

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 08, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

Zeenat Aman reveals she has ptosis, says her vision is 'clearer' after surgery



NATIONAL | 7

ED summons Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee to appear before it on November 9

INTERNATIONAL | 8

China warns against maritime 'camp' confrontations but stops short of naming US



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-14 Issue-307

Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

Weather Alert: Jammu and Kashmir expects widespread rain, snow

SRINAGAR, Nov 8 (Agencies): An active Western Disturbance is anticipated to bring widespread rain and snow to the region of Jammu and Kashmir from Thursday to Friday. The precipitation is set to commence on Thursday afternoon, initiating in higher areas and gradually spreading to the plains by evening.

This is how a Srinagar lane looks like when it is snow. People walking snow-covered road after fresh snowfall in Srinagar on February 23, 2022. KL Image: Bilal Bahadur

There is a likelihood of snowfall in the Shopian plains, with a 50 to 60 percentage chance, and the potential for snowfall in the adjacent plains cannot be dismissed. Snowfall is also expected in areas above 2000 meters in elevation.

However, at present conditions, snowfall is not foreseen in Srinagar.

It's important to note that the weather forecast is currently in the monitoring phase and may change within the next 24 hours. This early forecast has been issued as a precautionary measure to alert farmers to the upcoming weather event.

In the event of persistent heavy rainfall in the Shopian plains, the precipitation may transition into an all-snow scenario. The highest likelihood of snowfall in the plains is expected in the Shopian district, followed by the Kulgam district.

NC expels senior Bandipora leader for 'weakening' party

BANDIPORA, Nov 8 (Agencies): The National Conference on Wednesday expelled Ghulam Rasool Naz, a two-time MLA and the district party president of Bandipora, from the party.

During his speech at the convention called by the party, which Naz skipped, Vice President Omar Abdullah accused the latter of causing a division within the Bandipora faction of the party.

"There is no place for individuals who sow division and weaken the party. Our primary concern is not external threats but the challenges posed by

Turn to page 9

LG Manoj Sinha presents Certificate Of Excellence Award to Para Archers, coach



JAMMU, Nov 8 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday honoured para archers Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar and coach Abhilasha Choudhary with certificate of excellence, saying their

strong winner's instinct will popularize robust culture in the Union Territory.

The award was presented to teenaged armless archer Devi and wheelchair-bound Kumar at the Raj Bhawan here, an official

spokesman said.

Devi recently became the first woman to win two gold medals in a single edition of the recently held Asian Para Games in China. She clinched the women's individual compound gold on October 27 to

add to the yellow metal she won in the compound mixed team event with Kumar the previous day at Hangzhou in China.

It was a hat-trick of medals for the 16-year-old who holds her bow with her foot. She had also won silver in the women's doubles compound event.

Kumar also secured a brilliant silver medal in men's individual compound archery event in a closely fought contest and also along with Suraj Singh clinched silver medal in men's doubles compound open event.

While interacting with the prodigious para archers, the Lt Governor said their

Turn to page 9

7.2-magnitude quake jolts Indonesia, no tsunami alert issued

JAKARTA, Nov 8 (Agencies): A massive earthquake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale jolted Indonesia's Maluku province on Wednesday, but did not trigger a tsunami, the country's meteorology agency BMKG said.

Having centered at the shallow seabed, the earthquake occurred at 11.52 a.m., Xinhua news agency quoted BMKG as saying.

The location of the epicentre was 251 km



northwest of Maluku Tenggara Barat (Tanimbar Islands) district, with a depth of 10 km under the sea floor, it said.

The intensity of the quake was felt the strongest at IV to V of the MMI (Modified Mercalli

Turn to page 9

Court quashes PSA, Kashmir man moves out of Haryana Jail

SRINAGAR, Nov 8 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has quashed the detention of a South Kashmir labourer under the contentious Public Safety Act (PSA)

Senior Advocate Bashir Ahmed Tak, who represented the detained student, revealed that the court of Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul overturned the

detention of 22-year-old labourer Muhammad Ilyas Dar, a resident of Rahpora Khudwani village in Kulgam.

Dar had been apprehended on allegations of engaging in anti-national activities in May 2022 and was simultaneously slapped with a PSA charge. The accused had been incarcerated based on an old FIR filed by Kulgam police

in 2021 and is currently held in Haryana jail in Gurgaon.

Following a hearing of arguments by Advocate Bashir Ahmed Tak, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul instructed the authorities to release the detainee. Advocate Tak contended that no substantial evidence was provided even after the detainee's arrest.

JK Administration initiates penalty proceedings against 55 officers

SRINAGAR, Nov 8 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir administration has initiated 'penalty proceedings' against 55 officers in the revenue department, addressing concerns over alleged delays in providing various services to the public.

This action aims to guarantee the timely delivery of online services, with e-services falling under the Public

Services Guarantee Act (PSGA) and connected to the Auto-Appeal System (AAS). The AAS escalates cases of breached timelines to the next authority for action against defaulting officers, as stated by officials.

Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta, in a meeting with Administrative Secretaries, assessed the activities conducted during the vigilance

week.

Commissioner-Secretary of the General Administration Department (GAD), Sanjeev Verma, reported that approximately 64,000 appeals have been generated, with 32,000 already addressed. He stated, "Besides, penalty proceedings have been initiated against 55 officers who have delayed the delivery of various services in the Revenue

Turn to page 9

SIA raids multiple locations in J&K in Terror-Related case

SRINAGAR, Nov 8 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Police's Special Investigation Agency (SIA) on Wednesday raided multiple locations in the Union Territory in a terror-related case, officials said.

The searches are being carried out in Sri-

nagar, Anantnag and Pulwama districts in the Kashmir Valley, they said.

The officials said the raids began early Wednesday and SIA sleuths have collected evidence, including from digital devices. Further details are awaited, they said.

Hermes 900 Starliner Drones set to be inducted into Indian Army

NEW DELHI, Nov 7 (Agencies): The induction of the Heron Mark-2 drones along with the planned induction of the Hermes-900 drones is set to boost the surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities of the Indian Army.

"Induction of Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) Heron MK II and planned induction of Hermes 900 Starliners will not only boost the reconnaissance and

surveillance capability of the Indian Army but also their teaming with combat helicopters, which will prove to be a game changer in the third dimension," Army sources said.

The transfer of these remotely piloted aircraft has further enhanced the Army's surveillance as well as strike capability and transformed Army Aviation into a potent force multiplier

Turn to page 9

Temblors in Himalayas: Alarm bells ringing in J&K as threat of earthquakes looms large

SRINAGAR, Nov 8 (Agencies): Frequent earthquakes in the Himalayas have set alarm bells ringing in mountainous Jammu and Kashmir which falls among high seismic zones.

On November 4, an earthquake of magnitude 6.4 rattled Nepal leaving over 150 people dead. Two earthquakes jolted the Himalayan country on November 6. Tremors were felt

in parts of north India, including the Delhi-NCR region.

Experts have warned that a massive earthquake, exceeding a magnitude of 8.5 can hit the Himalayan region, however, they have not given any timeframe. On April 25, 2015, nearly 9000 people died in the Nepal earthquake measuring 8.1 on the Richter scale. Nepal was also rattled by a deadly earthquake in 1934, in

which 8519 people had been left dead.

Being the youngest and tallest, the Himalayas, having the highest mountains in the world, are prone to earthquakes due to the formation and uplift of the mountains. With the convergence of the Indian tectonic plate with the Asian tectonic plate, the Himalayas are developing active faults due to an uplifting process known as

Turn to page 9

Crystal
Telecom - Security - Software

CRYSTAL NEXA/SN SERIES

CRYSTAL CLARITY, ELEVATING CONNECTIONS, INTERCOM REIMAGINED

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

www.crystalpbx.com

CADNICA ELECTRONIC SOLUTIONS

Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503

Turn to page 9

10TH DAY/UTHALA

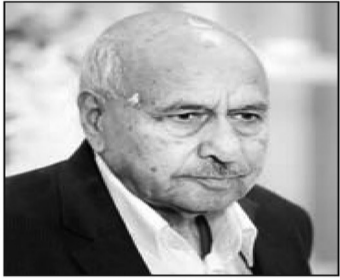
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad departure of our revered Papa ji, **Sh. Om Parkash Gupta**, R/o Akhnour, for his Eternal Heavenly Abode on 31-10-2023.

10TH DAY, RASAM shall be performed in Kameshwar Mandir, Akhnour on Thursday, 09-11-2023, at 11.A.M.

Rasam Pagri/Uthala shall be performed in Kameshwar Mandir, Akhnour on Saturday, 11-11-2023, at 3.00 PM TO 4.00 P.M.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Brother and Bhabhi
Dr. KL Gupta and Smt. Mini Gupta
Sisters and Brothers-in-Law
Smt. Krishna Gupta W/o Lt. Sh. Joginder Pal Gupta
Smt. Vaishno Gupta and Sh. Raj Kumar Gupta
Smt. Shakti Gupta W/o Lt. Sh. Subhash Chander Gupta

Sons and Daughters-in-law
Badri Nath Gupta and Anu Gupta
Ram Lal Gupta and Anita Gupta
Brij Bhushan Gupta and Sabita Gupta
Rakesh Gupta and Rachna Gupta
Daughter and Son-in-Law
Anju and Rakesh Gupta (Ellora Textiles Jammu)

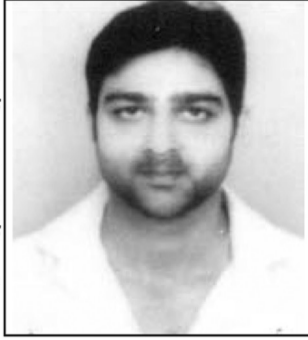


Sh. Om Parkash Gupta

M/s Dhani Ram Om Parkash, Akhnour
M/s Om Parkash Ram Lal, 4A-Nehru Market Jammu
PHONE: 9419100102, 9419100103

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Vinay Dhar S/o Sh Bansi Lal Dhar** who left for heavenly abode on 1-11-2023, resident of Baba Surgal Coloney, near Police Post Ponichak.



Sh Vinay Dhar

Tenth Day Kriya will be held on 10th-11-2023 at Muthi Ghat near Director School Edu. Office at 9.00 AM.

Grief Stricken :
Sh Bansi Lal Dhar- **Father**
Smt Kiran Dhar- **Mother**
Arun Dhar- **Brother**
Contact No. 9906034605, 7006355974

10TH DAY KRIYA

With heavy heart we inform you that our beloved mother, **Smt. Phoola Kaul**, wife of Late Shri. A.K. Kaul (of Purshiyar, Habbakadal / Ajmer) and Daughter of Late Shri Shambhunath Wangu (of Ganpathyar) left us for her heavenly abode peacefully on 31st October-2023. Please join us in our prayers for her departed soul to be at peace in her last journey.



Smt. Phoola Kaul

10th Day Kriya shall be performed at Gang Nahar Ghat, MURADNAGAR, Ghaziabad on 9th November- 2023 at 8.00 am.

Bereaved:- Manish, Vyoma, Vanita and All Kaul and Wangu Parivar
C-305, Kenwood Tower, Charmwood Village, Surajkund Road, Faridabad.
Voice :- +91-9818686727.

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED S. GURCHARAN SINGH JI (CHANNI) S/O LATE RAGI S. BASAKHA SINGH JI WHO LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 31/10/2023 RESIDENT OF MOHALLA KHORINAR WARD NO 08 PPOONCH

ANTIM ARDASS WILL BE HELD ON 09TH OF NOVEMBER 2023 AT GURUDWARA PEPAH SAHIB KHORINAR.

ARAMB OF SHRI ARKHAND PATH SAHIB ON 7TH OF NOVEMBER 2023 10:00 AM AT THEIR RESIDENCE.

BHOG OF SHRI ARKHAND PATH SAHIB ON 09TH OF NOVEMBER 2023 10:00 AM AT THEIR RESIDENCE.

ANTIM ARDAS WILL BE PERFORMED AT GURUDWARA PEPAH SAHIB 10:30 AM TO 12:30 PM

GURU KA LANGAR 12:30 PM ONWARDS

FAMILY :
LATE S SARWAN SINGH JI (BROTHER)
S JASBR SINGH JI (BROTHER)
S MOHAN SINGH JI (BROTHER)
S BALBIR SINGH JI (BROTHER)
SRDNI RANJEET KOUR (WIFE)

S. GURCHARAN SINGH JI (CHANNI)
S JAGDEEP SINGH (SON)
S ANTERDEEP SINGH (SON)
CONTACT NO. 9419825177, 98223080, 979600011



S. GURCHARAN SINGH JI (CHANNI)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform that our beloved mother **Karamyogni Smt. Sohni Devi/ Sona Batni**, W/o Sh. Omkar Nath Kak, erstwhile resident of 8 Rawalpura Housing Colony, Srinagar now at 698, Residency Road Ext, Shahidi Chowk, Jammu left for heavenly abode on 1st November 2023 at Delhi.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat, on Friday 10th November'23 from 9 AM.



Karamyogni Smt. Sohni Devi/ Sona Batni

IN GRIEF:

Son & Daughter-in-law
Sanjay Kak & Rashi Kak
Daughter: Bita Kak
Son-in-law & Daughter
Rajinder Rayu & Muni Rayu
Veer Jee Bazaz & Ruby Bazaz
All Nears & Dears
9796221991, 9560700107

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Nancy Kharoo W/o Sh K.L. Kharoo** originally resident of Banamohalla, Srinagar, Kashmir, At Present Lane No-3, Amrit Vihar, Dr. Sanjiv Dhingra Clinic Lane, Barnai, Jammu on 02-11-2023.



SMT. NANCY KHAROO

TENTH DAY will be performed on Saturday, 11th November, 2023 at Muthi Ghat (near Directorate of School Education) at 9 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
SAMAST KHAROO FAMILY AND ALL EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow we regret to inform you the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Nitu Jamwal (W/o Lt. Sh. Arvind Jamwal) R/o 115 Kachi Chawani Gali Agnihotri Jammu** on 30th October 2023.



Smt. Nitu Jamwal

TENTH DAY will be performed on 8th November 2023 (Wednesday) at our residence at 10:30 a.m.

KRIYA will be performed on 9th November 2023 (Thursday) at our residence at 12:00 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Rajveer Jamwal (Son)
(Brother in law and Sister in law)
Mr. Anil Dev Jamwal & Mrs. Tapasya Sharma
Mrs. Anupana Jamwal (Sister in Law)
Mr. Mukesh & Mrs. Rita Sharma (Brother & Sister in Law)
(M): 9419148578, 7889750442, 7889674330

OBITUARY FROM MALUN SIDE

With profound grief and deep sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Karmyogi Girja Bhat (Sheela)** W/o Lt. Sh. Dwarka Nath Bhat originally from Khrew, Pampore, Kashmir at present H.No. 227, Amar Colony Extn. Camp Road, Talab Tillo, Jammu.



Karmyogi Girja Bhat (Sheela)

Tenth Day Kriya shall be performed at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of Education Deptt. on 14-11-2023 at 8.00 am.

Grief Stricken
Kalla's Parivar

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Late Captain Chattar Singh Pathania S/o Late Sh Kor Singh Pathania** expired on 01-11-2023 R/o Chak Jaralan (Palli Morh) will be held on 10-11-2023 Friday at 11-30 hrs.



Late Captain Chattar Singh Pathania

IN GRIEF

SONS
Sh A S Pathania, Sh R S Pathania, Sh S. S Pathania
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Smt & Sh Chander Singh Jamwal
Smt & Sh Kartar Singh Jamwal

PATHANIA FAMILY
8491847243, 9622300821

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Chuni Devi W/o Lt Sh Makhan Lal Raina R/o H No. 547, Lane No. B/4, Upper Shiv Nagar, Jammu** who left for heavenly abode on 31st of October, 2023.



Smt Chuni Devi

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 9th of Nov, 2023 (Thursday) at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education office at 8:30 AM.

Grief Stricken :

Daughters in law & Sons
Raj Kumari & Nana Ji Raina
Nisha & Sunil Raina
Nancy & Yog Ji Raina
Anita & Uday Raina
Renu & Sunil Raina
Daughter & Son in law
Sarila & Anil Razdan
Pinky W/o Lt Sh Roshan Lal Handoo -Daughter
Grand Children :
Vicky, Sharika, Neharika, Anisha, Nikhil, Nikita, Aryan, Tushar, Anshu
Neha & Sunny Tickoo, Seema & Nikhil Razdan,
Payal & Ankur Raina

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Maya Devi W/o Late Piyar Singh** who left for heavenly abode on 02-11-2023. May the Lord grant peace to the divine soul.



Smt. Maya Devi

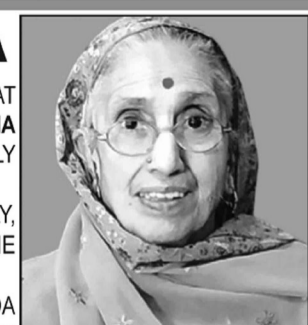
10TH DAY shall be performed on 11-11-2023 (Saturday) at 12 Noon at our residence R/o Kotla Morn Near Air Force Officers Mess Road Udhampur.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Son and Daughter-in-law
Rajindar Singh and Neelam Devi
Ravinder Rathore and Renu Arora
Mob. 70064 33762
Mob.9055333000

10TH DAY/KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF WE ARE SORRY TO INFORM THAT OUR BELOVED MOTHER **SMT MOHINI MATTOO (SONA DEVI)** W/O SH MOTILAL MATTOO HAS LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON TUESDAY, 31ST OCTOBER, 2023.



SMT MOHINI MATTOO (SONA DEVI)

10TH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON THURSDAY, 9TH NOVEMBER AT ROHINI GHAT NEAR TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, SAMAYPUR BADLI, NEW DELHI AT 8 AM.

ASSEMBLE AND NAVEED AT RESIDENCE E-3, NAWADA HOUSING COMPLEX, DWARKA MORH, NEW DELHI AT 12.30 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN.

MATTOO FAMILY.
BROTHERS AND SISTERS.
AND ALL NEAR AND DEAR ONES.
MOB: 9958948910, 9871161522, 9821192910, 9717784449

TENTH DAY / KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Sunita Gupta W/o Er. Virander Kumar Gupta R/o Lane No. 3, Shivpuri, Near Dreamland Park, Kathua.**



Smt. Sunita Gupta

Tenth Day shall be performed at our residence on Friday, 10th November, 2023 at 11.00 am.

Kriya shall be performed at our residence on Monday, 13th November, 2023 at 12.30 pm.

Grief Stricken
Husband
Er. Virander Kumar Gupta (Chief Engineer, DIC)
Dr. Aayushi & Adv. Pankaj Sharma - **Daughter & Son-in-law**
Dr. Komple Gupta - **Daughter**
Smt. Shakuntla Devi - **Mother-in-law**
Devars & Devarnis
Er. Narinder Gupta & Smt. Anju Gupta
Dr. Naresh Gupta & Dr. Shivani Gupta
Dr. Sanjeev Gupta & Dr. Payal Gupta
Nanad & Nandoyi
Smt. Manju Bala & Er. Sudesh Gupta
Mob:- 9419150447, 9419150355, 9469275511, 9419107895

13TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform about the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Mrs Himanshu Sharma W/o Mr Vikas Sharma R/o Rehari Colony Jammu** on 28 Oct. 2023.



Mrs Himanshu Sharma

13th Day Kriya will be performed on 9 Nov. 2023 at our residence in Rehari Colony Q.No. 239.

Grief Stricken
Mrs Vikas Sharma -Husband
Mr Kartav Sharma -Son
Radhika Sharma -Daughter
Deeply Remembered By :
Brother, Sister and Sharma Family and all near and dears
9419225630, 6005686890, 9797490556, 9797682939, 7006194623

BARKHI

Not a day goes by when we do not think of you, not a day goes by when we do not miss you ,our memories and love is all that we are left with, miss your smiling face. You will always stay alive in our heart.



SMT. SUSHMA GUPTA

Keep blessing us from wherever you are. **BARKHI** of our beloved **SMT. SUSHMA GUPTA** W/o: Sh Chhotu Ram Gupta, H.No.49, Purani Mandi, Jammu will be performed on 09th November 2023 (Thursday) at Brahmin Sabha, Parade, Jammu at 1.00 pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Son and Daughter-in-law:
Amit Gupta and Divya Gupta
Daughters and Son-in-law:
Amika Gupta and Rakesh Kumar Gupta (C.A)
Roohi Pangotra and Atul Pangotra (Taekwondo Coach)
Lt. Sh. Ralla Ram's Family
M/S MAHAJAN FURNISHING
MOB NO. - 8825089711, 9419124904

DISCLAIMER

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

NCC Cdts of Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh Directorate secures second position at SNIC in Jaisalmer

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 8: It's great to hear about the achievements of the NCC Cadets of Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh Directorate at the Special National Integration Camp (SNIC) in Jaisalmer. The NCC Cadets from this directorate secured the 2nd position out of 17 NCC Directorates, earning a Silver Trophy.

The individual award winners in various events at SNIC in Jaisalmer are Cadets Varun Chib, Abishek Kumar, and Mohit Singh won Gold Medals in Volleyball. Cadets Kriti,



Shubham, Shristi Sambyal, Tanbi Bhagat, and Tenzan Angmo won Silver Medals in Volleyball and Kho Kho Competition. JUO Harsh

Dev received a Silver Medal in the Quiz Competition. Cadet Shristi Sambyal won a Silver Medal in the Poster Making Competition.

JK&L Directorate secured the 2nd Position in the NIAP Presentation. Special National Integration Camps (SNIC) aimed

to promote unity, understanding, and cooperation among diverse communities within a nation.

These camps include activities such as cultural exchanges, workshops on diversity and tolerance, community service projects, and discussions on national identity and social harmony.

The achievements of these NCC cadets and the directorate's success in the SNIC demonstrate their dedication and excellence in fostering national integration and celebrating the unique diversity of India.

Directorate of Skill Development, J&K empowers youth with gainful employment opportunities



Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 8: The Directorate of Skill Development, Jammu and Kashmir, remains steadfast in its commitment to provide gainful employment to the youth of J&K Union Territory, particularly its pass-out trainees.

This vision aligns with the J&K UT Administration's objectives to empower its youth through skill development and job opportunities.

To realize this vision, the Directorate of Skill Development has taken proactive steps to create employment opportunities for its ITI (Industrial Training Institute) pass-outs.

As part of this initiative, the Directorate recently collaborated with Ashok Leyland, a prominent name in the automotive industry, to conduct a series of placement drives.

These placement drives took place on October 3, 2023; Octo-

ber 5, 2023; October 9, 2023; and October 12, 2023, at various ITIs within the Jammu Province.

The result of these efforts is that 17 candidates from different ITIs have been offered gainful employment by Ashok Leyland. In a special ceremony held on Wednesday, Commissioner/Secretary of the Skill Development Department, Saurabh Bhagat and Director of the Skill Development Department, Sudershan Kumar distributed job offer letters to the 17 selected candidates.

During the event, they congratulated the selected trainees and offered words of advice, encouraging them to work hard and excel in their respective roles.

The Commissioner/Secretary and the Director expressed their gratitude to Ashok Leyland for providing job opportunities to these ITI students and urged other pass-outs to actively

participate in upcoming placement drives with enthusiasm and zeal. They emphasized the importance of taking full advantage of these opportunities to shape their careers.

Furthermore, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the University of Jammu and the Department of Skill Development, UT of J&K.

This MOU aims to promote skill development and scientific research for the mutual benefit of both parties, ultimately enhancing the skill ecosystem within Jammu and Kashmir. This collaboration is expected to open doors to more placement opportunities and encourage self-employment and entrepreneurship initiatives for the youth of J&K.

Notable individuals present at the event include Ravi Gupta - Assistant Director, Firdoze Ahmad Accounts Officer, Jatinder Kesar OSD, AR Sheikh - Principal ITI Jammu and Karan Singh - Placement Incharge.

DC reviews health sector services in Reasi District

Top News Report

REASI, Nov 8: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Vishesh Mahajan on Wednesday chaired a meeting to evaluate the status of the health services in the district.

Central to the discussions were strategies for the fortification of Primary Health Centers and Community Health Centers.

The DC Reasi took a detailed review of achievements under health sector schemes, functioning of health institutions, infrastructure up-gradation and the healthcare facilities being extended to the patients. He also reviewed progress under Ayushman Bharat, PMJAY SEHAT, and Vacancy position of all categories, Routine Immunization Programme, NCD Programme and National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP).

Addressing the meeting, the DC stressed upon the officers to work with utmost dedication and honesty adding that the people have direct concern with the health facilities being the most sensitive sector.

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) was asked to provide comprehensive

details about all Primary Health Centers (PHC) and Community Health Centers (CHC) operating in the district. He was further directed to conduct a thorough health survey of every household in the district. This survey will assess different medical issues and provide valuable insights into the healthcare needs of residents.

In a significant move aimed at promoting health and hygiene in educational institutions, the Deputy Commissioner issued a directive to ensure the installation of sanitary pad dispensing machines in all schools and colleges across the district.

The DC also said that to provide better and quality health services to the people of the district and directed to constitute a team of doctors to visit Mahore and far flung areas on every Thursday and Saturday so that patients may not suffer anymore.

He further advised CMO, MS and BMOs to provide medical advice to patients in addition to performance of administrative duties to handle the shortage of Doctors.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, CPO, CMO, MS District Hospital, DyCMO and BMOs.

Govt Polytechnic Jammu organizes inter-department carrom tournament



Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 8: Government Polytechnic Jammu organised Inter-department "Carrom Tournament" as per its annual calendar of Sports activities in the college in which 85 students from ten different departments of the institute participated.

The final of Inter-department competition was held on Wednesday in which Principal Er. Arun Bangotra Government Polytechnic Jammu was chief guest. Speaking on the occasion of felicitation function, he told students that "In Sports and life the success depends on planning and believing, and execution of the plan. Only those who plan well succeed in Sports and life."

He also laid stress on all HODs to encourage

girl students to participate more in sports activities.

In the first semifinal, Rohit Parihar student of Mechanical Engineering beat Mohd. Idrees student of Civil Engineering department.

In the second semi final, Nakul Bhagat student of Electrical Engineering beat Dheeraj Pande student of Travel and Tourism Department.

In the final of Boys category, Nakul Bhagat of Electrical Engineering Department beat Rohit Parihar of Mechanical Engineering Department.

In Girls category, the final was played between Nancy student of Architecture and Deepika Sharma student of Information Technology and in a close contest Nancy remained victorious.

Amit Kumar Sharma, Sport Secretary pre-

sented the vote of thanks to the chief guest and all the guest of honour who spared their valuable time for the occasion.

Those who were present in closing ceremony include Er. Raj Kumar HoD Mechanical Engineering, Er Manjeet Singh HoD Electrical Engineering, Er Sukhdeep Singh HoD Civil Engineering, Er Sanjay Koul HoD Computer Engineering, Er Jasdeep Kour HoD Instrumentation and Control department, Er. Amit Gupta, Er. Akash Dasgotra, Snehot Kour, Er. Vicky Sharma, and Ashok Verma.

The matches were officiated under the supervision of Dheeraj Kumar Lecturer Travel & Tourism, Chamel Singh PEM, Toshi Devi PET and Rakesh Khullar Inst. Repairer.

PTTI Vijaypur organizes demonstration on collapsed structure, search / rescue and rope rescue basic training



Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Nov 8: Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur on Wednesday organized Practical Training cum Demonstration on Collapsed structure, search & rescue and rope rescue basic training for trainees of ongoing Disaster Management Course at PTTI Vijaypur.

A Team of Technical Experts from SDRF 2nd Bn, headed by SI Vikas

Sharma performed live demonstrations of on Collapsed structure, search & rescue and rope rescue basic training viz. Rappelling, Ascending, descending, slithering etc. and displayed multi-story room intervention techniques.

The aim of organizing such demonstrations and practical training for trainees is to enhance their skills and ability to deal with disasters more efficiently.

The techniques demonstrated by SDRF

team would definitely help these Police personnel in performing their field duties more effectively.

Shiv Kumar, Principal PTTI Vijaypur expressed his gratitude to higher authorities of SDRF for deputing their team to PTTI Vijaypur for demonstration.

Among others, Dushyant Sharma, Vice Principal, PTTI Vijaypur, Kuldeep Raj, DySP Indoor, Zia-ul-Haq, DySP Outdoor, Insp. Bhupinder Singh, Insp. Javed Hussain, SI Kapil Raina, HC Dharmesh Singh, HC Gopal Singh were also present on the occasion.

Besides, inauguration of PSO Refresher Course and Driving & Maintenance Refresher Course also held by Shiv Kumar, Principal PTTI Vijaypur and the trainings were briefed about the objectives of the said course.

Doda Admin addresses important public issues at Block Diwas Outreach Programs

Top News Report

DODA, Nov 8: In an endeavor to better understand and address the concerns and grievances of the public, the district administration Doda on Wednesday organised a series of public outreach programs in different parts of the district under the aegis of Weekly Block Diwas. The initiative provided local residents with the opportunity to voice their concerns, which were then forwarded to the relevant government departments for prompt resolution.

The Block Diwas meetings took place at Panchayat Batoli, Block Chilly, Sub Division Gandoh was chaired by the SDM Ashraf Pervez along with the members of PRIs and others representative of the public.

Throughout the day, a range of public issues and demands were discussed, with some of the most prominent concerns including water supply, electricity supply, installation of electric poles, upgrading of transformers, school infrastructure, road connectivity, and healthcare centers. The discussions involved not only the general public but also members of PRIs, sarpanchs, panches, DDC Councillors, and BDC Chairpersons. The gathered concerns were directed to the respective officers and officials for speedy resolution.

The Block Diwas events witnessed large gatherings of local residents who had the chance to present their genuine demands directly to district officers. This initiative aimed to ensure that government services and benefits reach the people without unnecessary delays, making the governance process more efficient and responsive to the needs of the community.

Dogra Sewa Sambhal Trust honours SHO Gangyal



Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 8: Dogra Sewa Sambhal Trust, Gangyal social Welfare Association, Kunjwani, Hari Vihar, Resident Welfare Association gave heartfelt welfare to Inspector Ajay

Singh Chib SHO, Gangyal. Deputy Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria was chief guest at the function.

Billowaria said that Inspector Chib Perform his duty with Honesty, Dedication, and serve the community with unwavering commitment and integrity. His contribution is invaluable.

Rajinder Singh (Popi) President Kunjwani Resident Welfare association was also present at the event.

He said "We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Inspector for his exceptional service to the Gangyal community." Rajeev Sharma, Presi-

dent of Dogra Sewa Sambhal Trust was also the part of the event and said under his leadership, the Gangyal Police department has achieved remarkable milestones and forged strong bonds with the community. Karuna Chhetri, President of Gorkha community, Jammu also took part in it and extended her gratitude towards his service for the community. Concluding the event, Deputy Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria appreciated him for his exemplary service and wished him all the best for his future endeavors.

CUJ concludes Two-Week Online Faculty Development Programme



Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 8: Two-Week online Faculty Development Programme in Chemistry and Allied Sciences (FDPCAS- 2023), a Refresher Course, organized by the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Sciences, Central University of Jammu successfully concluded on Tuesday. The programme was organized under the patronage of Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain.

Prof. V. Sridharan, Head, Department of Chemistry and Chemical Sciences, Central University of Jammu

was the Convenor and Dr. Princy Gupta, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry and Chemical Sciences, Central University of Jammu was the Co-convenor of this FDP.

The faculty members of Chemistry and other allied subjects of Colleges/Universities, early-career researchers, academicians and other participants had a great opportunity to learn from an esteemed panel of experts who delivered talks on various emerging areas of chemistry and shared their experiences and perspectives relating to

newer methods/techniques used in teaching and research.

During this FDP, a panel of 34 speakers from well reputed institutions including IISc, IITs, IISERS, Central and State Universities delivered Invited talks. The valedictory session was concluded by Prof. V. Sridharan who presented detailed report of this Two-Week Online FDP. Dr. Princy Gupta, Co-Convenor of the FDP presented the formal vote of thanks. About 36 participants from different parts of the country participated in this FDP.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr.DEN-IV/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date **28.11.2023** up to **15:00 hrs.** Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information log on to www.ireps.gov.in.

Tender Type	Open	Tendering Section	Bidding System	Single Bid System
Date of Uploading Tenders	04.11.2023	Bid Starting Date	14.11.2023	Bid Closing Date/Time
				28.11.2023 15:00 hrs.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender			
1.	308-2023-24-BDGM-DRM-FZR	Transportation of 10 nos. Ballast Hopper BOBYN wagon by road from Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan Railway Station to Budgam Railway Station under ADEN/MCTM (Udhampur)	Advertised Value	Earnest Money	Validity of offer
			₹94,96,136.80	₹1,89,900/-	60 Days
					03 Months

Similar Nature of work: "Transportation by Road of any Oversize dimension consignment such as Tunnel Boring Machine, Boilers, Parts of Power Plants and BG Rail Coaches etc. as Turnkey works in J&K."

Note: 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.
Tender Notice No.: 308-2023-24-BDGM-DRM-FZR Date: 06.11.2023 3484/2023
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

EDITORIAL

YOUTH
EMPOWERMENT

Youth can make significant contribution in the education sector with their knowledge and commitment. They can contribute not only as teachers in the field of education but also in the spread of education technology and innovations. The vital role that youth can play in various aspects of nation building.

Youth's Importance in Education: Youth can make significant contributions in the field of education, not only as teachers but also in promoting educational technology and innovations.

Youth as Agents of Change: Youth are described as symbols of energy and strength and are crucial for shaping the future of a nation. Their contribution is seen as essential for the development of society.

Multifaceted Role: The youth are highlighted for their potential contributions in various fields, including education, science, literature, arts, sports, social work, and politics. Their evolving perspectives bring new ideas and directions to these areas. **Social Work:** Youth are encouraged to engage in social service, such as education of the underprivileged, sanitation campaigns, and job creation, with the aim of bringing about positive changes in society.

Science and Technology: The youth are recognized as a source of innovation and progress in science and technology, helping to advance the nation.

Political Involvement: The youth are encouraged to participate in politics, providing fresh ideas and leadership for the betterment of the nation.

The youth's contribution is pivotal in the process of nation building, emphasizing their energy, enthusiasm, and commitment. Guided in the right direction and provided with opportunities, they can make a vibrant impact on society, leading to the nation's development.

The transformative potential of youth in various aspects of society makes them key agents in the growth and development of a nation.

Youth empowerment has the following benefits: Poor education, poverty and unemployment are the major reasons for youth involvement in crime and violence. With these factors, there will always be a high level of criminal activities occurring in society. Youth empowerment can reduce crime rates because it provides youth with opportunities, resources, and support to make positive life choices and become productive and responsible members of society. When youth have access to education, employment, and other resources, they are less likely to engage in criminal activities and more likely to become productive members of society.

Empowering the youth will create new employment opportunities. By providing education, resources, and job training programs, youth can gain the skills and knowledge needed to obtain good-paying jobs and become productive members of society.

When youth are empowered, they become more politically active and engaged, leading to a more informed and participatory democracy.

Without the youth of a nation, it cannot survive. No matter what industry we want to pursue – be it technology or sports – youth are needed. We must decide how to help them do this work effectively. All children need to be made aware of their potential and their role in the development of the country.

Decoding Blinken's frenetic diplomacy in Mideast & role of Hezbollah's chief

By: Saeed Naqvi

The speech last week by Hezbollah supremo Hassan Nasrallah, arguably a key leader in the Arab street, drew mixed responses. Those less familiar with West Asian affairs expected the speech to be a precursor of greater firepower in support of Hamas to deter more Israeli barbarity against the Palestinians in Gaza.

This obscures the reality that more firepower will only aggravate Gaza's suffering without promise of any change. It's the new direction that Nasrallah is interested in.

Nasrallah's reputation wasn't built on eloquence and rhetoric alone, but on his credibility: he does what he says. He demanded an immediate ceasefire to end the Palestinians' suffering. He talked of the "constructive ambiguity" embedded in his statement. What could it be? He was clear that all options, which presumably includes full-scale war, were on the table.

Delay in ceasefire augments the ranks of martyrs and lights prairie fires of revulsion against Israeli barbarity encouraged by the US. The publicity war was lost, and losses will mount unless Israel cuts its losses. What will follow a ceasefire? All denominations have their preferred scenarios for the Day of Judgment.

US moves on the regional chessboard are reactive, not innovative. At the September G-20 summit in New Delhi, the US launched the idea of an India-Saudi-Israel-Europe corridor clearly modelled on China's Belt and Road initia-

tive. To be credible, it required a Riyadh-Jerusalem deal. This was problematic as a completely contradictory rapprochement between Riyadh and Tehran was already put in place under Chinese auspices. Saudi strongman Mohammad bin Salman would have to be unbelievably fickle to unclasp Tehran's hand and, like a trapeze artist, clasp Tel Aviv's.

This wasn't happening. MBS, as the Saudi Crown Prince is called, has evolved impressively in statecraft, and was not in the deal at the behest of the US for a blind date with Israel. He would have spelt out conditions for normalisation. In doing so, he would have factored in Iran's firm line on Palestine. The startling October 7 Hamas attack and Israel's response has clearly ensured the closure of America's Saudi-Israel file, at least for the near future.

With the expiry of the initiative, the post-October 7 scenario with global public opinion ablaze against the Israeli-US duo, the groups other than Hamas who are harvesting wide sympathy are all associated with Iran -- Hezbollah and a web of Popular Mobilisation Fronts like Hashd al-Shaabi in Iraq and their lookalikes across Syria, Yemen and Lebanon. These militias had been knit together by late Iranian commander Qasim Suleimani. Such a menace had these militias become that Western intelligence had to eliminate Suleimani by a drone attack at Baghdad airport in January 2020. Suleimani was the author of the kind of military preparedness which Hamas demonstrated in its attack. The secrecy and the professionalism are all derived from

Suleimani's book.

Since the success of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the West has harboured an interest in playing up the Shia-Sunni divide for its own and Israel's advantage. At one stage even thinkers like Henry Kissinger advanced the thesis that the Arab world was exhausted with the Palestinian issue. It was much more focused on the Shia-Sunni divide. Without attention to detail, the media propounded the idea of a "Shia arc" which encircled Israel -- Iran, Lebanon (Hezbollah), Syria and, incongruously, Hamas, which is anything but Shia.

Hamas is an extension of the Muslim Brotherhood. Mohammad Morsi was removed as Egypt's Prime Minister by a 2013 coup and Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi installed instead, after some wrangling between the state department and the Pentagon. Morsi was removed for two reasons. The Muslim Brotherhood's continuity from Cairo to Gaza was a "threat to Israel's security". Also, the Saudis were having kittens with the rise of the Brotherhood in the most powerful Arab country.

Egypt is not exempt from the unprecedented anger in the Arab street and basement over the inhuman pounding of Gaza by Israel. Gen. Sisi thus must be an extremely anxious man today.

It's understandable that in such an atmosphere of mass anger, meeting US President Joe Biden would be the kiss of death for Arab leaders. Normally, secretaries of state pave the way for presidential meetings. In a strange reversal of roles, Mr Biden, having

drawn a blank with his favoured Arabs, sent Antony Blinken hopping from one Muslim capital to another to retrieve America's irretrievably lost glory.

What was the theme of Mr Blinken's frenetic activity? Iran, Hezbollah and the entire Shia arc, was cajoled and threatened not to expand the conflict. Nasrallah was specific that all scenarios were possible if the pummelling of Gaza does not stop. The expansion of the conflict will also draw in powers from outside the region.

The backdrop to Mr Blinken's diplomacy is the unannounced reversal in Ukraine. America's continued role in Ukraine is more a sign of its deep pockets than its capacity to deliver victory to Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

It is commonly accepted that the US will now onwards be one among equals in a multipolar world, with a proviso -- it remains militarily the world's most powerful country. One consequence of America's new situation may well be isolationism. This would depend on the turn that competition with China takes. Israel's greatest worry is US isolationism, its attention focused elsewhere. Israel is secure so long as it continues to be imperialism's outpost in West Asia.

Clearly, Mr Blinken would like to bring together Sunni Arab states into a responsible role in Gaza. But can these moves be in harmony with the outraged public opinion in the Arab world?

How can the present mood be kept in alignment with the continuation of, say, Gen. Sisi in Egypt and Palestine President Mahmoud Abbas, two individuals on whose heads redundancy looms.

Delhi's nightmare: Leaders bicker while citizens suffer

By: Parsa Venkateshwar
Rao Jr

The alarming levels of poor air quality in Delhi and its neighbourhood in the National Capital Region (NCR) have been beamed all around, but both the Delhi government and the Centre are only following their bureaucratic drill of responding to it. The Central government issues the Stage 4 orders under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) and Delhi's chief minister Arvind Kejriwal gets into a huddle with ministers and officials. And each of them -- the Central government and the Delhi government -- comes out with guidelines of their own. The Centre wants commercial vehicles which do not cater to essential services to be stopped, and it wants 50 per cent of the employees to work from home, while the chief minister is for reducing vehicular pollution by following the alternate-day vehicle plying plan of allowing even number plates one day and the odd numbers the next. First, primary schools were ordered closed till November 10, and then secondary and high schools as well (with the exception of Class 10 and 12 which have board exams ahead). These restrictions may be extended. And citizens continue to get choked by the pollutants-heavy air. This is a crisis that has been recurring every year, at least for the past seven years, and each time the Central and Delhi governments wake up from their slumber when the smog descends on the city and people are going about the work through it all.

The response measures all seem to be in place, they all are ad hoc, and they are brought into force in a

flurry of activity when the crisis has set in. One is always left wondering as to why the emergency measures are not implemented in a gradual manner, spread over a few weeks, so that the Air Quality Index (AQI) numbers do not have to soar to critical levels and the people submit themselves to the crisis, murmuring their protests. It is possible to have a long-term plan because the factors that contribute to the hazardous AQI numbers are well known. Even as summers should be used for clearing the drains to face the monsoon, so it is but common sense that vehicular traffic should be regulated keeping the falling temperature and the pollutants that hang in the air in mind. It does not even need the political bigwigs to convene emergency meetings. The response measures should be rolled out at the local administration level. And this is what governance is all about. It is one thing that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Central government, which is constantly interfering in the Delhi administration only to create roadblocks for Arvind Kejriwal and his elected government, should be focusing on. The lieutenant-governor of Delhi, who is only too eager to be an activist on behalf of the Central government, does not seem to be bothered to step in and give the necessary advice and instructions to take quick action. Delhi's extended metropolitan area, with its humongous population that is forever growing -- 30 million-plus in 2023 -- and its population density of 29,000-plus per square mile, always poses environmental challenges of great magnitude. A larger population and greater population density makes the environment a key factor for keeping the city on

an even keel. But the key political leaders at the moment -- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal -- are so caught up in the web of their own rhetoric, that toxic pollution escapes their attention. The two leaders are too eager to deliver homilies about ecological good sense, but they do not have the time to work out the necessary plans to deal with the fallout of reckless economic activity, including grandiose building plans, and for destroying the green lungs of the urban conglomeration.

The Central government, instead of constantly interfering in the working of the Delhi government, should be coordinating with it to work out long-term plans for keeping the national capital and its citizens alive and healthy. It should be playing a positive role in getting the chief ministers of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan to sit together and work out a larger inter-state urban plan to keep the environmental hazards to the minimum. One of the claims made by Mr Modi when he dismantled the Planning Commission and set up the Niti Aayog back in 2014 was that it would be a coordinating agency for all the states. The Niti Aayog is now caught up in preparing futuristic reports about the country's development instead of working along with the states to manage concrete issues like urban planning.

In the last few years, the talking point has been the burning of the post-harvest stubble in the Punjab farmlands (as well as in Haryana and UP), and blaming the farmers and the state government for their callous unconcern for the citizens of Delhi. There was a point when

Mr Kejriwal said that he would manage the burning of the stubble with a better technology. With the AAP government in Punjab in the saddle, he is falling back on ad hoc responses in the city like the "odd-even" measure of regulating vehicular traffic. It is evident that it is an inadequate measure and it does not help ease either the rush-hour traffic or bring down pollution levels. Vehicular traffic has to be regulated through the year, and public transport has to be strengthened to take the extra pressure when half the private vehicles are off the road.

The Central government's diktat that half the employees should work from home because that would decrease commute issues is a half-baked idea because most employees do not have the wherewithal in their small homes to do their work. Blinkered responses of this kind arise when governments think of dealing with a crisis on a day-to-day basis. Governments cannot, and should not, be working this way. More importantly, municipalities should be involved in the decision-making because they handle dust -- the streets swept in the morning throw up enough clouds of dust and create problems -- and the management of garbage, which add to the pollution levels.

Politicians, bureaucrats and policy wonks are quite fond of using the jargon of holistic and integrated planning, but they always talk and think -- that is the indeed the sequence -- without bringing together all the people and all the wings of the government to deal with the problem. Both Mr Modi and Mr Kejriwal are masters of rhetoric but they do not pay attention to get things done. Getting this done is what is needed.

Shrine Board batting for development of civic amenities at Katra

Top News Report

KATRA, Nov 8: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board continuing with the initiatives for overall socio-economic development of the region as per the directions of Chairman, SMVDSB (Lt. Governor, JK-UT) has undertaken various projects in Katra and surrounding areas.

The projects include renovation and upgradation of the road already constructed by the Shrine Board alongwith drain from Hansali to Panthal Road via Bhumika Temple including maintenance of the road for a period of five years besides, renovation and upgradation of Govt Girls High School at Banganga Road, Katra and construction of Lane & Drain from Darshani Deodi towards Katra.

In the endeavour, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Anshul Garg



on Wednesday inaugurated renovation and upgradation of lane & drain works from Darshani Deodi to Shalimar Park, Katra at an expenditure of over Rs.48.06 lakh in the presence of Chairman, Municipal Committee, Katra; Sub Divisional Magistrate, Katra; Jt. Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB; Engineers of the Shrine Board, ward members and prominent citizens of the town. Completion of the entire

stretch within a period of three months will alleviate the difficulties faced by pilgrims who traditionally travel to the Holy Cave on foot via old Darshani Deodi. This development is poised to make the pilgrimage more comfortable and accessible for devotees besides helping the locals in decongesting traffic of the main road towards Darshani Deodi.

The other project being taken up by the Shrine Board for the

renovation and upgradation of Govt Girls High School at Banganga Road, Katra at the estimated expenditure of Rs.98.93 lakh likely to be completed by the ending March, 2024.

The Board earlier completed many civic amenities related works in Katra town which included providing and fixing of ornamental railing and installation of dual lamp LED street lights on the Central Verge of the road leading to Railway Station, Katra; providing and fixing of Children Playground equipment at Shalimar Park, Katra and construction of road and drain in Ward number 2 in Katra. Besides, from time to time has also provided financial support under social support initiatives to the Municipal Committee, Katra for undertaking various development works and improving sanitation and other civic amenities.

Kulgam girl shines with bronze in National Pencak Silat Competition

Top News Report

KULGAM, Nov 8: Muskan Iqbal, an 18-year-old hailing from the town of Kulgam, has emerged as a rising star in the world of Pencak Silat, winning a bronze medal at the national level games held in Maharashtra.

Muskan, a class 12 student, displayed remarkable prowess in the martial art discipline, despite facing several challenges on her journey to success.

The young athlete, a resident of Kulgam, a picturesque town in India, clinched a bronze medal in the fiercely competitive Pencak Silat category during the national-level games held in Maharashtra.

Her remarkable feat has brought pride not only to her town but to the entire district. Muskan's journey to the national podium was marked by hard work, dedication, and a distinct lack of formal training.



ing. Despite having no coach or specialized training facilities at her disposal, she refused to be discouraged.

Muskan's resourcefulness led her to the vast expanse of the internet, where she diligently scoured YouTube for tutorials and training videos related to Pencak Silat. With sheer determination and countless hours of practice, she honed her skills, making her way from an amateur enthusiast to a formidable competitor.

When asked about her motivation to enter the world of martial arts, Muskan Iqbal revealed that self-protection was her primary driving force. She recognized

that martial arts could be a potent tool for personal defense, particularly for young women. Her commitment went beyond competition, as she sought to empower herself with the skills necessary to protect herself in any situation.

Throughout her remarkable journey, Muskan found unwavering support from her family. Her parents, impressed by her dedication and perseverance, stood firmly by her side, providing both emotional and moral support. They shared her dreams and encouraged her to pursue her passion relentlessly.

With the national bronze medal hanging proudly around her neck, Muskan Iqbal is not resting on her laurels. Her sights are set on representing her country on the international stage, demonstrating that her self-taught skills and unyielding determination are a force to be reckoned with.

15th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme Cultural Competition, valedictory function mark conclusion ceremony

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 8: The 15th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme concluded on Wednesday in the presence of the Chief Guest, Member Parliament Rajya Sabha, Gulam Ali Khatana at Saraswati Dham, here.

The day was made memorable by a series of captivating cultural dance performances during a spirited dance competition, culminating in a dignified valedictory ceremony.

In his welcome address, Nisar Ahmed Butt, State Director NYKS, J&K, welcomed the guests, MP Rajya Sabha Gulam Ali Khatana, Gandhi Global Family Chairperson Dr. S. P. Verma, Senior Journalist Rampal Singh Dogra, Social Activist S. Kiran Singh, and the members of the jury for the cultural competition.

He elaborated on the activities and achievements of the participants throughout the week-long duration of the exchange program, including the educational tours to Patnitop and various industries near Jammu, as well as several informative lectures delivered by the representatives of SEBI, Cyber Cell, DIC office, and BBIA Jammu. Youth from nine districts over



all four districts presented mesmerising cultural dance performances. A jury consisting of Dr. Shalini Rana, Assistant Professor, Cluster University of Jammu, Dr. Shubra Jamwal, Assistant Professor, Govt. College of Education, Jammu, and Priyanka Mahajan, Assistant Professor, Govt. College of Education, Jammu declared

the team from district Kalahandi, Odisha as the winner, followed by district Malkangiri, Odisha, district Khunti, Jharkhand, district Bhandra, Telangana, and district Sarikela, Jharkhand.

The teams were awarded with trophies and cash prizes of Rs 10,000, Rs 5,000, Rs 3,000, Rs 2,000, and Rs 2,000 respectively.

Dr Rana congratulated the winners and asked the participants to make the nation proud. She expressed appreciation to NYKS and the Govt. of India for their commendable initiative through the exchange programme.

Member Parliament Rajya Sabha Gulam Ali Khatana congratulated NYKS on the organisation of the exchange programme, and expressed delight on experiencing tribal culture up close. He congratulated the participants on their successful completion of the programme and wished them the best for the future.

The guests and jury members were gifted mementos as a gesture of gratitude from NYKS Jammu.

In the vote of thanks, DYO Rajouri Nitin Hangloo thanked the guests and participants for their time. In his statement, he expressed his optimism that the participants have acquired valuable insights and cultural knowledge from the exchange program, particularly gaining a deeper understanding of Jammu's rich cultural heritage.

The Tribal Youth Exchange Programme is an initiative of the Government of India that enables tribal youth from remote areas to experience the cultural diversity of India first hand.

GDC Doda organises awareness lecture on domestic violence

Top News Report

DODA, Nov 8: Govt Degree College (GDC) Doda on Wednesday organised an awareness lecture on the topic Domestic Violence: Rights, Responsibilities and Remedies.

The lecture was organised under the supervision of Dr Attar Singh Kotwal Principal GDC Doda and the whole

event was coordinated by Dr Jamsheed Ahmad HOD English.

The day started with a formal welcome address by Dr Akhtar Hussain which was followed by the presidential address by Dr Attar Singh Kotwal.

In his presidential address Dr Kotwal welcomed the guest and stressed upon the importance and urgent

need of such lectures. He further lauded the efforts of the expert and the faculty for the successful management of the event.

The main highlight of the day was an extensive lecture by Adv. Kiran Thakur who in her power presentation discussed in detail the concept of domestic violence, its effects; legal, economic and sexual aspects of the topic. She further talked about the need for such awareness programmes and extension lectures.

The day ended with a vote of thanks by Dr Jamsheed Ahmad. The event was attended by all the faculty members and around 150 students.



JU'S PG Dept claims Inter-Collegiate Kabaddi (women) title 2023-24

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 8: PG Department JU outplayed GCW Parade by nine (29-21) points and lifted the trophy of the Inter-Collegiate Kabaddi (Women) Tournament 2023-24 organized by the Directorate of Sports & Physical Education, University of Jammu at University Kabaddi Court, here on Wednesday.

Earlier, in semi-final matches, PG Department JU defeated GDC Bhandarwah by eight (38-30)) points and GCW Parade defeated GDC Reasi by six (30-24)) points.

For the third place match, GDC Reasi beat GDC Bhandarwah.

Other present on the occasion were Dr. Mandeep Singh, Dr. Vimal Kishore, Nadeem Ahmed, Zakir and Suman.

The matches were officiated by Dheeraj Sharma, Amandeep Singh, Keshav Singh, Harpreet Singh and Gagan Kumar.

Inter-collegiate volleyball (men) tournament gets underway

JAMMU, Nov 8: The Inter-Collegiate Volleyball (Men) Tournament, organised by the Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, University of Jammu got underway at University Volleyball Ground, on Wednesday.

Today's results: GDC Gool beat Dogra Degree College by 2-0 (25-18 25-17); GDC Doda beat GDC Samba by 2-0 (25-18, 25-17); GDC Banihal beat IGDC College by 2-0 (25-11, 25-21); GDC Paloura beat GMC Rajouri by 2-0 (25-17, 25-20); GDC Marh beat GDC Khilotrani by 2-0 (25-21, 25-20); GDC Rajouri beat GDC Surankot by 2-0 (25-22, 25-14); GDC Udhampur beat GDC Ramban by 2-1 (25-21, 25-20); GDC Kunjwani beat GDC Pouni by 2-0 (25-21, 25-19); GDC Ramgarh beat GDC Chenani by 2-0 (25-13, 25-10); and GDC Khour beat GDC Bhandarwah by 2-0 (25-14, 25-19).

The matches were officiated by Amit Sharma, Mulkh Raj, Sh. Anil Sapolia, Buneet Singh, Manu Singh Pawar and Vikas Karlopia.

India's self-confidence is growing under PM Modi's clairvoyant leadership: Rohiin Chandan

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 8: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District Secretary and Prabhari Yuva Morcha, Jammu South Rohiin Chandan on Wednesday exuded confidence that brave and courageous Prime Minister Narendra Modi is all set to return to power for a third term with a clear majority in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Rohiin Chandan claimed that the faith of the people particularly in the union territory of J&K and the entire country is with academic, linchpin Prime Minister Narendra Modi and it is the opinion of the general populace and several political Pandits have also acknowledged this fact that he is coming back with a clear majority in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Rohiin highlighted abrogation of Article 370 in mental barriers amongst the poor and reinvigorate their pride and self-respect. Chandan said, the Modi-led government has not only transformed lives but also helped the poor in overcoming poverty and common citizens feel empowered and encouraged today.

Rohiin Chandan indicated that Modi's leading government successfully a long decade has not only transformed lives but also helped the poor in overcoming poverty.

Chandan educated and informed that more than 13 crore people have come out of poverty in the last 5 years alone. He said that 13 crore people have successfully broken the barrier of poverty and become part of the neo-middle class in the country under the umbrella of PM Modi's swift moves. He is fully confident that "People should re-elect the Modi government in 2024.

He counted that numerous Jan Dhan bank accounts became a medium to break the



Jammu & Kashmir has paved the way for progress and peace in J&K.

He underlined that this was only probable in coordination between central government public friendly schemes in direct camaraderie with the state top leadership of BJP in J&K amid the general public.

He commented today, that every "Bharatwasi" is brimming with self-confidence under the admiring supreme priceless, clairvoyant leadership of Modi Sarkaar.

He counted that numerous Jan Dhan bank accounts became a medium to break the

GHS Pranoo celebrates Parents Day

DODA, Nov 8: Parents day 2023 was celebrated at Government High School Pranoo with great enthusiasm and joy.

Chief Education officer, Parshotam Das Gouria was the chief guest, Tanveer Ahmed Wani, Principal Government HSS Trown and Ramesh Babu Zonal Education Officer were Guest of Honour, besides Parents, Teachers of GHS Pranoo, GHSS Trown and GHSS Malothi and a large number of school children attended the celebration.

The school premises were beautifully decorated for the occasion, and a series of cultural programs and activities were organized to entertain and engage the parents. Students presented skits, songs, and dance performances to showcase their talent and express their love and gratitude towards their parents.

The teachers and staff of the school also took this opportunity to interact with the parents and discuss the progress and development of their children. The event provided a platform for open communication and collaboration between the school and the parents, fostering a strong partnership in the education of the students.

World Radiography Day celebrated at Aryans

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 8: To acknowledge the profound impact of radiography on modern medicine, Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, near Chandigarh celebrated World Radiography Day on this year theme "Celebrating Patient Safety." Aryans students of B. Sc. Radiology, Cardiac Care, Anesthesia, Medical Lab Sciences, Nursing etc. participated in face painting & poster presentation activities.

While addressing, Aakriti Chauhan, Co-coordinator, Aryans Institute of Nursing & Shaob, Radiology Department said that this day is dedicated to honoring the field of radiography,

acknowledging the crucial contributions of radiographers, and emphasizing the importance of medical imaging in contemporary healthcare.

This years theme underscores the vital responsibility of healthcare professionals in upholding the efficiency of healthcare systems and safeguarding the health and safety of patients.

It is to be mentioned that World Radiography Day is observed each year on November 8 to commemorate the discovery of x-radiation by Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen in 1895. On the occasion, Aryans Nursing Faculty Bazila, Nazira, Asma, Diksha, Abrar, Muzmail, Shoaib, Amisha etc. were present.

BRO conquers the impossible with road to Amarnath Shrine: Vikramaditya

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 8: Former MLC Vikramaditya Singh on Wednesday lauded the Border Roads Organization (BRO) for accomplishing a feat that many considered impossible, constructing a road to the sacred Amarnath Shrine.

In a statement issued today, Vikramaditya Singh expressed deep concern about the potential environmental damage that could be caused to the fragile ecosystem of the region as a result of increased vehicular traffic ferrying devo-



tees to the holy Cave Shrine. He cautioned that the increased influx of pilgrims could lead to pollution, littering, and other disruptions to the delicate environment.

The former MLC emphasized the need for a comprehensive environmental management plan to mini-

imize the impact of the road construction and increased pilgrimage on the region's ecology. He urged the authorities to prioritize sustainable practices and environmental protection measures to preserve the pristine beauty of the Amarnath pilgrimage route.

"We must ensure that the construction of the road and the increased pilgrimage do not come at the cost of the environment," he said, adding "We must work together to protect the fragile ecosystem of the Amarnath region for future generations."

Zeenat Aman reveals she has ptosis, says her vision is 'clearer' after surgery

Veteran movie star Zeenat Aman said that she underwent a surgery to treat her right eye with ptosis, which she described as "an elephant in the room with me for the past 40 years".

Ptosis is the drooping of the upper eyelid that usually leads to defective vision or makes things look blurry for the patient.

Aman said her younger son Zahaan and his partner, Cara, got her admitted to a hospital in Mumbai for the procedure on May 19, a day after the actor shot for the cover of a leading fashion magazine.

"There has been an elephant in the room with me for the past 40 years. It is time to show this elephant the door. I have a condition known as ptosis-the result of an injury I suffered many decades ago that damaged the muscles around my right eye. Over the years, it caused my eyelid to droop further and further. And a few years ago it became so acute that it began to obstruct my vision," the 71-year-old actor wrote on Instagram.

While she was still on the road to recovery, Aman said her vision has improved a lot.

"Recovery has been slow, steady and is ongoing. But I'm



happy to share that my vision is so much clear now," she added, thanking the medical staff of the hospital.

Aman, star of films such as 'Hare Rama Hare Krishna', 'Don', and 'Satyam Shivam Sun-

daram, said ptosis impacted her career and also made her "the subject of unwanted attention. When so much of one's career is predicated on one's appearance, coming to terms with a dramatic change is difficult. I

know that ptosis narrowed my opportunities and made me the subject of unwanted attention. But despite the gossip, comments, and questions, I never felt diminished by it. It helped with a few stalwarts always who stood by and chose to work with me still," she said.

The actor, who shared a series of pictures from the hospital, said the treatments available to her at that time, and for decades after, were "unsuccessful".

In April, a leading ophthalmologist informed Aman that a surgery "to lift the eyelid and restore" her field of vision was possible due to technological advancement in the field of medicine. She 'dithered' for a long time, then underwent a battery of tests, and finally committed to the hour-long procedure.

"That morning in the hospital I was terrified. My extremities turned icy and involuntarily shivers racked my body. Zahaan kissed my forehead, reassured me, and wheeled me to the operation theatre, where I surrendered to the hands of my medical team. I emerged from there an hour later - alive, well and looking like a pirate with an eye patch," Aman further said.

Romance and comedy missing somewhere in cinema today, says Mrunal Thakur



Mrunal Thakur says South Indian films have given her an opportunity to explore romance and comedy, the two genres she believes are missing in cinema today. The actress' current release is the Hindi family comedy Aankh Micholi. She became a sought-after name in Telugu cinema after her debut with Sita Ramam. After the film, Thakur said

things were more or less the same but now she gets to do films with meatier characters. "I now get a chance to play characters and films that I resonate with... be a part of films I have always wanted to be a part of. Children cinema, fantasy and romance are the genres I wanted to explore."

Thakur, who also has two Telugu films Hi

Nanna and Family Star in the pipeline, said she wanted to entertain the audiences at a time when action spectacles appeared to be the flavour of the year. "I genuinely wanted to be a part of movies which would touch people's hearts. Hi Nanna, Family Star and Aankh Micholi are the films that would allow families to come together, enjoy the movie, and somewhere down the line feel like a part of it," she added.

The 31-year-old actress said bagging a new project is the least of her worries today. "Today, I don't have to prove to anybody that I can perform. Today, my biggest worry is what is going to be my next script. I don't have to worry about whether I will get a film or not," she said.

Her next release is Pippa, a war drama, will stream on Prime Video from November 10.

After backlash, Selena Gomez's beauty brand to donate to Palestinian war victims

Singer-actress Selena Gomez through her beauty brand has pledged to help Palestinian civilians amid the violence taking place in Gaza. On November 6, Selena's beauty brand released a lengthy statement addressing the conflict in the Middle East.

Showing support for Palestinian civilians, the company officials stated, "We are devastated by the reports coming from the Middle East. Thousands of innocent Palestinian civilians have been killed in Israeli airstrikes and millions of civilians have been left without access to basic necessities for survival. A large number of these victims are children. Palestinian civilians must be pro-



TECTED, period." The statement was issued days after Gomez responded to the backlash over her neutral stance. "I'm taking a break and deleting my

Instagram account. I'm done," the 31-year-old wrote on November 2. She then doubled down on her neutral stance amid the ongoing conflict in Middle East.

Richa Chadha's shuts down 'drunk' woman's misogynistic question: 'Are you insecure about your good looking husband, Ali Fazal?'

In her recent Instagram post, Richa Chadha courageously addressed a discourteous question she encountered from a 'drunk' woman at a recent event. The question in question was about Richa's supposed insecurity due to her husband, Ali Fazal, being "good looking". Richa decided to respond to this query with a heartwarming image that spoke volumes.

The Instagram post featured a picture of Ali Fazal gently adjusting the train of Richa's outfit. In her accompanying caption, Richa highlighted the power of their relationship, writing, "I recently got asked by a drunk woman at a party if I am insecure because my husband is good looking... Watch the last picture here to see how he takes care of me."

Her response was a poignant reminder that appearances are not what define a relationship. Richa Chadha didn't stop



there. She used the occasion to shed light on the fact that women can also harbour misogynistic beliefs. She graciously thanked the inquisitive woman for bringing this important issue to her attention, emphasising the need to challenge and address such attitudes. She continued, "And also, drunk woman, thank you for reminding me that women can be misogynistic too!"

On the professional front, Richa Chadha recently starred in the comedy film "Fukrey 3," sharing the screen with Varun Sharma, Pulkit Samrat, Pankaj Tripathi, and Manoj Singh.

Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal's relationship has been in the spotlight since 2015. The couple tied the knot in 2020, celebrating their love with friends and family. They have also worked together in the movies "Fukrey" and "Fukrey Returns," and made extended appearances in the Netflix series "Call My Agent: Bollywood."

Salman Khan- Katrina Kaif's 'Tiger 3' creates new record with 12 action sequences



'Tiger 3' director Maneesh Sharma has created a new record of having the 12 action sequences in the upcoming Salman Khan, Katrina Kaif and Emraan Hashmi-starrer. Maneesh said: "Salman and Katrina are Tiger and Zoya - India's biggest action

duo - but it's not just for actions' sake. This is their story. They've always been in conflict together, their relationship has grown as the stakes have grown. And now the stakes are even greater - so the action has to follow suit!" Maneesh says the action sequences in

'Tiger 3' are at par with big Hollywood action films of our times!

"This film has relentless pace because of the clear and immediate peril our duo face, and it only heightens the action. We have 12 amazing action sequences each of which will keep you on the edge of your seat."

"And on IMAX they look absolutely world class - I want our fans to be so proud of seeing their hero's in sequences that stand up to a global audience," he said.

The director added: "We built this film and its sequences so that when you go to the hall the tempo and tension keep rising all the way to an amazing climax. I can't wait to experience the film in cinemas with Tiger and Zoya's fans!"

'Tiger 3', which will see a special appearance by Shah Rukh Khan and Hrithik Roshan, is set to release on November 12 in Hindi, Tamil & Telugu.

Good times for Tahir



Tahir Raj Bhasin has taken the streaming world by storm with a string of hits that have left audiences and critics in awe. Known for his versatile acting, his recent show, Sultan of Delhi, on Disney+Hotstar, has undoubtedly impressed audiences across the globe. Tahir shared, "When I joined the industry, I was told that maybe I won't survive because I didn't know anyone. I'm glad I didn't listen to any one of them because today, I'm extremely happy, exploring my creativity, my craft and free to express myself. I didn't want to have a Plan B ever. To have disproved the naysayers and be self-made today is very empowering. For me, acting was the only plan that I had and I'm glad that it all panned out well for me. I'm just starting and raring to go."

"Each day, you have to strive for personal growth and be better than you were the day before. That's the only way to survive and that's the only way I know how to chase down my goals," he added.

Mouni Roy reveals key to a strong relationship

Actress Mouni Roy shared some important tips to strengthen relationships on the show Temptation Island, which streams on Jio-Cinema. The actress said not talking too much about your former partner and not overthinking is the mantra for a perfect relationship. Here's what Mouni, the 'Queen of Hearts' from Temptation Island, shared.

Take interest in your partner's interests: Building a common ground is crucial for a thriving connection. Mouni emphasises the importance of sharing interests to engage in activities together and deepen the bond.

Don't talk about your ex too much: Avoid delving into the past excessively. Mouni advises against talking too much about ex-partners, as it can potentially bother the current partner and hinder the growth of a relationship.

Don't overthink: Over-analysing every aspect of a relationship can lead to unnecessary complications. Mouni encourages going with



the flow, allowing connections to develop organically.

Don't Forget to Have Fun: Embrace the little joys in relationships.

Having fun together strengthens the bond. A touch of playfulness can be a powerful ingredient for a lasting and fulfilling connection.

Will Take India Among Top 3 Economies Of World In My 3rd Tenure: PM Modi

PM Modi said that after 2014, the country's economy climbed to 5th position from 10th, leaving behind the UK, which ruled the country for over 200 years.

DAMOHI, Nov 8 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said in his third tenure as PM, he will take the country among the top three economies in the world.

Addressing a public meeting in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh town ahead of the November 17 state assembly polls, PM Modi also said he will continue to fight against corruption.

People gave power to the Congress in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, but their chief ministers were found involved in "satta" (betting) and generating black money, he said.

PM Modi said that after 2014, the country's economy climbed to 5th position from 10th, leaving behind the UK, which ruled the country for over 200 years.

"In 2014, when we came to power, the country's economy



was at the 10th position. Gradually it moved to 9th, 8th, 7th and 6th but nobody was talking about it. When it reached the 5th position and left behind the UK, which ruled the nation for 200 years, everybody was surprised and started looking at India," he said.

PM Modi said during his third tenure as PM, he will take the country's economy among the top three in the world.

The Lok Sabha elections are due next year.

The PM said if the Congress comes back to power, the "85 per cent commission system"

will work in the states as once stated by a prime minister of that party.

Notably, former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi had said only 15 paise of every Re 1 released by the Centre reached the targeted beneficiary, Modi also said that Congress leaders are saying they will complain to the Election Commission about his promise to extend for five years the free ration scheme for the poor people.

"Let them do this sin, I will continue to do good work for the people," he said.

The prime minister also said he will continue to fight against corruption and asked people whether he should do so or not, to which they replied in the affirmative.

Sex racket run by 17-year old girl busted in Navi Mumbai; 4 women rescued

The four women sent to rehabilitation home



THANE, Nov 8 (Agencies): Police have busted a flesh trade racket allegedly run by a 17-year-old girl at a hotel in Navi Mumbai and rescued four women who were forced into prostitution, an official said on Wednesday.

Acting on a tip-off, the police's anti-human trafficking cell team raided the hotel located in

Vashi area on Tuesday after sending a decoy customer there, the official from APMC police station said.

The accused girl, from Malad in neighbouring Mumbai, would give some part of the money received from prostitution to the victims and keep the rest for herself, he said quoting the FIR.

After the raid at the

hotel, the police rescued four women, all aged around 20 and including one from Nepal and two from Bihar. They have been sent to a rehabilitation home.

The police also seized a mobile phone, a watch and cash collectively worth Rs 84,030, besides bogus currency notes with a face value of more than Rs 1.5 lakh, the official said.

A case has been registered against the accused under Indian Penal Code section 370 (buying or disposing of any person as slave) and provisions of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act-1956, the police added.

Noida Police grill Youtuber Elvish Yadav in snake venom case

NOIDA, Nov 8 (Agencies): Youtuber Elvish Yadav was questioned by the Noida Police early Wednesday over suspected use of snake venom at a party, officials said today.

Yadav, winner of reality show 'Bigg Boss OTT', was among those named in the FIR lodged here last week under provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

"Yadav has joined the investigation. He came to the police station around 11.30 pm on Tuesday. He was



then questioned for around two hours and let off. He will be called again," a senior officer of the Noida Police told agency, requesting anonymity.

The police have already applied for remand of the five people who were arrested in the case.

The five people were arrested from a banquet hall in Sector 51 on November 3 and nine snakes, including five cobras, rescued from their possession while 20 ml of suspected snake venom also seized from their possession.

However, police said Yadav was not present at the party hall and they were probing his role in the whole case of snake venom use as recreational drug, which was unearthed by animals' rights group PFA (People for Animals).

Air quality in Delhi severe again; farm fires major contributor

NEW DELHI, Nov 8 (Agencies): Air quality in Delhi and its suburbs dropped to the severe category again on Wednesday morning, with smoke from post-harvest paddy straw burning in neighbouring states accounting for one-third of the air pollution in the national capital.

The city's Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 421, worsening from 395 at 4 pm on Tuesday.

Despite a marginal dip, the concentration

of PM2.5, fine particulate matter capable of penetrating deep into the respiratory system and triggering health problems, exceeded the government-prescribed safe limit of 60 micrograms per cubic metre by seven to eight times in the capital.

It was 30 to 40 times the healthy limit of 15 micrograms per cubic metre set by the World Health Organisation.

Several cities across the Indo-Gangetic plains reported hazardous air

quality. Neighbouring Ghaziabad (382), Gurugram (370), Noida (348), Greater Noida (474), and Faridabad (396) also reported hazardous air quality.

According to data from the Decision Support System, a numerical model-based framework capable of identifying sources of particulate matter pollution in Delhi, stubble-burning in neighbouring states, especially Punjab and Haryana, accounted for 37 per cent of the air pol-

lution in Delhi on Tuesday. It is likely to be 33 per cent on Wednesday.

The Delhi government on Monday announced the return of its flagship odd-even scheme after four years anticipating further deterioration of air quality post-Diwali.

The odd-even scheme, under which cars are allowed to operate on alternate days based on their odd or even number plates, will be implemented between November 13 and

November 20.

To protect the health of schoolchildren, the government also decided to suspend in-person classes in all schools, except for students in grades X and XII preparing for board exams, until November 10.

According to the Ministry of Earth Sciences' Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi-NCR, the region is likely to experience severe air quality for another five to six days.

Nitish Kumar apologises for comment on women as opposition forces adjournment of Assembly

PATNA, Nov 8 (Agencies): Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Wednesday offered his apologies both inside and outside Bihar assembly for comments made a day before on the importance of women's education to control population growth which saw the opposition raising a storm of protest and forcing an adjournment of the house.

The Bihar Assembly on Wednesday was adjourned till 2 pm, soon after the proceedings started, as the opposition BJP kept demanding Kumar's resignation.

The chief minister, who was present in the House, rose to offer his explanation and said, "I have expressed my

regret while talking to journalists outside the House. I am ready to do so again. If my words have caused any hurt, I condemn myself (main apni ninda karta hoon)."

The septuagenarian leader said, "The context in which I had made the remarks must not be lost sight of. I have always been a strong votary of women's education and it was a eureka moment for me when I saw a direct correlation between education levels among women and fertility rate."

As soon as the House had assembled at 11 am, Leader of the Opposition Vijay Kumar Sinha rose in his seat alleging that Kumar had become a "mental" case, was



unfit to govern the state and should resign.

The opposition members who remained unmoved by Kumar's apology, stormed the well, raising slogans against the chief minister and demanding his resignation.

On Tuesday, Kumar had put forward a vivid description in the assembly of how an educated woman can restrain her

husband during sexual intercourse.

"The husband's acts lead to more births. However, with education, a woman knows how to restrain him... this is the reason the numbers (of births) are coming down," he had said in a rustic style.

Kumar had pointed out that with education the fertility rate which was "earlier 4.3, has now

come down to 2.9".

The opposition BJP charged Kumar with "bringing shame" to the state's women by speaking of the procreation process in detail.

The Speaker told the unruly opposition members "you have no right to demand the resignation of the chief minister who enjoys the confidence of the people. He has expressed regret for his utterances. Besides, we will look into the records and if anything in his speech was found unparliamentary, it would be expunged from the proceedings".

However, as the ruckus continued, the Speaker adjourned the House till lunch.

ED summons Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee to appear before it on November 9

KOLKATA, Nov 8 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee to appear before it here on November 9 in connection with the alleged school jobs scam, a TMC leader said on Wednesday.

Banerjee will appear before the ED on Thursday, West Bengal Women and Child Welfare Minister and TMC spokesperson Shashi Panja said, alleging that the party national general secretary is a victim of "vendetta politics".

She also alleged that the BJP does such vendetta politics to "harass" leaders ahead of crucial



election early next year. State BJP spokesperson Shamik Lahiri said the party does not believe in vendetta politics. He stated that summoning by central agencies is happening under the supervision of the court, and if the TMC has any problem, it can approach the court.

The ED had earlier summoned Banerjee to appear before it on October 9, after he skipped the October 3 summons to participate

in a TMC protest rally in New Delhi, demanding immediate release of central funds due to the state.

Banerjee, who was questioned by the ED for nearly nine hours in the teacher recruitment scam on September 13, had then claimed that the interrogation was an attempt to prevent him from participating in the 'INDIA' meet, and was a testament to the pivotal role the TMC plays in forging opposition unity.

The two-time TMC MP had also been questioned by the ED twice in the coal pilferage case, once in the agency's office in the National Capital in 2021 and again in Kolkata in 2022.

Three teachers on polling duty killed in SUV-truck collision in Chhattisgarh's Kondagaon



KONDAGAON, Nov 8 (Agencies): Three school teachers on polling duty lost their lives when an SUV they were travelling in collided with a truck in Chhattisgarh's Kondagaon district on Wednesday, the police said.

The incident took place in the early hours near Bahigaon village

under Keshkal police station limits when the polling officials were returning after submitting Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) at Kondagaon district headquarters, he said.

Polling in the Kondagaon district was held in the first phase of the Chhattisgarh assembly elections on Tuesday in

which votes were cast in 20 of the state's 90 constituencies.

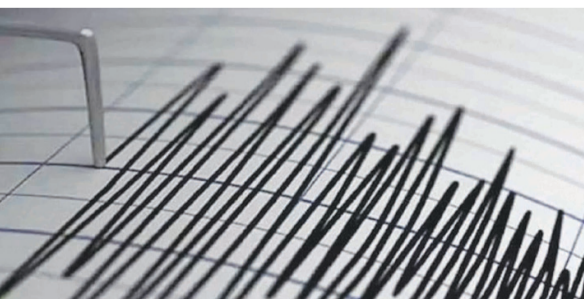
A sports utility vehicle (SUV) carrying the officials collided with a truck, killing two of them on the spot. The other official succumbed to injuries during treatment in a hospital, he said.

The school teachers were identified as Shiv Netam, Santram Netam and Harendra Uikey, he said.

A case has been registered in this connection and further investigation is underway, he added.

The second phase of Chhattisgarh elections will be held on November 17.

Magnitude 3.6 earthquake strikes West Bengal



ALIPURDUAR, Nov 8 (Agencies): An earthquake of magnitude 3.6 hit West Bengal on Wednesday morning, the National Center for Seismology informed.

The tremors were felt around 10 a.m. in West Bengal's Alipurduar district.

The depth of the earthquake, which struck at 21:53:28 IST, was deemed to be 14 km, according to the NCS. "Earthquake of Magnitude:3.6, Occurred on 08-11-2023, 10:51:58 IST, Lat: 26.58 & Long: 89.36, Depth: 14 Km, Location: Alipurduar, West Bengal," the NCS posted from its official handle on X.

No casualties were reported in the incident.

An earthquake of magnitude 3.2 also hit Punjab's Rupnagar on the intervening nights of Tuesday and Wednesday.

Tamil Nadu BJP chief announces plan to remove Periyar statues outside temples

SRIRANGAM, Nov 8 (Agencies): Tamil Nadu BJP Chief, K Annamalai has announced that if the BJP comes to power in the state, statues of Periyar placed outside temples will be removed. Annamalai's statement came during a rally in Srirangam.

Annamalai cited an incident from 1967 when the DMK party, after assuming power, installed plaques outside temples, which conveyed messages such as, "those who follow gods are fools, those who believe in god have been tricked. Therefore, don't worship God." These boards were raised outside several temples across Tamil Nadu, he said.

Announcing the BJP's commitment, Annamalai said, "Today, from the land of Srirangam, BJP promises you that when we come to power, our first job will be to uproot such flagpoles. Instead, we will erect statues of our Alvars and Nayanars. Tamil saint Thiruvalluvar's statue will also be placed. Statues of our freedom fighters will be honoured."



In addition, Annamalai pledged the abolition of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) ministry if the BJP takes power. He asserted, "When we come to power, there won't be an HR&CE ministry. The last day of HR&CE will be the first day of the BJP government."

Periyar statues often feature quotes attributed to him and are commonly found outside temples, including one located near the Srirangam temple.

Blinken, senior diplomats seek G7 unity on Israel-Hamas war and other global crises

At least four of the G7 members made statements in favour of strong common stance

TOKYO, Nov 8 (Agencies): The Group of 7 leading industrial democracies worked to forge a unified stance on the Israel-Hamas war at intensive meetings in Tokyo on Wednesday, with United States (US) secretary of state Antony Blinken and other senior diplomats looking to contain a worsening humanitarian crisis and stop a spillover of fighting into the wider Middle East.

The second and final day of the G7 Foreign Minister talks intersects with a flurry of global crises. While the devastating month-long conflict in Gaza and the humanitarian suffering that has followed Israel's response to the deadly October 7 Hamas attack lead the agenda, the envoys are also dealing with Russia's war in Ukraine, North Korea's nuclear and missile programs, and China's growing aggression in territorial disputes with its neighbours.

Blinken, who arrived in Tokyo after a whirlwind tour of the Middle East, said it's crucial to find a unified stance on the war, similar to what diplomats have done over Ukraine and other issues. The ministers are also trying to keep existing differences on Gaza from deepening. "This is a very important moment as well for the G7 to come together in the face of this



crisis and to speak, as we do, with one clear voice," Blinken told Japanese foreign minister Yoko Kamikawa, shortly after talks on Tuesday with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

In Tokyo, Blinken and foreign ministers from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, and Italy would be seeking common ground in part to prevent the Gaza war from further destabilising already shaking security in the broader Middle East and maintaining existing positions on other matters.

An early consensus on Gaza appeared to be building as at least four of the G7 members made statements in favour of strong common stance. And US

officials said they were expecting the group to release a communique featuring a common position after the meetings end on Wednesday.

Kishida said "the unity of G7 is needed more than ever with the situation in Israel and Palestine, the situation in Ukraine, and the challenges in the Indo-Pacific region," his office said in a statement, adding that the prime minister "highly appreciates the leadership and diplomatic efforts by the Biden administration concerning this issue."

"You have our utmost support," Kamikawa told Blinken. German foreign minister Annalena Baerbock said that "as G7 countries, we are making

clear that Israel has the right and the duty to protect its population and its people in the framework of international law." She said that she has been discussing with many partners "how we can finally get humanitarian cease-fires off the ground, in terms of time and also geographically."

Britain's Foreign Secretary James Cleverly told a select group of journalists, including The Associated Press, that his government only supports a geographically specific "humanitarian pause" and not a wider cease-fire.

"Firstly, we have seen and heard nothing that makes us believe that Hamas leadership is serious about the cease-fire," he said, adding that a cease-fire would hamper Israel's ability to defend itself.

Blinken's efforts include pushing to significantly expand the amount of humanitarian aid being sent to Gaza, getting Israel to agree to 'pauses' in its military operation to allow that assistance to get in and more civilians to get out, beginning planning for a post-conflict governance and security structure in the territory and preventing the war from spreading.

Blinken described all of these as "a work in progress" and acknowledged deep divisions over the pause concept.

North Korea threatens to respond to anti-Pyongyang propaganda leaflets with a 'shower of shells'



SEOUL, Nov 8 (Agencies): North Korea on Wednesday criticised rival South Korea for removing a law that banned private activists from sending anti-Pyongyang propaganda leaflets to the North, insisting that such activities amount to psychological warfare and threatening to respond with a "shower of shells".

The statement published by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency was the first time state media commented on the decision by South Korea's Constitutional Court in September to invalidate a 2020 law that criminalised leafletting. The decision was based on concerns that it excessively restricted free speech.

The ruling came in response to a complaint filed by North Korean defector-activists in the South. They included Park Sang-hak, who has been a frequent target of North Korean government anger for his years-long campaign of flying leaflets across the border with giant balloons.

North Korea is extremely sensitive about any outside attempt to undermine leadership of authoritarian ruler

Kim Jong Un as he maintains tight control over the country's 26 million people while severely restricting their access to foreign news.

The law, crafted by the previous liberal government in Seoul that pursued inter-Korean engagement, was passed six months after the North expressed its frustration over the leaflets by blowing up an inter-Korean liaison office in the North Korean border town of Kaesong in June 2020.

Tensions between the Koreans are at their highest point years as the pace of both Kim's weapons tests and the South Korea's combined military exercises with the United States have intensified in a tit-for-tat cycle.

In comments attributed to a political commentator, the KCNA warned that the North in the current state of tensions would consider leafletting as a "high-level psychological warfare" and even a "preemptive attack conducted before a start of war".

"Under the present situation where a spark may lead to explosion, there is no guarantee that such military conflicts as in Europe and the Middle East would not break out on the Korean Peninsula," the KCNA said, apparently referring to Russia's war on Ukraine and the violence in Israel and Gaza.

The agency claimed that future leafletting campaigns could trigger an unprecedented response from North Korea's military, which stands ready to "pour a shower of shells" towards the sites where the leaflets are launched as well as the "bulwark of the region of (south) Korean puppets".

Will host Arab and Islamic summits to discuss Gaza conflict: Saudi Arabia

SINGAPORE, Nov 8 (Agencies): Saudi Arabia will host summits of Arab and Islamic nations in coming days to discuss the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Saudi Arabia's investment minister said on Wednesday.

"We will see, this week, in the next few days Saudi Arabia convening an emergency Arab summit in Riyadh," said Saudi investment minister Khalid Al-Falih, at the Bloomberg New Economy Forum in Singapore.

"In a few days you will see Saudi Arabia convening an Islamic



summit," he said. "In the short term, the objective of bringing these three summits and other gatherings under the leadership of Saudi Arabia would be to drive

towards peaceful resolution of the conflict."

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi will travel to Saudi Arabia on Sunday for the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

summit, Etemadonline news reported, the first visit by an Iranian head of state since Tehran and Riyadh ended years of hostility under a China-brokered deal in March.

Falih also said Saudi Arabia would convene a summit with African nations, without specifying a date. Late on Tuesday Saudi Arabia's foreign affairs ministry had issued a statement saying that meeting, which had been set for the weekend, would be postponed in order to focus on the other two summits.

Americans divided over Israel response to Hamas attacks, AP-NORC poll shows

4,000 children have died in Gaza, according to their Health Ministry



WASHINGTON, Nov 8 (Agencies): Americans have become more likely to describe Israel as an ally that shares United States (US) interests and values since the war with Hamas began, but they're divided over whether Israel has gone too far in its response to last month's attack, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

The survey, which was conducted from November 2 to 6, also reveals scepticism among Democrats towards Israel, which could present a challenge for President Joe Biden as he tries to balance support for the country's defense and his party's shifting priorities.

The result was a rather muddled picture that presents few easy options for the White House as it keeps one eye on public opinion with an election year on the horizon.

"It's just so complicated," said Carolyn Reyes, a 36-year-old Democrat in New York. "And I will not even pretend to understand the complicated nature of the relationship between the US and Israel."

During an August poll, only 32 per cent of Americans described Israel as an ally that shares US interests and values. But that figure increased to 44 per cent in the latest survey, which was conducted after the October 7 attacks by Hamas that killed 1,400 Israelis.

However, only 36 per cent said it's extremely important to provide aid to Israel's military to fight Hamas. And 40 per cent of Americans said Israel's military response in the Gaza Strip has gone too far. The Health Ministry in the Gaza Strip, which is run by Hamas, said 10,000 Palestinians have died from weeks of Israeli bombardment and a recent ground invasion.

Reyes recalled hearing about the death toll on the news and thinking "it seems so high, I thought that

can't be right."

4,000 children have died in Gaza, according to their Health Ministry. Reyes said, "that's the line that's too far."

It's a sentiment common among Democrats, 58 per cent of whom view Israel's counterattack as excessive.

Overall, 38 per cent of Americans said Israel's response has been about right, and just 18 per cent said it has not gone far enough.

Complicating the situation is Americans' interest in balancing several foreign policy goals simultaneously. About 6 in 10 believe it's extremely important or very important for the US to help recover hostages held by Hamas in Gaza, while roughly half said the same thing about preventing harm to Palestinian civilians or providing humanitarian relief in the territory.

Nearly two-thirds of Americans (63 per cent) disapprove of how Biden was handling the conflict between Israel and Hamas, while only one-third approve of it. That's in line with his overall job approval: 60 per cent of US adults disapprove of the way Biden is handling his job as president, while 38 per cent approve of it.

Robert Byrd, a 50-year-old Democrat in Virginia, said he's glad to see Biden supporting Israel.

Back in World War II, when the Holocaust occurred, "the US waited too long to help the Jewish community," he said. "I think we've learned from our mistakes of our past. It's wonderful that we have a president that's willing to step up and do the right thing."

Byrd said he'll remain satisfied with Biden's handling of the situation "as long as we don't have boots on the ground over there," and he's comfortable with Israel's response to Hamas' attack.

"Israel is trying to keep its independence," he said. "They're doing what they should probably do to keep their independence."

Such sentiments are less common among younger voters like Sean O'Hara, an 18-year-old in California. He said he's registered to vote but not with a political party.

"Funding a war like this isn't really in line with my beliefs," he said. "I think staying out of it is the better option." O'Hara was concerned about supporting Israel because "they're colonising all of Palestine and they have been for many years."

Although there was initially sympathy among people for Israel after the Hamas attacks, O'Hara said, that shifted once "people were like, there's a history here." Israel gained control of the Palestinian territories of West Bank and Gaza during the Six Days War in 1967.

The West Bank remains under military occupation. Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005 but instituted a blockade when Hamas took control, and there has been sporadic fighting for years.

Americans pin blame for the current conflict on Hamas, which the US government considers to be a terrorist organisation. About two-thirds of Americans (66 per cent) said Hamas has a lot of responsibility for the war, while 35 per cent said the same about Israel.

Aaron Philipson, 64-year-old Republican in Florida, said he's disappointed by Biden's approach to the war.

"He's not taking a proper stand," he said. He seems to be trying to dictate policy to Netanyahu, and Netanyahu doesn't seem to be having any of it," he said, referring to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"I've never seen the anti-Israeli sentiment so high," Philipson said. "It's awful what's going on right now." About half of Americans (52 per cent) say they are extremely or very concerned that the recent war between Israel and Hamas would increase prejudice against Jewish people in the US. About 4 in 10 share the same concern about prejudice against Muslim people (43 per cent).

Majorities of Democrats are similarly concerned about prejudice against Jews (57 per cent) and Muslims (58 per cent). A slight majority of Republicans are worried about prejudice against Jews (54 per cent) with fewer being concerned about Muslims (28 per cent).

China warns against maritime 'camp' confrontations but stops short of naming US

BEIJING, Nov 8 (Agencies): China's Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, said maritime disputes should be resolved through talks and warned against "camp" confrontations, but stopped short of naming the United States, days before an expected meeting between the countries' leaders.

The Philippines, Japan and the United States have complained about what they say is growing Chinese aggression in the South China Sea. Beijing says most of the region is part of its territory, a claim that is hotly disputed by several littoral nations.

Last month, China and the Philippines traded barbs over a collision in the South China Sea as Chinese vessels blocked the passage of Philippine ships. Beijing said the vessels were "trespassing" on Chinese territory when trying to send supplies to Philippine troops stationed on a disputed shoal, which lies in the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

The tense encounters between China and the

Philippines at the contested shoal have led Japan to call for trilateral cooperation with the United States on helping Manila bolster its security capabilities.

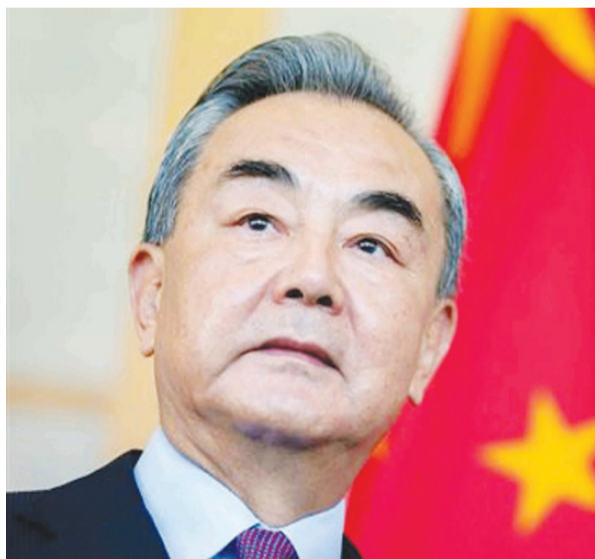
"Historical maritime disputes should be resolved through friendly consultation between direct parties, and maritime camp confrontations and zero-sum games should be resisted," Wang said at a symposium on maritime governance in Hainan on Tuesday, without identifying any nation.

Crisis communication mechanisms should also be improved, Wang said, without referring to the incidents.

China has long criticised what it labels as "cliques" among nations, especially countries that have no direct claims in disputes. Beijing has been especially critical of the U.S.

Indo-Pacific strategy, which identifies China as an aggressor in the region, including the South China Sea, undermining international maritime law including freedom of navigation.

Last year, at the same



symposium, Wang said a "certain major country" created the Indo-Pacific strategy, put together exclusive "small circles", and doubled down on "provocative" close-range manoeuvres and muscle-flexing.

But in his remarks on Tuesday, Wang took a more dovish tone and avoided overt references to the United States, amid broader bilateral efforts to ease tensions and days ahead of an expected meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Joe Biden on the sidelines of an

upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

China will continue to fulfil its obligations under international maritime laws, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Wang said, again without referring to Washington.

A year earlier, he had criticised the "certain major country" for refusing to join UNCLOS, of which more than 160 countries are parties. The United States, while accepting the UNCLOS, has yet to ratify it.

IGGDC Jammu organizes dental checkup camp at Bheaderwah Campus

Top News Report

BHADERWAH, Nov 8: In an outreach move to combat the rising prevalence of oral diseases amongst the people in Jammu and Kashmir, a Dental Check-Up Camp was organized by Indira Gandhi Government Dental College (IGGDC), Jammu in collaboration with Business School, Bheaderwah Campus under the guidance of Dr Rakesh K. Gupta, Principal and dean IGGDC Jammu at Bheaderwah Campus Jammu University on an association with, Prof Rahul Gupta Registrar Jammu University and rector, Bheaderwah Campus), Dr Sunil Bharadwaj (HOD, Business School) Dr Umesh Choudhary (Senior Assistant Professor) and Mujeeb Sheikh



(Assistant Registrar).

To improve the oral hygiene in remote and far flung areas, this dental check up camp was conducted.

The dental team led by Dr

Rakesh K. Gupta, Principal and dean Indira Gandhi Government Dental College Jammu. He stressed upon prevention of oral and dental diseases with use of effective oral hygiene

practices and avoidance of sticky and carbohydrates diet taking raw fruits and vegetables as well as balanced diet. Dr Iqbal Singh (HOD, Public Health Dentistry), Dr Ritesh Gupta (Registrar JK Dental Council) and Dr Manisha Koul (Demonstrator, PHD) along with interns conducted thorough examinations, identifying potential oral health issues and providing guidance on proper oral hygiene practices. Through interactive sessions, students were made aware of the oral hygiene measures and prevention of oral diseases. IGGDC Jammu intends to organize more such outreach camps in the future to help the community to enjoy good oral health.

DDC Nutnussa inaugurates PMGSY road in Bomdagar Magam

Top News Report

HANDWARA, Nov 8: The PMGSY road opening ceremony were held at Bomdagar Magam Handwara area of District Kupwara with a cost of 5 Crore. The Road was inaugurated by DDC Nutnussa Advocate Zahoor Ah Magray along AEE Pmgys Syed Yawer. On this occasion Sarpanch and employees of PMGSY, concerned AE,

JE where also present.

Meanwhile residents of Bomdagar, Wogbal are highly thankful to PMGSY Division Handwara especially Exn, AEE, JE and Employees of Construction Agency Bhat infrastructure headed by MD Gh Mohd Bhat. The locals of the area lauded the initiative saying that it solves many of their problems, one of them being accidents on the road due to potholes other it was difficult to walk during winters.

Science Model Exhibition organised at GHSS Jaganoo

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Nov 8: J&K Science, Technology and Innovation Council, Department of Science and Technology Udhampur in collaboration with Govt. Higher Secondary School Jaganoo, Udhampur organised one day Science Model Exhibition under the theme "Green Innovation and Sustainable Future". The program was inaugurated by Geetu Bangotra, Chief Education Officer Udhampur who graced the occasion as Chief Guest whereas Darshan Kumar Assistant Director Planning was the Guest of Honour. Students from different schools of complex HSS Jaganoo came up with their models escorted by their guide teachers. They beautifully explained the concepts of their models to the Chief Guest and other guests apart from

judges throwing light on the importance of Green Energy for sustainable future. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest stressed on the importance of sustainability in coming time and how science exhibition helps in igniting the minds of young children for creative works. She along with guest of honour and Principal HSS Jaganoo visited the different stalls of Science Exhibition and interacted with the students. She also lauded the efforts by the Principal and staff of HSS Jaganoo for their hard work and dedications in the interest of school and students. Earlier, Sush Rani, Principal Govt. HSS Jaganoo welcomed the Chief Guest and other guests, participants from different institutions. In her welcome address, she thanked Chief Education Officer for her immense presence on the occa-



sion and also gave brief account of the school functioning for all round development of the students. She also thanked Shrutika Khanna District Coordinator Department of Science & Technology for initiating the efforts of the department for organizing such events. Kuldeep Gupta Lecturer Zoology,

HSS Jaganoo coordinated the whole programme under the supervision of Principal, Sush Rani in coordination with Shrutika Khanna, District Coordinator, Department of Science and Technology who brought the program to be executed. Kuldeep Gupta threw light on brief introduction of the program and

spoke how Science exhibitions ultimately helps in realising the skills of critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication as per NEP 2020 and making teaching learning joyful and effective, by actually relating the class room teaching to real life situation. The Judgement team comprised of Renu Kotwal, Sr lecturer Physics, Boys HSS Udhampur, Rashpal Singh, Sr. Lecturer Zoology, HSS Garh Dhammaand Atul Kashyap Sr. Lecturer Botany, HS S Swena. The winners in the exhibition were given cash prizes as token of appreciation as first, second and third category and consolation prizes to the participating schools. Final vote of thanks was presented by Samsheer Singh, Sr Lecturer Physics and Vice Principal HSS Jaganoo, who in his speech thanked all the guests and participants.

NOTICE

I, Rajeev Sudan, S/o Late Sh S K Sudan, R/o Pounichak Jammu have purchased a vehicle (WAGON R LXI DUO BS III) bearing Registration number JK02AH-2200, Chassis No MA3EED81S00651418 from Vinod Sethi, S/o Vijay Sethi, R/o Q No 26, Gurha Bakshi Nagar, Jammu. I am allaying for the transfer of the same. Objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within 7 days of the publication of this notice.

FROM PAGE 1

LG Manoj Sinha presents Certificate Of Excellence Award to Para Archers, coach

outstanding performance at the 4th Asian Para Games have inspired the youth and the entire Union Territory is proud of them for bringing glory to the nation. "The strong winner's instinct of Sheetal and Rakesh will popularize robust sports culture in J&K," Sinha said. The Lt Governor appreciated the efforts of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, coaches, and support staff of the academy for their contribution in promotion of sports in the Union Territory. Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor, Mandep Kumar Bhandari, and Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Anshul Garg were also present on the occasion, the spokesman said.

Hermes 900 Starliner Drones set to be inducted into Indian Army

capable of operating in the Combined Combat Teams concept and performing varied tasks across the varied terrain of our country, they said. The Indian Army recently inducted the Heron Mark 2 drones which can be equipped with strike capabilities in the northern sector, and have the older version of these unmanned aircraft at various locations across the country. The sources further informed that the role of women officers has been steadily increasing in Army Aviation. "Women officers were first inducted into the Air Traffic Control stream of Army Aviation in May 2009, followed by the posting of Women Officers of the EME as Engineering Officers in Army Aviation Units," they said. The onerous task of ensuring the maintenance, servicing and logistics aspects of Army Aviation are being performed at par with their gentlemen comrades in this stream as well. Having smoothly inducted the women officers into the ATC and the Engineering Officer streams, it was a natural progression to induct Women Officers as Army Aviators. Presently, two women officers are already serving as pilots in Army Aviation and three are undergoing training.

Human Trafficking: 10 States raided, one held

in Jammu 7.2-magnitude quake jolts Indonesia, no tsunami alert issued

accused is on the run, reports suggest. Intensity) scale in Saumlaki town and the Banda Sea, and weaker in other parts of the province, the BMKG added. The meteorology agency did not issue a tsunami warning as the tremor did not have the potential to trigger giant waves. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damages.

'Notorious female drug peddler arrested with contraband in Baramulla'

with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law", the statement reads further.

Temblors in Himalayas: Alarm bells ringing in J&K as threat of earthquakes looms large

continent-to-continent collision. This process is called continent-to-continent collision. The problem is compounded by hazardous constructions and increased human activities in fragile zones in the Himalayas. Kashmir lies between the Great Himalayan Range to the northeast and the Pir Panjal Range to the southwest. This year J&K was rattled by many earthquakes and frequent temblors have set alarm bells ringing with experts calling for increasing preparedness levels to minimise loss of lives in case of high magnitude temblors. J&K falls under the high seismic Zones IV and V, making it vulnerable to earthquakes. A powerful 7.6 magnitude earthquake rattled J&K on October 8, 2005, claiming 1350 lives and causing massive destruction to structures. "We must learn lessons from earthquakes and increase our preparedness level for better disaster management. J&K is always at risk of earthquakes as it falls in high seismic zones. We cannot prevent earthquakes but just prevent loss of lives or minimise damage," noted geologist Prof G M Bhat told Greater Kashmir. Prof Bhat, who has carried out extensive studies on earthquakes in J&K, called for

organising massive awareness campaigns about earthquakes. "There is a need to educate people about earthquakes. We have to understand that earthquakes are unlike rain, snowfall, or windstorms and can't be predicted. There is no warning or timeframe for earthquakes but these can strike anytime and we need to be mentally prepared for it," he said. "We must go for traditional types of constructions which can sustain earthquakes rather than going for concrete constructions which are unsafe in high seismic zones like J&K." Experts are worried about the increasing tectonic activity in quake-vulnerable areas like the Pir Panjal and the Zaskar range of mountains. On April 30 this year, an earthquake of magnitude 4.1 struck J&K. On May 8, a 3.1-magnitude earthquake jolted Kashmir with its epicentre in Baramulla district. On June 13, an earthquake of 5.4 magnitude struck Chenab Valley, leaving three persons injured and causing extensive damage to over 23 schools and dozens of residential houses. On June 18, back-to-back tremors and aftershocks jolted the Doda district. Subsequently, an earthquake of 4.4 magnitude with epicentre in Bheaderwah town jolted the area. Within six hours another tremor measuring 4.1 was felt, sending the residents into panic. There were nine aftershocks in six days in Chenab Valley. Experts said that minor earthquakes need to be taken seriously as these are indicators of a looming major earthquake. Prominent geoscientist Abdul Majeed Butt called for enhancing disaster management techniques. "We should never forget the horrible memories of October 8, 2005, which caused devastation, especially in Uri. The cause was attributed to non-reinforced concrete buildings and recurring landslides. Since then we have been regularly witnessing earthquakes in J&K, Afghanistan, Nepal, and other neighbouring places," Butt told Greater Kashmir. Over 13,000 people died in a 7.7 magnitude earthquake in 2001 in Gujarat. A powerful earthquake of 7.8 magnitude rocked Turkey and Syria on February 6 this year, leaving around 11,000 dead while hundreds of buildings were toppled like a pack of cards. "You cannot stop earthquakes but manage and improve disaster management techniques to minimise damages," Butt said. Butt, who has worked on various mining projects in Doda, said that the stability of the region geologically was highly fragile and needed consolidation. Elaborating, he said, that plates had added up huge underground pressure which needs to vent and causes tremors. Butt said local factors were responsible

for earthquakes and other disasters. "Induced mechanical means disturb the core strength of the earth, causing such jerks with minor changes," he said. Earlier this year, big cracks appeared in several houses in the mountainous Nai Basti area of Thathri in the Doda district of Chenab Valley, creating panic among the residents. The situation was similar to Joshimath, a hilly town in the north Indian state of Uttarakhand a few months ago where over 1000 houses cracked, crumbled, and caved in, rendering families homeless. Doda has emerged as one of the most eco-fragile areas in J&K due to its unique geo-climatic conditions. It is prone to earthquakes and witnesses frequent low-intensity quakes. Butt said that the situation was aggravating from the Mohimangat-Shopian axis across Pir Panjal and Sumcham Padder, and Padam Zaskar besides the main axis of Doda-Kulgam periphery. Uri, Bijhoma and Aharbal are on earthquake fault lines. "Earthquakes are literally beneath us," Butt said. An important study by a prominent US-based seismologist Roger Bilham has warned that Kashmir is likely to be hit by an earthquake of the largest ever magnitude 9, but did not specify any timeframe. Bilham, who carried out extensive studies in J&K has cautioned that the major quake with magnitude 9 is likely to trigger landslides that would dam the Jhelum River, which drains from Kashmir to the other side of the Line of Control (LoC). "That could put Kashmir under water within three months - and will also threaten disastrous flooding in Pakistan if the waters were released too quickly. The two nations should develop a cooperative plan to deal with the aftermath of a Kashmir mega-quake," Prof Bilham has stated in the study. He had maintained that his Global Positioning System (GPS) data readings reveal that the gradual movement of rocks in the Zaskar mountains, north of the Kashmir valley, show that earlier estimates of the maximum possible quake in the region were too low. "In this region, the Indian plate is slowly burrowing under the Tibetan plateau. Studies on where the relative movement of the Tibetan plateau was slowest indicate where compression is building up, and a rupture is eventually likely to occur. I expected this to be in the Pir Panjal range, to the south of the Kashmir valley, but instead, it was in the Zaskar range to the north," his study revealed. "This means that the zone likely to rupture when a quake eventually happens could be 200 km wide, rather than about 80 km, as was previously thought. The zone would encompass Kashmir valley - including the city of Srinagar, home to some 1.5 million

people. If slippage occurs over a length of 300 km, as is possible, a mega-quake of magnitude 9 is the likely result. Given building codes and population in the region, that could mean a death toll of 300,000 people." Experts recommend that the development of buildings and settlements on unconsolidated materials, moraines and narrow valleys in the tectonically active zones should be discouraged throughout the hilly regions in the Himalayas including J&K as these were unsuitable for the purpose. The National Centre for Seismology, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, maintains round-the-clock monitoring of earthquake activity in and around the country, with a particular focus on the Himalayan regions, known for their high seismic potential. The J&K government has also set up an Emergency Response Centre to start rescue and rehabilitation during natural disasters. **JK Administration initiates penalty proceedings against 55 officers** department." The Commissioner Secretary underlined the government's dedication to enhancing government-to-citizen interactions through 1075 e-services, the highest number in the country. Various IT initiatives such as MobileDost, Rapid Assessment System, DigiDost for doorstep delivery of e-services, and linking services with DigiLocker have contributed significantly to reducing corruption. He added, "The latest data indicates that more than 52 lakh applications have been processed for availing various services in the online mode, of which more than 42 lakh have been disposed of." Chief Secretary Mehta emphasised the importance of financial discipline in preventing the misuse of discretionary authority. He pointed out that the functioning of BEAMS and PaySys linked digital payments has further streamlined the disbursement of times. **NC expels senior Bandipora leader for 'weakening' party** individuals within the party," he said referring to Naz and his daughter-in-law, who were portrayed by the NC as the party's representatives in Bandipora. Omar Abdullah also announced that Advocate Nazir Malik, the constituency in-charge in Bandipora, would be promoted as the new face of the party for the upcoming elections.

Sensex, Nifty open flat as bank stocks fall; BPCL surges over 3%

Around 9:45 am, the S&P BSE Sensex was up 2.12 points to 64,944.52, while the NSE Nifty 50 recorded a modest rise of 17.30 points, reaching 19,424.

NEW DELHI, Nov 8 (Agencies): Benchmark stock market indices made a flat start on Wednesday, despite positive global cues. Some heavyweight banking stocks registered declines, contributing to the flat opening.

Around 9:45 am, the S&P BSE Sensex was up 2.12 points to 64,944.52, while the NSE Nifty 50 recorded a modest rise of 17.30 points, reaching 19,424. The broader market indices commenced the trading session on a positive note, albeit with marginal gains.

Most of the major sectoral indices began in positive territory, with the exception of the Nifty Bank and Nifty Financial Services.

Among the top five gainers on the Nifty 50 were BPCL, Asian Paints, Dr. Reddy's, Cipla, and Adani Ports. Conversely, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank, and NTPC were the most prominent losers.

While Asian shares displayed signs of



improvement, possibly due to indications that the US Federal Reserve is nearing the conclusion of its policy tightening cycle, domestic investors remained cautious. The uncertain global cues, influenced by various factors, contributed to this cautious outlook and selling by foreign institutional investors (FIIs).

On November 7, foreign institutional investors sold shares worth Rs 497.21 crore, while domestic institutional investors purchased stocks worth Rs 700.28 crore.

Aditya Gaggar, Director of Progressive Shares, pointed out the presence of an "Inside bar candlestick pattern" on the daily chart, sug-

gesting consolidation in the markets.

Mandar Bhojane, research analyst at Choice Broking, had anticipated a slightly higher opening for the benchmark Sensex and Nifty. He also highlighted the presence of a "hammer candlestick pattern" on the BankNifty's daily chart, often considered a potential indicator of a bullish trend.

"For investors with long positions, it is advisable to continue trailing their stop loss to protect their gains. As for traders, it is recommended to consider buying the dips, but exercise caution by setting a strict stop loss near the 19,200 levels to manage risks effectively," Bhojane said.

Adani's Colombo port terminal project to get USD 553 million funding from US DFC

As per statement, this is the first time that US Government, through one of its agencies, is funding an Adani project

NEW DELHI, Nov 8 (Agencies): The US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) will provide USD 553 million financing to Colombo West International Terminal Pvt Ltd – a consortium of India's largest port operator Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd, Sri Lanka's leading enterprise John Keells Holdings (JKH) and the Sri Lanka Ports Authority.

DFC is the US government's development finance institution. Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ) in a statement said that the US fund will support the development of a deep-water shipping container terminal in the Port of Colombo.

"(It) will facilitate private sector-led growth and attract crucial foreign exchange to Sri Lanka to aid in its economic recovery," it added.

According to the statement, the US, Sri Lanka and India will foster an enduring legacy of cooperation in the development of sustainable infrastructure, like smart and green ports.

DFC partners with the private sector to finance solutions to the most critical challenges facing the developing world. It invests across sectors, including energy, healthcare, infrastructure, agriculture and small business and financial services.

As per the statement, this is the first time that the US govern-



ment, through one of its agencies, is funding an Adani project. APSEZ whole-time director and CEO Karan Adani said, "we welcome the association of the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), the US government's development finance institution, in funding the Adani project."

"When completed, Colombo West International Terminal project will transform the socio-economic landscape, not just in Colombo but across the island, through thousands of direct and indirect new employment opportunities and by massively boosting Sri Lanka's trade and commerce ecosystem," he added.

The Port of Colombo is the largest and busiest transshipment port in the Indian Ocean. It has been operating at more than 90 per cent utilization since 2021, signalling its need for additional capacity.

According to the statement, the new terminal will cater to growing economies in the Bay of Bengal, taking advantage of Sri Lanka's prime position on major

shipping routes and its proximity to these expanding markets.

DFC CEO Scott Nathan said, Sri Lanka is one of the world's key transit hubs, with half of all container ships transiting through its waters.

"DFC's commitment of USD 553 million in private-sector loans for the West Container Terminal will expand its shipping capacity, creating greater prosperity for Sri Lanka – without adding to sovereign debt – while at the same time strengthening the position of our allies across the region."

The US Ambassador to Sri Lanka Julie Chung said, the USD 553 million investment by DFC for the long-term development of the Port of Colombo's West Container Terminal will facilitate private sector-led growth in Sri Lanka and attract crucial foreign exchange inflows during its economic recovery.

"Sri Lanka regaining its economic footing will further our shared vision for a free and prosperous Indo-Pacific," she added.

John Keells Holdings chairperson Krishan Balendra said, DFC's investment is an endorsement of the potential of the West Terminal project and a boost for investor confidence as Sri Lanka's economy recovers.

Colombo West International Terminal is a consortium comprising Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd, Sri Lanka's John Keells Holdings and the Sri Lanka Ports Authority. The consortium will develop Colombo West International Terminal (CWIT) on a build, operate and transfer (BOT) basis for a period of 35 years.

The development of this terminal will reinforce Colombo Port's position as the primary hub in the region and is expected to elevate its ranking to 20th among the world's top container terminals, it added.

It will also transform the port's position in terms of global shipping connectivity, which is currently 12th globally.

According to the statement, when commissioned, CWIT will be the largest and deepest container terminal in Sri Lanka.

"With a quay length of 1,400 m and an alongside depth of 20 m, CWIT will be equipped to handle ultra large container vessels with capacities of 24,000 TEUs," the statement said, adding that the new terminal's annual cargo handling capacity is likely to exceed 3.2 million TEUs.

Tur dal prices to go up as imports from top supplier delayed: Report

MUMBAI, Nov 8 (Agencies): At least 150,000 metric tons of pigeon peas bound for India are held up at ports in Mozambique awaiting export permission from customs despite multiple requests from sellers over the past few weeks, five industry officials said on Wednesday.

India, the world's biggest producer and consumer of pigeon peas, relies on imports during the final quarter of the year before the new crop harvest in January. Over half of India's imports of pigeon peas are sourced from Mozambique.

The delay in shipments has pushed up prices of the protein-rich staple, known in India as arhar or tur, used to make daal curry in the peak-consumption festive season.

"Stocks are currently held in port-based warehouses and sellers are incurring huge storage and re-fumigation costs," said Suhas Chougule, managing director at MozGrain Lda, a local subsidiary of Ma'aden Saudi Arabia, based at Beira, Mozambique.

"Despite having all the necessary export documents per law,



our 200 containers are stuck. The customs office in Mozambique is not granting permission nor are they giving any reason."

The delay has lifted wholesale prices in India by nearly 10% in two months as stocks diminish during the lean supply season, adding to food inflation ahead of state elections this month and national polls due early next year.

However, a few exporters have obtained export permits, allowing them to ship 50,000 tons of pigeon pea to India, traders said.

In response to a Reuters query, Mozambique's agriculture ministry shared a statement issued

in October that said it had cancelled phytosanitary certificates for goods in the customs process from Sept. 22 after finding 400 of them to be false or dubious, but added it had resumed licensing since then.

India's pigeon peas production in the 2023/24 season is expected to fall after lower rainfall in key crop areas in August and October.

India will need to import 1.2 million tons of pigeon peas in the year ending March 31, 2024, up from last year's 894,420 tons, the government estimates.

Satish Upadhyay, a Mumbai-based pulses importer, said shipment delays had caused a

\$100 per ton price increase in recent weeks.

"Mozambique is aware that India is in dire need of pigeon peas this year due to a poor local crop, and they are taking advantage of the situation," he said.

Last month, India expressed concerns over shipment delays during a meeting between its consumer affairs secretary, Rohit Kumar Singh, and Mozambique's high commissioner in New Delhi, Ermindo A. Pereira.

During the meeting, Pereira assured his counterpart that necessary steps would be initiated to ensure smooth flow of pigeon pea exports to India, according to an Oct. 27 Indian government statement.

However, the situation in Mozambique hasn't changed, Bimal Kothari, chairman of the India Pulses and Grains Association, said.

"Mozambique seems to be exploiting India's supply shortage by delaying shipments and holding India's food security hostage," Kothari said.

'Totally incorrect': Voltas denies reports of Tata considering sale

NEW DELHI, Nov 8 (Agencies): Voltas Ltd has strongly denied a recent report suggesting that its parent company, Tata Group, is contemplating the sale of its home appliance business.

In a regulatory filing, Voltas said these reports are "totally incorrect and blatantly false, with no factual basis whatsoever."

Shares of Voltas gained over 1 per cent after issuing the clarification.

The company expressed concern over the report's potential impact on shareholders and investors, noting that it is taking steps to address the matter with the news site that published it.

Voltas reasserted its position as a market leader in room air conditioners and emphasized the success of its joint venture with ArceLIK for Voltas Beko

products, which is one of the fastest-growing brands in the appliances business. The company continues to surpass market expectations and exceed revenue targets across all product categories.

"The company is a market leader in room air conditioners and its joint venture with ArceLIK for Voltas. Beko products is one of the fastest-growing brands in the Appliances business. The organization continues to outperform the market, and exceed revenue targets in all its product categories," the company said.

A Bloomberg report initially claimed Tata Group's consideration of selling Voltas' home appliance operation and raised questions about scaling the business in a competitive market. It said Tata Group's management is reportedly in discussions regarding a potential sale but

has not yet made a final decision, according to sources familiar with the matter.

Voltas, established in 1954, manufactures various products, including air conditioners, air coolers, refrigerators, water coolers, and commercial refrigeration units, with a presence in India, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and Africa. The company has a joint venture with ArceLIK Group and introduced a range of home appliances under the brand Voltas Beko in the Indian market.

In its most recent financial report, Voltas reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 36 crore for the second quarter ending on September 30. This represents a significant improvement compared to the net loss of Rs 6 crore reported during the same period in the previous fiscal year.

Britain's health service rolls out breast cancer prevention pill

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in the UK

LONDON, Nov 8 (Agencies): Thousands of women at increased risk of breast cancer are set to benefit from a risk-reducing drug to be offered by Britain's National Health Service (NHS) after it was licensed for use to help prevent the disease, the state-funded health service announced.

Anastrozole, which has been used for many years as a breast cancer treatment, has today been licensed by the UK's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) as a preventive option which it is hoped could help prevent thousands of breast cancer cases in England.

The drug, which is off-patent, has been shown in trials to reduce the

incidence of the disease in post-menopausal women at increased risk of the disease by almost 50 per cent.

"Breast cancer is the most common cancer in the UK, so I'm delighted that another effective drug to help prevent this cruel disease has now been approved," said UK Health Minister Will Quince.

"We've already seen the positive effect Anastrozole can have in treating the disease when it has been detected in postmenopausal women and now we can use it to stop it developing at all in some women. This is a great example of NHS England's innovative Medicines Repurposing Programme supporting the development of new ways for NHS patients

to benefit from existing treatments," he said.

Around 289,000 women at moderate or high risk of breast cancer could be eligible for the drug, and while not all will choose to take it, it is estimated that if 25 per cent do, around 2,000 cases of breast cancer could potentially be prevented in England, while saving the NHS around GBP 15 million in treatment costs.

"This is the first drug to be repurposed though a world-leading new programme to help us realise the full potential of existing medicines in new uses to save and improve more lives on the NHS. Thanks to this initiative, we hope that greater access to anastrozole could enable more women to take



risk-reducing steps if they'd like to, helping them live without fear of breast cancer," said NHS chief executive Amanda Pritchard.

The treatment is taken as a 1mg tablet, once a day for five years. Anastrozole is an aromatase inhibitor, which works by cutting down the amount

of the hormone oestrogen that a patient's body makes by blocking an enzyme called "aromatase".

The most common side effects of the medicine are hot flushes, feeling weak, pain/stiffness in the joints, arthritis, skin rash, nausea, headache, osteoporosis,

and depression. Anyone who suspects they are having a side effect from this medicine is encouraged to talk to their doctor, pharmacist or nurse and report it directly to the MHRA's Yellow Card scheme.

"The extension of anastrozole's licence to cover it being used as a risk-reducing treatment is a major step forward that will enable more eligible women with a significant family history of breast cancer, to reduce their chance of developing the disease," said Baroness Delyth Morgan, chief executive at the Breast Cancer Now charity.

The UK's Medicines Repurposing Programme was set up in 2021 and is hosted by

NHS England and supported by the government to build on the innovation in medicines repurposing seen during the COVID-19 pandemic, when tocilizumab, an arthritis drug, and dexamethasone, a widely available steroid, was repurposed as treatments for coronavirus.

Nausea, headache, osteoporosis, and depression. Anyone who suspects they are having a side effect from this medicine is encouraged to talk to their doctor, pharmacist or nurse and report it directly to the MHRA's Yellow Card scheme.

"The extension of anastrozole's licence to cover it being used as a risk-reducing treatment

is a major step forward that will enable more eligible women with a significant family history of breast cancer, to reduce their chance of developing the disease," said Baroness Delyth Morgan, chief executive at the Breast Cancer Now charity.

The UK's Medicines Repurposing Programme was set up in 2021 and is hosted by NHS England and supported by the government to build on the innovation in medicines repurposing seen during the COVID-19 pandemic, when tocilizumab, an arthritis drug, and dexamethasone, a widely available steroid, was repurposed as treatments for coronavirus.

I thought about getting to 200 but Glenn Maxwell thought about win: Pat Cummins on Australia's win over Afghanistan

It was only when Australia reached 250 that he thought miracle could happen

MUMBAI, Nov 8 (Agencies): When Australian skipper Pat Cummins walked at 91 for 7 in a chase of 292 against Afghanistan, all he thought was of somehow getting to 200 so that the net run-rate remains in decent zone before the final World Cup game against Bangladesh.

But Glenn Maxwell had other ideas as the Australian skipper watched the "greatest ODI innings" unfold in front of his eyes with his partner hitting an unbelievable 201 not out off 128 balls to take his team to the semi-final of the global event.

"When I went out there, I thought if we can somehow scratch the 200, our net run rate should be pretty good for the semi-final. When Maxi got his 100, I kind of thought, wow, we are within 120 or something. And then I still thought, no way," Cummins was honest enough to admit that he thought winning was out of question.

"I think Maxi might be a bit different. I think he is always plotting his way to a win. I think even 200 runs out, he was kind of mapping out how he was going to do it. I was just trying to survive," Cummins said.

It was only when Australia reached 250 that he thought miracle could happen.

"I reckon it was not until the spinners were just about done and there was maybe 40 off 40 or something where I thought okay even if Max gets out here, I reckon the other guys can get it done. But yeah, literally within the last 20 minutes was about



the only time," he added.

Maxwell battled right leg cramp and needed multiple medical time-outs before accomplishing the impossible.

"Initially, when I walked out there, we thought the mystery spinners were the biggest trouble. The ball was still spinning a little bit and they were bowling really well. For me it was just basically hanging in there," Cummins shared with the media after Australia's sensational win.

"Maxi was still scoring quite freely. We knew it was the kind of wicket that gets easier. (We) did not really feel like run rate was ever going to be an issue with Maxi still at the crease," Cummins said.

The Australia skipper batted for as many as 68 balls during their 202-run stand for the eighth wicket and scored a mere 12 runs, not for once attempting a scoring shot for himself and leaving all the responsibility on Maxwell.

Cummins said the plan worked out quite well for Australia.

"For me, it was just about basically survival and just hope we get a look at some of the other bowlers that maybe that wicket does not suit as much. It was a pretty simple plan. (We) did not look too far ahead," Cummins said.

Cummins said in such situations, bowlers rarely have potent plans to stop on-song batters like Maxwell who are hitting them for sixes over third man batting on literally just one leg.

"It is just a one-man show. It is just like, it looks so easy. I am up the other end and I do not see any gaps in the field — I do not see where I am going to score a boundary — and it seems like every time he sees that he just runs away for four," Cummins praised his Australia teammate.

Players like Maxwell are freaks and what they can pull off is only their preserve.

"He still cannot move and still

manages to hit a six of the third man with reverse (lap) — he is a freak, he hits into different areas, again, he makes it look so easy. When you are up against someone like that as a bowler, you just, you do not have many options," Cummins added.

With the crowd at Wankhede Stadium supporting Afghanistan for the majority of the game, Cummins could hear their allegiances shifting during the Maxwell 'freak show'.

"The crowd is normally on Maxi's side whenever he is playing over here," Cummins said.

"You could hear it just getting louder and louder with each boundary, and I think, (just) as he started not moving his feet and still scoring boundaries. You can hear them start going crazy," Cummins said.

However, the Australia captain was honest enough to admit that they are yet to put together a complete game in this World Cup, despite having joined India and South Africa in the semi-finals.

"More so, just really happy with how we are playing, the style we are playing. I mean, today was a bit of an outlier, Maxi dragged us out of that one, but like with the bat we have been aggressive, we have taken the games on, we are really putting the pressure back onto the opposition," Cummins said.

"Everything's trending really well after a bit of a slow start. I still don't think we've put a complete game together," he added.

Australia vs Afghanistan: Rashid Khan determined for comeback after heartbreaking loss - We'll continue to fight



MUMBAI, Nov 8 (Agencies): Rashid Khan dropped a message on his social media handle, sounding determined to make a strong comeback after Afghanistan lost to Australia by three wickets in the World Cup 2023 match on Tuesday, November 7 at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.

After putting up a decent score of 291 for the loss of five wickets in 50 overs, Afghanistan reduced the Aussies to 91 for seven in 18.3 overs. Just when it seemed that the

Afghans would register another historic win, Glenn Maxwell turned out to be a massive roadblock for them.

Maxwell stayed not out on 201 runs off 128 balls with 21 fours and 10 sixes as the Aussies romped home with 19 balls left in their innings.

Rashid, in the meantime, wants Afghanistan to bounce back when they face Temba Bavuma's South Africa in their last league match to be played on Friday, November 10 at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

Rashid, who picked up two wickets and scored an unbeaten 18-ball 35 against Australia, took to X and wrote, "We'll continue to fight."

After the match, skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi also expressed his disappointment. He lauded the bowlers and also reckoned that giving chances to Glenn Maxwell did not help the Afghans by any means.

"Very disappointed, cricket is a funny game. It was unbelievable for us. We were in the game, our bowlers started really well," Rashid said in the post-match presentation ceremony.

"The dropped chances hurt us at the end of the day. We missed those moments and after that, Maxwell didn't stop, credit to him. I think that catch (Mujeeb dropping Maxwell at short fine leg) was the key point. After that, he played really well, he had all the shots and didn't give us any chance. Our bowlers tried their best," he added.

Like Australia in the 2000s, the Indian team of today is aggressive and relentless

NEW DELHI, Nov 8 (Agencies): India is sweeping aside all competition and crushing every opponent at the World Cup. It's something I haven't seen in an Indian team earlier — this ruthless approach to decimating all opposition. Pakistan is not even a competitor anymore. But even erstwhile scary teams like Australia and South Africa have barely been able to graze us as the Indian juggernaut moves on. With such spectacular form, you'd expect Indian fans to be happy about this. But that isn't the case. Listen to the whispers clearly and you'll find people expressing their fear that India might lose a match soon!

But why is that? I theorise that Indians have developed a pessimistic attitude towards cricket. An attitude that comes from decades of what I like to call the 'Sachin

trauma'. Kids of today will never fully grasp what Sachin meant to Indians at the time. Roads were empty when he played, prayers shot up to the heavens at a rate of 500 prayers/household. And when Sachin got out, people collectively switched off their TVs. Grumpy dads returned to the newspaper and mothers got on with the day.

Also, Indians are a fatalistic people. We believe in fate, destiny and karma. We conduct pujas for planets and wear rings to ward off evil forces. I once went through an astrology chart and found out that I'm a manglik. This means if I have to get married, I first have to marry a tree and father little saplings. So maybe we have a natural proclivity for believing in luck, omens and signs. Till a few days back, I was of the same opinion. I felt that India just

HAD to lose a match. I was afraid that they were peaking too early. This feeling comes from years of playing well in World Cups, only to lose in the semi-finals or finals. Who can forget the scarring of 2003? Where an entire generation collectively mourned the death of their innocence. As Ricky Ponting butchered our bowlers, an entire nation believed that he had placed springs in his bat!

But something caught my eye recently, that made me change my opinion. If India wins every single match in the tournament (including the finals), we won't be the first team to do it. The West Indies did it in 1975 and 1979. And Australia went undefeated in both 2003 and 2007. Like Australia in the 2000s, the Indian team of today is aggressive and relentless. They don't shy



away from an altercation on the field and proudly wear their emotions on their sleeve. Like Ricky Ponting, Virat Kohli can sledge any player and then back it up with soul-crushing centuries. And just the other day, former Pakistan cricketer Hasan Raza speculated that India was winning because they were changing the ball to suit our team. And that is when I realised that India is the new Australia. We play aggressively, do not back off from a fight, and do not lose matches.

I now support the Indian team without

fear or superstition. I want them to win every match, beat every other team, and wipe the plate clean with their victory in the finals. As for the fans, we need to get over our inferiority complex.

India today contributes more than 80 per cent of the world's cricket revenues. Our cricketers live like emperors — enjoying the best facilities available on earth. Thanks to the IPL, even cricketers in their early 20s have hobnobbed with the most senior players in world cricket. To misquote Rabbi Hillel — "If not now, when?"

World Cup 2023: Sanjay Bangar compares Rohit Sharma with Saurav Ganguly, lauds India captain for backing players

NEW DELHI, Nov 8 (Agencies): Former India batting coach Sanjay Bangar has compared Rohit Sharma to former India captain Saurav Ganguly. Speaking on what makes Rohit Sharma special as an India captain, Bangar said that Rohit's USP is that he has backed players who were out injured for a long time and were low in confidence.

India stuck by their combinations throughout 2023 despite injuries to players like Jasprit Bumrah, Shreyas Iyer and KL Rahul. Bumrah, injured since September 2022, made a comeback in August against Ireland and since then has been in tremendous form. The same goes for KL Rahul, who was injured during the Indian Premier League 2023 and did not play a single professional match till the Asia Cup 2023. Rahul made a sensational return with a century against Paki-



stan and has been in incredible touch ever since.

Speaking on Star Sports, Bangar highlighted the same and praised Rohit Sharma on how he has dealt with the Indian team.

"I believe his USP is that he's backed the players who were injured and low on confidence. Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Jasprit Bumrah these 3 players were making comebacks after injury, and they were given the confidence that they were a part of this team, and that the team believes in their abilities, and that they would get opportunities," Bangar said on Star Sports

ahead of India's final group stage game in World Cup 2023.

The former India batting coach compared Rohit to Ganguly and said that Sharma had done a fantastic job going into the World Cup 2023.

"When any captain says this, it's above everything for a player. Another captain who did something similar is Saurav Ganguly, when he identified Harbhajan Singh, Virender Sehwag, Zaheer Khan and Ashish Nehra. So, this is one fantastic contribution by Rohit Sharma as a captain," Bangar concluded on the matter.

AIFF Sack Secretary General Shaji Prabhakaran Due To Trust Deficit

NEW DELHI, Nov 8 (Agencies): The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has sacked its secretary general Shaji Prabhakaran due to "trust deficit", a top official said on Wednesday. AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey served the termination letter on Tuesday to Prabhakaran, who got the high-profile job on September 3 in 2022. "The AIFF president has issued the termination letter to Prabhakaran. He is no longer the AIFF Secretary General," AIFF vice-president NA Harris told agency. "Deputy secretary general Satyanarayan M will discharge his duties as acting secretary general," he added.



Harris said there has been a "trust deficit" between Chaubey and Prabhakaran and even the AIFF executive committee members are not happy with the way the sacked secretary general worked.

Prabhakaran was

appointed as the first executive Committee meeting of the new dispensation which took charge after the elections on September 2.

He was earlier serving as Football Delhi president. He resigned from that post and took

charge as AIFF secretary general on September 6, 2022.

A meeting of the executive committee has been called here on Thursday and the members are expected to be officially apprised of the development, besides discussing other matters.

Harris said there is no need for the AIFF executive committee to ratify the decision of the president. "The post of the secretary general is a paid post and he was not appointed by the executive committee. The president has the power to appoint and remove the secretary general. So the president issued the termination letter," said Harris.

World Cup 2023: Jos Buttler and Matthew Mott should lead England at least till T20 World Cup 2024, says Eoin Morgan

NEW DELHI, Nov 8 (Agencies): England coach Matthew Mott and captain Joss Buttler's positions will be under threat if the team does not qualify for the Champion Trophy 2025, former England captain Eoin Morgan has said.

England are currently having one of their worst-ever campaigns in the ICC tournament and have been knocked out of the semi-final contention. England have lost 6 out of their 7 matches and are currently placed at the bottom of the World Cup points table.

The England side, under the leadership of Jos Buttler, came into the tournament as the reigning ODI and T20 champions but failed to live up to the promise. Morgan, while speaking on Sky Sports has said that the captain and coach duo should remain in charge of the white-ball side at least till the T20 World Cup 2024, set to be held

jointly by West Indies and the United States of America.

"I certainly think that Jos and Matthew Mott should be kept on it at least until that T20 World Cup in USA and Caribbean in June next year. I think this is Matthew Mott's first biggest challenge for England and in international men's cricket and Jos has been here before. You know, they're still establishing a strong relationship between each other," Morgan said on Sky Sports.

Jos Buttler won the T20 World Cup in his first outing as the captain of England in an ICC tournament.

Morgan spoke about their 2022 campaign and said that England won in 2022 because the team was well-established before Mott took charge.

"I believe last year's win in Australia was down to the leadership group already set up in the change

room before Matthew Mott came into the team and the simple fact, the reason behind that as to why I think it is because it would have been too early for Matthew Mott to take on any judgement. Really, if it went the other way, I would be saying the same thing. The blame should be on the players solely on the players, but I think he should be given a chance to correct things going forward," Morgan said on Sky Sports.

The World Cup-winning captain warned that there would be repercussions if England do not make it to the Champions Trophy, set to be played in 2025. Top 7 teams in the World Cup 2023, barring hosts Pakistan will make it to the tournament, and England currently stand outside of those places. England still have 2 matches to go in the tournament and have the chance of sneaking into the 8th spot.

PDP organises joining programme at Bhadarwah

Top News Report

BHADARWAH, Nov 8: Several people, mostly women, joined the People's Democratic Party (PDP) during the party workers meeting and joining programme at Udrana-B area of Bhadarwah constituency on Wednesday.

They joined the party in presence of senior PDP leaders Zaffar Hussain Wani, Mohammad Salim Butt, Nazir Ahmed Shah, Rukhsana Begum, Altaf Ahmed Khan, Hamid Butt, Mehraj Din, Bashir Ahmed Wani, Kiran Kumar Pandit, Tariq Hussain and Umar Tak. They were heartily



welcomed into the party fold by the leaders.

A large number of people, mostly youth and women attended the programme during which the participants raised slogans in favour of Mehbooba Mufti and pledged their support and allegiance to her.

"Braving the present circumstances, several people from different parts of Bhadarwah assembled at the residence of Mohd Salim Butt at Udrana-B of additional district Bhadarwah to participate in the party meeting," PDP leader Zaffar Hussain

Wani told.

Speaking on the occasion, Mohammad Salim Butt said, "The last hope of the people of Jammu and Kashmir is the People's Democratic Party whose manifesto is to bring back development and prosperity. It has vowed to end rising

inflation, bribery, and unemployment.

Nazir Ahmed Shah said that PDP is the sole party that is committed to serving the people irrespective of caste, colour and creed. "Ever since the abrogation of Article 370 on 5th August 2019, there is unrest everywhere and the people of Jammu and Kashmir are confronted with uncalled for challenges like joblessness, rising prices of essential commodities etc," Shah lamented.

Prominent among those who joined PDP included Rukiya Ganai, Bhipan Kumar and others.

Dr. Baijnath Kaushik of SMVDU received a grant for a Design Patent



Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 8: The design patent for the "Digital Antibiotic Vials Auger Filling Machine" has been granted to Dr. Baijnath Kaushik, Associate Professor and the Head, School of Computer Science and Engineering who is also the Principal Investigator of Research Project RP-126 at Shri Mata

Vaishno Devi University.

Other collaborative recipients of the design patent include Dr. Akshma Chadha, Dr. Yusera Farooq Khan, Dr. Malvika Ashok (Research Associates), and Abhigya Mahajan (Research Scholar) under RP-126 at the School of Computer Science and Engineering, SMVDU.

On October 19, 2023, the Comptroller-Gener-

al of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks, Intellectual Property Office, UK issued the patent, which was assigned the design number 6319100. Version 14-2023 of the international design classification falls under the class Medical and Laboratory Equipment and the sub-class Apparatus and Equipment for Doctors, Hospitals, and Laboratories.

"Women for Water, Water for Women" campaign launched

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 8: Jal Diwali - "Women for Water, Water for Women" campaign, the first of its kind initiative of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, GoI under its flagship scheme-Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), in partnership with the Ministry's National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) continued with full fervor on the second day of the Campaign also.

The campaign, launched yesterday, has so far witnessed participation of 216 Women Self Help Group members at 16 Water Treatment Plant viz. Boria Pumping Station Kalka Colony, Bahut Fort, Jammu; Sitlee, Nagrota Bye Pass, Jammu; Rangil, Ganderbal; Alustang, Srinagar/Ganderbal etc. where they were elucidated with the vital procedures involved in delivering clean and safe drinking water to households and given an insight into water quality testing protocols which ensure that citizens



get water of the required quality.

The participating women SHGs were motivated to come forward and actively assume vital role and responsibility in water infrastructure.

A pledge to make judicious use of water, committing to conserve and use water resource wisely and joining hands to protect this precious resource through thoughtful actions and conscientious decision making was taken on the occasion. As a token of recognition of their participation, souvenirs (Jute Bag, Water Bottle, Glass) were presented to the women SHG members.

Campus cleanliness drive promotes "Swachh Diwali Shubh Diwali Campaign" at GDC Kishtwar

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Nov 8: Govt. Degree College (GDC) Kishtwar, in collaboration with the Social Reforms & Charitable Organisation Kishtwar and Dabur India Ltd., successfully organized a grand campus cleanliness drive as part of the ongoing "Swachh Diwali Shubh Diwali Campaign" starting from 6th to 12th November which aims to evoke the cultural significance of Diwali while promoting waste-to-wealth practices and discouraging the use of single-use plastics.

Approximately 350 students actively participated in the clean-



liness drive, which also emphasized the adoption of clean and eco-friendly products during Diwali celebrations. Dabur India Ltd., through its Health and Nutrition Support Programme, provided juice packets to the enthusiastic participants.

Dr. Jyoti Parihar, Principal GDC Kishtwar, praised Dabur India Ltd. for their dedication in partnering with SRCO

to launch this program and for their seamless coordination with the college.

She urged students to actively engage in various events organized throughout the Swachh Diwali Shubh Diwali campaign, emphasizing the importance of maintaining a clean and plastic-free campus.

Sanjeev Parihar, President of SRCO Kishtwar, expressed sincere grati-

tude to Dabur India Ltd. for their invaluable support and conveyed the organization's strong commitment to sustaining and expanding this noble initiative in the future.

Dr. Tariq Tamkeen encouraged students to uphold a clean and green campus and emphasized the proper disposal of plastic waste, promoting a sustainable environment for

all.

The event witnessed the active participation of distinguished faculty members, including Prof. Satish Kumar, Dr. Munish Kumar, Dr. Vijay Kumar, Prof. Jaideep, Dr. Sehrish Gazal, Dr. Madhu Bala, Prof. Sonika Sen, and Prof. Akshay Sharma, who played instrumental roles in the success of the cleanliness drive.

The Swachh Diwali Shubh Diwali campaign continues to inspire students and communities to embrace cleanliness, sustainability, and the avoidance of single-use plastics during Diwali celebrations, symbolizing a collective commitment towards a greener and healthier future.

GCET Jammu & BIS Jammu conclude Quality Connect Programme 4.0

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 8: The Government College of Engineering and Technology (GCET), Jammu, in collaboration with the Bureau of Indian Standards, Jammu (BIS Jammu), successfully concluded the Quality Connect Programme 4.0, held from October 14 to 31, 2023 under the patronage of Principal GCET Jammu, Prof. (Dr.) Sameru Sharma.

The program, spearheaded by the esteemed Director BIS-Jammu Tilak Raj aimed to enhance awareness and understanding of BIS standards among students at GCET Jammu and households in the community.

The event was a resounding success showcasing the dedication and enthusiasm of the participants. The Quality Connect Programme 4.0 witnessed the participation of 42 students from diverse disciplines at



GCET Jammu.

These students, equipped with technical support and materials provided by BIS-Jammu, engaged in activities geared towards spreading awareness about the importance of standards in everyday life.

The participants were divided into teams and assigned tasks, including Youth to Youth and Youth to Household activities. The completion rate for these tasks was an impressive 85%,

reflecting the participants' clear understanding of the subject matter and their commitment to the program's objectives.

The success of the program can be attributed to the active support and contributions of Assistant Director at BIS Jammu, Hitesh Yadav and Standard Promotion Officer, Ashish Kumar Devedi.

Their provision of essential materials such as caps, badges, T-shirts, and pamphlets, along

with their support and training, played a crucial role in the effective implementation and positive outcomes of the program.

The success of the program can be attributed to the active involvement of all the volunteers, who tirelessly spread awareness among more than 750 people.

The students were effectively coordinated by Dr. Rajinder Singh, Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Mentor of Standards Club at GCET Jammu, along with the valuable contribution of Midhat Shabir Soherverdy, student leader in the Standards club.

The collaborative efforts of GCET Jammu and BIS Jammu in organizing the Quality Connect Programme 4.0 reflect a shared commitment to fostering awareness and understanding of BIS standards, contributing to the overall development of students and the community.

GDC Chatroo organises extension lecture, awareness programme on Tech Equity

Top News Report



JAMMU, Nov 8: In the framework of the tech equity -the G20 Empower digital platform GDC Chatroo organised an extension lecture and awareness programme on women empowerment.

The whole programme was organised under the guidance and supervision of Dr (Prof.) Ved Kumar principal of the college.

Prof. M. M Mattoo was the keynote speaker of the occasion who deliberated upon G20 inclusion of women in tech equity platform.

Prof Mattoo also discussed the initiatives taken by the government regarding empowerment of women and asked

the female students to register themselves on the said portal. In addition to the extension lecture Saima Banoo and Aisha Bashir students of semester 5th also expressed their views on the said topic. Principal of the College Prof Ved Kumar expressed his views regarding different schemes of government for empowerment of women folk of the society. In his presidential address he appreciated the faculty and students for organising such programmes.

The proceedings of programme were carried out by Kashif Malik while Aqib Hussain presented vote of thanks.

About 50 students and all the faculty members of the college participated in the programme.

SMVDU faculty delivers keynote address at World Intellectual Property Right Conclave 2023

Top News Report

KATRA, Nov 8: Dr. Baijnath Kaushik, Associate Professor and Head of the School of Computer Science and Engineering at SMVDU, and Principal Investigator of Research Project RP-126, delivered the keynote lecture at the World Intellectual Property Right Conclave



2023 in New Delhi. He spoke on the topic entitled "System

and Methods for Brain Tumor Segmentation." The attendees acquired significant knowledge concerning various segmentation methodologies and their application in the context of brain tumors.

The presentation received applause from other delegates who participated from across the world.

Raj Kumar, Ishant apprise JCW (Works) about ground situation in Channi Himmat

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 8: In response to a serious concern raised by local residents regarding damaged manhole covers and grating in the lane adjoining bags and more Sector-3 Channi Himmat, Corporator of Ward No. 51, Raj Kumar, and State IT Head of BJP Jammu & Kashmir, Advocate Ishant Gupta, took swift action by contacting the concerned officials of the Jammu Municipal Corporation.

The officials, including Joint Commissioner (Works) Rajesh Sumbria and Executive Engineer Lokesh Gupta were called to the site to assess the ground situation.

The damaged manhole covers and grating



had become a life-threatening hazard for the public, causing grave concern among the local residents.

Raj Kumar and Ishant Gupta, recognizing the urgency of the situation, personally

apprised Joint Commissioner Rajesh Sumbria of the critical need for immediate action.

During the on-site inspection, Raj Kumar and Ishant Gupta emphasized the need for prompt resolution of the issue, prioritizing public safety. They made it abundantly clear that the safety of the public at large is of utmost importance, and any delay in addressing the issue could have severe consequences.

In response to their urgent plea, Rajesh Sumbria, Joint Commissioner (Works), assured that necessary action would be taken on a priority basis. The Jammu Municipal Corporation is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of the public, and this incident will be treated with the utmost seriousness it deserves.