes risk require further investigation, Dr Qi suggests that salt may encourage people to consume

larger portions, subsequently raising the probability of developing risk factors like obesity and inflammation.

The study discovered a correlation between frequent salt consumption and higher body mass index (BMI) and waist-to-hip ratio.

Dr Qi underlined the importance of conducting clinical trials to control salt intake among participants and assess its effects.

In the meantime, he recommends that people proactively seek out low-sodium alternatives to season their favourite dishes, emphasising, "It's a simple change to make, but it can have a significant impact on your overall health."

India game gave us a bit of confidence, says Afghan coach Trott

Enjoying their best-ever performance, Afghanistan have registered comprehensive wins of over 3 former champions- England, Pakistan and Sri Lanka- and Netherlands to keep their semi-final hopes alive

LUCKNOW, Nov 4 (Agencies): Head coach Jonathan Trott feels despite losing against India at the World Cup, the match worked as a confidence booster for Afghanistan, who have started believing they can also win and dominate games.

Enjoying their best-ever performance, Afghanistan have registered comprehensive wins of over three former champions -- England, Pakistan and Sri Lanka -- and the Netherlands to keep alive their semi-final hopes.

"I think we saw a bit of form coming into the side against India. Obviously, we lost the game but then that gave us a bit of confidence," Trott said after Afghanistan's seven-wicket win over the Netherlands here on Friday.

After underwhelming performances against Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, Afghanistan batters have done well to put a score close to 300 (272) against India.

"I said we'd lost so many close games leading into the series against Pakistan and then in the Asia Cup. We just need to start



1-1 or 2 and we'll get that confidence and belief and a bit of a spring in our step and that we can win those close games but also dominate games if we get the opportunity," Trott said.

Afghanistan, who are just outside the top 4 in fifth spot, play inform Australia and South Africa in their last two league fixtures.

"We need to improve on for the next game against Australia in Mumbai. But I saw a lot of good things as well that's

or the quality of the four spinners," Trott said.

"It's important to dovetail in a long tournament like this and it's good to see the guys doing that. The way Noor (Ahmad) came in, I thought he bowled brilliantly today (Friday) as well, I should say. But he then didn't play in Pune, it didn't look like it was going to spin, and he was brilliant with it.

"As a player as well, it's good to be able to learn from those disappointments, but then gets the opportunity today. But his mindset was so good that he got the opportunity. He didn't sulk in Pune," Trott added.

The Afghans have been enjoying a lot of support.

"We have support, we have a few IPL players, so there's always interest in those players and support for them," Trott said.

"But also - I can't put a finger on why they like the Afghan boys. I think they're fantastic cricketers and probably playing some good cricket. And that's why fans are supporting them and watching them."

World Cup 2023: Hardik Pandya posts emotional message after getting ruled out of remainder of tournament



NEW DELHI, Nov 4 (Agencies): India all-rounder Hardik Pandya wrote an emotional message after getting ruled out of the remainder of the World Cup 2023 campaign. Pandya injured his ankle while bowling against the Bangladesh team earlier in the tournament, and has not been a part of the Indian line-up since.

The ICC announced

early on Saturday, 4 November, that Pandya will not take further part in the tournament and that Prasad Krishna had been approved as the replacement for the Indian team. "Tough to digest the fact that I will miss out on the remaining part of the World Cup. I'll be with the team, in spirit, cheering them on every ball of every

game. Thanks for all the wishes, the love, and the support has been incredible. This team is special and I'm sure we'll make everyone proud. Love, always, HP," Pandya wrote on Twitter.

Pandya, one of the most crucial players for India in the World Cup 2023 put India in a big fix due to his injury. India made two changes to their line-up after Hardik's injury. They brought in Mohammed Shami and Suryakumar Yadav in the team, and opted to bench Shardul Thakur from the Indian side. The Indian team has been in riveting form despite Pandya's injury. India have already qualified for the semi-final of the tournament and are the only team that are undefeated so far. India have won seven matches in a row and next face South Africa at Eden Gardens in Kolkata.

Air of invincibility

If big cities are witnessing uptick in pollution levels, aura around team is more or less same

KOLKATA, Nov 4 (Agencies): The Indian cricket party reached their eighth city of the World Cup — 10th, if you count the warm-up venues Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram. That's a lot of flying in a little over four weeks. Rohit Sharma says the 'boys' are enjoying the travel across India, and if the Indian captain says so, it had better be believed.

It must be stated, however, that Mumbai and Kolkata, separated by the breadth of India, are not an air traveller's delight — the roads are congested, the air is thick with pollution and foul with smell. The cricketers, we acknowledge, live in a bubble, a sort of rose-scented existence, but they must step on the field at some stage — Joe Root of England felt that the air at the Wankhede in Mumbai during the match against South Africa was so heavy, it seemed that he was not breathing air, he was "eating air". "I've not played in anything like that before... It just felt like you couldn't get your breath. It was like you were eating the air. It was unique," Root said.

In Delhi today, the Bangladeshis cancelled

their training because of the air pollution reached dangerous levels in the city.

In Kolkata, AQI numbers across the city showed the air was 'poor', and light rain in the vicinity of the Eden Gardens ground here offered some respite, bringing some coolness to the air by giving it a wash. Rohit has expressed worry at the pollution levels in Mumbai, but he's the sort to shrug his shoulders and laugh it off and get on with the game. The Indians have played in New Delhi during the height of winter pollution; in 2017, Mohammed Shami, who has been breathing fire in the World Cup, wasn't doing so during the Delhi Test against Sri Lanka, he was puking out liquids. The Indians would put their best foot forward on Sunday, regardless of whether the air is edible or breathable.

The Indian team reached in the afternoon and went straight to their perfumed environs of their hotel, but not so head coach Rahul Dravid and the coaching staff — they went to the Eden Gardens to have a look at the wicket on which the team would play South Africa on Sunday. This was before

the rain, and Dravid was able to spend some 15 minutes at the ground, examining the wicket in the presence of Ashish Bhowmick, the head of the BCCI's grounds and pitches committee, and the local curator.

In the three matches played here so far, the highest score has been 229 by the Netherlands against Bangladesh; Bangladesh played a second match here, on October 31, and were bowled out for 204.

India possess a very good bowling line-up — some, such as former England captain Michael Atherton, suggest that it's India's best-ever attack; and South Africa, while batting first, have racked up scores such as 428, 311, 399, 382 and 357. India are unbeaten in the tournament, South Africa have suffered one shock defeat, to the Netherlands. It would be a moment of truth for the two teams at the Eden Gardens on Sunday. Is the Indian bowling attack really unplayable? Is the South African batting line-up — average a staggering 375.4 when batting first — really unstoppable?

Sunday's clash could be the best of the group stage. Can't wait for Sunday.

How five-week camp with Yuvraj Singh helped Shubman Gill and three other Punjab cricketers

NEW DELHI, Nov 4 (Agencies): Yuvraj Singh isn't a professional coach but youngsters in the Punjab set-up swear by his "contribution" to their game.

One of the beneficiaries of Yuvraj's mentoring is rising star Shubman Gill, whose class was never under any doubt but he got to fine-tune his game when the former India star invited him and three others for a month-long training. All this happened during the COVID-19 lockdown. Gill, Abhishek Sharma, Anmolpreet Singh and Prabhsimran Singh spent five weeks with Yuvraj and those training sessions changed their approach towards the game.

"Shubman had already played for India by then but he hadn't, sealed his spot across formats at that time. If you see the Shubman, that came out from that camp and the kind of success that he got, it changed everything for him," Abhishek, who is a future national team contender, said during an interaction with agency.

"Not just for him but for me too. My domestic seasons as well as IPL performances changed," said the left-handed opener, who has hit two hundreds in ongoing Syed Mushtaq Ali



Trophy.

While Gill has made it to the next level and is among the rising stars in world cricket, Abhishek has been in prime form for Punjab and Sunrisers Hyderabad over the last couple of seasons. Prabhsimran was a part of Asian Games gold winning Indian team in Hangzhou. Abhishek believes that staying 35-odd days at Yuvraj's home changed their perspective towards the game. "That was life changing moment for all of us, not just me. It was peak of COVID-19 at that time. It was a like closed door camp," he recollected.

"Yuvraj Singh as a mentor and big brother helped us all. In the previous 2-3 years, Yuvi paaji has taught us a few things and when you get him as a mentor and

someone who is teaching you the nuances of top level game every day, experiences and life, it does make a lot of difference in cricket as well as off the field," Abhishek said.

Many consider Gill as Virat Kohli's heir apparently. The next batting megastar enjoys an astonishing 60 plus average in ODIs and despite being under the weather at the start of the World Cup due to dengue, he is slowly getting into the groove.

Yuvraj was one of India's greatest ODI exponents, and often, those who have a streak of genius in them are unable to always pass it on to the next generation. Not because they don't want to but because, how they felt and what they did on the field was their way

of going about their business which can't be taught.

But possibly, having a volcano of talent like Gill under his wings was also Yuvraj's way of getting out of comfort zone. It was a necessity for both mentor and his proteges. Sachin Tendulkar was in a league of his own but if there were two players, who knew how to control ODI games, it was Yuvraj and MS Dhoni.

What Yuvraj inculcated in Gill, Abhishek and others is how to decode various match situations, adapt and change their game-plan accordingly.

"The practice we were doing was very specific. Before Yuvi paaji took us under his wings, we had set our own routines and did our own stuff but it all changed when he coached us. The training was based on various conditions we could encounter. He worked primarily on our fitness and strength and every aspect," Abhishek said.

The training sessions were very customised in Yuvraj's 'Gurukul' where every day, printed training sheets (just like it happens in NCA or state unit camps) were handed out to the players.

"It was all well-planned on what we are going

to do every day. Every morning, Yuvi paa would hand each of us training schedule for the day, everyone, their specific routines. We had always seen Yuvi Paa as Yuvraj Singh, the cricketer, our role model, but this was another facet of his that we got to see," the youngster, who was Gill's teammate during the U-19 World Cup triumph in 2018, said.

If the mornings were spent in fitness and skill sessions, the evenings were spent in course correction in Yuvraj's sprawling living room with an elaborate home theatre in place. "In the evening, we would all sit in his room, there would be this home theatre, where we would watch our own videos, dissect the game and discuss," he said.

Yuvraj, the coach as strict as his father Yograj Singh. "I believe he was a mix of both. He could get angry and give you a scolding if the training session didn't go right but he, having learnt his cricket under a tough task-master like Yog sir, understands the balance.

"Agar unko lagta tha ki kuch zyada hi kah diya, toh mana bhi lete thee (if he felt he was too harsh, he would also make it up)."

Cricket World Cup - "Not Concerned About His Place": Sunil Gavaskar's Big Remark On India Star

NEW DELHI, Nov 4 (Agencies): India became the first team to qualify for the semi-finals of the Cricket World Cup after hammering Sri Lanka by 302 runs at the Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai on Thursday. While Indian pacers ripped through Sri Lanka's batting and bowled them out for just 55 runs, star batter Shreyas Iyer's return to form was the highlight of India's dominant win. Iyer, who has been under the scanner for a string of low scores in the tournament, slammed 82 runs off just 56 balls, hitting six sixes and three fours.

Iyer silenced his critics and former India captain Sunil Gavaskar was impressed with the intent shown by the batter,

and said he wasn't concerned about his himself during the match.

"I think Nasser mentioned that earlier that he wasn't playing for his place in the team. He was looking to get the scoreboard ticking, he was looking to play the big shots.

So, he really wasn't concerned about himself, you know? Yes, there were question marks about his place in the team, but he just put them to rest because kind of number he bats at. He will get to 80 quickly," Gavaskar said on Star Sports after the match.

Gavaskar, however, advised Iyer to be a tad bit careful about his shot selection, especially against the short-pitched deliv-



eries.

"He just needs to at maybe, at some stage at the start. Maybe just be a little careful about his short selection.

Otherwise, you know that's the reason why he's at number four and not Rahul. Rahul is at five. Because Rahul, in case

you lose two or three wickets, you have somebody who's opened the batting to handle the new ball.

But here I think today, you know, he set to rest all doubts about his batting," he added.

Former New Zealand pacer Simon Doull echoed Gavaskar's sentiments, adding that Iyer has amazing game awareness.

"Shreyas Iyer has amazing clarity over his role. You are going to get some performances that are high and you are going to get some low ones. Iyer plays the high-risk shots, plays high-risk cricket because he wants to score at a high strike-rate, and I think that he is quite comfortable playing that role," Doull quipped.

Saudis play high stake sport, eye piece of IPL pie

NEW DELHI, Nov 4 (Agencies): After football, Formula One and golf, Saudi Arabia have turned their attention towards cricket, the most lucrative and popular sport in the continent.

According to reports, Saudi Arabia is keen on investing at least \$5 billion in the Indian Premier League that is projected to be valued at \$30 billion. But the IPL is not a holding company as yet.

It is reported that the talks were initiated with the Indian government when Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince visited India in September last year. According to Bloomberg, "Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's advisers have sounded out Indian government officials about moving the IPL into a holding company valued at as much as \$30 billion, in which Saudi Arabia would then take a significant stake, people familiar with the matter said."

The report said that the Gulf nation has expressed interest in buying a mul-

tibillion-dollar stake in the IPL and that the Indian government and cricketing body might take a call after the general elections next year.

The country has already invested heavily in football and golf. Some of the top footballers like Cristiano Ronaldo, Neymar, Karim Benzema are playing their trade there. The BCCI did not want to comment, and if sources are to be believed, it apparently is not involved in any such discussions. To put it in context, the National Basketball Association and the National Football League, the other rich leagues, are private companies.

This is not the first time that Saudi Arabia has shown interest in IPL. This year in April there were reports that Saudi Arabia were in talks with some IPL franchises to start a league on similar lines in the country. Saudi Tourism Authority was a sponsor during the IPL this year.

15th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme inaugurated

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 4: The 15th Tribal Youth Exchange programme was officially inaugurated by Deputy Mayor, JMC Sh. Baldev Singh Billowria on 3rd of November, 2023 at Brig. Rajinder Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu. Youth from four states participated in the inaugural session of the 7 days program. These participants will participate in multiple cultural and educational events such as debates, seminars, field visits, and cultural programs. These activities are aimed at providing exposure and to foster positive intercultural interaction among the participants. In his welcome address, Nisar Ahmed Butt, State Director NYKS, J&K, made the participants aware of the various programs conducted by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan under Ministry of



Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. of India for the betterment of India's youth and Tribal population, and their implementation through the NYKS. Chief Guest, Deputy Mayor Baldev Singh Billowria addressed the participants and commended the efforts of NYKS and the GOI. He stated that the rural and tribal areas are the powerhouses of our nation. To be from a Tribe is something to be proud of. He encouraged the participants to learn from this experiences and use this knowledge

practically. DIG CRPF Jammu Range Rakesh Sethi addressed the participants and organisers, and lauded their attempts at organising events like the Tribal Youth Exchange Programme. He stated that the programme will continue receive utmost support from the CRPF, as they have in the past. DIG Sethi also encouraged the youth to give value to time, be disciplined in their personal life, and to encourage empathy and brotherhood. Dr. S. P. Verma Padma

Shri and representative of Gandhi Global Family, J&K, welcomed the tribal youth and applauded the efforts of NYKS. He strongly recommended that the participants participate in personality enhancing experiences such as this one. Celebrated athlete and a participant of 19th Asian Games, Shivani Charak also attended the event. Shivani started her address by sharing the beginning of her journey as an athlete. After her struggle with cancer, Shivani emerged victorious, and made her

recovery her sole mission. She enrolled in a sports climbing competition to challenge herself and the rest was history. Currently, Shivani holds 34 national medals and over 70 medals in total. Shivani aims to win gold for India in the upcoming 2024 Olympics. Cultural performances from all four districts were also presented displaying the rich cultural and historical heritage of these states. The guests were presented with mementos from the NYKS. In his vote of thanks, Hakeem Abdul Aziz, Deputy Director Srinagar, thanked the guests for gracing the programme with their presence. He also mentioned that six districts from Kashmir were active participants in Kashmiri youth exchange programme, and programs like these create a sense of brotherhood among us.

Rich Harvest School hosts Sahodaya Inter-school Painting Competition



Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 4: Rich Harvest School, Bari Brahmana had the pleasure to host Brushstrokes of Brilliance - an Inter-school Painting Competition - under the aegis of Sahodaya Schools Complex on Saturday. More than seventy budding Artists from 24 CBSE Schools of repute poured their colourful imagination on canvas making the judges job a tough one. The jury comprised of faculty members from the Institute of Music and Fine Arts, University of Jammu—Simran Dogra, Vaneeka Gupta, Ankush Kesar and Parveen Kumar. The Chief Guest Dr Milan Sharma and Presiding Officer Th. Gulchain Singh Charak- Former Minister R&B and higher education, Gambhir Dev Singh Charak- Managing

Director of the School and Ruchi Charak- Director were given a warm welcome by the Head of the Institute Anita Bhatia. The participants and guest faculty members were entertained by the RHS Scholars with glittering song & dance performances during the prize distribution ceremony. The Chief Guest, while appreciating the effort of budding Artists in her address, expressed amazement at the talent displayed by the participants. The Managing Director of the School encouraged the young Artists to be passionate about the Visual Arts and make it part of their growing years. The Presiding Officer in his address congratulated the youngsters for their dedication and devotion towards the Visual Arts. The distinguished

guests gave away the prizes to the proud winners: In class 3rd category, first prize - Mehar Fatima (IDRS), Second prize - Priyanshi Choudhary (APS Sunjuwan), Third prize- Pranavi Jugran (APS BD Bari) and Consolation Prize-Varunaya Samrat (IDPS-Jammu). In class 4th category, first prize - Bhavesh Guleria(APS BD Bari) , Second prize - Mayra Basandi (St. Peter's High School) , Third prize- Ojaswi Gopal (APS Sunjuwan) and Consolation Prize- Dishita Choudhary (Heritage School). In class 5th category, first prize - Virajay Singh (Sai International School) , Second prize - Nakul gurung (Model Academy BC road) , Third prize- Saksham Patti (St. Peter's High School) and Consolation Prize- Anant Seth (Heritage School).

DPS Jammu conducts CBSE Financial Literacy Workshop



Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 4: In an effort to enhance financial literacy and to empower the female staff, Delhi Public School Jammu, in collaboration with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), organized a comprehensive workshop on Financial Management on Saturday in the school premises. The workshop was conducted by Nitin Gupta, CBSE trainer on Financial Literacy, who provided valuable insights into financial planning and investment. The event commenced with a potted plant and memento presentation to the Resource Person by the Principal-DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chabra. This was followed by a warm welcome address delivered by Headmas-

ter, Ravi Kumar Kotroo, who highlighted the significance of financial literacy and its role in building a secure future. He emphasized the importance of knowledge and tools to make informed financial decisions. The workshop featured two informative sessions, each focused on various aspects of financial planning and management. Both the sessions delved into different schemes and policies available for saving and investing money, providing the teachers with valuable insights into their financial future. The workshop provided a platform for the female staff members to interact, learn, and discuss financial matters that often remain unaddressed and witnessed an engaging and infor-

mative discussion on a wide range of financial schemes and policies, ensuring that the participants left with a comprehensive understanding of their financial options. The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks given by Umesh Kumar Sharma, Dy. Headmaster. The whole event was compered by Ambika Sharma. The workshop was ended with instrumental national anthem. The esteemed Management DPS Jammu, President-RCT, Ajatsharu Singh, Pro VC-Dr. Ritu Singh and Director-S.S Sodhi expressed gratitude to the CBSE for their valuable support in organizing the workshop, the resource person for their insightful guidance, and all participants for their active involvement.

District President NHM Employees Association visits Archer Sheetal's home, congratulates her parents

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Nov 4: In a heartwarming visit, Dr. Nazir Hussain MO, the District President of the National Health Mission (NHM) Employees Association in Kishtwar, extended his heartfelt congratulations to the family of Sheetal Devi, a remarkable Indian Para-archer who has achieved extraordinary success in her sporting career. Sheetal Devi (16) has defied all odds with her exceptional achievements in the field of archery. Notably, she secured a silver medal in the women's compound bow category at the 2022 Asian Para Games. Her success didn't stop there, as she clinched two gold medals in the mixed doubles and women's individual events, following her initial silver medal win in the women's double compound competition. Sheetal Devi's remarkable journey reached its pinnacle with a gold medal in the women's compound competition at the Para Asian Games final.

Dr. Nazir Hussain, deeply moved by Sheetal's accomplishments, paid a visit to her home to offer his congratulations and appreciation for her outstanding dedication and sporting prowess. During the visit, he conveyed his admiration for Sheetal Devi's unwavering determination and resilience in the face of physical challenges. "I am truly inspired by Sheetal Devi's indomitable spirit and remarkable achievements in para-archery. Her success is a testament to her dedication and hard work. "She serves as a shining example for our community, demonstrating that with determination, one can overcome any obstacle." Dr. Nazir Hussain expressed during his visit. Sheetal Devi's parents, Shakti Devi (Mother) and Maan Singh (Father) shared their immense pride in their daughter's accomplishments and expressed gratitude for the recognition and support she has received from the community.

Dimple leads protest against JMC



Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 4: President, Mission Statehood, Sunil Dimple led a protest against the poor conditions in the Amphalla and New Plot Janipur Road areas in Jammu. The protesters burned effigies of various government agencies and smart city projects, including the JMC, PWD, smart city projects, and ERA sewerage Jammu. The protesters pointed out that the sewerage main holes on the roads were overflowing, leading to water damage, dust pollution, and the potential spread of pandemics. Sunil Dimple accused several government departments, including JMC, PWD, ERA sewerage, and the smart city project, of not working properly and failing to address the poor condi-

tions of the roads. Dimple claimed that the pollution caused by dust on the Amphalla and New Plot Janipur Road had damaged the goods of local showrooms, eatables, grocery shops, and provision stores. The protesters alleged that the dust on the roads had led to health problems, including asthma and breathing difficulties, for traders, shopkeepers, and pedestrians. Sunil criticized smart city projects, claiming they were a means to embezzle public funds through corruption and were allocated to workers of a particular political party. He mentioned that the construction of footpaths had reduced road width, leading to traffic problems. The protesters also claimed that dirty water

from overflowing sewerage main holes was entering showrooms, shops, houses, schools, and splashing on the public, including children. Dimple alleged that there had been no significant development in Jammu, and the city's administration was plagued by corruption. He accused the JMC of selling the city to liquor shops and failing to provide basic amenities like electricity, drinking water, and infrastructure development. Dimple claimed that Jammu had become one of the dirtiest cities in India, with rampant dengue and chikungunya outbreaks across all its wards. He alleged that the JMC administration, including the commissioner, mayor, and health officers, were unresponsive to the issues faced by the people. Dimple criticized the extensive garbage problem in Jammu, with overflowing drains and garbage water throughout the city. Prominent leaders, including Ashok Khana, Dev Raj, Babu, Sonu Sharma, Vipin, Jitender Gupta, Raju Kumar, and Ram Kumar Das, were present in the protest.

GDC Kathua organizes symposium on "Youth against corruption"

Top News Report

KATHUA, Nov 4: In continuation to Vigilance Week Celebrations, NSS Units GDC Kathua organized symposium on the topic "Youth against corruption", to engage and inspire youth to take a more active role in combating corruption. This event emphasized learning youth about corruption issues and the tools available to prevent it. The event focused on raising awareness and encouraging action against corruption, with a specific emphasis on the crucial role of young people play in identifying, reporting, and countering corruption. Corruption remains a significant challenge that undermines trust in public institutions, hinders economic growth, and negatively affects people's daily



lives. Speaking on the occasion, Principal of the college addressed students that such events against corruption aims to encourage and strengthen measures for more effective prevention and fight against corruption, promote, facilitate and support available technical assistance to prevent crime, and promote integrity, accountability

and good governance. As many as 20 students presented their views and were of the opinion that corruption poses a significant threat to sustainable development, increasing poverty and inequality. Reducing the risks of corruption requires the involvement of anti-corruption bodies, more open and transparent public procurement, and increased

compliance with anti-corruption requirement. Therefore, we must continue to support educational programmes and information campaigns to form a culture of integrity with zero tolerance for corruption. Jury members of this event were Dr Kulbir Singh and Dr Poonam. Vishal Gupta, Sneha Sharma and Jharna Vaichari bagged 1st, 2nd and 3rd position respectively. Mansha, Nandhani Jasrotia, Monika Verma, Iqra Kousar, Diksha Khajuria acknowledged with consolation prizes. The event was organized under patronage of Principal GDC Kathua Prof Seema Mir and supervised by NSS Program officers Prof Manmohan Singh, Dr Neha Bandral and Dr. Suresh Sharma.

Plantation drive organised at Bhatergam Forest Kupwara

Top News Report

KUPWARA, Nov 5: A Mega tree plantation drive was organized by Indian Army and Champaran District Bihar Brown Foundation at Bhatergam forest Dist Kupwara, J&K on Friday with voluntary participation of Approximate 200 locals Peoples of Village, Sarpanch and forest Devp. Champaran District Bihar Brown Foundation coming with 105 workers and Rakish Panday CMD of the foundation from Bihar Dist with the aim of Encourage "Prem aur Bhai Chara" in J&K. It brought soil and

famous Plants Champa from Bihar with them and the drive was carried out as part of Green J & K (Har Gaon Haryali) 1500 saplings were planted at Bhatergam forest and adjoining areas with an aim to expand the green cover. The importance of tree plantation in shaping the clean environment and its dividends in reducing soil erosion and global warming were discussed with the gathering under the motto "Green J&K, Har Gaon Haryali and increase tourism in J&K. The event was attended by Ms Ayushi Sudan, IAS DC Kupwara, Major General Girish Kalia,

VSM GOC Vajr Division, Brig Tapan Kumar Pant, SC, Cdr HQ 68 Mtn Bde, COL M S Navalgati Commanding Officer 41RR and Lt Col Ankit Sood, Officiating Commanding Officer Kupwara Terriers. The event saw an active and enthusiastic participation by the residents of Bhatergam and they were very appreciative of the joint efforts of Army and Brown Foundation in conserving the forest and maintaining stable ecosystem. Indian Army Kupwara Terriers is committed to the development and betterment of Kashmir and its people.