

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Soldier dies in accidental firing along LoC in Poonch

JAMMU, Nov 23 (Agencies): An Army soldier was killed after his service rifle accidentally went off along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Thursday, officials said.

The incident took place at Phagwari gate along border fencing.

Inquest proceedings have been initiated, they said.

Cold wave sweeps Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Nov 23 (Agencies): The minimum temperature settled below freezing point at most places in Kashmir valley where Shopian was the coldest place with a low of minus 3.3 degrees Celsius, officials said on Thursday.

There was a slight rise in the minimum temperature on Wednesday night due to arrival of a western disturbance that is expected to affect the system later in the day. The rise in temperature has resulted in reduction in early morning fog that had affected the valley for the past three days. Srinagar city recorded a low of minus 0.8 degrees Celsius, which was one degree higher than the previous night, while Pulwama recorded a low of minus 2.1 degrees Celsius. While Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir recorded a minimum temperature of minus 1.8 degrees Celsius, Gulmarg ski resort in north Kashmir recorded a low of 0.4 degrees Celsius.

Jammu-Srinagar national highway to remain closed for repair work on 24th, 25th Nov

JAMMU, Nov 23 (Agencies): Authorities have ordered the suspension of traffic on 24th and 25th November to carry out construction work on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway, official said today.

Police constable killed, 2 injured after Nihangs open fire in Punjab

CHANDIGARH, Nov 23 (Agencies): A police constable was killed while

LG Sinha congratulates J&K's Para Archers for incredible achievement at Asian Championships 2023

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 23: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha congratulated the Para Archers from the UT of J&K for their incredible achievement at Asian Para Archery Championships 2023, Bangkok.

The Lt Governor tweeted: "What an incredible achievement! Para archers from J&K scripted history & brought glory to India by winning 6 Medals including 4 gold, 1 silver & 1



bronze at Para Asian Archery Championship, Thailand. The consistent performances of our Archers reflect hard work & perseverance.

The outstanding performances of Sheetal, Rakesh and Sarita after admirable achievement at Asian Para Games, exemplify true spirit of sportsmanship. This is just the beginning of a new sporting era. My best wishes to all the athletes for their future endeavours".

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"Not guilty until proven": Omar Abdullah on dismissal of four govt employees in J&K



SRINAGAR, Nov 23 (Agencies): Following the dismissal of four government employees in Jammu and Kashmir in the "interest of the security of the state",

National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said that the employees have the right to appeal against their dismissal, adding that innocence

is a legal principle that every person accused of any crime is considered innocent until proven guilty.

"Sacked employees should have the right to appeal. As per the law, everyone also has the right to appeal and is not guilty until proven." Abdullah said while speaking to the reporters in Budgam.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has terminated the services of four government employees, including a

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Drone drops box carrying grenades, IED and Pistol in Akhnoor



JAMMU, Nov 23 (Agencies): Security forces on Thursday recovered arms, ammunition and explosives, including nine grenades and an IED, dropped by

a drone along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu's Akhnoor sector, police said.

It was all packed in a box found during a joint

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Police arrest two persons in marriage scam in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, Nov 23 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday arrested two persons in a fake marriage scam in Baramulla.

A police spokesperson in a statement said that police post Mirgund received an application from one Ghulam Mohammad Bhat son of Mohammad Sharief Bhat resident of Dessa Doda at present Srinagar accusing Mohd Qasim Bhat son

of Ghulam Mohammad Bhat resident of Gund Ibrahim, Trikbal Pattan of fraud on the pretext of marriage.

He said that he paid an amount of about Rs 1,50,000 to Qasim and accused him of intimidating him of dire consequences upon pressing for recovery.

Police initiated inquiry and registered an FIR under relevant sections of law in Police Station Pattan.

"Acting upon this, Police Party of Police Post Mirgund swung into action and after haptic efforts, accused person Mohd Qasim Bhat, along with his accomplice brother Nisar Ahmad Bhat have been arrested in the instant case and were shifted to Police Station Pattan were they remain in custody. Further investigation is going on," statement said.

Former minister Ch Lal Singh gets bail in Money Laundering Case

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 23: Dogra Swabhiman Sangathan Party (DSSP) chief and former minister Chaudhary Lal Singh, arrested in a money laundering case, has got bail. The district president of his party gave this information.

Lal Singh was arrested by an Enforcement Directorate (ED) team from a house in Jam-

mu's Sainik Colony on November 7 after a special court did not proceed with his anticipatory bail plea. He was arrested in connection with alleged irregularities in the purchase of land for the RB Educational Trust run by Lal Singh's wife and former MLA Kanta Andotra.

Lal Singh was shifted to Ambphala jail on the orders of the court.

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2024 IPL Auction: 10 Jammu Kashmir cricketers shortlisted

SRINAGAR, Nov 23 (Agencies): In an interesting development, a record 10 cricketers from Jammu and Kashmir have made it to the shortlist for the highly anticipated Indian Premier League (IPL) auction. The auction for the 2024 edition is taking place in Dubai on December 19.

The IPL franchises have expressed keen interest in these talented players, paving the way for a potential entry into the lucrative T20 competition in 2024. The players who are poised to captivate IPL team owners and fans alike include Mujtaba Yousuf, Rasikh Salam, Parvez Rasool, Qamran Iqbal,



Fazil Rashid, Henan Malik, Abid Mushtaq, Nasir Lone, Auqib Nabi, and Vivrant Sharma, reports appearing in media suggest.

Notably, Rasikh Salam and Parvez Rasool bring IPL experience to the table. Salam, at the tender age of 17 years

and 353 days, made headlines in 2019 when he became the youngest player to debut for Mumbai Indians. However, a subsequent two-year ban from the BCCI due to a birth certificate discrepancy temporarily halted his promising career. In 2022, Kolkata

Knight Riders secured his services, where he played two matches before being released.

A bat maker in a Sangam facility in south Kashmir giving finishing touches to a piece of Kashmir willow. KL Image: Syed Shadab Ali Gillani

Parvez Rasool, a trailblazer from Jammu and Kashmir, holds the distinction of being the first cricketer from the region to grace the IPL stage. His journey began in 2013 with the now-defunct Pune Warriors, and to date, he has featured in 8 IPL games, with his last appearance dating back to 2016.

Mujtaba Yousuf, having

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2 LeT terrorist killed in encounter with security forces in Rajouri



JAMMU, Nov 23 (Agencies): Two Pakistani terrorists were killed in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri after a 24-hour-long encounter between security forces and terrorists.

One of the terrorists has been identified as Qari, a Pakistani national who held a high rank within the Lashkar-e-Taiba. He was sent to revive terrorism in the

region. He is an expert in IEDs, operating and hiding from caves, and a trained sniper, the Defence Public Relations Officer (PRO) Jammu said.

"He has been trained on the Pakistan and Afghan front. He is a highly ranked terrorist leader of Lashkar-e-Taiba," he said.

He has been active in

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Heartbreaking to see Officers, Jawans lose lives in line of duty: Mehbooba

SRINAGAR, Nov 23 (Agencies): Former Chief Ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday expressed grief over the killing of four soldiers in an encounter with terrorists in Rajouri area of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Terrible news from Rajouri where 4 army personnel including 2 officers have laid down their lives in the line of duty. While condemning the continuing efforts to spread militancy into hitherto peaceful areas of Pir Panchal region I send my sincere condolences to the families of those who offered the ultimate sacrifice today," Abdullah, the vice presi-

dent of National Conference, posted on X late on Wednesday.

Mehbooba said it was heartbreaking to see officers and jawans lose their lives in the line of duty.

"Heartbreaking to see officers & jawans lose their lives in the line of duty despite GOIs misleading false claims that all is well in J&K. The price of this facade is being borne by them & innocent civilians who've become collateral damage in unabated violence. My deepest sympathies with their families & loved ones," the PDP president said in a post on X.

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Div Com reviews availability of basic facilities inside fenced areas along LOC

Says border villages are first priority villages for development

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Nov 23: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri Thursday convened a meeting, here to review availability of basic amenities and services to the people living in the habitations ahead of the fenced line along the LOC in border districts of Kashmir Division.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora along with district officers of PMGSY, Health, Education, PDD and PHE besides officers of BEACON.

Addressing the meeting, Div Com directed officers to ensure that border villages are provided all the basic facilities viz. roads, electricity, mobile connectivity and internet services besides educational institutions and health centres so that these areas are not left behind on the developmental front.

He enjoined concerned PHE officers to connect every household through JJM Schemes to provide potable water to residents of fenced areas.

Bidhuri maintained that border villages



should not be treated as last habitations but these are our first priority and are considered first villages.

The Div Com impressed the officers to conduct frequent field visits to these villages to address the developmental

requirements so the residents of these areas do not face hardships.

The Deputy Commissioners on the occasion informed the meeting about the number of villages of their respective districts falling in this zone and the

current scenario of basic amenities available to the people there.

To execute all the developmental works ahead of the fencing line, Div Com instructed HoDs to work in close synergy with the security agencies.

J&K Congress concerned over alarming rise in terror activities

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 23: Congress has expressed serious concerns over the alarming rise in the terror activities in Rajouri Poonch while expressing deep shock over loss of precious lives of four army men including two army officers & a JCO besides injuries to a Major and other soldiers in a militant attack in Kalakote area of Rajouri district last evening.

Expressing great shock over the loss, the party expressed grave concern over the alarming rising in terrorism especially in twin border districts.

JKPCC President Vikar Rasool Wani, Working President Raman Bhalla, Senior Vice president Shri Ravinder Sharma DCC President Shabir Ahmed Khan and other senior leaders have paid rich tributes to the martyred brave jawans and expressed deep sympathies with the bereaved families. They also prayed for early recovery of the injured.

They said the party stands firmly with our forces to defeat the serious threat of militancy which has revived in Rajouri Poonch border belt, as the series of incidents and their dimensions indicated.

They said that Congress party had already cautioned in the recent past - raised concern based on local inputs about the presence of terrorists in the kalakote area and its adjoining parts and had demanded strengthening of security network.

The party had even written to the Lt Governor about the situation and demanded upgrading security & setting up of security posts in vulnerable areas in view of the serious threat.

The party fully stands behind army and security forces to deal with the threat of terrorism and to ensure the safety and security of common people and the jawans.

Other signatories include Vice President PCC Sain Abdul Rashid, Ifkar Ahmed and Shakeel Mir General Secretaries PCC, Ashok Kumar, Rajesh Gupta, Pushpinder Gupta, Sajad Tariq, Rattan Mehta, Narinder Singh, Manju Sharma, Prithvi Raj and Suraj Parkash.

Vikar Rasool addresses election rally at Nalgonda, predicts Congress victory in Telangana

Top News Report

TELANGANA, Nov 23: President JKPCC Vikar Rasool Wani, who is on election campaign in Telangana, on Thursday joined Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge in an election rally at Nalgonda District of Telangana State.

Vikar Rasool said that it was heartening to see an overwhelming public support to Congress party. Telangana is set to have a Congress Govt. Our party stands guarantee to a corruption free state and a dignified life to the people.

He said that the Prime Minister Narinder Modi and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao were not bothered about inflation, price rise and the living conditions of the poor.

The prices of essential commodities have increased manifold. He said that KCR and his MLAs have ties with the land, sand and mines mafia.

The people should support congress for ensuring a fair deal for all in the state especially the poor and underprivileged as they are the worst hit due to corrupt regime led by BRS chief K Chandrashekar Rao.

Wani said that by using the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and seizing National Herald properties just before the Assembly elections in Telangana, the BJP and BRS are trying to distract public attention from the current electoral scene where BJP and BRS are facing worst public anger.

The people of Telangana are united and they are ready to defeat the arrogant Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao in the State and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2024 general elections, he added.

NGO Chairman Sham Lal meets SHO Bishnah

Top News Report

BISHNAH, Nov 23: NGO, Anti Crime Bureau Chairman Sham Lal Gupta met SHO Bishnah Insp. Abid Bukhari.

Gupta along with his team members briefed him motive, aim and achievements of NGO in the Society.

He said NGO is working in the society for last ten years and is working hand to hand for the needy ones.

Gupta added NGO is working for the development of society and to eradicate crime from the whole society.

He said drugs in the present day are causing people to make bad choices and bad decisions.

Gupta informed SHO that he receives many cases from public belong-

ing to backward areas and he helps them to every extent. He added his team work/cooperate with JKP and administration.

SHO Bukhari appreciated efforts of NGO, Anti Crime Bureau in the Society. He assured Gupta to provide every necessary help and added Police Department will cooperate and work together to complete motive of NGO Anti Crime Bureau.

He added Police Department is very strict against the drug dealers and buyers, No one will be spared and will be Punished under law.

Those included in the meeting Chairman Gupta along with Corporator Sahil Gupta, Ratan Lal, Vijay Kumar, Tushar Digma, Abishek Sharma and Sorab Sharma.

Khargund Chowgam road in dilapidated condition, admin unmoved

Top News Report

KULGAM, Nov 23: Residents of Khargund Chowgam area of Kulgam District on Wednesday expressed resentment over dilapidated condition of a 2 kilometer road stretch which they said has not been macadamized from past 10 years.

They said from past 10 years Roads and Buildings (R&B) department has failed to repair this road. School children and shopkeepers are the worst sufferers due to the bad condition of the road," residents said.

Mehraj Ahmad Shah, President Auqaf Committee



Chowgam said that they are facing inconvenience as road had turned into 'death trap' for them.

He said government macadamized other link roads in the locality last year but their "deliberately" left unat-

tended. Another local said from past 8-9 years nothing has been done for them, it's getting worse day by day," he said.

"We approached concerned R&B department,

but they turned deaf ears to their pleas," he said.

He said during emergencies they have to use alternative routes to reach on the main road. Despite living in adjacent to Srinagar-Quazigund highway, link roads in the colony are craving for attention, he said.

"We face problems when it rains as the road turns into a dam. Even we registered problem to concerned department but things remain unchanged on ground," he said.

Residents appealed to Lt. Governor led administration to look into the matter, so that they could get a sign of relief.

Terrorist activities in Jammu division are a conspiracy to break brotherhood: Sahni

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 23: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit expressed deep anger over the martyrdom of two army officers and two soldiers in an encounter with terrorists in Rajouri of Jammu division on Wednesday.

A condolence meeting was organized in the party state office, one minute silence was observed and heartfelt tribute was paid to the martyred soldiers. Along with this, condolences have been expressed

towards his family which is in mourning.

State Chief Manish Sahni said that the drums of "everything is fine" are being beaten in Jammu and Kashmir but the ground reality is completely opposite.

On August 5, 2019, Jammu and Kashmir was divided into two parts and our privileges were taken away. We were shown the dream of a new Jammu and Kashmir free from terrorism, but despite the passage of more than four years, there has been no significant change in

the ground situation.

Terrorism active in Kashmir has today established its foothold in Jammu division also. Terrorist activities have once again intensified in Poonch and Rajouri, which have been freed from terrorism.

The purpose of which is to make their presence felt and to create a dent in mutual brotherhood.

Sahni said that about 50 Indian soldiers and civilians have been targeted between 2021-23. About 15 Indian soldiers have been martyred this

year in Rajouri, Poonch.

Sahni said that the failure of intelligence agencies and the increasing distance of security forces from the local people is the result that terrorists are succeeding in targeting wherever they want, whenever they want, whenever they want.

Sahni also warned the terrorist organizations to desist from their nefarious and cowardly activities. Many leaders and workers including Sanjeev Kohli, Raj Singh, Raju Handa were present on this occasion.

J&K SSB to conduct PST, PET for Sub-Inspector post from Dec 2

JAMMU, Nov 23: The J&K Service Selection Board has scheduled conduct of Physical Standard Test (PST) and Physical Endurance Test (PET) for the post of Sub-Inspector (Home Department), tentatively from December 2, 2023 at Jammu and Srinagar centres.

According to a notice issued here today by SSB in this regard, all candidates, who have opted for Kashmir as test centre for the post of Sub Inspector, Home Department (as per the application form) and are desirous of appearing in PST and PET at Jammu centre, have been called upon to represent before the Board through offline mode only at J&K Services Selection Board office Zam-Zam Complex, Rambagh Srinagar, within 03 days from issuance of this notice i.e. up to 25-11-2023, in the prescribed format.

The document reads that no further request in this regard shall be entertained beyond 25-11-2023.

e-mail: phedivisionsamba@gmail.com

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION SAMBA

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. PHE/102 OF 2023-24 Dated: 20-11-2023

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Division Samba, invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/ Firms/Companies/ registered in DIC or any other state Government for below mentioned works at various Water Supply schemes of Jal Shakti (P.H.E) Division Samba of Jammu Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. **Cover 1st** consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and **Cover 2nd** consisting of Financial Bid on overall percentage rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

S.No	Particulars of the Work	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	Tender fee (in Rs)	Earnest money Deposit	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work (days)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Providing, Installation, testing and commissioning of Pumping machinery along with allied electro-mechanical components under WSS Chak Medhu Sardalian under JJM (Technical Specifications mentioned as Annexure-A)	32.00	1500/-	64000/-	180 Days	60 Days

Position of funds : Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (J.J.M)

Position of AAA : Accredited

Position of T.S : Sanctioned

The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Samba.

Critical Dates:

i	Publish Date	20.11.2023 (04:00 PM)
ii	Document Download Start Date	20.11.2023 (04:30 PM)
iii	Bid submission Start date	20.11.2023 (04:30 PM)
iv	Bid submission End date	28.11.2023 (04:00 PM)
v	Date of Bid opening	29.11.2023 (03.00 PM)

- Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in
- The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.
- The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Division Samba Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table and shall be payable at Jammu.
 - The cost of tender documents should be in form of Treasury challan in favour of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Division Samba
- The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial cover.
- The bid shall remain valid for a period of **180 days** from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder withdraws his bid before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the same shall be considered to be in violation of bid security declaration and shall be dealt with accordingly and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.
- Queries by email if any should be made at phedivisionsamba@gmail.com.

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Dated: 20-11-2023

CCI condemns cowardice act of terrorism at Rajouri

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 23: In a meeting of office bearers of Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI) held on Thursday at Chamber House Arun Gupta, President CCI strongly condemned the cowardice act of terrorism yesterday at village Bajimal in Kalakote area of Rajouri district in which four Army personnel including two Captains, JCO and a Jawan were martyred besides one Major and a Jawan were injured.

The meeting saluted the brave officers and



soldiers who sacrificed their lives while defending the motherland and also prayed for the speedy recovery of injured and expressed

sympathies with the bereaved families.

A two minutes silence was observed to pay homage to the departed Souls.

Arun Gupta said that fundamentalists of all hues are worried with the peace, tranquility and brotherhood between different communities and want to destabilize the brotherhood.

He also added that Chamber firmly believes that people of Jammu and Kashmir shall not get trapped in their nefarious designs and will firmly uphold the credentials of secularism.

Arun Gupta demanded that the terrorists and their overground workers as well as supports

be eliminated.

He also requested the International Community to raise their voice against the terrorism of all kinds and urged World Community to support Pakistan who openly supports and promotes terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

The other office bearers present in the meeting include Sh. Anil Gupta, Sr. Vice President, Rajeev Gupta, Jr. Vice President, Manish Gupta, Secretary General, Rajesh Gupta, Secretary and Rajesh Gupta, Treasurer.

EDITORIAL

UNITE AGAINST
TERRORISM

Terrorism is an illegal method of violence that is used by terrorists to scare people. Today, terrorism has become a social issue. It is being used to intimidate the common people and the government. Terrorism is being used by various social organizations, politicians and business industries to achieve their goals very easily. The group of people who support terrorism are called terrorists.

Today, terrorism has become a problem not only for our country but also for the whole world. Many countries are in the grip of terrorism. In India too, incidents of terrorism have been coming to light from the audience. Such terrorist incidents happen every day in our country which is not right for our country.

Through terrorism, some individuals, organizations or countries want to create an atmosphere of anarchy in the country so that they can put pressure on the government to get their points accepted. To get their points made, they commit many violent incidents in which many innocent people also lost their lives. She goes.

There are many reasons for the problem of terrorism like unemployment, starvation, religious fundamentalism etc.

Therefore, to end terrorism, strictest steps should be taken against them and the individuals and organizations carrying out terrorist incidents should be given such punishment so that no other organization, organization or individual tries to do such audacity.

Terrorism is increasing day by day. There are many reasons due to which it is increasing like problem of unemployment, problem of starvation, lack of education etc.

Apart from this, many religious fundamentalists, in order to propagate their religion, seduce innocent people and make them commit acts of violence. Some people, for political gains, make people fight with each other in the name of religion and create an atmosphere of violence in that country. There are many reasons which promote terrorism.

To stop terrorism, the government and we together need to take many necessary steps. The government should make the strictest law against it and implement it. We should also understand our responsibility and should not follow the path of violence by getting misled by the people.

Apart from this, people should be given good education and employment opportunities so that they cannot go on any wrong path and to avoid foreign terrorism, the borders of our country need utmost security and also only one country can eliminate it. No, rather the whole world needs to come together, only then it can be ended.

Terrorism is a big problem. To solve it, the whole world should come together to stop it. Because it is the problem of the whole world, hence all the countries should fight together against it because there are many terrorist organizations whose thinking and ideology is different and it is spread all over the world. It is spreading only if we fight together against it, we will be able to end it otherwise it will keep increasing day by day and can become a big problem for the world in future.

Exit of Ajit Pawar principal secy is hint at status quo

By: Dilip Cherian

In Maharashtra's intricate administrative landscape, where the ebb and flow of power is often measured by the stability of key personnel, the recent and somewhat enigmatic removal of Ashish Sharma, principal secretary attached to the office of deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar, has sent ripples through the babu corridors of the state.

Clearly, it is not merely a routine administrative shuffle, most observers state. Given the current complexity of the politics in the state, it's a view that is not unfeasible. It is highly unusual for an IAS officer, especially one posted in either the CM or Deputy CM's office, to be unceremoniously shunted out before completing a normal tenure. Sharma's abrupt transfer not only marks the premature end of his first stint in the prestigious Mantralaya but also marks his third relocation in just six months – a puzzling pattern that has now invited scrutiny.

With Ajit Pawar conspicuously absent from the Mantralaya, recovering from a bout of dengue, the transfer of his principal secretary has left the office in a state of inertia. Pawar's silence has further fuelled the speculation. In the absence of official state-

ments clarifying the rationale behind the move, the vacuum is filled with conjecture and whispers of power play behind the scenes. Ajit Pawar, so far, is still trying to find his feet after joining the BJP-led alliance government in Maharashtra. Though he was made deputy chief minister and his NCP faction bagged crucial portfolios, the deputy CM is still no. 3 in the pecking order. And Mr Sharma's exit seems to indicate that the current hierarchy is unlikely to change.

MEA to take a maritime call
The entry of a Chinese "spy" ship into Sri Lankan waters a while ago, despite attempts by the ministry of external affairs (MEA) to prevent it, has already underscored the delicate dance of diplomacy in the Indian Ocean region. Now a new challenge has emerged, demanding a strategic response from the MEA.

The looming arrival of three oil tankers carrying Russian crude, allegedly sanctioned by the US, has created a piquant situation for the ministry. Although the transactions did not occur at major Indian ports overseen by the shipping ministry, sources have informed DKB that the potential of these ships docking at a state port raises questions about the MEA's role in shaping India's maritime policies. In the event of sanctions and

a lapse in shipping insurance, the MEA is entrusted with the critical decision of whether to allow these ships into Indian waters, especially when dealing with non-major ports.

While the protocols outlined by senior shipping ministry babus shed light on the procedural intricacies involved in vessel entry, the decision to greenlight or deny entry ultimately lies with the MEA. India has, so far, played neutral in the Russia-Ukraine conflict despite attempts by the US to wean it away from its old ties with Russia. This is a test case for the MEA to walk the tightrope and find a solution that does not tilt the delicate balance.

IAS officers unite against Kerala govt on transfer policy

This is perhaps the first time that IAS officers in Kerala have jointly sought action against a government. The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) has taken a firm stance against what it perceived as a lack of due process in the appointment, transfer and posting of IAS officers within the state government. An interim order issued by a CAT bench has directed the Pinarayi Vijayan government to refrain from making such decisions, without the prior convening of the civil services board's meeting.

The CAT directive comes in response to a petition filed by

the Kerala IAS Officers' Association, alleging a pattern of frequent transfer and posting orders being issued without the necessary recommendations from the civil services board.

The petition highlights a concerning trend: the average tenure of cadre officers is well below the prescribed minimum period of two years. Even in key roles such as district collector, secretary to the government, and head of critical departments, the average tenure has dwindled to less than a year.

The tribunal observed that the Kerala government neither obeyed the Supreme Court directions nor adhered to the rules and notifications issued by the Centre in the wake of the Supreme Court verdict. It also noted that no explanation was offered as to why the Civil Services Board's meeting was not convened. The IAS officers claim that the board has become dysfunctional after only two meetings, the last of which occurred in 2015.

While the tribunal has set the next hearing on January 10, the interim order has focused the spotlight on the need to adhere to established norms and procedures. The outcome of this case is being watched keenly by the babus.

Waking up early offers several benefits for students



By: Vijay GarG

Waking up early in the morning is a practice that has been celebrated throughout history for its various benefits, particularly for students. The early morning hours offer a unique and tranquil environment that fosters a sense of calm and focus. As the world gradually comes to life, students can capitalise on this peaceful time to engage in activities that set a positive tone for the day ahead. Whether it's dedicating time to study, engaging in reflective practices like meditation or exercise, or simply enjoying a nutritious breakfast, waking up early provides students with an opportunity to establish a routine that can enhance their overall well-being and productivity.

Moreover, the early morning hours provide a precious commodity that is often scarce

in today's fast-paced world – time. By waking up early, students can carve out additional moments in their day to prioritise tasks, set goals, and plan effectively. This proactive approach allows for a more deliberate use of time, enabling students to manage their responsibilities with greater efficiency. Waking up early can be a challenge, especially for teenagers, but there are many benefits to starting your day off early. Here are the top 10 benefits why students should wake up early in the morning:

Improved Academic Performance
Early risers often find that they are more alert and focused in the morning, which can positively impact academic performance. This increased alertness can lead to better concentration during classes and while studying.

Establishing a Routine
Waking up early helps in establishing a consistent daily routine. A structured routine can contribute to better time management, helping students balance their academic and personal responsibilities more effectively.

Increased Productivity
Mornings are often quieter and less distracted, providing an ideal environment for

focused work. This can lead to increased productivity as students can tackle important tasks without the interruptions they might face later in the day.

Better Mental Health
Establishing a morning routine that includes activities such as exercise or mindfulness can positively impact mental health. Regular exercise in the morning, for example, has been linked to reduced stress and improved mood.

Enhanced Time Management
Waking up early provides students with extra time in the morning to plan their day, organise their tasks, and set priorities. This proactive approach to time management can lead to a more successful and less stressful academic experience.

Optimal Brain Function
Research suggests that the brain tends to function at its best during the early hours of the day. By waking up early, students may be able to harness this period of optimal brain function for tasks that require critical thinking and problem-solving.

Improved Physical Health
Early risers are more likely to engage in regular exercise, which contributes to over-

all physical health. Morning exercise has been associated with better fitness levels, weight management, and a reduced risk of various health issues.

Increased Exposure to Natural Light

Exposure to natural light in the morning can regulate the body's internal clock, known as the circadian rhythm. This helps in maintaining a healthy sleep-wake cycle, potentially improving the quality of sleep and overall well-being.

Better Sleep Quality
Waking up early is often linked to going to bed earlier, which can contribute to better sleep quality. A consistent sleep schedule is crucial for maintaining good physical and mental health.

Opportunity for Personal Development

Early mornings provide a quiet and undisturbed time for personal development activities such as reading, reflection, or pursuing hobbies. This dedicated time can contribute to personal growth and self-improvement.

*(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist Malout)*

Two days National Conference commenced at JU's Poonch Campus



Top News Report

DINGLA, Nov 23: The two days National Conference on the "Current Scenario & Future Prospects of Sericulture (CS&FPS)-2023" commenced with great enthusiasm at the Poonch Campus University of Jammu here on Thursday.

The inaugural session brought together eminent personalities, scholars, and delegates to deliberate on the future trajectory of the sericulture industry.

Sandesh Sharma Additional District Development Commissioner Poonch, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

In a moment of significance during the inaugural session of the two days "National Conference", a Sovereign Cumulative Compendium was unveiled by distinguished dignitaries.

Vice Chancellor University of Jammu, Prof. Umesh Rai, extended his best wishes for the success of the conference through a special message, highlighting the Jammu University's commitment to fostering academic excellence and research initiatives.

Sandesh Sharma Additional District Development Commissioner Poonch in his address underscored the pivotal role of sericulture in the region's economic and social development. His insights provided a local perspective, emphasizing the practical implications of sericulture on the community.

Prof. Rakesh Vaid, Director of Poonch Campus and Convener of the conference, presented a formal welcome address, setting the tone for the conference. His words resonated with the historical and contemporary significance of sericulture, especially in the context of the Poonch region. "The conference is poised to continue over the next two days with engaging discussions, workshops, and presentations, creating a platform for collaborative learning and innovative thinking in the realm of sericulture," he added.

Director Poonch Campus extended heartfelt thanks

to Sponsor Jammu and Kashmir Bank for their crucial financial support in ensuring the success of the conference. He further said "I am delighted to share that the Cocoon Craft initiative, spearheaded by Dr Rubia Bukhari I/C Department of Sericulture Poonch Campus, stands as a landmark achievement, underscoring our commitment to innovation and sustainable development. "This initiative, a testament to our unwavering dedication, aims to revolutionize the sericulture industry by seamlessly integrating traditional craftsmanship with modern techniques," he added.

In a hybrid mode, Prof. Seema Langer, Head of the Department of Zoology at the University of Jammu, addressed the gathering, emphasizing the interdisciplinary nature of sericulture and its connections to various scientific disciplines.

Anjum Khattak, Tehsil-dar, and ARTO Poonch who was guest of honour on the occasion highlighted the regional significance of sericulture and its impact on the local economy. As the part of the local administration, he emphasized the importance of sustainable and community-focused sericulture practices, aligning with the overall development goals of the region.

Dr Farooq Baqal Dean Associate SKAUST-K Key note speaker presented a keynote address, offering valuable insights into the current dynamics and future possibilities within the sericulture industry. The keynote set the stage for meaningful discussions and exploration of innovative solutions.

Notable speakers, including Director All India Radio Poonch, Ghulam Nabi Mir, Principal GDC Budhal, Rajouri, Dr. Musaraf Hussain Shah, and Dr. Fateh Mohammad Abasi, Head of the Department of Zoology, GDC Surankote, graced the occasion with their profound perspectives on the significance of sericulture in the region. Their collective insights illuminated various facets of the industry, shedding light on

its potential impact on local communities, economy, and ecology.

Furthermore, the speakers took a moment to commend the efforts of the Organizing Secretary, Dr. Rubia Bukhari, for her dedicated and sincere endeavors in orchestrating this conference. They lauded her meticulous planning, unwavering commitment, and tireless efforts to ensure that this gathering becomes a memorable and enriching experience for all participants.

Dr. Rubia Bukhari, I/C Department of Sericulture and Organizing Secretary of the Conference, presented the conference report, outlining the objectives and expected outcomes of the CS&FPS-2023. Dr. Bukhari's expertise added depth to the understanding of the challenges and opportunities in the sericulture landscape. "The Two Days National Conference on "Current Scenario & Future Prospects of Sericulture (CS&FPS)-2023" at JU's Poonch Campus aims to facilitate discussions among experts, scholars, and industry leaders on the challenges and opportunities in the sericulture sector," Dr Bukhari added.

Adding a touch of cultural vibrancy to the occasion, students from the Department of Sericulture at Poonch Campus showcased a colourful cultural program, reflecting the rich heritage and traditions associated with sericulture. Dr. Palvi Sharma from the Department of Sericulture at Poonch Campus presented the formal vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the participants, organizers, and sponsors for their contributions to the event's success.

Present on the occasion includes, Delegates, Principals of various colleges, officials from civil administration and police, faculty members from the Department of Sericulture Dr Jyoty Angotra, Dr Palvi Sharma, Kalpna Sudan, Sahil Choudhary, Mohd Sagheer and Sandeep Kumar and Arjun, Students of the Department of Sericulture.

Tasleema grieved over martyrdom of Army jawans

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Nov 23: United Nations Human Rights International Social-Political activist, DPAP State Secretary Jammu and Kashmir, Tasleema Akhter grieved over the martyrdom of Indian army

soldiers including an officer in an encounter with the terrorists in Kalakote in Rajouri District.

As per the press release, Tasleema Akhter expressed sympathies with the bereaved family members of martyred Indian army soldiers that broke out in Kalakote.

JKHCBAJ mourns loss of army personnel in Rajouri

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 23: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association Jammu (JKHCBAJ) extended its deepest condolences to the families of the four Army personnel, including two officers, who lost their lives during the ongoing encounter with terrorists in Rajouri, Jammu and Kashmir.

This tragic incident serves as a stark reminder of the challenges faced by our security forces in their tireless efforts to maintain peace in the region. The J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu stands in solidarity with the brave soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty, and our thoughts are with their grieving families during this difficult time.

The General Secretary of the association Parvesh Singh Salaria strongly condemns Pakistan's support for terrorism, which aims to disrupt the peace and

development in this region of India. The people of Jammu and Kashmir vehemently reject and denounce such actions, vowing never to allow Pakistan to fulfill its dream of spreading terror in our motherland. We remain resolute in our commitment to stand against terrorism and ensure the safety and harmony of our communities.

In these challenging times, the J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu is heartened by the unity of the entire nation, as evidenced by the support and solidarity pouring in from every corner of India. The association acknowledges and appreciates the nation standing with the families of the martyred soldiers.

The J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu calls for a united front against terrorism and reaffirms its commitment to working towards a peaceful and secure Jammu and Kashmir.

NSF constitutes JU unit; Umar Farooq nominated as president

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 23: National Secular Forum (NSF) on Thursday constituted its Jammu University unit and Mohd Umar Farooq appointed as the President, Vineet Gupta as Chairman, Aditya Kargotra as Working President and Atul Sharma as Senior Vice-President of the University Unit.

Gourav partap Singh and Ashfaq Ahmed were appointed as Vice-President. Vikas Sharma and Rahul Sharma were appointed as General Secretary while Jatin Sharma, Gorav Chibber, Umar Shaif, Saleem Malik, Faayez Iqbal were appointed as Secretaries. Rajnesh Singh, Yogesh Kumar, Arun Singh, Avais shamim were appointed as Joint Secretary

Jatinder Singh as Publicity Secretary, Ayush Katoch as Press Secretary, Tarun Bhu as Media Incharge, Vipul Sharma as Media Co-Incharge, Tehraj Ahmed as Social Media Incharge while Vineet Sharma, Viren Nagotra, Navdeep Jamal, Younis Malik, Ajay Singh, Arun Sharma, Shivam and others were elected as Executive Members. The body was constituted during a meeting held under the chairmanship of Vikshay Vashist State Secretary NSF, who also discussed various issues and demands of the students. J&K has been suffering badly due to misgovernance and there is nobody who listens to the grievances of youth, he said. He also said that unemployment is at an all time high in the present scenario which is the root cause of depression and anxiety among the young generation following which it is becoming a drug addict.

He further said that the National Secular Forum has always been in the forefront for raising the voice of the students vociferously. He asked the new President Jammu University to work against drug addiction and show good path to the youth.

District President Jammu, Roshan Sharma also addressed said that amongst others, the main aim and objective of NSF has been taking cognizance of problems of students and solving them on priority and that is why the students believe and trust the students-friendly policies of National Secular Forum. He urged that the trust of students' community has to be maintained at all costs.

Among those who attended the meeting included, Abhishek Uppal, Aditya Khajuria, Ankush and others.

Faculty from University of Arizona, USA delivers lecture at SMVDU



Top News Report

KATRA, Nov 23: Dr. Subham Badhyal, Assistant Professor, University of Arizona delivered an invited lecture at School of Mechanical Engineering, SMVDU on the topic "Engineering in Medicine".

The speaker dealt with various engineering aspects of medicine such as biomechanics,

design and development of orthopedic implants and rehabilitation devices and human motion analysis. The speaker apart from sharing his vast research experience also motivated the students and scholars present to take up interdisciplinary projects of social importance. The speaker also had a detailed discussion with the faculty about possi-

ble future collaboration and academic opportunities for students abroad.

Prof. E. Muthuswamy (Head, SME) and Dr. Ankush Anand (Associate Professor, SME) were present during the lecture.

Event was attended by faculty, scholars and students of School of Mechanical Engineering.

The event was coordinated by joint efforts of Dr. Sanjay Mohan (Asst. Prof.,SME), Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq (Asst. Prof.,SME) and Dr. Ankush Raina (Asst. Prof.,SME). Dr. Subham Badhyal also interacted with Dr. Yugal Khajuria (Dean International and Alumni Affairs, SMVDU).

GDC Chatroo organizes awareness program on 'Fundamental Rights and Duties'

Top News Report

CHATROO, Nov 23: Government Degree College (GDC) Chatroo hosted a comprehensive awareness program on Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties under the theme "My Constitution My Pride" and aimed at enlightening students and staff members about their rights and responsibilities as citizens of the nation.

The programme was organized under the guidance and overall Supervision of Dr. Ved Kumar Principal of the college. The event featured an insightful extension lecture by Dr. Haq Nawaz Ahmad, lecturer of Political science at GDC Chatroo.

The program witnessed a vibrant atmosphere of learning and engage-

ment. Dr. Haq Nawaz, in his enlightening lecture, provided valuable insights into the significance of Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties in shaping a responsible and aware citizenry.

Dr. Haq Nawaz in his lecture highlighted that these Rights and duties are vital to every citizen and these play an important role in achieving social Justice.

The initiative by Government Degree College Chatroo reflects the institution's commitment to fostering civic awareness and empowering its academic community with knowledge that goes beyond textbooks.

In his presidential address Dr Ved Kumar Principal of the college said that such events aimed to instill a sense of civic duty and responsibility among the attend-

ees, encouraging them to contribute positively to society.

He also expressed satisfaction with the turnout and enthusiasm displayed by Dr. Haq Nawaz, emphasized the importance of such awareness programs in shaping well-informed and responsible Citizens.

Prof. Dr. Ved Kumar also extends gratitude to Dr. Haq Nawaz for his valuable contribution to the program and looks forward to organizing more initiatives that promote holistic education and civic engagement. The whole Programme was coordinated by Dr Jaswant Singh.

The faculty members who were present during the occasion are Prof. Chander Parkash, Dr Jaivardhan Manhas, Dr Inam and Mudassir Bhat.

PM Modi is always a front-runner in every field: Abhinav Anand

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 23: In the nine years of the Modi-led government, India has forged its image as a self-reliant country while focusing on the uplifting and welfare of the poor.

This was stated by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District Secretary Jammu South, Abhinav Anand. He said under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has undergone surprising changes in the last successful nine years and established a self-reliant image of the nation.

He said PM Modi is such a noble soul, always ready a front-runner in every field.

Abhinav Anand highlighted to understand the phenomenon and dedication of PM Modi-his cult popularity and his titanium cast "can do no wrong" image, which has very definitive social welfare and progressive underpinnings, he spoke out that we have to look closely at these nine schemes of Modi Sarkar in the last 9 years public friendly supernatural schemes such as Har Ghar Jal (Jal Jeevan Mission) Har Ghar Shuchalay (Swachh Bharat Mission) Har Ghar Bijli (Saubhagya Yojana) Har

Gas Cylinder (Ujjwala Yojana) Har Ghar Ration (Gareeb Kalyan Yojana) Har Ghar Bank account (Jan Dhan Yojana) Har Ghar Swasthya (Ayushman Yojana) Har Ghar Teeka (Largest Vaccine Drive during Covid pandemic) Har Ghar Pakka Ghar (PM Aawas Yojana).

Anand emphasized that these nine life-changing schemes for improved people have transformed the lives of the poorest of the poor and have helped raise their standard of living to a level of dignity that they have always aspired for but were denied by a largely inefficient delivery mechanism led by a patronizing Mai Baap mindset.

Anand counted that today, there are crores of beneficiaries of these schemes who see Modi as a "messiah" and despite the opposition's criticism, common masses of all domains of society will undoubtedly vote for BJP and support in the upcoming parliamentary 2024 elections.

Abhinav asserted that the Modi government has proved incredible for the union territory of J&K with several infrastructure development projects being undertaken by the Centre. He enlightens whether it's the 43.5 cr bank accounts of the poor that enable and

ensure financial inclusion and targeted deliveries of social welfare using the JAM trinity (Jan-dhan-Adhar - Mobile) or whether it's the 80 crore poor people who got 5 kg wheat or rice and 1 kg of preferred pulses for free every month during the covid lockdown or the world's largest insurance scheme named Ayushman Bharat that allows 50 cr people access healthcare cashlessly - these schemes have a multiplier effect on ensuring that the poor are removed from the trap of debt and poverty while respecting and treating them with dignity under the vibrant leadership of PM Narendra Modi.

Abhinav highlights that replacing the traditional chulha with a gas stove and a cleaner fuel under Ujjwala was to ensure that women who are often expected to cook meals in a cramped rasi or kitchen can breathe better and their lungs have not subjected to the equivalent of inhaling 400 cigarettes a day. He said these are powerful and transformational schemes with ingredients of progressive standards built into them and under the impressive magical leadership of PM Modi and nation is on the progressive path.

J&K people still eager to remove ban on prepaid mobile roaming

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 23: Ever since the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35 A on August 5, 2019 and bifurcation of erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir in to two Union Territories J&K and Ladakh, many changes have taken place in every aspect of administration.

It has been emphasised time and again that everything has got united/connected from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Gujarat to Arunachal Pradesh.

Surprisingly, even in this era of fast digitalisation, whenever a person crosses Lakanpur state border line, his or her connection with all the other states and UTs of the country gets cut off.

Arvind Pandey General Manager of Union Govt regulated telecom Operator Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on Wednesday said, "The ban on all prepaid mobile services roaming is due to certain security reasons and there is no order from Union Govt

especially the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of communication and as also the Department of Telecommunication to revoke this ban".

He further said that the union government has no plan as yet to remove restrictions on the roaming facilities between the prepaid subscribers of Jammu and Kashmir services area and the rest of the country.

Due to the restrictions, no mobile prepaid connection issued in Jammu and Kashmir works outside the state. Similarly, no prepaid mobile from the rest of the country works in the state due to these security restrictions.

Pertinently, over 4.28 lakh pilgrims have undertaken the "Amar-nath Yatra" this year and more than 90 lakh "Katra Vaisshno Devi" pilgrims besides a large number of tourists visit Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh every year.

It is equally notable that people whether they are from Jammu and Kashmir or Ladakh UT's, more than 90% of them

are prepaid subscribers who face uncalled for inconveniences when they visit other states of India on trips for medical exigencies like treatments, for business purposes or as tourists.

However, General Manager BSNL stated that BSNL has been trying to provide quality experience to its subscribers since the very beginning, but the ban on the roaming services is hindering the process badly.

"The BSNL was augmenting its infrastructure to provide 'quality' experience to its subscribers and is in touch with Union Govt with the rising demand of people for lifting the ban," GM disclosed.

"Now-a-days maximum bookings like Air tickets, Railway tickets, Hotel booking, Restaurant, Cabs etc. besides all other transactions are done online but due to ban on roaming, our traders and tourists are deprived of this facility," said Vishal Kumar a Prepaid subscriber and a Businessman of Raghunath Bazaar while

expressing utter dismay on the ban. He further added, "In the era of internet and digitalisation, the ban on prepaid mobile roaming services is quite unfortunate and the advertent decision taken by the govt needs to be reviewed in the interest of the general public.

"People want to remain in touch with the friends and the family on social networking platform like Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram etc., but people are deprived of all these facilities," he further argued.

Equally notable is it that the Tourism potential has been there since time immemorial in J&K where the number of unemployed youth is more than 60%. However, govt advises these unemployed youth to become entrepreneurs all the time. At a time when a youth turns over to be an entrepreneur and opens a small business unit, interestingly, more than 40% of his sales and purchases are from tourism merchandising and depends mostly on online trans-

actions.

"While this is the era of digitalisation and more than 98% of sales and purchases are transacted online. Currently, more than 90% of the country is prepaid subscribers. And tourist's prepaid SIM is blocked as soon as they enter J&K and due to this, our tourists are unable to buy anything of their choice or order for their bookings. Consequently, this has a deep impact on our traders," Dev Raj Gupta another Shop-keeper in Raghunath Bazar Jammu said.

However, according to subscribers there is no justification in continuing the ban on the roaming on pre-paid telephony when all other activities are now carried throughout the country without any problem.

"Now-a-days every SIM card is linked with Adhar, (the bioelectric identity proof). If any phone is misused, it is easy to detect it," Vikas Gupta, a prepaid user of Jammu said.

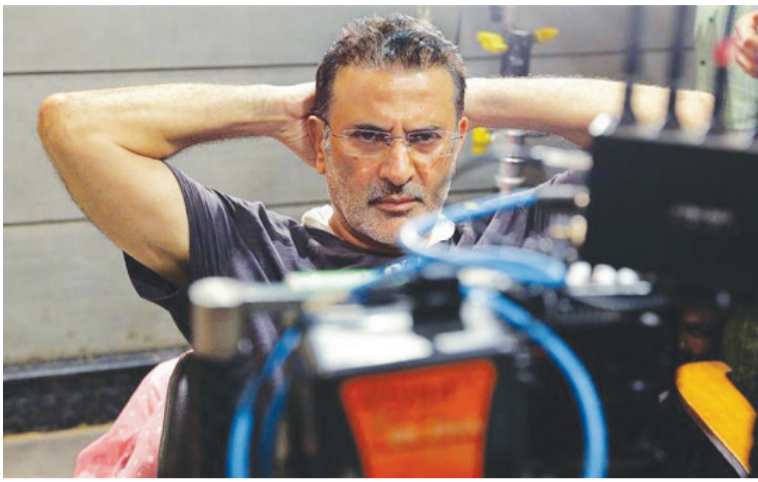
"In the era of internet, the ban on prepaid mobile roaming services is irrelevant," he further rued.

Parmeet Sethi dons the director's hat for the series Hack: Crimes Online. His lead actors Vipul Gupta and Riddhi Kumar, talk about how he has a keen eye and a heart of gold

While many of us still associate with the handsome Punjabi munda from Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge, Parmeet Sethi, the actor has moved on to the director's chair and enjoys the job better than being in front of the screen. His fourth project as a director is set in the world of cybercrime — Hack: Crimes Online — and was released on November 10.

"Today, we do almost everything online — education, entertainment, shopping or work, we depend on screens for it, but each screen can be hacked and is a potential crime site," says Parmeet. This episodic series on Amazon miniTV charts different waters and explores crimes that are technology driven.

"An actor is hungry for good work. Here comes a series that's not just entertaining but also educative, so as an actor I had to lap it up," says Vipul Gupta, who plays Ashutosh, an ACP in cybercrime unit, a desperate cop hankering to set



things right. For Riddhi Kumar, the role of Shakti offered a chance to play a character with a challenging life. "I have been very fond of Parmeet sir's work. I loved his Badmaash Company, which I found to be way ahead of its times. I couldn't let go of a chance to work with him," she avers.

Supportive unit

While challenges were many, Parmeet shares that his excellent team kept him going. "I had

such a supportive unit. The actors would wake up at 4 am to start the shoot at 6 am and carry on till late in the evening, not once did any of them complain about it," he says. "Also, when I sat editing the series, I recalled each shot and how we filmed it... It was like main Taj Mahal ko apne samne bante dekh raha tha," he smiles.

In him, the cast found a fantabulous mentor. "Not only does he know his job, but is also

so grounded. The combination is rare but it made my experience wonderful," avers Vipul. "Sir is a fair man, who never makes you feel any lesser than anyone on the sets. He could gauge everyone's energy each day and get work done accordingly. This is one project where he gave me maximum artistic liberty and I am grateful for that," adds Riddhi.

Refreshing space

While crime sagas and thrillers fill the OTT space, we ask them the USP of the show. "It's episodic, each time a new crime, new setting, so it keeps refreshing," offers Parmeet. "Our show isn't dark, or high on sex and violence like many others, which makes it a family watch," says Vipul. Riddhi adds, "You will find every kind of crime here — bullying to banking frauds to espionage. Different age-groups would be able to relate to the threat they are facing or may do." 'Hack: Crimes Online' is streaming on Amazon miniTV!

Busy bee!: Mrunal Thakur says it is a difficult time, but a wonderful phase for her



Actress Mrunal Thakur has been multitasking between the sets of her upcoming projects, completing the final touches to Hi Nanna

and also finishing the shoot for Family Star with Vijay Deverakonda. Mrunal has not taken a single day off in the past 10 months. What-

ever time she gets off from her shoots in Hyderabad, she flies to Mumbai to complete her other commitments. The actress has been shuttling between Hyderabad and Mumbai, seamlessly transitioning from film promotions in the bustling city of Mumbai to the film sets in the vibrant film hub of Hyderabad. "It's been an incredible journey. Juggling between projects and promotions has been challenging, but the love and response from the audience make it all worthwhile," said Mrunal. "I literally fly to Mumbai sometimes only for 4-5 hours and take off again. I haven't taken a single day off. But I'm not complaining. There are exciting things coming up and I want put in this effort."

Tulsi Kumar gives new spin to Mehdi Hasan's Mohabbat Karne Wale

Singer Tulsi Kumar is bringing on the heartbreak in a graceful, and eclectic style with her latest single, Mohabbat Karne Wale. A contemporary take on the mellifluous ghazal style, the song showcases Tulsi's ability to sublimely blend in ghazal with film music, symphonic, pop, and dance music.

Apart from just singing, she also performs some incredibly elegant and powerful dance moves infusing Indian classical dance forms such as Kathakali with European style ballet where she performs the dance alongside Sahaj Singh whose resplendent dancing really brings in the mood.

For all its musical diversity and experimentation, the production is still very modern and booming, typical of most contemporary pop music despite having little in common with pop, except for some brief fusion elements and that too in rarity.

Expressing her excitement about the song,



Tulsi Kumar said, "I have explored a new genre of music and Mohabbat Karne Wale is a special project for me. It allowed me to explore the depth of ghazal, while pushing the boundaries of conventional music videos."

Describing her collaboration with the team, she said, "Collaborating with such a talented team has been a fulfilling experience, and I hope the audience enjoys this unique blend of audio and visuals."

Sahaj Singh, whose dancing with Tulsi

makes the whole video said, "Working with Tulsi and the entire team was a fantastic experience. The dance sequences bring a new dimension to the song, and I am thrilled to be a part of this song."

Penned by Hafeez Hoshiyarpuri and composed by Mehdi Hasan whose work brings the whole song full circle, the beautiful dancing in the video is choreographed by Kamna-Utsav and directed by Siddharth Ahuja.

He made me feel like I belonged here: Babil Khan on working with Kay Kay Menon

Babil Khan says he was grappling with the loss of his father, actor Irrfan Khan, when he started working on the Netflix show 'The Railway Men' and credits his co-star Kay Kay Menon for creating an environment where he felt a sense of belonging.

During a press conference at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) here on Wednesday evening, the actor revealed he had started working on the series about seven-eight months after his father's demise.

Irrfan, a highly acclaimed and internationally renowned actor, passed away in April 2020 after a battle with a rare form of cancer.

Babil, who made his debut with the Netflix movie 'Qala' and also starred in the streamer's recent release 'Friday Night Plan', said he found solace on the set of 'The Railway Men'.

"When I was working with Kay Kay sir on this series, I was going through a huge loss. I



had lost my best friend and father in one day. It was seven or eight months before we started shooting for this," the young actor told agency here.

"When I would arrive on the set, that was the only time I felt like I belonged anywhere. When I was working with Kay Kay sir, that was the only time in that period of my life when I felt like I belonged. I think, to make a human being believe that they belong is the greatest gift you can give to them," he added.

Menon, a contemporary of Irrfan and co-star of critically acclaimed titles like 'Haider' and 'Life in a... Metro', praised Babil and said the upcoming actor possesses qualities that will take him to "great heights".

"Babil is an individual in himself, and he has something that will take him to great heights. Once you have seen the series, you will realise that. For him, to preserve and maintain that spark of Irrfan is his journey.

"And that's what I

felt about him since I worked so closely with him. He is a man of the heart, and he will go a long way," the star said. 'The Railway Men', the first series from Yash Raj Films' digital arm YRF Entertainment, directed by debutant Shiv Rawail, has received rave reviews since its premiere on Netflix last week.

Set against the backdrop of the 1984 Bhopal gas leak tragedy, the show pays tribute to the unsung heroes, the Indian railway employees posted at Bhopal station, who saved hundreds of innocent lives during that fateful night. It also stars R Madhavan and Divyendnu.

In the initial phase of his career, Menon said he had worked on a story about the industrial disaster — in 1999's 'Bhopal Express' — but what made him take up the series was the fact that it highlighted the sacrifices of the railway employees.

"What drew me to this

script was the banner of 'The Railway Men', which was unique as far as the series is concerned. This script gave space to those heroes who are unknown," he added.

The actor believes people tend to "underestimate" the Indian Railways.

"We sit in a train and take them for granted, not knowing that it is a high-risk job that they are doing. It is very easy to pass snide remarks, but it is a high precision and high-risk job. Their job is not just to take you from A to B but to take you there safely. So, it's an added responsibility," Menon said.

"So for me, when I chose to do this series, it was my homage to this particular organisation (Indian Railways) that we all take for granted, especially those railway men who sacrificed themselves to save people on that fateful night," he added.

IFFI will conclude on November 28.

Arijit Singh's 8-year-old fan misses Rs 1 crore question in 'KBC 15'

The quiz-based reality show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' season 15 witnessed an exemplary eight-year-old contestant, a die-hard fan of singer Arijit Singh, who lost his chance to win Rs 1 crore.

The 'KBC 15' hosted by Amitabh Bachchan is conducting a junior special segment, wherein the audience saw Virat Iyer on the hot seat.

Speaking about Virat, Amitabh said: "He studies in the third grade and hails from Bhilai, Chhattisgarh."

Virat said: "Sir, I want to say something. Can I?"

Big B: "Everything you say is important."

Contestant: "Sir, when I do 'puja', I wonder how God speaks. So I imagine God to speak like you and when he sings, he would sing like Arijit Singh."

The actor shared that Virat is a big fan of Arijit. Right?

Speaking of Virat's fabulous gameplay, Amitabh said: "Very

few children reach this stage. And Virat reached this stage quickly.

He reached this threshold fast and he educated Mr Computer and me in the process. Here is the 15th question for Rs 1 crore on your screen."

The question for Rs 1 crore was: "What is unique to the naming of two elements in the periodic table with atomic numbers 96 and 109, respectively?"

The options given were: A: Named after Nobel laureates, B: Named after women scientists, C: Named after Indian scientists, and D: They are unnamed.

The correct answer was option B. Virat gave the wrong answer. He took back home Rs 3.2 lakh.

The 'Brahmastra' actor then said: "You mentioned that you want to meet someone. What was his name?"

Virat: "Arijit Singh." Amitabh made a video call to Arijit. He



said to the singer of the 'Hawayein' song, "There's a diehard fan of you here called Virat. And it was his desire to meet you some day. So, as a gift, we're connecting you to him. Thank you so much, Arijit. Virat, please talk to him."

Arijit said: "Hello! What is happening?"

Big B: "Arijit, let me tell

you that while talking to him, he said that when he prays every morning he'd like to know how God would sound. So, he told me that if God could sing then he would've sounded like Arijit Singh."

Arijit smiled and added: "That is extra sweet of you, Virat." 'Kaun Banega Crorepati 15' airs on Sony.

"I always strive to challenge myself," says Ranbir Kapoor on showing his different side in 'Animal'

Ranbir Kapoor is preparing for the global release of the action-crime drama 'Animal'. The film brings a different side of the actor which is different from his popular on-screen image and he said that it was his "deliberate choice", reported Variety.

He said, "It was a deliberate choice on my part to explore a different side of myself on-screen with 'Animal'. As an actor, I always strive to challenge myself and push the boundaries of my abilities. 'Animal' presented a unique opportunity to break away from my previous on-screen image and delve into a character that is multi-dimensional and complex."

"I believe it's important for actors to constantly evolve and surprise audiences and 'Animal' allowed me to do just that. I hope viewers will appreciate this new facet of my performance and



enjoy the film as much as I did while working on it." The actor further talked about his film and said that it is a gripping and intense tale.

'Animal' is a gripping and intense film that delves into the depths of human emotions and relationships. It explores the complexities of life

and the choices we make, with a narrative that keeps you on the edge of your seat." Opening up about his character in the film, he added, "My character in the film is a fascinating blend of strength, vulnerability and unpredictability. He is driven by his past experiences

and carries a certain darkness within him, which adds an intriguing layer to his persona."

"As the story unfolds, you will witness the evolution of this character and the impact he has on the overall narrative. It's a role that challenged me as an actor and allowed me to explore new depths in my performance. I believe audiences will be captivated by the intensity and depth of 'Animal' and the characters within it," he said on how his character evolves as the story progresses, reported Variety.

Helmed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga 'Animal' stars Ranbir, Rashmika, Anil Kapoor and Bobby Deol in the lead roles and is all set to hit the theatres on December 1.

The film will be released in 5 languages—Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam.

New regulatory mechanism, penalties for deep fakes: Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw

Govt makes a four-point plan to tackle the threat

NEW DELHI, Nov 23 (Agencies): Union Minister for Electronics and Information Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday termed deep fakes as 'threat to democracy and society'.

He laid out a four-point plan to tackle the threat, including having stricter regulatory mechanism with penalties of fiscal and criminal nature.

The minister was talking to media after a meeting with social media companies, users of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, Nasscom and professors who work in the field of AI.

"We need to take urgent steps," Vaishnaw said, adding, "We have agreed that we will come up with clear actionable new regulatory mechanism. This could be in form of new law, or amendment of existing rules, whichever is better," he added.

"The regulatory mechanism will have four pillars. The first is detection of deep fakes and deep misinformation; second is to prevent the spread of deep fakes once they are posted on internet platforms; how to strengthen the reporting mechanism for such deep fakes and lastly to create awareness.



"We will be looking to prevent the harm and also have options for users to know what is fake," Vaishnaw said, adding that the companies understood that posting deep fakes was 'not free speech' and was harmful for society and agreed to greater regulation.

"We will start drafting the regulations today itself and they will be ready in a short time," said the minister, adding, "We will soon be uploading an email ID by which people can provide their opinion."

Extensive set of technologies

are available to detect deep fakes, said the minister, as he cited experts who were at the meeting. "People making deep fakes are using better and better technologies and the challenge will be that." At the meeting there was discussion on watermarking and labelling videos. Also, there was discussion on disallowing apps that enable making deep fake videos.

The meeting had come after the ministry issued an advisory to social media companies asking these platforms to take stronger action against AI-generated deepfake content.

After the advisory, the companies have taken the matter very seriously, said the minister, adding, "They have started taking steps and assured us that they shared our concern and also of different geographies."

The government's advisory sent to social media platforms a few days ago sternly warned them that failing to promptly remove deepfake content from their platforms could lead to consequences, such as losing safe harbour (immunity) provisions. Safe harbour provisions grant legal protection to internet platforms against user-generated content.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had recently expressed concerns about the misuse of artificial intelligence to create deepfakes and urged the media to raise awareness about this growing problem.

President Droupadi Murmu, addressing an event on November 17, said the use of generative artificial intelligence by criminals and the problem of deepfake, means police officers have to always be updated in the field of technology.

Delhi teen stabs boy 55 times, slits throat and dances; horror unfolds on CCTV

NEW DELHI, Nov 23 (Agencies): An apparently inebriated 16-year-old stabbed another teen 55 times, slit his throat, dragged the body through the street and did a jig while he carried out the grisly crime in east Delhi's Welcome Colony earlier this week, police said on Thursday.

Some of the horrifying details of the killing in Janta Mazdoor Colony on Tuesday were captured on CCTV. The 2.23-minute footage also showed the accused threatening those around him.

The accused, who was arrested on Wednesday morning and has confessed to the crime, did not know the 17-year-old who he had approached for money to buy biryani, officials said.

"We have already recovered the weapon used for murder. We are investigating from where he procured the knife," Deputy Commissioner of Police (northeast) Joy Turkey said.

The crime took place around 11.15 pm on Tuesday. The victim was rushed to hospital but died on the way.

The CCTV footage shows the accused teen dragging a person through a narrow bylane and going on a stabbing spree.

"He did not stop there. He was seen dancing while doing the gruesome act.

A person tried to open a door to see what was happening, but the accused threatened him by brandishing a knife," an official investigating the crime said.

It all started when the victim refused to buy the biryani for the accused, apparently sending him into a wild rage.

There was a verbal spat, which soon turned into a scuffle.

"The accused overpowered the victim who was 17 and a resident of Jafraabad. He first choked him till he was unconscious and took out a mini knife out of his pocket and stabbed

him multiple times. He then dragged him to a bylane where he continued to stab him in his face, neck, back and beneath eyes 55 times," the official said.

Detailing the crime, he added that the accused was seen shouting at people to stay away.

"The accused was under the influence of alcohol," said the investigator.

It did not end there. "We were also taken aback...the accused after the entire act holds the lifeless body by the hair and drags him back to the same narrow area. He robbed the victim of Rs 350 and fled.

We have apprehended the accused, who had confessed to his crime and the weapon of murder has been recovered," an investigator said.

"The CCTV footage helped us in the identification of the accused who was arrested immediately," said DCP Turkey.

Supreme Court's first woman judge Justice Fathima Beevi dies at 96

KOLLAM (KERALA), Nov 23 (Agencies): The first woman judge of the Supreme Court and former governor of Tamil Nadu, Justice Fathima Beevi, died at a private hospital here on Thursday, official sources said.

She was 96. State Health Minister Veena George condoled her death saying the demise of Justice Beevi was extremely painful.

The minister said Justice Beevi made a mark as the first woman judge of the Supreme Court



and as the Tamil Nadu governor.

"She was a brave woman who had many records to her name. She was a personality

who through her own life showed that will-power and a sense of purpose can overcome any adversity," George said in a statement.

Fire in Mumbai highrise; 9 people suffer from suffocation

MUMBAI, Nov 23 (Agencies): Nine people suffered from suffocation after a fire broke out in a 24-storey residential building in Byculla area of Mumbai on Thursday, officials said.

The nine people, including five senior citizens, have been admitted to a hospital and kept under observation, they said.

The blaze erupted at 3.40 am on the third floor of the building located in New Hind Mill Compound at MHADA colony in Ghodapdeo area of Byculla where government has given



flats to people, mainly mill workers, they said.

The fire was confined to the electric meter cabin, wiring, cable, scrap material in the electric duct, garbage

and material in the garbage duct from 1st to 24th floor of the building, a civic official said.

He said at least 135 people were rescued from different floors of

the building. Out of them, 25 were evacuated from the terrace, 30 from a refuge area on the 15th floor, and 80 people from a refuge area on the 22nd floor of the building, he said.

Nine people, including five aged 60 and above, suffered from suffocation. All of them were admitted to the civic-run KEM Hospital in Parel and kept under observation, officials said.

Those who got suffocated after the blaze have been identified as Lakshmi Raut (70), Archana More (75),

Parvatibai Tambole (85), Lata Tambole (67), Pranay Tambole (28), Archana Nilesh More, Mumtaz (60), Abhish (36) and Vishal Vijay More (34), a civic official said.

Five fire engines and three water tankers along with other fire brigade vehicles were rushed to the spot after receiving the call and the blaze was doused by 7.20 am, a fire brigade official said.

The cause of the fire is not yet known, but a short-circuit is suspected to have triggered it, a civic official said.

"Akin To Jizya Tax": Union Minister Demands Ban On Halal Products In Bihar

Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U) hit back at the BJP, accusing it of "hypocrisy" in matters like beef consumption.

PATNA, Nov 23 (Agencies): Union Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh on Thursday asked Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to ban the sale of "halal certified" products, calling it a "jihad" aimed at the "Islamisation of businesses".

Mr Singh, who represents the state's Begusarai Lok Sabha seat, also shared on X a copy of a letter he wrote to Kumar on Wednesday, urging him to take a leaf out of the book of Yogi Adityanath government in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh.

In a video statement, he said, "The sale of halal-certified products is akin to the Jizya tax that was imposed on non-Muslims in the medieval era. Previous governments of the Congress and its allies have put up with this



because of vote bank concerns and politics of appeasement."

"The 'tukde tukde' gang has made it possible for such products to be available in

every nook and corner of Bihar. Halal certification involves consecration in the name of the Quran, just like consecration through mantras in Hindu tradition. Sanatan Dharma is under attack. Unbridled sale of Halal products will pave way for Sharia rule," alleged Mr Singh, who also claimed that the phenomenon was "linked to terrorist activities".

Meanwhile, the chief minister's JD(U) hit back at the BJP, accusing it of "hypocrisy" in matters like beef consumption.

"The BJP claims to be the biggest custodian of Sanatan Dharma. Yet its own leaders in states like Uttar Pradesh are known to be the biggest exporters of beef. Such is their hypocrisy," said JD(U) chief spokesperson Neeraj Kumar.

3 of family killed, 9 others injured as bus overturns near Kolhapur



PUNE, Nov 23 (Agencies): Three members of a family were killed and nine others injured after a private bus overturned near Maharashtra's Kolhapur city in the wee hours of Thursday, police said.

The accident took

place at around 2 am near Puikhadi village on the outskirts of Kolhapur city, located about 240 km from Pune, when the sleeper coach bus carrying nearly 25 passengers was heading from Goa to Mumbai, they said.

"As per the information we have received, the bus overturned when its driver was trying to negotiate a turn near Puikhadi on Kolhapur-Radhanagari road," an official from Karvir police station said.

Upon receiving the information, police and fire brigade department personnel rushed to the spot with cranes.

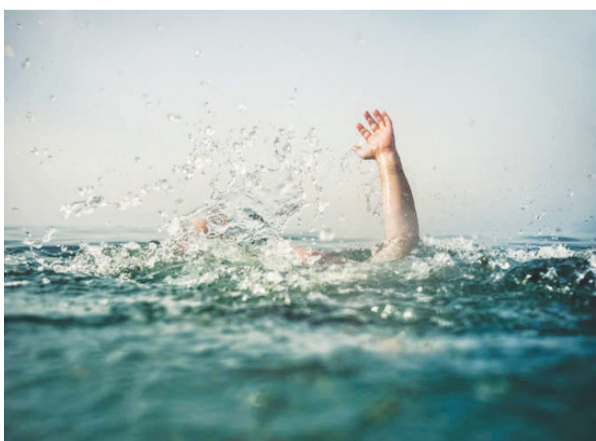
"Three members of a family were killed while nine other passengers received injuries. The injured persons are currently undergoing treatment at different hospitals in Kolhapur," the official said.

2 farmers who fell into river-linking tunnel in Pune found dead, bodies recovered

PUNE, Nov 23 (Agencies): Two farmers, who fell into a 300 feet deep tunnel linking Nira and Bhima rivers in Pune district of Maharashtra and went missing, were found dead hours later and their bodies were fished out, police said on Thursday.

The deceased, Anil Bapurao Narute and Ratilal Balbhim Narute, fell down into the tunnel around 5.30 pm on Wednesday and their bodies were recovered around midnight, they said.

The duo was pulling up a submersible water



pump through an open shaft of the tunnel near Akole village in Indapur tehsil when the rope snapped and they fell down, a district administration official had said.

"The bodies of the two farmers were fished out around midnight and sent for post-mortem," inspector Vikram Salunke of Walchandnagar police station said.

Central agencies targeting Opposition will be after BJP post-2024 LS polls: Mamata Banerjee

KOLKATA, Nov 23 (Agencies): The central agencies that are at present targeting Opposition leaders will be after the BJP following the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee claimed on Thursday, asserting that the government at the Centre will last for three more months.

Addressing TMC workers at the Netaji Indoor Stadium here, she said that after the arrest of her party's leaders in different cases, the expulsion of MP Mahua Moitra was being planned but it would eventually help her before the elections. "Central agencies tar-



getting Opposition leaders at present will go after the BJP following the 2024 elections," she told party workers.

"This government at the Centre is there for three more months," she said.

Banerjee also claimed that the BJP-led government wants to do away with reservations and

maintained that she will oppose it.

"BJP is also against the reservation for minorities, but we will bring them under the system through OBC quota," she added.

Banerjee also alleged that attempts of "safefronising" the country were under way in full swing—from Metro

railway stations to the cricket team. "Saffron is the colour of 'tyagis', but you are 'bhogis'," she said, targeting the BJP, claiming that players resisted, as a result, the Indian cricket team did not have to wear the saffron practice jersey during matches.

The TMC chief also claimed that India would have won if the World Cup final happened in Kolkata or Mumbai, instead of Ahmedabad.

"They won all the matches in the World Cup except the one attended by the sinners," she said.

Banerjee also attacked the Centre over the state of the country's economy.

"The banking sector is in the doldrums and PSUs are being sold," she said, noting that the unemployment rate was also very high.

She took on the BJP over the allegations of cow smuggling to Bangladesh through West Bengal.

"Cows for smuggling to Bangladesh are brought from different states, including UP. Who takes the cut there," she asked.

The Chief Minister said that West Bengal was fast evolving as a destination for investment.

"All big IT companies are investing in Kolkata's 'Silicon Valley' project," she said.

Israel-Hamas truce deal for hostage release hits last-minute snag, now expected to start on Friday

According to Israeli media, some final details are still being worked out

DEIR AL-BALAH (GAZA STRIP), Nov 23 (Agencies): An agreement for a four-day cease-fire in Gaza and the release of dozens of Hamas-held hostages and Palestinians imprisoned by Israel appeared to have hit a last-minute snag when a senior Israeli official said it would not take effect until Friday, a day later than originally announced.

The diplomatic breakthrough promised some relief for the over 1.7 million Palestinians who have fled their homes under weeks of Israeli bombardment, as well as families in Israel fearful for the fate of their loved ones captured during Hamas' Oct. 7 attack that triggered the war.

Israel's national security adviser, Tzachi Hanegbi, announced the delay late on Wednesday, without providing a reason. Israeli media reported that some final details were still being worked out.

The Persian Gulf nation of Qatar, which played a key role in mediating with Hamas, said early Thursday that a new time for the agreement to go into force would be announced "in the coming hours." It was originally set to begin at 10 a.m. (0800 GMT) Thursday. The U.S. and Egypt also helped negotiate the deal.

ETANYAHU SAYS TRUCE WON'T END WAR

The agreement had raised hopes of eventually winding down the war, now in its seventh week, which has leveled vast swaths of Gaza, fueled a surge of violence in the occupied West Bank, and stirred fears of a wider conflagration across the Middle East.

But Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a nationally televised news conference that the war would resume after the truce expires, with the goal of destroying Hamas' military capabilities, ending its 16-year rule in Gaza and returning all of the estimated 240 captives held in Gaza by Hamas and other groups.

"The war is continuing. We



will continue it until we achieve all our goals," Netanyahu said, adding that he had delivered the same message in a phone call to U.S. President Joe Biden. Washington has provided extensive military and diplomatic support to Israel since the start of the war.

If implemented, the deal temporarily freezes both sides at a tenuous moment.

Israeli troops hold much of northern Gaza and say they have dismantled tunnels and much of Hamas' infrastructure there. Israeli forces on Wednesday revealed what they said was a major Hamas hideout in a tunnel beneath Shifa Hospital. The territory's largest medical center has been at the heart of a fierce battle of narratives over both sides' allegedly reckless endangerment of civilians.

Still, Israeli officials acknowledge that much of Hamas' infrastructure remains intact, and have threatened to launch wider operations in southern Gaza, where hundreds of thousands of people who fled the north have crammed into overflowing U.N.-run shelters with dwindling food, water and basic supplies.

For Hamas, the cease-fire would provide an opportunity to regroup after weeks of apparently heavy losses. Hamas leader Yehya Sinwar, who is believed to be alive and in hiding in Gaza, is likely to claim the release of Palestinian prisoners as a major achievement and declare victory if the war ends.

HOSTAGES TO BE FREED IN STAGES

Under the truce deal, 50 hostages will be freed in stages, in exchange for the release of what Hamas said would be 150 Palestinian prisoners. Both sides will release women and children first, and Israel said the truce would be extended an extra day for every additional 10 hostages freed by Hamas.

The return of hostages could lift spirits in Israel, where their plight has gripped the country. Families of the hostages have staged mass demonstrations to pressure the government to bring them home.

Qatar said the cease-fire would allow a "larger number of humanitarian convoys and relief aid" to enter Gaza, including fuel, but it gave no details on actual quantities. Israel cut off all fuel imports at the start of the war, causing a territory-wide blackout and leaving homes and hospitals reliant on generators, which have also steadily been forced to shut down.

Netanyahu said the deal includes a provision for the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit the hostages in captivity.

Israel's Justice Ministry published a list of 300 prisoners eligible to be released, mainly teenagers detained over the past year for rock-throwing and other minor offenses.

The war erupted when several thousand Hamas militants stormed into southern Israel,

killing at least 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking scores of hostages, including babies, women and older adults, as well as Israeli soldiers.

Israel has a long history of agreeing to lopsided prisoner swaps with militant groups, and Hamas is expected to demand a large number of high-profile Palestinian prisoners in exchange for the soldiers.

HEAVY TOLL ON GAZA

Weeks of Israeli airstrikes in Gaza, followed by a ground invasion, have killed more than 11,000 Palestinians, according to the Health Ministry in the Hamas-run territory. It does not differentiate between civilians and militants, though some two-thirds of the dead have been identified as women and minors.

The ministry said that as of Nov. 11 it had lost the ability to count the dead because of the collapse of large parts of the health system, but that the number has risen sharply since then. Some 2,700 people are missing and believed buried under rubble.

Israel says it has killed thousands of Hamas fighters, though it has presented no evidence for its count.

Three-fourths of Gaza's population of 2.3 million have been displaced in the war. Many, if not most, will be unable to return home because of the vast damage and the presence of Israeli troops in the north.

The UN agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, said that more than 1 million Palestinians were seeking shelter in 156 of its facilities in Gaza, where many have been forced by overcrowding to sleep on the streets outside as a cold, rainy winter sets in.

Israel has barred imports to Gaza since the start of the war, except for a trickle of aid entering through Egypt's Rafah crossing. Humanitarian aid groups operating in Gaza said the truce was too short and the Rafah crossing's capacity was insufficient to meet urgent needs.

North Korea To Toughen Border Security After Spy Satellite Launch Success



SEOUL, Nov 23 (Agencies): North Korea said Thursday it would deploy new weapons and stronger armed forces to the border with the South, as Seoul's spy agency said Pyongyang had received Russian help to successfully put a military spy satellite into orbit.

Tuesday's launch of the "Malligong-1" was Pyongyang's third attempt at securing a military eye in the sky after two failures in May and August.

North Korean state media claimed within hours of the launch that leader Kim Jong Un was already reviewing images of US military bases in Guam.

Seoul's National Intelligence Service told lawmakers the launch had been a success but cautioned it was too early to say if the satellite was working as Pyongyang claimed, adding the North had been given "feedback" by Russia after Kim met Russian President Vladimir Putin in September.

"After the summit with Putin, the North provided Moscow with the blueprint and data relevant to the first and second satellite launches. Russia in turn analysed those data and provided the North with feedback," the agency told lawmakers, according to a briefing by MP Yoo Sang-bum.

While the North claims the satellite is already functioning, the NIS -- which collected and analysed debris from one of Pyongyang's failed launches, finding it had no military utility -- said it was unlikely.

"Given it usually takes three years for satellite development, the current claims do not guarantee the North's satellite capability -- unless Pyongyang actually makes public those Guam base photos it mentioned," Yoo said.

Deal suspended

After the launch, Seoul partially suspended a five-year-old military accord and deployed "surveillance and reconnaissance assets" to the border, in what defence chief Shin Won-sik said Thursday was an "essential measure" to defend against the nuclear-armed North's growing threats.

North Korea's defence ministry on Thursday called Seoul's moves "reckless" and said it would also suspend -- in full -- the deal, saying Pyongyang "will never be bound" by the agreement again and would immediately beef up its own border security.

The North would now "deploy more powerful armed forces and new-type military hardware in the region along the Military Demarcation Line," the ministry said in a statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency.

The North also fired a ballistic missile early Thursday, Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said, adding that the launch had not been successful.

The ballistic missile launch is a harbinger of things to come, said Yang Moo-jin, president of the University of North Korean Studies.

"In order to show that their suspension of the agreement does not amount to just empty words, it is expected that there will be a demonstration of force by violating the maritime border, deploying coastal artillery ... and launching various missiles," he said.

"As a result, there will be increased possibility of accidental armed clashes along the Military Demarcation Line and an increase in the possibility of these accidental armed conflicts escalating into war."

Satellite in orbit

North Korea's Kim personally oversaw the satellite launch, state media photographs showed, and later reviewed images of US military bases in Guam, purportedly sent by the country's new eye in the sky.

Pyongyang's defence ministry repeated Thursday that the satellite launch was part of its "right to self-defence" and dismissed the "extremely hysterical" response from the South in particular.

South Korea "must pay dearly for their irresponsible and grave political and military provocations that have pushed the present situation to an uncontrollable phase," the ministry continued.

KCNA has said the satellite will begin a formal reconnaissance mission on December 1.

Successfully putting a spy satellite into orbit would improve North Korea's intelligence-gathering capabilities, particularly over South Korea, and provide crucial data in any military conflict, experts say.

The launch also appears to kick off a space race on the peninsula, experts said, with Seoul planning to launch its first spy satellite via a SpaceX rocket later this month.

Fiery Rainbow Bridge car crash at US-Canada border kills 2; terrorism ruled out

WASHINGTON, Nov 23 (Agencies): A speeding car crashed in flames on the bridge linking New York state and Ontario at Niagara Falls on Thursday, killing two people in the vehicle and sparking a security scare that closed four US-Canadian border crossings and New York's Buffalo International Airport.

Hours later federal and state authorities said investigators had found no evidence of an act of terror, though circumstances surrounding the crash on the Rainbow Bridge remained murky, leaving it to be determined whether it was accidental or intentional.

"At this time, there is no indication of a terrorist attack" or threat to the public at large, New York Governor Kathy Hochul told reporters Wednesday evening. Her comments were echoed by federal and local law enforcement officials at a separate news conference.

The FBI said in a statement late on Wednesday it had concluded its investigation. "A search of the scene revealed no explosive materials, and no terrorism nexus was identified," the FBI said in a post on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Video of the crash



caught on security camera and posted to X by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agency showed the car traveling from the U.S. side at high speed, then hitting an object and flying into the air before crashing to the ground and exploding in flames.

The driver and a passenger perished in the wreck, and a CBP officer suffered minor injuries. He was treated at a nearby hospital and released, an agency official said later.

Authorities did not identify the two people killed. CNN reported the driver was a 56-year-old man who was traveling in a Bentley automobile with his wife to attend a concert by the rock group KISS.

The Rainbow Bridge and all three other border crossings along the Niagara River between western New York and southern Ontario - the Peace Bridge, the Lewiston-

Queenston Bridge and the Whirlpool Bridge - were shut for several hours afterward as a precaution.

Other international crossings remained open on "heightened alert status," according to the governor.

Fiery crash reported Hochul said the car that crashed sailed over an 8-foot-tall fence before landing in a fireball that incinerated the vehicle, leaving little but the engine visibly intact and scattering debris over more than a dozen security booths on the bridge.

"He was flying, over 100 miles an hour," said Guenther, who was visiting from Kitchener, Ontario. He said the vehicle, which he described as a luxury sedan, was "fish-tailing" out of control before it crashed.

"It was a ball of fire, 30 or 40 feet high, never seen anything like it," said Guenther.

New Zealand's National Party clinches deal to form government

WELLINGTON, Nov 23 (Agencies): New Zealand's National Party said on Thursday it has reached an agreement with ACT New Zealand and New Zealand First to form a government, ending weeks of negotiations and political uncertainty with the country under a caretaker government.

The center-right National Party won the largest share of votes in New Zealand's Oct. 14 general election but needed the support of both right-wing ACT New Zealand and the populist New Zealand First parties to form a majority government.

Negotiations have dragged on as the three parties had to agree on a political agenda for the coming three years and allocate ministerial positions.

"I'm very pleased to announce that we're in a position where we've concluded negotiations with the respective parties. Those agreements are now before the parties for ratification, which we hope to have this evening," incoming Prime Minister Christopher Luxon told reporters.

"We are genuinely excited." Both NZ First's Winston Peters and Act's David Seymour con-

firmed negotiations had concluded.

The conservative National Party won over voters by promising relief for struggling middle-income New Zealanders, and to bring historically high inflation under control while reducing the country's debt. It is expected to announce plans to return the central bank to a single mandate of targeting inflation of 1% to 3%.

The formation of the new coalition government will bring to an end six years of left-wing government led by Labour. Labour lost support with many

New Zealanders disgruntled over the country's long COVID-19 lockdown and the rising cost of living.

New Zealand operates a mixed member proportional system, which means coalition governments are the norm and historically it takes roughly a month for a government to be formed but can take longer.

A detail breakdown of the new government's policy agenda is expected to be released on Friday. Ministerial appointments are also expected to be announced then.

US Warship Intercepted Several Attack Drones Launched From Yemen: Pentagon

BAGHDAD, Nov 23 (Agencies): A US warship patrolling the Red Sea intercepted multiple attack drones launched from Houthi-controlled areas in Yemen on Thursday, the US Central Command said.

"On the morning (Yemen time) of November 23, the USS Thomas Hudner (DDG 116) shot down multiple one-way attack drones launched from Houthi controlled areas in Yemen," CENTCOM said on X.

"The ship and crew sustained no damage or injury," it added. The Huthis have declared themselves part of an "axis of resistance" of Iran's allies and proxies retaliating against Israel's war with Hamas.

The conflict has raised the spectre of a broader Middle East conflagration, with the frontier between Lebanon and Israel also seeing near-daily



exchanges of fire.

The Huthis in Yemen have launched a series of drones and missiles towards Israel since the October 7 start of the Israel-Hamas war.

On Wednesday, Israel said it had intercepted a "cruise missile" heading for the south of the country, a shot claimed by the Huthi rebels.

"Our forces launched missiles at various military targets" in

southern Israel, Yahia Saree, spokesman for the armed wing of the Huthis, wrote on X.

"We will continue to carry out military operations until the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank stops," he added.

The Huthis have also threatened to target Israeli shipping and on Sunday said they seized the Galaxy Leader, an Israel-linked cargo vessel and

its 25 international crew, at the entrance to the Red Sea.

Israel's military said the seizure was a "very grave incident of global consequence", and a US military official said it was "a flagrant violation of international law".

On Wednesday, Israel and Hamas said they had agreed on a four-day ceasefire during which there will be a hostage and prisoner swap.

Around 240 hostages were taken by Hamas and other Palestinian gunmen during bloody raids into Israel on October 7, which also killed 1,200 people, most of them civilians, according to Israeli authorities.

The attack prompted a major Israeli offensive into Hamas-run Gaza, which authorities there say has killed more than 14,000 people, two thirds of them women and children.

Punjabi Dept of JU organises lecture to commemorate 554th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev ji

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 23: In a bid to commemorate 554th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, first Sikh guru, Post Graduate Department of Punjabi, University of Jammu Thursday organised a special lecture on 'Significance of Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Wisdom', wherein Prof Sucheta Pathania, Dean Faculty of Arts and Head English Department was the chief guest.

Prominent Sikh Historian Dr Jasbir Singh Sarna was the keynote speaker, whereas Ajit Singh Mastana, renowned Punjabi poet of Jammu and Kashmir presided over the function. The lecture threw light on the life and teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, emphasizing their relevance in contemporary times.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Sucheta Pathania said that teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji are relevant to all ages and all groups irrespective of region and religion.



"It is truly an honor to be a part of this special event organized by the Punjabi Department, focusing on the life and teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. Guru Nanak Dev Ji's philosophy is a beacon of wisdom, emphasizing unity, equality, and compassion," Prof Pathania said and added that in today's world, where diversity is strength, Guru Nanak Dev Ji's teachings resonate more than ever.

Keynote speaker Dr Jasbir Singh Sarna threw light on the life journey of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. He said that Guru Nanak Dev Ji's teachings transcend time and remain a source of inspiration for humanity.

"His emphasis on equality, compassion, and the oneness of humanity serves as a guiding light in our quest for a harmonious and just society," Mr Sarna said, adding "As we reflect on Guru Nanak Dev Ji's life, let us strive to internalize the essence of his teachings and incorporate them into our daily lives."

Addressing the participants, special guest Ajit Singh Mastana said that Guru Nanak Dev Ji's life exemplifies a remarkable journey of spiritual awakening and social transformation.

"In today's dynamic world, teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji serve as a compass guiding us

towards a more secular and inclusive society," he said and commended the Punjabi Department for developing an environment that celebrates cultural understanding and promotes the exploration of profound spiritual teachings.

Prof Baljeet Kour, Head of the Punjabi Department, expressed gratitude to the speaker and participants for their active involvement, highlighting the importance of such events in developing a sense of unity and understanding among diverse communities.

Earlier, Dr. Pritam Singh, Assistant Professor Punjabi Department, who compered the programme, encour-

aged the students to absorb the timeless lessons from Guru Nanak Dev Ji and apply them in their lives.

Dr. Harjinder Singh also spoke about the relevance of Guru Nanak Dev Ji's wisdom, whereas Dr. Harpreet Kour extended formal vote of thanks.

Others present on the occasion, included Dr. Arvinder Singh Amn, former additional Secretary JKAACL, Harjeet Singh Uppal, President Punjabi Lekhak Sabha, Devinder Singh, former president Punjabi Lekhak Sabha Jammu, Dr. Vikram Sahi, Incharge Librarian Dhanvantri Library, Dr. Padamdev Singh, Dogri Department, Dr. Jaspal Singh Directorate of Distance Education and Jang Verma.

Students from Journalism and Media Studies, Dogri, Urdu and various colleges alongwith their teachers including Dr. Harbhajan Singh, Dr. Anuradha, Dr. Manjeet Singh, Jaspal Singh and Dr. Kusum also attended the event.

NC condemns Rajouri terrorists attack, salutes brave-heart martyrs

Pay heed to resurgence in militancy in Rajouri-Poonch: Rattan Lal urges centre

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 23: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) Jammu, strongly condemned the Rajouri terrorist attack, saluting the four brave-heart martyrs including two Captains and a JCO who made their supreme sacrifice in this terrorist attack.

He expressed grief with the bereaved families and prayed to God to give courage to the family members to bear this irreparable loss.

In a statement issued to media here today, Rattan Lal Gupta said that it is an irony of the people of J&K as well as the nation at large that the incumbent Govt at the Centre as well as the Union Territory Administration has been making tall claims of having ended terrorism and restored peace in J&K while the reality on ground is absolutely contrary to the Govt claims.

He asserted that this stands evidenced by the fact that four army personnel were killed by the terrorists at village Bajimaal, Kalakote in Rajouri district during an operation against the terrorists by the security forces.

Recalling the previous incidents, the senior National Conference leader said that on May 5, 2023, five soldiers were martyred in Rajouri; on 1st Jan 2023 many precious lives were lost to terrorists' bullets at Dhangri, in another terror attack five soldiers were martyred in Poonch and now this terror incident

of today in which four army personnel embraced martyrdom beyond any doubt falsifies the Govt's claims of ending terrorism and restoring peace and normalcy in this sensitive region.

Rattan Lal Gupta mentioned that after 15 years of peace, Rajouri and Poonch districts have witnessed some of the deadliest terror attacks. This alarming trend has shattered the sense of security and tranquility that had prevailed in these regions for over a decade.

The sudden eruption of violence has left people of Rajouri and Poonch districts fear-stricken and has cast a pall over the once peaceful landscape. The brazenness and severity of these attacks serve as a stark reminder of the lurking threat posed by terrorism and the fragility of peace in this region due to failure of the government at the Centre, he added.

The Provincial President asserted that all these incidents point towards gross negligence on the part of various agencies entrusted this significant duty.

He said that instead of making tall claims the Govt must awaken and rise to the occasion to address this serious issue.

He said that today there is a dire need for the Central Govt to take adequate steps to control terrorism and last but not the least be transparent enough in presenting the real ground situation in Jammu and Kashmir before the people of J&K and the nation at large.

DLS Doda organizes orientation training programme on Leprosy

Top News Report

DODA, Nov 23: To raise awareness about prevention and treatment of Leprosy, the Zonal Leprosy Office DHS Jammu in collaboration with District Leprosy Society Doda on Thursday organized a day-long orientation programme for health workers and ASHAs at Conference Hall CMO Office Doda.

Zonal Leprosy Officer DHS Jammu Dr Sushma Mattoo graced the training programme which was attended by health workers including MMPHWs, FMPHWs, MLHPs and ASHAs from Assar, Thathri and Gandoh block besides Ms Yogeshwari Sharma, Budget & Finance Officer ZLO Jammu, Para Medical Supervisor Mr Surinder Bijjal and staff from Leprosy viz Mr Ram Raj, Mr Krishan Chand & Mr Sajad Hussain were also present in the orientation training programme. Earlier in his welcome address, Sh Surinder Bijjal underlined the objective of organizing the orientation programme and briefed the participants about Leprosy disease.

Dr Sushma Mattoo, the Resource Person on the occasion, while speaking on the occasion educates the participants about Leprosy disease and said that aim



of holding orientation programme was to create awareness among health care workers and masses on Leprosy, to reduce stigma and discrimination in the community and for early detection of Leprosy cases in the District.

Dr Mattoo sensitized the health staff including ASHAs that Leprosy is totally curable at all stages, exhorted them about finding such cases in their areas, so as to detect the disease at early stage, followed by timely treatment.

Further she urged the participants to know the strategy to control Leprosy and also threw light on

NLEP. She said that highly effective treatment is available to cure leprosy adding that early detection and timely treatment and dosage are essential to eradicate leprosy.

On this occasion, IEC material on Leprosy was also distributed among the participants.

Meanwhile, ZLO Jammu along with concerned staff of DLS Doda also visited HWC- Sub Centre Ramgarh in Medical Block Assar, where she distributed footwear and self care kits among the old Leprosy cases, besides generated awareness among the masses about Leprosy.

500 students, faculty attend workshop on cardiac emergency at Chamba College

Top News Report

CHAMBA, Nov 23: As many as 500 students and faculty attended a workshop on "do's and don'ts in cardiac emergency" at Govt Degree College, Chamba on Thursday.

The workshop was organized by Satya Sai Sewa Samiti Chamba along with Cardiomerision, which works for awareness on cardiac diseases and its management worldwide.

During the workshop, Dr Deepak Puri, senior director cardiovascular thoracic surgery at Max Hospital, Mohali gave various demos to manage the cardiac patient till he or she reaches hospital.

Dr Puri who hails from Chamba said that people living in hilly areas face hardships due to high altitude and distant location from cardiovascular facilities and are many times unable to get medical help in time. The cardiovascular complications



including heart attacks, sudden cardiac arrest and stroke, he informed.

Timely medical assistance is very crucial in cardiac related complications, he asserted.

He also raised the concern that even in hilly areas with modernization prevalence of sedentary lifestyle and faulty dietary as well as smoking and addictions habits is on the rise among youngsters.

This is responsible for the constantly rising incidence of heart attacks. The incidence of heart failure and kidney failure is also rising because appropriate cardiac facilities are not available nearby, he opined.

Dr. Puri further said that it is important to

educate the youngsters of this region about the risk factors and symptoms that would create suspicion of onset of cardiovascular disease as early as possible. They should also be able to deliver basic life support in dire emergencies till expert cardiovascular facilities are available, he maintained.

Dr Puri also clarified on the differentiation between simple fainting, cardiac syncope, heart attack and cardiac arrest as well stroke so that appropriate resuscitation can be initiated even before the expert cardiac help arrives. This is especially important in a cardiac arrest situation as in this condition if effec-

tive cardiopulmonary resuscitation is not initiated within 3 to 5 minutes the brain will suffer irreversible damage and will become brain dead, he said. Among others, Anil Chona president of Satya Sai Sewa Samiti was also present during the occasion.

NOTICE

It is to inform the general public at large that Mr Sumeet Kerni and Mr Manik Kerni, both sons of late Sh Surinder Kumar Kerni, R/o House No 1, Link Road Jammu are going to mortgage a shop and residential house of Khewat No 120 min, Khata No 444 min, Khasra No 345 min with J&K Bank Branch Chand Nagar, Jammu. If anybody having any objection, kindly intimate the concerned Branch Office, J&K Bank Branch, Chand Nagar, Jammu within 7 days from the publication of this notice.

FROM PAGE 1

LG Sinha congratulates J&K's Para Archers for incredible achievement at Asian Championships 2023

The Para Archers – Ms Sheetal Devi, Sh Rakesh Kumar and Ms Sarita are trained at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Sports Complex, Katra.

2 LeT terrorist killed in encounter with security forces in Rajouri

Rajouri-Poonch along with his group for the past year and is also believed to be the mastermind of the Dangri and Kandi attacks.

Sources say the operation was launched on Wednesday morning after a man, a local Gujjar at Bajimal village was beaten by terrorists for denying food to them. The villagers reported the incident to security forces and eventually a massive anti-terrorist operation was launched in the area.

Senior army commanders are supervising the operation as the army says terrorists have been injured and surrounded by troops in the forest area.

"Not guilty until proven": Omar Abdullah on dismissal of four govt employees in J&K

doctor, in the "interest of the security of the state".

Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, in the order, said that in the interest of the security of the state, it is not expedient to hold an inquiry in all these cases.

"Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha, after considering the facts and circumstances of these individual cases and on the basis of the information available, is satisfied that the activities of the following persons are such as to warrant their dismissal from their service," reads the order.

The government has invoked 311 (2) (c) of the Constitution of India to sack the four government employees identified as Dr. Nissar-ul-Hassan, Assistant Professor (Medicine), SMHS Hospital, Srinagar; Abdul Majeed Bhat, a constable in Jammu and Kashmir police; Farooq Ahmad Mir, a teacher in the Higher Education Department; and Abdul Salam Rather, a laboratory bearer in the Higher Education Department.

The order issued on November 21 will be implemented with immediate effect.

The dismissal of the four government officers follows J-K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's policy of "zero tolerance against terrorism".

In July, the government of Jammu and Kashmir terminated the services of three state employees for allegedly working with Pakistan-backed terror outfits.

In the last three years, the Union Territory administration has invoked 311 (2)(c) of the Constitution to sack more than 50 employees who were drawing a salary from the government but were allegedly aiding Pakistan-based terror outfits.

Former minister Ch Lal Singh gets bail in Money Laundering Case

As soon as the information about his bail was received, supporters started gathering outside the jail, district president of his party said adding that the police has also increased security around the jail.

Supporters of DSSP said that they are very happy today. "We have full faith in the Court and today the court has granted him bail," they said.

Drone drops box carrying grenades, IED and Pistol in Akhnoor

search operation by the police and the Army in Palanwallah near the LoC early morning, officials said.

The box raised suspicion and the bomb disposal squad was called. An improvised explosive device (IED), a pistol, two magazines, 38 rounds of ammunition and nine grenades were found, the officials said.

It is believed that a drone dropped the consignment for use by terrorists, they said. The box in which the arms and explosive material was kept is similar to what had been dropped by terrorists based across the LoC in the past, they said.

The Khour police station registered an FIR and investigation has begun.

Heartbreaking to see Officers, Jawans lose lives in line of duty: Mehbooba

A terrorist has also been killed in the encounter that started on Wednesday.

2024 IPL Auction: 10 Jammu Kashmir cricketers shortlisted

previously served as a net bowler for Kolkata Knight Riders and Royal Challengers Bangalore, is on the radar of IPL

Police constable killed, 2 injured after Nihangs open fire in Punjab

two others sustained injuries when a group of 'Nihangs' opened fire at them in Punjab's Kapurthala district, officials said on Thursday.

The incident took place when the policemen went to arrest some Nihangs (Sikhs armed with traditional weapons) in Sultanpur Lodhi in a case registered against them, said a senior police official over the phone. While one constable was killed, two other personnel sustained injuries, said the official.

teams. Speculations are rife that he might secure an IPL contract with one of these franchises. Besides, Abid Mushtaq, Auqib Nabi, and Nasir Lone have all received trial invitations from various IPL teams, underscoring the growing recognition of talent from the Jammu and Kashmir region.

Currently, only two cricketers from Jammu and Kashmir hold active IPL contracts – Abdul Samad and Umran Malik, both representing Sunrisers Hyderabad. With a total of 590 players shortlisted for the IPL auction, the spotlight is firmly on these 10 talented individuals from Jammu and Kashmir, as they aim to secure their places in one of the most prestigious T20 leagues in the world. Cricket enthusiasts worldwide eagerly await the unfolding drama in Dubai on December 19, as the fate of these budding stars hangs in the balance.

Police constable killed, 2 injured after Nihangs open fire in Punjab

two others sustained injuries when a group of 'Nihangs' opened fire at them in Punjab's Kapurthala district, officials said on Thursday.

Equity markets climb in early trade

The 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 182.62 points to 66,205.86 in early trade, extending its previous day's gain. The Nifty climbed 54.35 points to 19,866.20.

MUMBAI, Nov 23 (Agencies): Equity benchmark indices climbed in early trade on Thursday in tandem with a rally in the US markets and drop in crude oil prices.

The 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 182.62 points to 66,205.86 in early trade, extending its previous day's gain. The Nifty climbed 54.35 points to 19,866.20.

Among the Sensex firms, Wipro, Asian Paints, Nestle, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bajaj Finserv, IndusInd Bank and ITC were the major gainers.

UltraTech Cement and Hindustan Unilever were the laggards. In Asian markets, Shang-



hai traded in the green while Seoul and Hong Kong quoted lower. The US markets ended with gains on Wednesday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 1.33 per cent to USD 80.87 a barrel.

"The 10-year US bond yield hovering around 4.40 per cent and the declining volume of FI selling augur well for the market," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment

Strategist, Geojit Financial Services.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 306.56 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

The BSE benchmark climbed 92.47 points or 0.14 per cent to settle at 66,023.24 on Wednesday.

The Nifty edged higher by 28.45 points or 0.14 per cent to 19,811.85.

To save the climate, the oil and gas sector must slash planet-warming operations: Reports

NEW DELHI, Nov 23 (Agencies): The oil and gas sector, one of the major emitters of planet-warming gases, will need a rapid and substantial overhaul for the world to avoid even worse extreme weather events fueled by human-caused climate change, according to a report released Thursday.

The current investment of \$800 billion a year in the oil and gas sector will need to be cut in half and greenhouse emissions, which result from the burning of fossil fuels like oil, will need to fall by 60% to give the world a fighting chance to meet its climate goals, the International Energy Agency said. Greenhouse gases go up into the atmosphere and heat the planet, leading to several impacts, including extreme weather events.

The IEA's report comes just ahead of the United Nations climate conference, or COP28, which begins next week. Oil and gas companies, as well as other people and organizations connected to fossil fuels, often attend the meeting, drawing criticism from environmental-



ists and climate experts. But others say the sector needs to be at the table to discuss how to transition to cleaner energy.

"The oil and gas industry is facing a moment of truth at COP28 in Dubai," said Fatih Birol, executive director of the IEA in a press statement on the report's release. "Oil and gas producers need to make profound decisions about their future place in the global energy sector."

Last year's climate conference in Egypt saw 400 people connected with fossil fuel industries attending the event, according to an analysis by The Associated Press. The upcoming meeting has also come under fire for

appointing the chief of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company as the talks' president.

The energy sector is responsible for over two-thirds of all human activity-related greenhouse gas emissions, and oil and gas is responsible for about half of those, according to the IEA. Oil and gas companies are also responsible for over 60% of methane emissions — a gas that traps about 87 times more heat than carbon dioxide on a 20-year timescale.

Oil and gas companies can find alternative revenue from the clean energy economy, including hydrogen and hydrogen-based fuels and carbon capture technologies, the report

said. Both clean hydrogen — made from renewable electricity — and carbon capture — which takes carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere — are currently untested at scale.

The report looked at climate promises made by countries as well as a scenario where the world had reached net zero emissions by 2050. It found that if countries deliver on all climate pledges, demand for oil and gas will be 45% lower than today's level by 2050. If the world reaches net zero by then, demand would be down 75%, it said.

Earlier this year, another IEA report found that the world's oil, gas and coal demand will likely peak by the end of this decade.

Vibhuti Garg, a New Delhi-based energy analyst with the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, said that the need for oil and gas is "bound to decline."

"There are cheaper alternatives that are cleaner, so countries will start using those options and reduce their reliance on these expensive fuels," she said.

Go First may face liquidation as revival hopes sink: Report

NEW DELHI, Nov 23 (Agencies): The financial creditors of the bankrupt airline Go First are on the brink of voting on a proposal to liquidate the grounded carrier, as no viable revival plans have emerged.

The committee of creditors (CoC) recently met, reaching the conclusion that liquidation is increasingly likely due to the absence of potential buyers and the legal and operational challenges faced by the airline, reported.

Following the meeting, where prospective bidders had the last opportunity to submit resolution plans, the CoC is now considering the limited options available. According to the report, Jindal Steel and Power promoter Naveen Jindal, the only party to express interest, did not



submit a final bid, further diminishing hopes for a successful resolution.

Lenders, owed over Rs 6,500 crore by Go First, are grappling with the decision to either opt for liquidation or extend the resolution timeline in the slim hope of attracting a buyer. However, given the complex legal issues and operational challenges facing the airline,

liquidation appears to be the more pragmatic choice.

The Central Bank of India and Bank of Baroda are the leading creditors, with dues amounting to Rs 1,987 crore and Rs 1,430 crore, respectively. The recent extension of the resolution timeline by 90 days did not yield positive developments, lead-

ing creditors to doubt the effectiveness of seeking further extensions.

The airline is embroiled in legal disputes, including a case in the Delhi High Court initiated by airplane lessors seeking the deregistration of planes. The court is yet to deliver a verdict, while the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) contends that

aviation leases should be exempt from bankruptcy moratoriums.

Go First is also pursuing arbitration in Singapore against Pratt & Whitney, alleging the supply of faulty engines that were not replaced promptly, resulting in the grounding of half the airline's fleet. While bankers acknowledge the pursuit of arbitration for potential financial recovery, the overall sentiment leans toward the inevitability of liquidation.

According to a person quoted in the agency report, the resolution professional overseeing the process has sought approximately Rs 10 crore to continue arbitration, with creditors weighing the potential benefits against the escalating costs of insolvency proceedings.

Mamaearth net profit rises 93% to Rs 29 crore in Q2



BENGALURU, Nov 23 (Agencies): Honasa Consumer, the parent firm of Mamaearth, reported a 93% increase in its net profit to Rs 29.4 crore for the September quarter of this fiscal. Last year during the same quarter, it recorded Rs 15 crore profit.

Its consolidated revenue from operations for the second quarter stood at Rs 496.1 crore, a 21% increase from Rs 410.4 crore reported in the year-ago period.

Varun Alagh, Chairman and CEO, Honasa Consumer, said, "Beauty market in India is brimming with opportunities. Honasa has been able to deliver market beating growths and constantly improve the profitability portfolio of the company. Our business has grown by 33% year-on-year (YoY) in H1FY24, which is 3.8 times the median growth of FCMG companies in India."

The company's largest brand, has entered the

Top 15 BPC brands in India, overtaking many legacy brands, as per a Jefferies report. "Our profits grew faster than our revenues, with H1 PAT growing 1,377% to Rs 54 crore, Dr Sheth's has become the fourth brand from Honasa portfolio to enter the Rs 150 crore club after Aqualogica and Derma Co," he added.

Total expenses stood at Rs 463.9 crore, an 18% rise from Rs 392.3 crore a year ago. As per NielsenIQ, brands of Honasa retailed at 1,65,937 outlets in September, a jump of 47% in offline distribution YoY. The Derma Co, second brand from Honasa portfolio, has achieved an ARR of Rs 380 crore and Aqualogica, third brand has become the fastest to achieve an ARR of Rs 180 crore.

Eating beef, dairy can boost immune system to fight cancer: Study

Findings indicate that nutrient supplements such as trans-vaccenic acid could be used to promote T cell activity

NEW YORK, Nov 23 (Agencies): Turns out eating beef and dairy may bolster your body's immune response against cancer, according to a study.

Trans-vaccenic acid (TVA), a long-chain fatty acid found in meat and dairy products from grazing animals such as cows and sheep, improves the ability of CD8+ T cells to infiltrate tumours and kill cancer cells, revealed the study by researchers from the University of Chicago.

The study, published in the journal Nature, also shows that patients with higher levels of TVA circulating in the blood responded better to immunotherapy, suggesting that it could have potential as a nutritional supplement to complement clinical treatments for cancer.

"There are many studies trying to decipher the link between diet and human health, and it's very difficult to understand the underlying mechanisms because of the wide variety of foods people eat. But if we focus on just the



nutrients and metabolites derived from food, we begin to see how they influence physiology and pathology," said Jing Chen, Professor of Medicine at University of Chicago in the US.

"By focusing on nutrients that can activate T cell responses, we found one that actually enhances anti-tumour immunity by activating an important immune pathway," Chen added.

However, Chen cautioned that there is a growing body of evidence about the detrimental health effects

of consuming too much red meat and dairy, so this study shouldn't be taken as an excuse to eat more cheeseburgers and pizza.

For the new study, the team started with a database of around 700 known metabolites that come from food and assembled a "blood nutrient" compound library consisting of 235 bioactive molecules derived from nutrients.

They screened the compounds in this new library for their ability to influence anti-tumour immunity by activating

CD8+ T cells, a group of immune cells critical for killing cancerous or virally-infected cells.

After the scientists evaluated the top six candidates in both human and mouse cells, they saw that TVA performed the best. TVA is the most abundant trans fatty acid present in human milk, but the body cannot produce it on its own.

Only about 20 per cent of TVA is broken down into other byproducts, leaving 80 per cent circulating in the blood.

"That means there must be something else it does, so we started working on it more," Chen said. He noted that the study also indicates that nutrient supplements such as TVA could be used to promote T cell activity. "There is early data showing that other fatty acids from plants signal through a similar receptor, so we believe there is a high possibility that nutrients from plants can do the same thing," Chen said.

Exercise can protect your eyes as you age

Exercise promotes the production of a stronger tear film, crucial for maintaining eye moisture and protecting the cornea.



NEW DELHI, Nov 23 (Agencies): Regular physical activity offers numerous health benefits, extending beyond just fitness.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, engaging in routine exercise not only reduces the risk of various diseases such as diabetes and heart conditions but also contributes to enhanced eye health.

According to the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, a staggering 285 million individuals worldwide grapple with varying degrees of visual impairment, including a substantial 39 million who face complete blindness.

The best way to take precautions for eye diseases is by incorporating certain exercises that can alleviate strain. Exercise can help prevent eye diseases.

As we age, our eyes become more susceptible to diseases, leading to a higher prevalence of eye conditions among older adults. Age-related macular degeneration (AMD), cataracts, diabetic retinopathy, and glaucoma are common causes of vision loss with lasting effects.

The American Academy of Ophthalmology asserts that regular exercise helps mitigate the risk of these conditions, strengthening and maintaining overall eye health.

Even individuals currently grappling with eye diseases have reported significant improvements and a reduced risk of complications after adopting a consistent exercise regimen.

Exercise enhances eye comfort

The discomfort of dry eyes is a familiar sensation, but regular exercise has been proven to alleviate this issue. A 2022 study in Experimental Eye Research indicates that exercise promotes the production of a stronger tear film, crucial for maintaining eye moisture and protecting the cornea.

Inadequate tear production can lead to painful consequences, including eye inflammation, corneal disease, blurred vision, and dryness.

The study revealed that those who exercised at least five times a week experienced better tear production and quality compared to those who exercised less frequently.

Tips for exercising for eye health

Initiate a schedule: Break down your exercise routine into manageable 30-minute sessions on weekdays, providing flexibility for weekends off.

Find a workout partner: Boost your motivation by exercising with a partner or engaging in social activities like sports or long walks.

Protect your eyes: Always wear sunglasses outdoors to shield your eyes from harmful UV rays and use protective eyewear during activities with potential hazards.

Avoid smoking: Smoking not only poses risks to lung health but can also lead to severe eye damage and blindness.

Check family history: Inquire about any family history of eye disease to be proactive in preventive measures.

Schedule regular eye exams: Even without previous vision issues, schedule an eye exam at age 40, with subsequent exams every one to two years for adults aged 65 and older.

We must move forward; life continues: Kuldeep Yadav on World Cup heartbreak

Says the pain of the defeat will linger and push him to work harder for the 'next opportunity'

NEW DELHI, Nov 23 (Agencies): India spinner Kuldeep Yadav on Thursday admitted that the pain of World Cup final defeat to Australia will linger and push him to work harder for the "next opportunity".

India suffered a six-wicket loss to Australia in the summit clash in Ahmedabad on November 19.

"Our journey from Chennai to Ahmedabad ended in a disappointing result, but we take pride in our achievements over the



six weeks. Despite the pain, we're determined to work harder for the next opportunity," Kuldeep said in a post on X. "While the pain of defeat lingers, we must move forward; life continues, and healing takes time," said the

wrist spinner. He said dealing with the setback was tough. "The Cup was beautiful, but it seems God had other plans. Navigating this moment, it's time to switch off and recharge. Dealing with this setback is tough,

but we hold onto faith, believing in the journey ahead," he said. Kuldeep played all of India's 11 matches in the World Cup and took 15 wickets at an average of 28.26. India won 10 matches on the trot before losing

the final at the Narendra Modi Stadium in front of over one lakh home supporters.

"Thanks to our dedicated support staff, we were fully prepared for every opponent, and their commitment reassured us as players," said Kuldeep.

"The love from fans at each of the nine venues touched our hearts and motivated us to exceed our limits. We're grateful to passionate fans worldwide and in every Indian household for their support."

Pressed for time, Harmanpreet gears up for Tests



MELBOURNE, Nov 23 (Agencies): Gearing up for their first Test at home in almost a decade, the Indian women's team captain Harmanpreet Kaur feels the biggest challenge will be to adapt to red-ball cricket in a short span of time given the hectic international schedule. The Indian team is scheduled to play two Tests at home — first against England from December 14 at Navi Mumbai followed by a match against Australia beginning December 21 in Mumbai.

However, the lack of enough red-ball cricket for the Indian women is a concern for Harmanpreet, who has played just three Tests in her illustrious career so far.

"The Test series is something which we are really looking forward to because I haven't played in front of a home crowd (since 2014), so I'm really excited for that," Harmanpreet said.

"The challenge for us is that we haven't played with the red ball. We have been playing with the white ball for so many years. Even in domestic cricket also, we don't have red-ball cricket back home. So the challenge for us is to make yourself ready in such a short time."

Harmanpreet has scored just 38 runs at an average of 7.60 in three Tests but has nine wickets to her name that she claimed during her only home Test in November 2014 against South Africa. Her remaining two Tests were against England in Wormsley (2014) and Bristol (2021).

Pause, rewind, reset

New format, new beginnings as India's young T20 stars face first real test vs Australia

VISAKHAPATNAM, Nov 23 (Agencies): Suryakumar Yadav will have to put behind the disappointment of a World Cup final defeat while leading a sprightly bunch of youngsters against a strong Australian side in a five-match T20I series, starting here today.

With just around 96 hours of turnaround time from the World Cup to the next series, it hardly leaves Suryakumar any chance of introspection as he gets ready to play his favourite format.

"It is difficult it will take time, it can't be that you wake up next morning and you forget everything what happened. It was a long tournament. We would have loved to win it," said Suryakumar.

As the captain of the side, he will not only want to win the series but also check out some of the best young Indian exponents of the shortest format, who will be on trial for next year's ICC T20 World Cup in June and July in the Americas (the West Indies and the USA).

The likes of Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rinku Singh, Tilak Verma, Jitesh Sharma have all made their international debuts in the past few months but their first real test will be against a strong Australian T20I side, which will have some of their World Cup heroes like opener Travis Head, Glenn Maxwell, leg-spinner Adam Zampa and former skipper Steve Smith in its ranks.



But Wade won't put any pressure on star opener Head to feature tomorrow, especially after a long-drawn ODI World Cup. "We will see how he is feeling. There won't be any pressure from us for him to play the first T20I, but he will definitely feature at some point in the series," he said.

Then, there are IPL performers like Marcus Stoinis, Nathan Ellis, Tim David to name a few. This Aussie side looks formidable under Matthew Wade, who will be leading them in the series.

Rinku has been pretty impressive in his short India stint so far and ditto for Jaiswal, Tilak and Mukesh Kumar, while Jaiswal, despite his debut in Hangzhou, will have to wait for his turn in presence of Ishan Kishan.

Having played mediocre attacks of West Indies, Ireland and some of the minnows at the Asian Games, it will be a trial by fire for these youngsters. They would like to make an impression in whatever chances they get during this series and the two ensuing ones involving

South Africa (away) and Afghanistan (home).

The Australian pace attack comprising Kane Richardson, Nathan Ellis, Sean Abbott and left-armers Jason Behrendorff, is way better in terms of quality compared to what they have faced till now in their very short but eventful T20I careers.

There are 11 T20Is that India play before the IPL, which will be a two-month affair before the Men in Blue hit the T20 World Cup mode.

How interim coach VVS Laxman works around the batting order will be interesting as someone like Shubman Gill is bound to comeback for the series against South Africa and there would be too many options at the top-order.

It is expected that Ruturaj Gaikwad and either Jaiswal or Ishan Kishan will be opening the batting, keeping the right-left combination in mind. Unlike the ODI team, the T20I side has a bevy of left-handers, in fact seven of them — Jaiswal, Kishan, Tilak, Rinku along with all-rounders Axar Patel, Shivam Dube and Washington Sundar.

Rahul Dravid Not Keen To Continue As India Coach, VVS Laxman May Take Over: Sources

NEW DELHI, Nov 23 (Agencies): Rahul Dravid is not keen on extending his contract as the head coach of the Indian men's cricket team, with National Cricket Academy (NCA) chief VVS Laxman likely to take over from him, sources told agency on Thursday. Sources have confirmed that Dravid, whose contract ended following the conclusion of the ODI World Cup last week, has decided not to continue as the head coach of the Indian team. Last week, India were beaten in the World Cup final at the expense of Australia.

Sources have also confirmed that former India batter and Dravid's ex-teammate Laxman is likely to take the role of head



coach. Laxman has been named as the designated head coach for the five-match T20I series against Australia, starting later on Thursday.

Dravid was appointed head coach of the team, having also served as the head of the NCA,

in 2021 after India's campaign came to an early end in the T20 World Cup in the UAE.

Under the guidance of Dravid, India reached the finals of the ICC World Test Championship and the ODI World Cup, but the team lost to Australia on both occasions. They also reached

the semi-final of the T20 World Cup last year, going down to eventual champions England.

However, India won the Asia Cup earlier this year with Dravid at the helm.

On being asked about his future after the final defeat to Australia, Dravid remained non-committal.

"I haven't thought about it. I've just come off a game. I had no time to think about this and no time to reflect on this. Yeah, I will when I get the time to do that," Dravid had said at post-match media conference.

India take on Australia in the first T20I at the ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium in Vizag later on Thursday.

"Pakistan Players Couldn't Digest My Success": Mohammed Shami On Cheating Accusations In World Cup

NEW DELHI, Nov 23 (Agencies): India pacer Mohammed Shami emerged as the top wicket-taker in Cricket World Cup 2023, bagging 24 scalps in just 7 matches. His heroic performances with the ball took India as far as the final of the event. While entire India celebrated Shami's success, some bizarre accusations came from Pakistan, with former player Hasan Raza accusing the Indian team of 'cheating'. Raza suggested that Shami and Indian bowlers were given different balls in comparison to the opponent team. Reflecting on the accusations, Shami was left scratching his



head. The veteran pacer wasn't a part of India's playing XI for the first game. In fact, he missed the first 4 World Cup matches before being drafted into the team after Hardik Pandya had injured himself.

Shami hit the ground running with two fifters and a 4-wicket haul in the next 7 matches he played. But, seeing some former Pakistan cricket stars' comments, Shami said that the people across the border couldn't digest

his success. "I pray to god that 10 bowlers come up with my kind of performance. I am not jealous of anyone. If you start enjoying the success of others, you will become a better player," Shami said in an interview with Puma. "I was hearing a lot since the last couple of days. I was not a part of the Playing XI in the initial matches. When I was drafted into the team, I took 5 wickets. In the next two games, I dismissed 4 and 5 batters. Some of the Pakistan players couldn't digest my success. Actually, they think they are the best. According to me, a player who performs on time is the

best," he added. Shami admitted that it was baffling to see a former player like Hasan Raza making such nonsensical comments about different balls being used. "They were creating unwanted controversy. They said we were getting different types of balls. Even Wasim (Akram) bhai explained the whole process of ball selection in one of his shows. I understand if something of this sort comes up from a person who hasn't been a player. You have played cricket, you are an ex-player, shouldn't make such statements," he concluded.

Marlon Samuels banned from all forms of cricket for six years for breaching ICC anti-corruption code

DUBAI, Nov 23 (Agencies): The International Cricket Council (ICC) has banned former West Indies batter Marlon Samuels from all forms of cricket for six years after he was found guilty of breaching the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) Anti-Corruption Code. Samuels was charged by the ICC - in their capacity as the Designated Anti-Corruption Official under the ECB Code - on a total of four charges in September 2021 and then found guilty of the offenses in August this year.

The four charges Samuels was found guilty of are listed as:

Article 2.4.2 (by a majority decision) - Failing to disclose to

the Designated Anti-Corruption Official, the receipt of any gift, payment, hospitality or other benefit that was made or given in circumstances that could bring the Participant or the sport of cricket into disrepute.

Article 2.4.3 (unanimous decision)- Failing to disclose to the Designated Anti-Corruption Official receipt of hospitality with a value of US \$750 or more.

Article 2.4.6 (unanimous decision) - Failing to cooperate with the Designated Anti-Corruption Official's investigation.

Article 2.4.7 (unanimous decision) - Obstructing or delaying the Designated Anti-Corruption Official's investigation by con-



cealing information that may have been relevant to the investigation.

The ban of six years was confirmed by the ICC on Thursday and will commence on November 11, 2023. Alex Marshall, who heads up

the ICC HR and Integrity Unit, announced the ban on Thursday. "Samuels played international cricket for close to two decades, during which he participated in numerous anti-corruption sessions and knew

exactly what his obligations were under the Anti-Corruption Codes," Marshall said.

"Though he is retired now, Mr Samuels was a participant when the offenses were committed.

The ban of six years will act as a strong deterrent to any participant who intends to break the rules."

Samuels played more than 300 matches for the West Indies over an 18-year period, scoring 17 centuries in total and even captaining the Caribbean side at ODI level. He top-scored in the final of both the 2012 and 2016 editions of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup as the West Indies won their two most recent ICC trophies.

Rashid Khan withdraws from Big Bash League due to back injury



NEW DELHI, Nov 23 (Agencies): Afghanistan's star spinner Rashid Khan is set to miss on-field action for Adelaide Strikers as he withdraws from the upcoming edition of the Big Bash League (BBL) due to a back injury that requires a "minor operation".

The BBL franchise released an official statement to announce the spinner's absence from the team which read, "Rashid Khan has withdrawn from the upcoming KFC BBL13 due to a back injury which requires a minor operation."

Adelaide Strikers General Manager, Cricket Tim Nielsen talked about the impact of losing the Afghanistan star and said, "Rashid is a beloved member

of the Strikers and a fan favourite who has been with us for seven years, so he will be extremely missed this summer," Nielsen said.

"Rashid loves Adelaide and the Strikers, and we know how much he loves playing in the BBL, and we support him as he has treatment for this injury to ensure his long-term involvement in the game. Our list management and coaching staff will now look at our options for replacing Rashid for the upcoming season and a replacement player will be announced in due course," Nielsen added.

Rashid's replacement hasn't been announced yet but Strikers will maintain retention rights for Rashid for the upcoming BBL seasons.

The mystery spinner has left his impression on the BBL since making his debut in December 2017. He has 98 scalps to his name in 69 matches at an average of 17.51 and an economy of 6.44.

Overall in the T20I, Rashid has picked up 130 wickets in 82 appearances at an average of 14.8 and an economy of 6.16.

PTTI Vijaypur holds valediction of Pre-Promotion Course

Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Nov 23: "60 days Pre-Promotion Course of Head Constables (Armed)" comprising of 150 Police personnel got concluded at Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur. On this occasion a valedictory function was organized which was graced by Sarah Rizvi, Dy. Inspector General of Police (Training) PHQ-J&K.

While speaking on the occasion, DIG (Training) congratulated the trainees for successful completion of their training course and stressed upon them to work with zeal and dedication to make J&K Police more effective and people friendly.



The officer lauded the role of outgoing trainees which comprises of maximum of year 1987-88 batch for their excellent role played on anti-terrorism front, law and order and other important duties.

She also applauded Principal PTTI Vijaypur

Shiv Kumar and other staff of the Institute for their dedication in imparting excellent and effective training to the trainees.

The DIG (Training) interacted with the trainees and listened to their grievances patiently.

Subsequently, the DIG

(Training) inspected class rooms and Technical Labs of Indoor Block where she also attended valedictory function of 01 week Traffic Induction course and handed over course certificates to the trainees.

Earlier, Principal briefed about the activi-

ties and functioning of the Institute.

He told that the objective of the course was to hone the skills of Police personnel and expose the trainees to the latest tools and techniques which would add substantial value to their existing knowledge and skill base.

Among others, Dhushyant Sharma, SSP, Vice Principal PTTI Vijaypur, Zia-Ul-Haq, Dy.SP (Outdoor), Devinder Gupta, Dy.SP (R&D), Kuldeep Raj, Dy.SP (Indoor/Tech), Khushwant Singh, Dy.SP (Adm.), Surrinder Paul Singh, Dy.SP, Insp. Javed Hussain (RI), Insp. Surinder Singh (CDI), Insp. Ram Lal (CLI), Insp. Vivek Kalsotra, Insp. Mulik Raj, Insp. Ashish Dharmat, Insp. Himanshu Dutta, Insp. Pawan Kumar, Insp. Kanwal Raina were present during valedictory function.

SMVDU Researcher selected for Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Texas at Austin

Top News Report

KATRA, Nov 23: Dr. Meenu Sharma, a Former researcher at the School of Biotechnology, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, has been selected for the Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at the University of Texas at Austin, USA.

She has joined the institution and will be working on Chromosomal rearrangement and genome stability regulation.

Dr. Meenu Sharma is the first doctoral student of the Genome Stability Regulation Lab at the School of Biotechnology, SMVDU headed by Dr. Narendra Kumar Bairwa.

It is pertinent to mention that Dr. Meenu Sharma was awarded



the FEMS Meeting Grant for Early Young Scientists in 2018 to present her work at the FEMS meeting on "The Non-conventional Yeasts: from Basic Research to Application in Rzeszów, Poland held between May 15-18, 2018.

Dr. Meenu Sharma published her research work in reputed journals and has worked under the supervision of Dr. Narendra Bairwa

on the role of the RLM1 transcription factor and F-box protein-encoding SAF1 gene in the regulation of phase transition in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* model organism, due to stress.

The laboratory of Dr. Narendra Kumar Bairwa is supported by DBT, SERB-DST, and SMVDU and the focus of research is to understand the gene-gene interactions, genome stability regulation, stress response, and screening of small molecules for drug discovery.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Head, SoBT, Dr. Ratna Chandra, and the Faculty, Staff, and Students of SoBT, SMVDU congratulated Dr. Meenu Sharma and wished her a bright research career ahead.

Shrine Board's Archers Shine again in Asian Para Archery Championships held in Bangkok

Top News Report

KATRA, Nov 23: Trained and groomed at SMVD Sports Complex, the Shrine Board's Para-archers, Rakesh Kumar, Sheetal Devi and Sarita have once again held country's flag high as India top the medals standings with nine medals at the Asian Para Archery Championships held at Bangkok, Thailand.

India bagged four gold, four silver and one bronze in which Shrine Para-archers contributed six medals by pocketing four gold, one silver and bronze in the total tally of nine medals won by Team India to top Asian Para Archery Championships.

Rakesh Kumar led the Indian challenge with a hat-trick of gold by clinching the men's compound open crown with a win over Indonesia and partnered Suraj Singh to win the men's compound open dou-



bles against Chinese contestants, besides winning the mixed team gold with Sheetal Devi defeating Indonesia. Fourth gold for Team India was contributed by the phenomenal Shrine Para archer Sheetal Devi alongwith Jyoti in women's compound open team event against Korea. However, she had to settle for silver in the tiebreaker against Singapore. Sarita had won a bronze in the women's individual compound category.

Chief Executive Officer Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Shri Anshul Garg expressed

immense pride in the accomplishments of Shrine Para-archers at international arena and congratulated them for bringing laurels to the country, the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and the Shrine Board with blessings of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji. He underlined that glory earned in the games is giving new impetus to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sports Complex and to budding sports-persons as new sporting icons are emerging from the Sports Complex.

Pertinent to mention here that besides securing five medals in the

recent held Para Asian Games, the Shrine Para-Archers bagged three medals at Czech Republic Para Archery World Championship in the month of July-2023 and along with the medals, also won quota places for the 2024 Paralympics in Paris.

Incidentally, the Shrine's Archers had been felicitated by Lt. Governor, JK-UT who is also Chairman of the Shrine Board at a ceremony held at Raj Bhawan on November 8, 2023. He expressed satisfaction and pride that the Sports Complex is being developed as a center of excellence by the Board that has been successful in providing state of the art infrastructure, facilities, coaching and opportunities to the young sportspersons to prove their mettle which is being witnessed in the international events represented by our sports persons.

NSS unit GDC Udhampur accords farewell to the NSS PO

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Nov 23: The NSS PO Dr Rippy Bawa Assistant Professor Department of English was accorded a warm and heart touching farewell by the NSS Unit of GDC Udhampur today under the supervision of the principal Prof Dr Romesh Kumar Gupta.

After serving the institute for more than seven years as English teacher and acting as NSS PO for five years, she has been transferred to Govt College for Women Gandhi Nagar Jammu.

The event took place at the Conference hall where the NSS Volunteers warmly welcomed the invitees with Tilak and flowers.

The programme commenced with the lighting of the traditional lamp by the worthy principal Prof Dr Romesh Kumar Gupta, Prof Babu Lal Thakur HoD Education, Dr Rippy Bawa, the outgoing NSS PO and the newly appointed POs of the college Dr Gurpreet Kour, Associate Prof Dept of Zoology and Prof Sanjeet Singh, Assistant Professor Dept of Hindi.

Followed by that one of the senior volunteers of Semester fifth Rishika Sharma presented the formal welcome address and she also briefed the audience about the



working of NSS Unit under her programship giving a detailed report on the various achievements of the NSS unit during her tenure.

This was followed by various cultural items which included a duet dance by Monika and Ambica of Semester third, a beautiful Ghazal by Laksh of Semester third, a farewell songs by Rakesh Kumar of Semester fifth, Vishal and Rohit of Semester third.

The highlight of this farewell was that the super senior NSS Volunteers since 2019 also became a part of this farewell showing their utter respect and regard for their NSS PO Dr Rippy Bawa.

They too gave brilliant performances which included a rap by Prashant Khajuria, one of the best NSS volunteer, a Punjabi dance by Nitish Kalotra, a heart touching speech by Rahul Sanmotra and Vishal Roudhan which filled everyone's eyes

parallel with their studies. She also thanked the worthy principal of the college for providing such a congenial atmosphere in the college which encouraged not only her as Programme officer but all the staff members to work whole heartedly with all zeal and enthusiasm.

Prof Babu Lal Thakur also graced the occasion with great appreciation for Dr Rippy Bawa's efficient working.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Prof Dr Romesh Kumar Gupta appreciated the whole NSS Family for always being an active part of all the events and activities organised inside and outside the college campus.

He congratulated Dr Rippy for a suitable posting and highly appreciated her working which sculptured the Nss volunteers into the shining jewels of the college as well as society.

He wished her good luck for the future endeavours. At the same time he also welcomed the newly appointed POs Dr Gurpreet Kour and Prof Sanjeet Singh

NHM Union Doda offer condolences on demise of Harish Mehta

Top News Report

DODA, Nov 23: The National Health Mission Employees working in District Doda under the banner of NHM Employees Association District Unit Doda on Thursday expressed their grief and offered heartfelt condolences on the sad & untimely demise of Harish Mehta, working as ISM Pharmacist under NHM posted at PHC Siot in Dis-



trict Rajouri, who died at the age of 55 years due to cardiac arrest.

The employees prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family to bear this great loss.

Expressing solidarity with the bereaved family, the District President NHM Doda Dr Nasir Masood said, "We are profoundly grieved by the sudden demise of our colleague Harish Mehta, who was man of noble demeanour

apart from being an excellent human being".

The employees termed Late Harish Mehta, a hard-working health worker and a great asset to health department who always played a pivotal role for which he will always be remembered for his unstinted services, adding that his sudden death has created a great void, which will be unattainable to fill for the years to come.

Landmark Achievement for IIT Jammu: Fulbright Scholar emerges from Deptt of Humanities and Social Sciences

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 23: In a groundbreaking feat for the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology Jammu (IIT Jammu), Sayari Misra, a doctoral scholar, has secured the prestigious Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral Research Fellowship for the academic year 2024-25. This achievement marks a historic moment as Sayari becomes the first scholar from IIT Jammu to receive this esteemed scholarship.

Guided by her supervisor, Dr Sayantan Mandal, Sayari's outstanding academic performance and unwavering commitment to research have garnered attention. She has received invitation letters from esteemed uni-



versities, including Northwestern University (ranked 47 globally), the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (ranked 132 globally), and Michi-

gan State University (ranked 137 globally).

She is set to conduct nine months of research activities at these prestigious institutions. Sayari's accomplishments bring immense pride to IIT Jammu, emphasizing the institution's commitment to high-quality research.

Dr. Sayantan Mandal, Sayari's mentor, expressed his joy at her remarkable achievement, stating, "Sayari has consistently shown exceptional dedication to her research. The Fulbright-Nehru Fellowship is a recognition of her hard work and intellectual capabilities, overcoming various challenges. I am confident that she will make significant contributions to

the academic community during her time abroad and excel in her academic career."

The IIT Jammu community is also buzzing with pride, celebrating this milestone in the institution's history.

Sayari's selection for the Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral Research Fellowship not only highlights her academic excellence but also signifies her potential to make substantial contributions to her field.

As she prepares for this academic journey, the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at IIT Jammu wishes her ongoing success and hopes that her achievements inspire future scholars from the institution to reach new heights.

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3 Shops Land for sale size
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Plot For Sale
Residential registered Plot
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at Sari Rakwalan, Ghou
Manasan Road Jammu.
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Shops Land For Sale
3 Shops Land for sale size
12'X20' per shop at Sari
Rakwalan, Ghou Manasan
Road Main Road Jammu.
Contact: 9086207123