

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2024 Daily Evening Newspaper



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Iran president visits Iraq on first foreign trip amid political turmoil



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BRIEFLY

Tremors felt in Delhi, neighbouring region as 5.8 magnitude earthquake strikes Pak

NEW DELHI, Sep 11 (Agencies): Earthquake tremors were felt across north India, Pakistan and Afghanistan on Wednesday afternoon. Netizens claimed that they felt tremors in Peshawar, Islamabad and Lahore in Pakistan, and New Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir in India. The German Research Center for Geosciences (GFZ) said an earthquake of magnitude 5.8 has struck Pakistan. The quake was at a depth of 10 kilometers (6.21 miles), GFZ said. "An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.8 on the Richter Scale hit Pakistan at 12:58 pm (IST) today," the National Center for Seismology said.

Man dies, another injured in pickup truck accident in Kishtwar

KISHTWAR, Sep 11 (Agencies): A man died while another was injured after the vehicle, they were traveling in veered off the road near Padyarna area of Jammu's Kishtwar on, reports said Wednesday morning.

Quoting an official, news agency NVI reported that the accident this morning at Padyarna left one person dead and another injured when a pickup truck bearing registration number JK17 3894 veered off the road near Padyarna, Kishtwar.

The official identified the deceased as Dharminder Singh, son of Kashmir Singh from Masu Padder, driver of the vehicle. Singh died on the spot, the official said.

Another person, Suman Kumar, son of Bhagat Ram from Sohail Padder, was injured and was shifted immediately to the District Hospital Kishtwar for treatment, said the official.

Father dies, son injured in Pampore accident

SRINAGAR, Sep 11 (Agencies): A man died while his son was injured after an oil tanker collided with their scooter at Drangbal area of Pampore on Wednesday, reports

Assembly Polls | Kharge announces five guarantees for people of J&K



ANANTNAG, Sep 11 (Agencies): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday announced five guarantees for the people of Jammu and Kashmir,

including five lakh interest-free loan for women entrepreneurs and Rs 25 lakh health insurance per family, if the Congress-NC alliance is voted to power in the

Union territory.

Campaigning for the alliance candidates in this south Kashmir town, Kharge also said the Congress-NC government will give Rs 3,000 monthly to the women heads of families besides promising to restore the provision to give 11 kg grains per person through the public distribution system.

He said the promise for rehabilitation of Kashmir

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Gunfight breaks out in Udhampur

JAMMU, Sep 11 (Agencies): An encounter broke out between security forces and terrorists in the upper reaches of Basantgarh in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, officials said.

The gunfight took place when troops of the first para of the Army along with police moved to Khandara top following information about the presence of a group of

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Indian Democracy broken from last 10 years, now it is fighting back: Rahul Gandhi

WASHINGTON, Sep 11 (Agencies): Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi has alleged that democracy in India for the last 10 years was broken, but now it is fighting back.

Gandhi made these remarks on Tuesday while talking to reporters at a news conference here at the National Press Club.

"I can say to you that Indian democracy for the last 10 years was



broken. It's fighting back, but it was broken," Gandhi said.

"I have seen the government of Maharashtra just being taken away from us. I've seen it with my own eyes. I've

watched it, as our legislators have been bought in and hooked off and suddenly became BJP legislators. So Indian democracy has been under attack, has been very badly weakened, and now it's fighting back. And I'm confident that it'll fight back," Gandhi said.

"If you see the election results, does it give you more hope for a democracy in India?" he was

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Ravinder Raina faces stiff competition from Ex-BJP colleague in Nowshera

JAMMU, Sep 11 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina, seeking re-election from Nowshera assembly constituency of Rajouri district in Jammu and Kashmir, is facing a major challenge from his former party colleague Surinder Choudhary.

BJP state President Ravinder Raina at Kargil during election campaign of LAHDC polls in September 2018.

A former MLC, Choud-



hary is fighting the elections on a National Conference (NC) ticket and enjoys the Congress

support. There are three more candidates in the fray from the Nowshera con-

stituency, including from the PDP and the BSP.

The Nowshera constituency is among the 11 assembly segments in Rajouri, Poonch and Reasi districts in Jammu region going to polls in the second phase along with 15 seats of central Kashmir districts of Srinagar, Ganderbal and Budgam on September 25. A total of 239 candidates are left in the final poll fray from these 26 constituencies.

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ED files fresh petition against Farooq Abdullah in JK cricket scam



SRINAGAR/NEW DELHI, Sep 11 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate has filed an application before a

court in Srinagar seeking addition of two fresh criminal charges against former chief minister Farooq Abdullah and others in the JKCA money laundering case that was quashed by the Jammu and Kashmir High Court last month.

Official sources said the agency recently submitted its plea before the court of Principal District and Sessions

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BSF Trooper injured in unprovoked firing incident in Akhnoor Sector: BSF

JAMMU, Sep 11 (Agencies): A Border Security Force (BSF) personnel was injured when Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked firing on Indian posts in violation of a ceasefire agreement along the border here on Wednesday, officials said.

The BSF troops also retaliated but the casualties on the Pakistani side were not known immediately, they said.

"At about 2.35 am, an incident of unprovoked firing in the Akhnoor area from across the border happened and which was befittingly responded by the BSF. One BSF personnel sustained injuries in Pakistani firing," a spokesperson of the border guarding force said.

He said the troops are on high alert and keeping a strict vigil all along the International Border and Line of Control.

The ceasefire violation between the two countries has been very rare ever since India and Pakistan renewed the ceasefire agreement on February 25, 2021. Last year, a BSF jawan was killed in Pakistani Rangers firing in the Ramgarh sector, the first loss of life on the Indian side in more than three years.

The latest ceasefire violation comes days ahead of the first phase of the three-phase assembly elections scheduled on September 18. The second phase of the elections will be held on September 25 followed by the third phase on October 1.

Govt Officer suspended in Sgr for dereliction of duties

SRINAGAR, Sep 11 (Agencies): In view of dereliction of the Election related duties, the District Election Officer (DEO) Srinagar has ordered suspension of a Government Official with immediate effect.

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Omar Abdullah Blames BJP for Revival of Militancy in 'Peaceful' Jammu

SRINAGAR, Sep 11 (Agencies): The BJP's "mishandling" of the situation led to the revival of militancy in otherwise peaceful Jammu. NC vice president Omar Abdullah alleged on Tuesday.

With his cap in hands, Omar Abdullah beseeched voters for

support in Ganderbal on September 4, 2024 minutes after filing his nomination

The National Conference (NC) along with its coalition partner Congress will ensure to make the region free once again from militancy after forming the next government



in Jammu and Kashmir, said Abdullah.

The former chief minister also criticised the "double engine" BJP government in the Union Territory and alleged that except for increasing the problems of the people, causing destruction and devasta-

tion, and spreading disappointment, it did nothing as "nobody in Jammu and Kashmir is ready to praise the government for even a single thing".

"Excluding intimidation and threatening, they have done nothing. They are spreading rumours

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CS reviews functioning of Technical Education Board

Laid emphasis on quality teaching and training of the candidates



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Sep 11: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Wednesday took a detailed review of the working of the Board of Technical Education (JKBOTE) here during which he emphasised on imparting hands-on training and quality teaching to the students in the technical institutions of the UT.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, School Education Department; Secretary, Skill Development Department; Director SDD; Secretary BOTE; Registrar BOTE, besides other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary took this occasion to impress upon the board to make the polytechnic colleges and Industrial Training Institutions (ITIs) the hub of training wherefrom quality manpower is produced for industrial and technical nature of the jobs available in the market.

He maintained that such institutions are least meant for providing theory lessons but chiselling the talent of the candidates to turn them into astute professionals well-versed in their respective trades.

Dulloo further maintained that in order to enhance the employability of these pass-outs and to increase the traction of these technical courses among the students, the board should make the examination process strict with focus on imparting market-driven skills to them.

He also advised for taking necessary measures to determine the equivalence of these diplomas given by polytechnic colleges with respect to the mainstream courses offered by the School Education Department. He also asked for making the lateral entry into these courses smooth and hassle-free for the interesting candidates.

The Secretary, BOTE, Shaista Shamim presented the detailed picture of the mandate, working and achievements of the Board. She revealed that the nose dive in seeking of admissions in technical education institutions during past few years had been tackled well by creating awareness in schools here.

She also apprised the meeting about the current trend in seeking of admissions along with that of the courses and colleges in demand. She gave out that

the board offers admissions and conduct examinations for nearly 3500 candidates in 26 polytechnic colleges and 84 ITIs of J&K.

It was further disclosed that during the ensuing and previous academic sessions the admissions reached to about 95% with pass percentage of around 70%.

Regarding the implementation of NEP-2020, it was added that the same was successfully adopted in JKBOTE for all Polytechnics of J&K. It was said that the registration of JKBOTE with National Academic Depository (NAD), DigitalLocker and Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) Portal has also been done for the overall benefit of the students.

Regarding the conduct of examinations it was informed that these are held timely with declaration of results as per the examination/academic calendar issued on the commencement of the session.

It was further given out that all the services of JKBOTE are offered in online mode which has substantially minimized the footfall of students visit to JKBOTE for the redressal of their grievances.

Rahul Gandhi is good person but he does not respect his elders: Chandel

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 11: In a press interaction, Raju Chandel, a national leader of the BJP and a candidate from Jammu and Kashmir, made critical remarks about Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

Chandel stated that Rahul Gandhi is under the influence of Pitra Dosh (a supposed astrological curse), which he attributes to Gandhi's failure to respect his ancestors.

Chandel accused Gandhi of not visiting the grave of his grandfather, Feroze Khan, and claimed that this lack of respect has brought him misfortune.

Chandel further alleged that the Congress party is spreading politics of hatred in Jammu and Kashmir, while asserting that the region's people live harmoniously like a "bouquet," including the Muslim community who respect their elders by

visiting their graves.

According to Chandel, Gandhi's failure to honor his ancestry is preventing his success in politics.

Chandel also criticized Congress's stance on Article 370, asserting that it will never be reinstated, and accused the party of making empty promises to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He predicted that after October 8, all the opposition parties, which he referred to as the "Maha Thugbandhan," would lose influence in the region.

Lastly, Chandel assured that if the BJP forms the government in Jammu and Kashmir after the assembly elections, they will regularize temporary employees and address their demands.

He encouraged the youth of the region to support the BJP, claiming that the party is committed to ending unemployment and securing a better future for them.

First Capacity Building Program for Finance and Planning Officials inaugurated at IIM Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 11: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu hosted the inaugural ceremony of the first Capacity Building Program for officials from the Finance and Planning & Monitoring Department of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir at Vivekananda Classroom, Jagti on Sept 11 2024.

The program under the Centre for Innovation and Transformation in Governance (CITaG), is a visionary initiative of the Planning Development & Monitoring Department, Government of J&K. This center integrates the State Institute of Transformation, NITI Aayog, GoI, the PPP Cell funded by the Department of Economic Affairs, GoI, and the Future Ready Governance initiative of the J&K Government. IIM Jammu serves as the Nodal Knowledge Partner and implementing body for CITaG, guiding its mission to bring transformational change to the region.

The ceremony began with a traditional lamp lighting ceremony, symbolizing the illumination of knowledge and the drive towards excellence in governance by Santosh Dattatraya Vaidya,

IAS, Principal Secretary to the Government of J&K, Finance Department and Mohammad Aijaz Asad, IAS, Administrative Secretary, Planning Development, and Monitoring Department, Govt of J&K and presided over the inaugural ceremony on online mode. The event was graced by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu.

Present on the occasion were Prof. Jabir Aii, Dean, Academics, IIM Jammu, Dr. Rajesh Sikka, Program Director, Dr. Ashish Kumar, Program Director, Dr. Praveen Kumar, Program Director and Dr. Harsha Jariwala, Program Director, IIM Jammu. A brief video showcasing the history and milestones of IIM Jammu was then presented, providing insight into the institution's sig-

nificant contributions to education and governance in the region. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. Rajesh Sikka, Program Director. The ceremony culminated with the National Anthem, marking the beginning of CITaG's journey towards fostering innovation and transformation in governance. The Centre for Innovation and Transformation in Governance (CITaG) at IIM Jammu is a pioneering initiative that seeks to drive positive change and innovation in governance. By focusing on capacity building, promoting public-private partnerships, and developing future-ready governance frameworks, CITaG aims to elevate Jammu & Kashmir to the level of the best-performing states and UTs in India.

NC-Congress rule left thousands orphaned and widowed in J&K: Gulam Ali

'Vote for BJP to continue peace and progress in J&K, form your own government'

Top News Report

BANIHAL, Sep 11: In a fervent campaign for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament (MP) Er Gulam Ali Khatana urged the people of Jammu and Kashmir to reject the National Conference (NC)-Congress alliance, accusing it of pushing the region into turmoil in the past.

Speaking at a series of meetings in Levra Chamalwas, Ajnadi, Khari, Amkoot, and Badigam Fagow in Banihal, Ramban, MP Khatana highlighted the importance of continuing the BJP's journey of peace and progress initiated under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

Addressing large gatherings in these areas, Khatana called on the masses to support BJP candidates in the upcoming elections, asserting that it is now the responsibility of the people to elect a government that will continue the region's development. He stated, "It is the people of Jammu and Kashmir who must now elect their own government by voting for BJP candidates to keep the momentum of peace and progress going. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji has brought about tremendous changes in Jammu and Kashmir, and under the dynamic leadership of Home Minister Amit Shah, the region is transforming into a model of peace and progress for the rest of the country."

Khatana did not mince words when criticizing the past regimes led by the NC-Congress alli-

ance, accusing them of misgovernance and fostering an environment of violence. "Nobody can undermine the changes that have taken place in J&K under Modi Ji's leadership. The NC-Congress alliance, which ruled the region for decades, is responsible for terrorism, strikes, stone-pelting, and other issues that plagued the state under their patronage. These dynastic parties pushed Jammu and Kashmir into the depths of chaos, leaving thousands of children orphaned and thousands of women widowed," he remarked.

The BJP leader accused the NC-Congress alliance of introducing a gun culture in Jammu and Kashmir, which, he said, devastated the futures of countless families. "They sacrificed the well-being of thousands of families for their own political gain," he stated. In contrast, he praised Prime Minister Modi for offering hope to nationalist-minded citizens eager to contribute to nation-building. "The BJP has put pens, laptops, and quality education in the hands of your children, paving the way for a brighter future. I am proud that our people have chosen the path of progress under the visionary leadership of PM Modi," he added.

Khatana also took a swipe at the internal contradictions within the NC-Congress alliance, calling it an alliance formed out of the lust for power rather than any genuine ideological convergence. "The NC and Congress are not united by any common cause. Their leaders have been at each other's throats,

they come together because they fear a humiliating defeat in the elections. This is not an alliance of principles but one of desperation," he added.

Referring to former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah contesting from two constituencies, Khatana suggested that this was a sign of the alliance's fear of losing credibility. "These elections are between the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the NC-Congress alliance. The fact that Omar Abdullah is contesting from two seats shows the fear within the alliance. They know their influence is waning," he remarked.

Khatana appealed to the people to vote for the BJP and form their own government, saying, "It is time for the people of Jammu and Kashmir to come together and form their own government, a government led by the BJP. Let us continue the journey of peace, prosperity, and development."

The campaign trail in Banihal, which has traditionally seen a strong presence of the NC-Congress alliance, witnessed enthusiastic support for Khatana as he championed the BJP's narrative of progress and stability, with many locals expressing hope for a brighter future under the Modi-led government.

The MP was accompanied by Haji Yousef, Ajaj Ahmed Sohail, Sarpanch Iqbal Katoch, Gulam Hussain, BJP ST Morcha district president, Muzfar Ahmed Lone, Reyaz Ahmed Lone, Ab Rashid Dar, and other leaders.

Kavinder assumes charge as Incharge Election Committee, BJP J&K



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 11: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta on Wednesday assumed the charge of Incharge Election Committee, BJP, Jammu and Kashmir, in the presence of G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister & In-charge, BJP, J&K, Tarun Chug, BJP National General Secretary and party workers at BJP headquarters Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, G. Kishan Reddy and Tarun Chug felicitated Kavinder Gupta on his new responsibility. They expressed confidence in his leadership and ability to steer the party towards success in the forthcoming Assembly elections.

Reddy further praised Kavinder's vast experience and commitment to the party's principles, while Chug lauded his strategic acumen and his role in strengthening the BJP's presence in the region.

Kavinder Gupta, in his address, thanked the party leadership for entrusting him with this crucial role. He assured that the BJP, under his guidance, would work tirelessly to achieve the objectives set forth by the Party and continue to uphold the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a prosperous and developed Jammu and Kashmir.

Reacting strongly to the recent statement made by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, who claimed that if Congress secured more than 20 seats in the Lok Sabha polls, it would "crush the BJP," Kavinder said, "This statement reflects the mentality and ideology of the Congress, a party that once imposed the Emergency to crush the voice of the people. Now, once again, the Congress leadership shows their disregard for democratic values by making such dangerous comments."

Kavinder emphasized that it is the people who are the true judges in a democracy. "The people of Jammu and Kashmir will give a fitting reply to the Congress in the upcoming

Assembly polls, just as they have done in the past. We believe in the power of democracy, and the BJP stands firm in its commitment to the welfare and development of the region."

The event concluded with party leaders reaffirming their resolve to ensure BJP's victory in the upcoming elections, confident that the people will stand by them in their mission to build a stronger and united Jammu and Kashmir.

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EDITORIAL

SECURE
CYBER SPACE

Creating a secure cyber space is essential in today's interconnected world, where cyber threats and attacks have become increasingly sophisticated and frequent. As technology advances, so do the tactics of cybercriminals, making it crucial for individuals and organizations to implement comprehensive security measures to protect sensitive information and maintain digital integrity.

To build a secure cyber space, it's crucial to first understand the various types of cyber threats. These include malware, which encompasses viruses, worms, and ransomware designed to damage or gain unauthorized access to systems; phishing attacks, where attackers use deceptive emails or messages to trick individuals into revealing personal information; and denial-of-service (DoS) attacks, which overwhelm systems with traffic to render them inoperative. Other threats include insider threats, where trusted individuals misuse their access, and advanced persistent threats (APTs), where attackers gain long-term access to networks to steal data.

A fundamental component of cyber security is protecting the network infrastructure. Firewalls are the first line of defense, filtering incoming and outgoing traffic to block malicious data. Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS) and Intrusion Prevention Systems (IPS) monitor network activity for suspicious behavior and take action to mitigate potential threats.

Every device connected to a network, such as computers, smartphones, and tablets, represents a potential entry point for cyber threats. Endpoint security involves using antivirus software, endpoint detection and response (EDR) tools, and regular patching of vulnerabilities to protect these devices.

Encrypting data ensures that even if it is intercepted, it remains unreadable without the correct decryption key. This applies to data at rest (stored data) and data in transit (data being transmitted over networks). Encryption protects sensitive information such as personal data, financial records, and confidential communications.

Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) adds an additional layer of security by requiring users to provide two or more verification factors before gaining access to systems. These factors typically include something the user knows (a password), something the user has (a smartphone or hardware token), and something the user is (biometric data like fingerprints or facial recognition).

Software vendors frequently release updates and patches to address security vulnerabilities. Regularly updating operating systems, applications, and firmware ensures that known vulnerabilities are fixed, reducing the risk of exploitation by cybercriminals.

Implementing strong password policies helps prevent unauthorized access. Passwords should be complex, incorporating a mix of letters, numbers, and special characters, and should be changed regularly. Additionally, avoiding the reuse of passwords across different accounts can mitigate the impact of a breach.

Educating employees and users about cyber security best practices is crucial. Regular training sessions can help individuals recognize phishing attempts, understand the importance of secure password practices, and respond effectively to potential security incidents.

Regularly backing up data ensures that in the event of a cyber attack, such as a ransomware incident, critical information can be restored. Backups should be stored securely and tested regularly to ensure they are functional and up-to-date.

Developing and maintaining an incident response plan is essential for effectively handling cyber security breaches. This plan should outline procedures for identifying, containing, and mitigating the effects of an attack, as well as for communicating with stakeholders and regulatory bodies.

Adhering to industry standards and regulatory requirements, such as GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) and PCI DSS (Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard), ensures that security measures meet established benchmarks for protecting sensitive information.

Creating a secure cyber space is an ongoing process that requires vigilance and proactive measures. By implementing robust security measures, understanding potential threats, and fostering a culture of security awareness, individuals and organizations can protect their digital environments from evolving cyber threats. Continuous evaluation and adaptation of security strategies are essential to staying ahead of cybercriminals and maintaining a safe and secure cyber space.

Manipur: Local ethnic 'war' turns into a national crisis

By: Wasbir Hussain

It began as a local ethnic "war" between the majority Meiteis and the minority Kuki tribal people, but 16 months down the line, the violence in Manipur has clearly become a national security issue with charges of "external" elements fishing in troubled waters. The violence suddenly escalated during the past ten days, but the disturbing part has been the use of sophisticated drones carrying payloads of rocket-propelled grenades to attack civilians. And, there has been one instance where a long-range improvised "missile system" was used that killed a 78-year-old Meitei priest at the ancestral home of Manipur's first chief minister M. Koireng near the INA Memorial in Moirang, in the state's Bishnupur district. Also Read - Kasturi M. | All that India's women really need is respect and equality Advertisement The use of drones and the long-range projectile that was fired from a distance of at least 7 km is what made the state and Central security establishment sit up and take a deeper look at the prevailing situation. The use of these weapons meant that the attackers, whichever side they belonged to, could strike at will from their safe locations and create havoc if they wanted to. Besides, it has also raised questions as to the source of these weapons because Manipur shares a 398-km-long porous border with strife-torn Myanmar. This is a serious cause for worry because civil war-torn Myanmar has any number of militias active along the border with the north-eastern Indian states and having in their possession sophisticated weapons and military hardware

even for sale to Also Read - Aakar Patel | Modi's 3.0 govt to last for full 5 yrs, but can do only what allies permit raise funds. Already, Manipur has turned out to be one of the most militarised states in the country. Within months of the ethnic violence starting on May 3, 2023, agitated mobs, mainly in the Imphal Valley, looted weapons belonging mostly to state security forces. Estimates say around 5,000 automatic and semi-automatic weapons and 500,000 rounds of ammunition have been looted from armouries and other facilities belonging to the Manipur police. So, a group of people in the Imphal Valley suddenly had a lot of arms and ammunition in their hands, and, this during a blistering ethnic clash added to the security challenge in the state. On top of this, the Valley-based Meitei insurgents who had bases across the border in Myanmar appeared to have returned home in the wake of the war in Myanmar between the military junta and the pro-democracy militias. Also Read - Shikha Mukerjee | Of bulldozers, bail & bad faith in Leviathan State In the hills, the spotlight, right from the start of the ethnic upsurge, has been on the 2,000-plus Kuki rebel cadres (officially listed) under the banner of the Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and the United Democratic Front (UDF), who has been on a Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement with the Centre and the state government since 2008. These Kuki rebels have been accused by groups in the Imphal Valley of leading the attacks of the Meiteis, along with others, a charge these SoO groups have denied. Manipur chief minister N. Biren Singh and his government wants the SoO

agreement abrogated. The SoO agreement, basically a ceasefire deal, expired in February last and has not been officially renewed, although the rebels are supposed to be still staying at the 14 designated camps. The leaders of these groups under truce say that their weapons are under double lock and key, with one set of keys with the state authorities. But, despite such claims, the SoO groups have continued to be accused by leaders and organisations in the Imphal Valley of being involved in attacks on Meiteis. Also Read - AA Edit | India's para power in Paris During the past few days, from Friday to Sunday, chief minister Biren Singh chaired two Cabinet meetings and met governor Laxman Prasad Acharya twice, alone on Saturday and along with several ministers and MLAs of the ruling alliance on Sunday. The chief minister clearly told the Centre, through the governor, to vest full powers on the state government to deal with the situation and give the charge of the Unified Command of security forces to the state. The fact that the chief minister has even made such a demand (law and order is in any case a state subject) is because Article 355 is supposed to be in force in Manipur for more than a year now. What is Article 355? This provision states that it shall be the duty of the Union to protect every state against external aggression and internal disturbance. By asking the Centre to be more proactive (not in so many words though) and seeking the charge of the Unified Command, the state leadership in Manipur seeks to send out a message that it does not have the full authority or final say as of now in handling matters on the ground.

Besides, chief minister Biren Singh once again reiterated the demand for abrogation of the SoO agreement with the Kuki rebel groups, fencing of the border with Myanmar and stricter implementation of the ban on the Free Movement Regime (FMR) with Myanmar. The FMR, that allowed people of both India and Myanmar to go up to a distance of 16 km into the territory of the other country, has been discontinued after the ethnic violence. This indicates the fear or suspicion of the Biren Singh government that elements from Myanmar could be aiding the Kukis in the ongoing battle as the border regions of Myanmar is inhabited by people belonging to the same Kuki-Chin group. "I am not against the original Kukis. Our threat is from the Kuki immigrants who have been coming in from Myanmar," Mr Biren Singh has said. Drawn into the vortex of the conflict is a section of the Central security forces, particularly the paramilitary Assam Rifles, the nation's oldest paramilitary force that traces its origin to 1835. The Meitei groups and leaders accuse the Assam Rifles of been supportive towards the Kukis and therefore not playing a neutral role. The Assam Rifles, however, denies this accusation. Nonetheless, there is a move to withdraw at least two battalions of the Assam Rifles from the hill areas, something the Kukis are upset about and are opposing, saying the Assam Rifles is required to stay for their safety against the "onslaught from the Valley". If there is no end to the violence in sight, there is also no solid attempt at brokering peace between the two sides. The tragedy in Manipur, therefore, is likely to continue and become a long-drawn battle.

All that India's women really need is respect and equality

By: Kasturi M.

In the aftermath of the recent rape and murder case at Kolkata's R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital, the Supreme Court has declared that the nation cannot afford to wait for another rape for change to happen on the ground. This stark observation by the highest court of the country underscores a grim reality -- that in India a woman is raped every 20 to 30 minutes. However, it is always women who are often expected to prove their innocence. Also Read - Wasbir Hussain | Manipur: Local ethnic 'war' turns into a national crisis Advertisement As a society, we have traditionally framed this issue as "violence against women", rather than recognising it as "men's violence against women". This change in wording is crucial as it correctly identifies the problem as rooted in male behaviour. However, holding the perpetrators accountable challenges the patriarchal system that shields men and suppresses any dialogue that demands their taking responsibility. Also Read - Aakar Patel | Modi's 3.0 govt to last for full 5 yrs, but can do only what allies permit The expectation for women to validate their experiences highlights a systemic issue where violence against women is often seen as a women's problem rather than a broader societal issue. Every day, 110 rape cases are reported in India, with 40 per cent involving minors, while many more go unreported. According to a Thomson Reuters Foundation study, India

is ranked as the most dangerous country for women. Also Read - Shikha Mukerjee | Of bulldozers, bail & bad faith in Leviathan State Unfortunately, efforts to improve women's security often appear to be more about political posturing aimed at gaining votes rather than genuine attempts to address the issue. In our political system, blame game and finger pointing is overshadowing constructive problem solving in India. When all that governments and political leaders focus on more is assigning blame to previous administrations or other parties rather than addressing it as a social issue together, the problem continues to perpetuate. Also Read - AA Edit | India's para power in Paris While it's not all men, it is always men. But for every woman, every man can be perceived as a potential threat. Research into the mindset of convicted rapists shows that many do not express remorse and often try to justify their actions. They may blame their victims for dressing provocatively or behaving in ways they perceive as inviting. Some even argue that all men commit rape, but only a few are caught. This troubling attitude is not confined to those who are less aware of the laws, it can also be found among well educated people. Moreover, the movies and the media can perpetuate these harmful views, misguiding young people and reinforcing dangerous stereotypes. It's deeply concerning that both the public and media only react to some horrific rape cases, despite

the ongoing epidemic of sexual violence. In India and elsewhere, constant news coverage of such cases can lead to desensitisation rather than a call to action. Every instance of rape should prompt a change. In some Muslim-majority nations, the punishment for rape is instant death. In India, however, capital punishment is a contentious subject and the country is divided on its very utility. It is, therefore, reserved for the "rarest of rare" cases, where the offence is so severe that it demands the death sentence. However, years of data shows that the death penalty does not effectively lower violent crime rates, including rape and terrorism. The so-called "Nirbhaya" gangrape case, also known as the Delhi gangrape case, is a well-known example, where capital punishment was given to the convicts. The people's outcry that followed the crime gave birth to expectations for change in India. In this case, the Supreme Court ruled that the severity with which the act was perpetrated cannot be overlooked, and there was no hope of redemption. Hence, the accused should be hanged. The term "rarest of rare" originated in a 1980 judgment which urged judges to award capital punishment sparingly. It recommended that the judges should consider factors such as age, income, premeditation, mental illness, and prior criminal history, before opting for the death penalty. Setting such criteria essentially reserves the death penalty for the most heinous crimes. The idea is to examine all factors

influencing the individual's behaviour before deciding on execution. We have several rules in place to control such heinous crimes, but when it comes to implementation, we are found lacking. As a result, the offence is viewed differently, resulting in a miscarriage of justice. Worshipping women or mothers is widely practised in India. However, we can see the paradigm fading away these days. Women are now viewed mostly as sex objects, resulting in the rising instances of women getting raped. Due to the perverted actions of some men, a woman does not feel secure travelling alone at night, wearing short or revealing clothes, or going clubbing at night. We have several laws in place to protect their lives, yet they appear to be riddled with loopholes. One of the ways to address societal issues like sexual violence is to sensitise boys through a value-based education in both homes and schools. Education can empower individuals, and promote respect and equality, which can challenge harmful behaviour. In communities where literacy rates are low, access to information about rights and legal protections is typically low, which can contribute to a higher prevalence of such issues. Such a solution, however, would require all governments -- both at the Centre and in the states -- to come together to devise a long-term strategy to effect a change in society's perception towards women. So, the fight is essentially for respect and equality.

CEC chairs meeting to plan Ladakh Festival 2024: emphasizing cultural heritage and event coordination

Top News Report

LEH, Sep 11: Chairman/CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalson, Leh has convened a meeting regarding the upcoming Ladakh Festival 2024 in the conference hall of Deputy Commissioner Office, Leh.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Chairman Tsering Angchuk; Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC, Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve; Senior Superintendent of Police, Leh, Shruti Arora; Additional District Development Commissioner, Leh, Sonam Nurboo; District Superintending Engineer PWD Dorje Gyatso; CPO Tsewang Gyalson; Chief Controller Finance Dr. Zulfiqar Ali; Director Tourism Department, Fesal Iqbal Tantray; Dy Secretary Ladakh Academy Art and Culture Tsewang



Paljor; Superintendent of Police, Traffic; Xen Construction division; Chief Agriculture Officer, Thinles Dawa; Chief Medical Officer, Leh; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer; Chief Horticulture Officer, Leh, and various officials attended the meeting.

The Ladakh Festival is set to commence on September 21, 2024, and run through September 30, 2024. This vibrant festival promises to be a grand celebration of Ladakh's rich cultural heritage and traditions.

The festival will official-

ly kick off on September 21 with an inaugural ceremony held at the Polo Ground in Leh. The day will begin with a Cultural Walk from Karzoo to the Polo Ground, setting the stage for a series of exciting events.

CEC has directed that the Ladakh Festival 2024 be celebrated with grandeur and efficiency. They reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the various departments and committees involved, and discussed the scheduled itinerary of events for the festival.

Throughout the festival, attendees can look

forward to a variety of activities including traditional archery and horse polo competitions.

Cultural performances from different regions of Ladakh will be held daily, providing a deep dive into the local heritage.

In addition, the festival will feature an archival exhibition, a heritage walk from Leh Palace to Chokhang Vihara, and displays of Chams and Thagka.

The festival will be extensively promoted through social media campaigns, hoardings, and local media such as

Red FM.

The Ladakh University students will also play a role in welcoming guests at the airport, ensuring a warm reception for all attendees. Temporary branded gates will be installed at key locations including the Airport Road, Polo Ground, and Eco Park to enhance visibility and engagement.

A special attraction at the festival will be the TRIFED stall at Eco Park, dedicated to showcasing Ladakhi arts and crafts.

Content creation will be supported by professional photographers and videographers, along with local influencers who will help promote the festival through various platforms.

In closing the meeting, the CEC expressed hope that the Ladakh Festival would be a resounding success.

Executive Councillor, Agriculture flags off farmers' exposure tour to Kashmir Valley

Top News Report



Top News Report

LEH, Sep 11: Executive Councillor for Agriculture, LAHDC Leh, Stanzin Chosphel, inaugurated an exposure tour for a group of farmers from Khalsi block to the Kashmir Valley. This initiative, organized under the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) scheme, aims to provide

local farmers with valuable insights and knowledge through visits to various research stations and farms in the region.

The event held at the Leh Agriculture Department premises, was attended by Chief Agriculture Officer Thinles Dawa and other departmental officers.

The tour is expected to enhance the farm-

ers' understanding of advanced agricultural practices and foster better farming techniques.

By exposing farmers to innovative methods and successful practices in the Kashmir valley, the initiative seeks to promote sustainable agricultural growth and improve productivity in the Khalsi block.

GDC Marheen organizes Signature Campaign to encourage students about right to cast vote

Top News Report

MARHEEN, Sep 11: Voter Literacy Club of GDC Marheen organized Signature Campaign to encourage the students to make them aware about their right to cast their vote.

The programme was organized under the patronage of the Principal of the college Prof.

(Dr.) Anupama Gupta.

The principal personally shared her views about the related topic and guided the students to cast their vote with full enthusiasm in the upcoming J&K Legislative Assembly Election 2024.

She also cleared the queries raised by the students on the spot.

Further the Principal

appreciated the staff members for initiating such activities inside the college campus to make students become responsible future citizens of our country and can contribute a lot in the development of their society as well as for the nation. Students of the college actively participated in the programme.

GDC Marh inaugurates QR code-enabled bank account for college's Alumni Association

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 11: In a pioneering move for the J&K Higher Education Department, Government Degree College (GDC) Marh has inaugurated its first-ever QR code-enabled bank account for the college's registered Alumni Association.

This innovative step aims to streamline contributions and donations from alumni and the public, fostering stron-

ger ties between the institution, its former students, and the broader community.

Principal Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul, while addressing the inauguration ceremony, emphasized the importance of this initiative.

He highlighted how it will not only strengthen the bond between the college and its alumni but also contribute positively towards fulfilling NAAC accreditation criteria.

Dr. Koul encouraged

the people of Jammu to make donations at their convenience, assuring that the funds raised would be dedicated to student-centered development projects within the college and the Marh area, benefiting both students and alumni.

Dr. Koul also commended the efforts of Atul Narayan Singh, President of the GDC Marh Alumni Association (GDCMAA), and Akhil Sharma, General

Secretary of GDCMAA, for their hard work in making the QR code bank account a reality.

Special recognition was given to Ramesh Bhat, Branch Manager of J&K Bank, Marh, for expediting the account opening process.

It is noteworthy that the Alumni Association of GDC Marh is registered under the Cooperative Societies Act, 1860, with registration no. 577-CSA of 2023, dated October 10, 2023.

The inauguration ceremony took place in the office of the Principal's Chamber, in the presence of IQAC Convener Prof. Intiaz Shahid, HOD Education Dr. Ashu Jolly, HOD EVS Prof. Anjana Chib, alongside staff members Mohd. Yaqoob, Mohit Kalotra, Rachhpal Lal, and Rohit Chib.

This development marks a significant milestone for GDC Marh in advancing its alumni engagement efforts.

Shaker chiktan delegation meets CEC LAHDC

Top News Report

LEH, Sep 11: A delegation from Shaker Chiktan including nominated Councillor Hakima Khatoon, President Kacho Shameem Mandal, General Secretary Haji Hussain, Senior Leaders Own Ali, Sajjad Hussain, Ghulam Qadri, and Younus Ali, as well as Senior Workers Khalil Khan and Mohd Ismail Khan call on Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson.



CEC extended congratulations to Hakima Khatoon on her recent nomination, expressing support for her upcoming endeavors. Nominated Councillor

Khatoon conveyed her profound gratitude for CEC support and reaffirmed her commitment to working with unwavering diligence.

During the meeting,

several key issues concerning women's rights were brought to the forefront. Khatoon highlighted the critical need for women's reservation within the Kargil council.

She assured Chairman Gyalson of her steadfast dedication to addressing these pressing challenges. Khatoon emphasized her commitment to aligning her efforts with the responsibilities and expectations set forth by the Prime Minister, Home Minister, Lieutenant Governor, and the BJP party, vowing to advance the cause of women's empowerment with resolute determination.

DPS Jammu students shine in Pancak Silat & Taekwondo Championships

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 11: Students of Delhi Public School (DPS) Jammu brought laurels to the school and their parents by winning gold medals in District Jammu Pencak Silat Championship organized by J&K Pencak Silat Association held at Bhagwati Nagar Indoor Stadium, Jammu from August 30

to 31, 2024. Further, all the students are also selected for the state championship to be held later at Srinagar.

Mahika Sharma (X-G) won one gold and one silver medal, Rigved (X-G) won gold medal, Kriti Badyal (VIII-E) won gold medal, Raizel (VI-C) won gold medal, and Shashwat Badyal (III-C) won gold medal. Whereas, Ayaan

Mahajan (X-K) got 1st position in Inter-Divisional District level Taekwondo Tournament held on August 22, 2024 and he has also been selected for the state level championship to be held later.

The management DPS Jammu, President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC- Dr. Ritu Singh, Director- S.S Sodhi along with Principal-DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chabra and staff congratulated all the winners, their parents and coach, Suresh Kumar for their achievement. They also extended their best wishes to them for all their future endeavours.

Dr. Sunil Sharma exposes fraudulent practices of Sushma Builders and Suksha Developers

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 11: Dr. Sunil Sharma, a retired Senior Consultant Physician from J&K Health Services, addressed a press conference today to highlight the fraudulent activities of Sushma Builders and Suksha Developers, based in Chandigarh.

Dr. Sharma detailed his unfortunate experiences with the builders, beginning shortly after his retirement in September 2018. He was approached by their marketing representatives, Raman Sharma and Vibhu Bhasker, who persuaded him to invest in their real estate projects. In early 2019, Dr. Sharma invested Rs. 16 lakhs in a studio



apartment at Sushma Crescent, Zirakpur, with a promised possession date by the end of 2020. Despite making payments on schedule amounting to Rs. 14 lakhs, the possession was delayed indefinitely. In August 2022, Dr. Sharma secured a written agreement stating he would either receive possession or a refund within 90 days. However, neither condition

was fulfilled.

In a second investment, Dr. Sharma purchased office space in Sushma Metropol, Zirakpur, through a "Buy Back Offer" valued at Rs. 23.61 lakhs. The builder promised assured monthly returns until September 2023, after which Dr. Sharma opted to reclaim his principal amount. Two post-dated cheques totaling

Rs. 23.61 lakhs were issued by the builder but were dishonored with the reason "Payment Stopped by Drawer." Despite repeated attempts to resolve the matter, including visiting Chandigarh, the builder refused to return the funds.

Dr. Sharma has taken legal action, filing complaints in both Jammu and RERA Chandigarh. He also escalated the matter by writing to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi. The Prime Minister's office referred the case to the DGP Chandigarh, leading to the registration of FIR No. 7 dated August 31, 2024, under sections 406, 420, and 120B of the IPC with the Economic

Offense Wing, Sector 17, Chandigarh.

Through this press release, Dr. Sharma appeals to the media to ensure that the FIR is acted upon swiftly and that legal proceedings are expedited to hold Sushma Builders accountable.

He also urges the public, especially potential investors, to be cautious and avoid investing with Sushma Builders and Suksha Developers, warning that their practices have proven to be dishonest and unethical.

Dr. Sharma's call for media support aims to prevent further victimization and ensure that justice is served, urging the authorities to return his hard-earned retirement funds with dignity.

Fresh Talent shines at SMVDU's Annual Talent Hunt Program

Top News Report

KATRA, Sep 11: The vibrant Matrika Auditorium was abuzz with energy and enthusiasm as SMVDU held its much-anticipated Talent Hunt Program, organized by the Board of Cultural Activity (BCA), SMVDU showcasing the remarkable talents of the university's freshers. The event, a highlight of the university's cultural calendar, saw an impressive array of performances from new students eager to make their mark. From melodious vocal performances and instrumental solos to captivating dance routines, bhanga, and dramatic skits, the stage was set for a celebration of creativity and youthful energy. Dean of Students Welfare, Prof. R.K. Mishra inaugurated the event with the lamp lighting ceremony and an inspiring address, emphasizing the importance of nurturing and showcasing student talent. He commended the

freshers for their courage and creativity, noting that such events are crucial in fostering a vibrant campus culture. Dr. Rahul Sharma, the Cultural Coordinator, and Dr. Rakesh Thusoo, the BCA President, played pivotal roles in organizing the event. Their dedicated efforts ensured that the Talent Hunt was a well-executed and memorable experience for everyone involved. In addition to the individual acts, group performances brought a sense of camaraderie and teamwork to the stage, highlighting the collaborative spirit of the university community. The audience, composed of students, faculty, and staff, cheered on the performers with enthusiastic support, creating an encouraging atmosphere throughout the event. Overall, the Talent Hunt was a resounding success, reflecting the vibrant and dynamic culture at SMVDU and setting a promising tone for future university events.

'They called me back after 10 years: Shah Rukh Khan's epic IIFA return

King Khan asks Karan Johar 'when are you going to make films?'

Superstar Shah Rukh Khan has teased his friend and filmmaker Karan Johar for hosting more chat shows and directing lesser films.

Shah Rukh and Karan, who are set to host the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards 2024, have worked together in several hit movies such as "Kuch Kuch Hota Hai", "Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham...", "My Name is Khan", and "Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna".

At the press conference of the IIFA Awards on Tuesday evening, Shah Rukh pulled Karan's leg for being less active on the directorial front.

"He hosts chat shows, film shows. Picturein bhi toh bana mere bhai (When are you going to make films, my brother?)" said the superstar, eliciting laughter from the filmmaker.

Karan, whose last directorial was 2023's "Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani", admitted Shah Rukh was right.

"This is sounding so wrong on so many levels for a filmmaker. That I should be making movies. (But) That is exactly what I should be doing," said the filmmaker, who also hosts the popular celebrity chat show "Koffee With Karan".

IIFA Awards, the three-day award gala, returns to Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, for the third consecutive year and will be held from September 27 to 29.

Actor Vicky Kaushal will join Shah Rukh and Karan on the stage as a host.

There will also be performances by veteran actor Rekha and



stars such as Shahid Kapoor, Janhvi Kapoor, and Kriti Sanon.

"I'm so privileged to be hosting this show with Vicky and Karan, and all the amazing talent. Some of us are present here this evening. And of course, there's going to be great performances to follow. There's going to be Shahid, Vicky, Janhvi, Kriti, and of course, the most wonderful star of them all, Rekha ji," said Shah Rukh.

The "Pathaan" star, who is returning to the IIFA stage as a host after almost a decade, said he wanted to present all editions of the awards show but the dates didn't match.

"They called me once to host (IIFA), they are calling me back after 10 years," he quipped, saying these days it's important to "clarify" when it's a joke.

"IIFA is being hosted all around the world, which makes us very proud. And more often than not I've had to beg them 'I'm shoot-

ing but you are in Vancouver, Toronto, Malaysia, do it (IIFA) here in Borivali or in film city like others do. But their vision is big," he added.

For the first time, IIFA Awards 2024 is bringing together the best of both Hindi and South film industries—Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Kannada, with an aim to celebrate and honour the richness and diversity of Indian cinema by showcasing Bollywood flair at the IIFA Awards and vibrant South Indian cinema at IIFA Utsavam, which marks the beginning of the grand event.

Telugu star Rana Daggubati, who will host IIFA Utsavam with Teja Sajja, also attended the press conference on Tuesday.

Shah Rukh said this year's edition of IIFA is "more Indian" than ever.

"IIFA has always thought of taking Indian cinema, now with the inclusion of Malayalam,

Kannada, Tamil and Telugu and Hindi cinema (to the world)...

"This is even more Indian than it has ever been before. Keeping up with your vision, I'm thankful now for trying to come back after so many years, I hope we can present it well and keep people entertained." Rana recalled being hosted by Shah Rukh at his house in Dubai for an after-party some time ago.

"He is so hospitable. He has actually entertained the entire four (South) industries, not only as an actor but also as a human being," he said.

The actor also thanked Karan, who presented the Hindi version of his two-part epic fantasy film "Baahubali", for supporting South cinema.

"And really Karan, it started with you. The fact that we got 'Baahubali' here (in the north)... (It was) the first time all the languages started speaking cinema in some form. Thank you for that," Rana added.

The press conference was also attended by "Yudhra" actor Siddhant Chaturvedi and "Street 2" star Abhishek Banerjee. They will host IIFA Rocks 2024, the musical extravaganza which will bring down the curtain on the event.

As he stepped on to the stage, Shah Rukh took a moment to congratulate Abhishek on the success of "Street 2", his latest release.

"Abhishek, it's so wonderful to see you live after watching your wonderful film. I've been wanting to call you," he said.

Zeenat Aman reveals why she finds 'most designer outfits unweareable'



Veteran star and fashion icon Zeenat Aman is a casual dresser and said that she finds most designer outfits unweareable.

Zeenat took to Instagram, where she shared a picture of herself wearing a sculpted 3D dress in earthy shade, which she said is giving her best dog breed 'Komondor' impression.

"I've been blessed by the hand of many a genius in my life. The very best in not just cinema, but also fashion. The formidably talented Bhanu Athaiya, India's first Academy award winner, designed

my costumes for over 15 movies including Satyam Shivam Sundaram," she wrote.

She said Athaiya was prolific and meticulous, and soon after our first partnership had a mannequin made to her measurements.

"It would stand in her studio, and on this inanimate bust she would actualise the fantastical ideas that appeared in her mind. I only had to pop in very occasionally for trials, an arrangement that was most suitable to my schedule."

Zeenat minced no words when she said that no other designer

in the actress' life has come close to creating outfits for her 'that were as comfortable as they were sensual'.

"I am constantly tickled by my persona as a woman of high fashion. Those who know me know that I am quite the casual dresser. One who finds most designer outfits unweareable!" she said.

The actress added, "An impossibly wealthy friend of mine, with museumesque mansions in Dubai and London, would routinely gift me haute couture and then rue the fact that their fate was to moulder in my wardrobe. It's an unfortunate fate shared by my most prized heirlooms."

Talking about her most meaningful clothing, Zeenat said, "My mother's exquisite saris, the most meaningful clothing I own, also languish in the depths of my closet. Perhaps one day I will have the wherewithal to wear them or repurpose them into new outfits more suitable to my taste."

"Anyway, here I am. Giving my best Komondor (it's a dog breed, look it up and tell me if I'm wrong) impression. All in the name of fashion," she added, describing her look.

Prajakta Koli: I'm most confident when I'm comfortable

Prajakta Koli has made a mark for herself in digital creation as well as the acting world, but she feels her journey with fashion has "just started". "Growing up, I was always trying to fit in, I didn't have a clear sense of personal style. It wasn't until about two years ago that I began to find my own style. I've become more confident in my own skin, my body, and my work," she says, adding, "Comfort remains my top priority; I'm most confident when I'm comfortable in what I'm wearing."

Coming from the world of social media where appearance is judged the most, Prajakta admits feeling the pressure to present herself as more glamorous than she is. "There were times when I felt unsure of how to carry an outfit as I felt the pressure to meet expectations of how one should dress. However, as I've matured, I've stopped worrying about what's expected and what's deemed appropriate for different occasions," she says.

Ask the 31-year-old about her fashion influence and she shares, "I love observing and experimenting with ideas I pick up from others' style. Even my parents' college photos have inspired me. My father's mid-rise baggy jeans and sweater vests from that era seem especially cool to me."

Reflecting on her nine years' journey in showbiz, Prajakta admits that it feels surreal looking back at the milestones she has achieved. "I'm very proud of the secure upbringing my parents provided, which has contributed to my sense of security. I'm constantly overwhelmed, but I see it as a positive thing. It is a sign that I'm fully engaged and present," shares the actor, who has the web shows Mismatched 3 and Andhera in



the pipeline.

Prajakta also has her soon-to-be published book, Too Good to Be True in her kitty. Mention all these hats she is juggling between acting, writing, content creation and more, and she says, "I never expected to take on so many different projects, but I embrace opportunities and challenges as they come. I appreciate the unpredictability and the chance to try new things. Whether they work out or not, I value the experience."

Having represented India globally on various platforms, Prajakta shares, "There is a lot of pressure and responsibility, but it's wonderful to be introduced as Prajakta Koli from India; it fills me with pride. I remember visiting the United Nations in 2018 and touching the Indian flag for the first time. It was an incredible feeling, and I strive to chase that sense of pride," she ends.

Under the watchful eyes

Vinay Shukla, whose documentary While We Watched bagged the Peabody Award, says with his dry humour, journalist Ravish Kumar made for a great protagonist

Once an 'Insignificant Man', Vinay Shukla has come a long way. His journey from being a cinema buff to becoming one of the leading men in documentary-making is an inspiration for many. The recent one, While We Watched, received the Peabody Award in June, which revolves around renowned prime-time journalist Ravish Kumar fighting propaganda-driven misinformation and receiving death threats, as he continued to bring grassroots issues to the fore. It would be apt to say, "While We Watched, Vinay Shukla filmed!" Shukla, humbled by the award, says, "These are awards that for years were given to my favourite films and directors. So, personally I feel like an imposter to receive this honour. But also feel grateful to be receiving it for my team. It represents their hard work."

Recalling his journey as a director, Shukla recalls 2011 when his friend Khushboo Ranka



wanted to cover the Jan Lokpal protest movement in India. As they together went with their cameras to document it, unlike billions of Indian citizens, they also didn't know that it would transform into something big and also the formation of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). His first documentary, An Insignificant Man, also went to festi-

A self-taught director, Shukla says we have long moved past the times when learning in an institute was a necessity to become a filmmaker. "In today's time, mics are not scarce but many have nothing to say. The same way, it's tougher to decide, kehna kya hai (what to say through your films) than to study theory and practicality of direction. I was very privileged as a child to be exposed to world cinema, and fortunate further to have the right friends and community that helped me understand cinema in a better way." Shukla's film is available on Mubi and shown as part of Mubi Top 1000 and New Voices.

About his favourite scene from While We Watched, he says is the opening shot where Ravish is strolling through the debris of one broken floor of NDTV office. Shukla has given more than two years of his life to While We Watched, and talking about the making of it recalls, "We had

approached Ravish for the documentary and he obliged, but permissions were needed from his employers — NDTV. During the shoot, I had seen him work and learnt from him that 'there's beauty in detail'. He would write 10,000 words daily and did not believe in bullet-point newsmaking." Shukla jokes that many would ask why Ravish and not any other journalist, like Nidhi Razdan or Sreenivasan Jain, but he has realised that "English people love English people!" "In my mind, I see a great protagonist in Kumar. Also, his dry humour intensified the narrative. I wish I could add more of it into the documentary."

Shukla refuses to be put in a box as documentary filmmaker and shares how his first attempt at filmmaking was a fictional short film, Bureau Sonya (Raag Sarkari), in 2011. He is currently focused on promoting Shasn, which isn't a film but a political strategy board game.

Filmmaker Rupinder Korpel, whose short film Mohabbat Di Mitti has been doing the rounds at festivals, wants to take the treasure of literature to the screen

Bringing the rich literary heritage into films is what theatre artiste and filmmaker Rupinder Korpel aspires for. His debut short film Mohabbat Di Mitti is based on Ram Saroop Ankh's book. The 21-minute film has been doing the rounds at festivals, has witnessed 35 official selections and won 20 awards so far! An elated Korpel says, "I considered many stories but on suggestion of our lead actor Sukhpal, we zeroed down on Mohabbat Di Mitti for it made the best possible bet for visual drama."

A Masters in Theatre and Television from Punjabi University, Patiala, Korpel has cast his theatre fellows Sukhpal Bajwa and Sandeep Kaur in the lead roles. The high of this project for them was a clay statue that was made by an artiste named Janak. "It's a love story between a well-to-do girl and a not-so-well-to-do boy. We needed a life-size statue of the female lead of our story and Janak delivered in one day."

The film has won multiple honours at Indie Shorts Film Festival, One Leaf International Film Festival, Bioscope Cine Inter-



national Film Festival, Ma Boli International Punjabi Film Mela, among others. Festival circuit wasn't a plan, but Korpel aims at a YouTube release. When some OTT players expressed interest in his film, he thought of taking it to festivals, a move that paid off. He has no plans to release it for the masses though. "It's a slow film that needs patience. Theatre-goers might click with the tenor of our film, but it's not for everybody. We have done some screenings and plan to hold a few for the discerning audience," he says. Korpel clears that he is not

making films for money. "I want to bring the treasure of our literature on to the screen and take it to non-readers." For finances, he does photography, cinematography and shoots music videos. Already in pre-production of his next venture, he says, "It's based on Gurbachan Singh Bhullar's story Tori Di Vel." It deals with young girl married to a much older man. "The pre-production of our film is complete and I can't wait to take it to the floors," says the writer-director, who intends to adapt the story to suit contemporary times.

“It’s our dream to have Indian-made chip in every device in world”: PM Modi

PM Narendra Modi made a pitch to boost investments in domestic manufacturing of semiconductors at the SEMICON 2024 conference.

GREATER NOIDA, Sep 11 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the resilience of supply chains is critical for the economy as he made a pitch to boost investments in domestic manufacturing of semiconductors -- the foundation of everything from smartphones to EVs and AI. Speaking at the SEMICON 2024 conference on the outskirts of the national capital, the Prime Minister said the Covid pandemic showed the importance of the supply chain and underscored the need to act to ward off any disruption. “Resilience of the supply chain is very important,” he said. “India is working to create the same in different sectors of the economy.” The world witnessed supply shocks during Covid-19, as stringent mea-

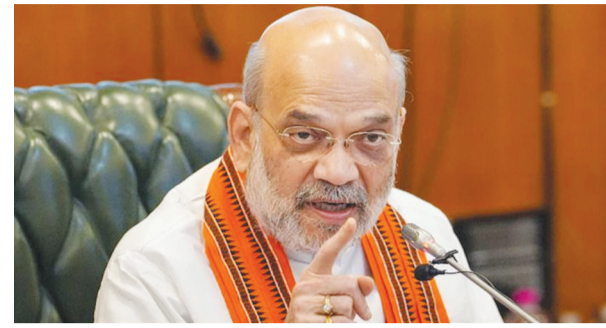


asures to control the spread of pandemic in China affected the industries and sectors dependent on imports from that country. One of the sectors impacted was chips that form a critical

part of every electronic device. PM Modi showcased India’s reformist regime, stable policies and a market that has tasted technology to make a strong pitch for investments in semi-

conductor manufacturing. “It is our dream to have an Indian-made chip in every device in the world,” he said and added that “We will do everything that is needed to make India a semiconductor powerhouse.” Talking of steps taken by his government to boost semiconductor manufacturing, he said a reformist government, a growing manufacturing base and an aspirational market that has tasted technology provide a ‘Three-D Power’ for chip making in the country. “Today’s India inspires confidence in the world. When the chips are down, you can bet on India,” he said. He said investment of over 1.5 lakh crore has already been committed in semiconductor manufacturing and many projects are in the pipeline.

Amit Shah attacks Rahul Gandhi over ‘anti-national statements’ in US



NEW DELHI, Sep 11 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday blasted Congress MP Rahul Gandhi for making “anti-India” and “anti-national” remarks during his trips abroad. He said Gandhi has “always threatened the nation’s security and hurt sentiments”. “Standing with forces that conspire to divide the country and making anti-national statements have become a habit for Rahul Gandhi and the Congress party. Whether it is supporting the JKNC’s anti-national and anti-reservation agenda in J&K or making anti-India statements on foreign platforms, Rahul Gandhi has always

threatened the nation’s security and hurt sentiments,” he tweeted. “Rahul Gandhi’s statement lays bare the Congress’s politics of causing rifts on the lines of regionalism, religion, and linguistic differences.” The Union Home Minister also blasted Gandhi on the issue of reservation, saying that “by speaking about abolishing reservations in the country, Rahul Gandhi has once again brought the Congress’s anti-reservation face to the forefront”. “The thoughts that were in his mind eventually found their way out as words. I want to tell Rahul Gandhi that as long as the BJP is there, neither can anyone

abolish reservations nor can anyone mess with the nation’s security.” Amit Shah’s tweet came a day after Rahul Gandhi spoke on reservation, as well as religious freedom in India, causing a political storm. While addressing an interactive session at Georgetown University in Washington D.C., the Congress MP said “we should think of scrapping reservations only when India becomes a fair place. And India is not a fair place right now”. On religious freedom in India, the Congress MP said at an event in Virginia that the “fight (in India) is about whether a Sikh is going to be allowed to wear a turban...whether a Sikh will be allowed to wear a karda or go to the Gurudwara. That’s what the fight is about, and it’s not just for Sikhs, but for all religions”. His statements have caused a political storm and drew sharp criticism from top BJP leaders.

Two more children, both 11, attacked by lone wolf in UP’s Bahraich

BAHRAICH, Sep 11 (Agencies): Two more children were attacked by the lone wolf in Uttar Pradesh’s Bahraich in the early hours of Wednesday. The children, both 11, were sleeping when they were attacked. Bahraich has seen a series of wolf attacks in the past one and half months, with over 10 people, including nine children, being killed due to the attacks. At

least 36 people have been injured due to wolf attacks in Bahraich as well. The forest department has captured five out of the pack of six wolves, who terrorised the residents in Bahraich under ‘Operation Bhediya’, and the lone male wolf left in the region attacked two children early on Wednesday. The wolf attacked 11-year-old Suman in Gadarian Purwa vil-

lage in Bahraich district. The wolf entered their house at around 12 am and caught the girl by her neck while she was sleeping on the cot and dragged her to the nearby field. Her family members called for help, following which other villagers entered the field and chased away the wolf. Suman’s family said that they were unable to install doors in their house as they were poor. She has

been admitted to the district hospital in Bahraich. In the second incident, the wolf attacked 11-year-old Shivani in Khairighat village in Bahraich. This attack happened at around 4 am when Shivani was sleeping with her mother in their thatched hut. The wolf grabbed the girl by her neck and was taking her away. However, villagers started chasing it, following which it ran

away. Report of the wolf showing pug marks. She has been admitted to the Community Health Center (CHC) in Mahasi. The forest department had formed several teams to patrol the areas in the night and was using elephant dung and urine to drive away the wolves. The Uttar Pradesh government has declared the wolf attacks as a ‘wildlife disaster’.

7 workers killed as mini-truck overturns in Andhra Pradesh

AMARAVATI, Sep 11 (Agencies): Seven people were killed when a mini-truck they were travelling in overturned in Andhra Pradesh’s East Godavari district on Wednesday, police said. Two others were injured in the accident that occurred in the Chikalavari Pakala area of Chinnagudem on the highway connecting East and West Godavari districts. The mini-truck, laden with cashew nuts, was on its way from Borrampalem of Eluru district to Tadimalla in East Godavari district. Police said the accident occurred when the driver lost control. The vehicle veered off the road and overturned in the adjoining agricultural field. Nine labourers, who

were travelling on the mini-truck, got trapped under the sacks of cashew nuts. While seven of them died on the spot, the police rescued two others and shifted them to a nearby hospital. The police with the help of locals pulled out the bodies from beneath the sacks and shifted them to Kovvuru Government Hospital for autopsy. According to police, the driver fled the scene after the accident. A case has been registered, and an investigation is underway. Six of the deceased were identified as Burraiah (40), Tammireddy Satyanarayana (45), P. Chinna Musalaiah (35), Kattava Krishna (40), Kattava Sattipandu (40)

and Tadi Krishna (45), all residents of Samishragudem mandal. The seventh deceased Bukka Prasad hailed from Kata Koteswara in Nidadavolu mandal. One of the injured was identified as Ganta Madhu while the details of the other injured were not known. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has expressed grief over the road accident. He conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased. Pawan Kalyan said he was pained to learn about the ghastly mishap and the tragic deaths of seven workers in East Godavari district. He assured that the government would extend all possible help to the families of the victims.

Situation ‘under control’ as students clash with police in Manipur

IMPHAL, Sep 11 (Agencies): The situation in Manipur remained tense but under control on Wednesday after students clashed with security forces during their march to Raj Bhavan here a day before, police said. According to a senior officer, the curfew, that was imposed in Imphal on Tuesday afternoon, continued to be in place this morning, while additional security forces

were deployed and frequent patrolling by policemen was underway in the town to avoid any untoward incident. “The situation remains tense but under control,” he said. A clash broke out between students and security forces during a march to the Raj Bhavan here on Tuesday. The government on Tuesday evening issued an amended order, stating that the suspension

of internet services in the wake of intensified agitation by students applies only to the five valley districts. The agitating students attempted to march towards the Raj Bhavan in Imphal to press for their demands to remove the DGP and security advisor to the state government. The police had fired tear gas shells to disperse students who were accused of pelt-

ing security forces with stones in Khwairamband and Kakwa Naorem Leikai areas in the state capital. More than 55 students were injured in the clashes and admitted to RIMS hospital, a students’ body claimed. The Raj Bhavan, in a statement issued late on Tuesday night, said, “Representatives of students met Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya and submitted

a memorandum. They urged the governor to take appropriate steps to fulfil their demands. The governor assured them that he would take steps in the best interest of the students and the people of Manipur, the statement added. Meanwhile, search operations and area domination exercises were underway in the Kangpokpi district and arms and explosives were recovered.

Locals, cops clash in Shimla during protest over ‘illegal’ construction in mosque

SHIMLA, Sep 11 (Agencies): Shimla witnessed chaotic scenes on Wednesday as locals clashed with police during a protest march over alleged illegal construction inside a mosque complex in the city. Visuals from Shimla showed protesters toppling police barricades and security personnel resorting to lathicharge and water cannons to control the crowd. The protesters were heard chanting slogans such as “Himachal Ne Thaana Hai, Devbhoomi Ko Bachana Hai” and “Bharat Mata Ki Jai.” The march was called to protest against the alleged illegal construction of extra floors in a mosque located in Shimla’s Sanjauli area. Earlier, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu had said that while people have the right to protest, they should do so peacefully and without damaging



public property. “There have never been communal riots in our state. Himachal is known as Devbhoomi. Currently, the situation is normal and everyday public life is running smoothly. Protesting is the right of the people, but everything should happen within the limits of the law”, Himachal Pradesh Minister Rohit Thakur echoed Sukhu after the prohibitory orders were issued. Sukhu had also said that the issue of the alleged illegal construction at the Sanjauli mosque was being heard by a local municipal court and that law would take its course. “We held meetings with the stakeholders

and are hopeful that the protest would be peaceful”, SP Sanjeev Kumar Gandhi said while appealing to the locals who joined the protests. The protesters defied the prohibitory orders issued on Tuesday in the area following escalating tension over the alleged construction of extra floors in the mosque and calls for a shutdown by some Hindu organisations. Earlier on Wednesday, a heavy presence of police forces was seen in the Dhali tunnel before the protest march. Vehicles were also being checked at police posts in order to see to it that no untoward incident takes place.

Protesting doctors get invite to meet Mamata Banerjee over RG Kar case

KOLKATA, Sep 11 (Agencies): The West Bengal government has invited doctors protesting over the rape and murder at RG Kar Medical College for a meeting with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at 6 pm today. A letter by Chief Secretary Manoj Pant suggested that the delegation of doctors meeting the Chief Minister comprise 12-15 members. Earlier, the protesting doctors had said they were open to a meeting with the Chief Minister. The doctors have been protesting outside Swasthya Bhawan, the state health secretariat. Their demands include action against those guilty in the August 9 rape-murder of a 31-year-old doctor, those involved in an alleged cover-up, and the resignation of top officials, including the Kolkata Police Commissioner and Health Secretary. Doctor Aniket Mandal, a representative of the doctors, said they have come to know from media reports that the Chief Minister is ready to meet them. “To clarify this, we will send a mail to the CM’s office and put



forward our demands. We want to talk to the Chief Minister,” he told agency. Today is the 33rd day of the Kolkata doctors’ protest over the rape-murder incident that has shaken the country. In the aftermath of the incident, allegations of massive corruption within the state healthcare apparatus have emerged. Dr Sandip Ghosh, former principal of RG Kar Medical College, has been arrested by the CBI in connection with alleged financial irregularities in the hospital. The protesting doctors are

demanding the removal of top officials of the state health department, including health secretary Narayan Swaroop Nigam. Earlier, the state government said it had written to the protesters and invited them for a meeting at the state secretariat ‘Nabanna’ to find a way out of the impasse. But the doctors said the mail for the meeting was from the state health secretary, whose resignation they are seeking. They termed this “insulting” and objected to the state government restricting the

number of protesters attending the meeting to 10. The doctors are defying the Supreme Court’s directive to return to duty by 5 pm on September 10. The court had asked the doctors to reinjoin duty and asked the state government to not take any action against them. But the doctors have said they would not rejoin work till their demands are met. They have put up sheds, arranged fans and food and water, indicating that they have no plans to back off till their demands are met. Besides the resignation of police commissioner Vineet Goyal and top health officials, the doctors are demanding safe working conditions for health-care staff in the state’s hospitals. The protests in Kolkata and other parts of Bengal have erupted after a 31-year-old postgraduate trainee doctor was found raped and murdered in a seminar room of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital on August 9. One person has been arrested in this connection and the CBI is investigating the

Director RMPS participates in CBSE School Principals' exposure visit at IIM Bangalore

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 11: In a significant step towards advancing educational leadership and institutional excellence, the Director of RM Public School Rakshan Mengi, was honored to participate in the CBSE School Principals' exposure visit at the prestigious Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB). This event, organized by the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) of IIMB, was held from August 19 and 20, 2024.

The two-day visit aimed to provide educational leaders from across the country with insights into modern teaching methodologies, administrative leadership, and sustainable educational practices.

The program, which commenced with a formal inaugural session on August 19, included



interactive sessions, group discussions, and a campus tour of IIM Bangalore, renowned for its academic excellence.

The Director's participation in this exposure visit is a testament to RM Public School and a commitment to continuous improvement in education.

The program focused on vari-

ous aspects of school management and leadership, empowering the participants with cutting-edge strategies and innovations that can be implemented to enhance the learning environment.

As an outcome of the program, the Director will be working on applying the knowledge gained

to further refine and strengthen the academic and administrative frameworks within the school. This effort is in line with the school's vision to provide students with a holistic and future-oriented education.

The event emphasized the importance of sustainable practices in educational institutions, which aligns with IIMB's commitment to a greener future.

As part of this initiative, the school will also explore the possibility of introducing eco-friendly measures in campus to support environmental sustainability.

The Director's visit to IIMB marks a pivotal moment in the school's journey toward educational excellence. We are proud to have had this opportunity to connect with other leaders in education and contribute to the national discourse on transformative educational practices.

Kisan Mela-cum-Fruit Exhibition 2024 celebrates agricultural achievements in Ladakh

Top News Report

LEH, Sep 11: LAHDC Leh, hosted the Kisan Mela-cum-Fruit Exhibition 2024 at the Horticulture Complex, Agling, Leh. The event was graced by Chairman/CEC LAHDC, Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson as the Chief Guest, and Executive Councillor, Horticulture Ghulam Mehdi as the Guest of Honour. Director Horticulture UT Ladakh Tsewang Phuntsog also attended the function.

The exhibition showcased an impressive range of horticultural produce, including different varieties of apples, chuli (a local fruit), watermelons, and an array of vibrant flowers.

This display highlighted the region's rich horticultural heritage and demonstrated the exceptional results achieved by local farmers. Each exhibit highlighted the quality and diversity of produce cultivated in Ladakh, reflecting the advancements in farming techniques and the dedica-

tion of the agricultural community.

The variety of fruits and flowers on display not only celebrated the region's unique climatic conditions but also emphasized the successful integration of modern agricultural practices in enhancing local produce.

The event was attended by over 200 farmers and showcased around 450 exhibits of fruits, flowers and value added products.

In his address, Chief Executive Councillor Adv. Tashi Gyaltsan emphasized the significance of such events in showcasing the progress and performance of local farmers. He highlighted the crucial role of collaboration between farmers and various departments to ensure they receive the necessary support and equipment.

He encouraged farmers to actively participate and take advantage of the resources offered by the Administration and LAHDC.

CEC highlighted that LAHDC provides subsi-

dies for horticulture tools to support and enhance agricultural practices.

CEC also expressed a desire to extend these events to more remote regions such as Sham, Chamgthang, and Rong, underlining their importance in raising awareness about agricultural advancements.

CEC also appreciated the department for organizing the event and bringing farmers and Scientist at one platform.

Executive Councillor Ghulam Mehdi discussed the advantages of modern farming technologies and the necessity of pushing forward with innovation in horticulture.

He underscored the benefits of integrating new technologies and methods to enhance productivity and support farmers in the region.

The Kisan Mela Cum Fruit Exhibition 2024 not only celebrated agricultural achievements but also served as a platform for promoting further development and cooperation in the horticultural sector.

SGWF honors forest martyrs with mega plantation drive

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 11: The Synergetic Green Warriors Foundation (SGWF) commemorated Forest Martyrs' Day with a mega plantation drive at the road divider near Kameshwar Temple, Akhnoor.

The event paid tribute to the forest martyrs who made the ultimate sacrifice in safeguarding our environment, allowing us to live in a cleaner and healthier world.

This initiative honors their memory and encourages environmental stewardship among local communities.

Various plant species, including Parijaat, Thevetia, Sukhchain, Tecoma, Rudraksh, and Cassia glauca, were planted along the road dividers from Kameshwar Temple to the old bridge in Akhnoor.

Volunteers from across Akhnoor, such as Raju Bajiger, Kaluram, Mithu, Rajuram, Gourav, Rohit, Shubham, and Monika, alongside many women participants, contributed to making the event a success.

The plantation drive was spearheaded by Dr. Sonia Verma, Director/CEO of SGWF, with the active involvement of Sandeep Sharma, Treasurer. The entire initiative was carried out under the direct supervision of Sham Lal



Sharma, Chief Patron of SGWF.

Parijaat, a new entrant to the road dividers of Akhnoor, holds deep socio-cultural significance. Sandeep Sharma, Treasurer of SGWF, highlighted the importance of Parijaat, stating that it is revered in Indian culture for its religious and medicinal properties. "The addition of Parijaat to our plantation efforts not only enhances the biodiversity of the region but also brings a plant with rich cultural heritage to our streets. It symbolizes peace and spirituality, making it a meaningful choice for the beautification of our roads," said Sandeep Sharma.

During the event, Dr. Sonia Verma paid tribute to the forest martyrs, acknowledging their role as the true custodians of our "green gold." She emphasized the importance of their sacrifices in maintaining a healthy,

pollution-free environment for everyone. Dr. Verma noted that these martyrs' selfless dedication to nature conservation is the reason we continue to enjoy the benefits of cleaner air and a greener world.

Raju Bajiger, one of the key volunteers, spoke about the significance of planting trees along road dividers. He emphasized that such efforts not only enhance the aesthetic value of roads but also help in curbing road accidents. "Tree plantations along the roads of Akhnoor serve as natural barriers that improve visibility and provide shade, which in turn helps reduce accidents," he said.

Monika, another dedicated volunteer, also addressed the gathering, further highlighting the bravery and sacrifices of the "green soldiers" — the forest martyrs. She emphasized that their legacy should

inspire all of us to protect and preserve the environment for future generations.

SGWF remains steadfast in its mission to safeguard the environment through sustainable practices, large-scale plantation drives, and public awareness campaigns. The organization has committed to planting and adopting 25,000 trees across India under its 'Adopt a Tree' campaign, aimed at reducing deforestation and increasing green cover.

In addition to tree plantation, SGWF is actively involved in promoting eco-friendly agricultural practices, restoring degraded ecosystems, and conducting educational workshops on the importance of biodiversity. The organization collaborates with local communities, schools, and government bodies to foster a culture of environmental responsibility and create a sustainable future for the next generation.

Dr. Verma highlighted SGWF's vision for a greener planet, where every individual plays a role in nurturing and protecting nature. "By remembering our forest martyrs and continuing our work, we hope to inspire a new generation of environmental warriors who will carry forward the legacy of those who sacrificed their lives

for the cause," she said. SGWF is dedicated to leading the way in environmental protection by combining action, education, and community involvement to address climate change, deforestation, and other environmental challenges.

Dimple leads protest against Pakistan's ceasefire violations

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 11: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, led a strong protest rally against Pakistan's ceasefire violations along the Akhnoor and Ramgarh sectors of the Line of Control (LoC), where a BSF soldier was injured.

During the demonstration, effigies of Pakistan, its flag, and the ISI were burnt.

Addressing the protesters, Dimple condemned Pakistan's repeated ceasefire violations and called for a robust military response from India.

Dimple demanded that the Central Government liberate Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK), Gilgit, and Balistan from Pakistani control.

He also alleged that Indian security forces are continuously targeted, with many soldiers being injured or mar-



tyred in attacks by Pakistani militants in Jammu and Kashmir.

Dimple urged the Indian government to carry out surgical strikes against Pakistan and emphasized the need for immediate action to counter these threats.

He further alleged that over 600 Pakistani Special Operations Group (SOG) commandos and Border Action Team (BAT) soldiers had infiltrated regions like Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch, Rajouri, and

parts of Jammu, including Kathua, Udhampur, and Basohli.

According to Dimple, in just 60 days, more than 50 security personnel and civilians had been martyred due to these infiltrations and militant activities.

He also issued a warning to both the governments of Pakistan and Bangladesh, condemning attacks on Hindus, temples, and Jammu and Kashmir students in Bangladesh. Dimple demanded that Prime

Minister Narendra Modi and Islamic countries take action to protect Indian citizens and Hindus living in Bangladesh.

Additionally, Dimple accused the Pakistani army of persecuting Hindus, Sikhs, Shia Muslims, and other minorities, alleging instances of killings, rapes, and forced religious conversions.

Prominent leaders who joined the protest included Rupesh Bhat, Nitin Saini, Sat Pal, Sachin Soi, and Bunty Dogra, among others.

J&K Rollers Skating Association hosts Srinagar District Skating Championship

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Sep 11: The Jammu and Kashmir Rollers Skating Association proudly presented the Srinagar District Skating Championship at Radpora Stadium, Srinagar. This dynamic event brought together skaters from various age groups, showcasing their exceptional talent and passion for the sport.

The championship was a vibrant display of skill and sportsmanship, with enthusiastic participation from young athletes eager to demonstrate their prowess on skates. The event not only

celebrated the sport of roller skating but also fostered a spirit of healthy competition and camaraderie among the participants.

500 Meter Race
BOYS 5-7 yrs: Zayeem, gold, Hasnain, silver, Abdullah, bronze. 9-11 yrs: Ibrahim Pindoo, gold, Mohd. Irham, silver and Ayan Wani, bronze. 11-14 yrs: Anas, gold, Haider, silver and Himayat, bronze.

GIRLS 5-7 yrs: Maarsha Wasim, gold and Alima, silver. 7-9 yrs: Ilma, gold, Khadijah, silver and Aisha Wani, Bronze. 9-11 yrs:



Huriya, gold, Armeen, silver and Zanaira, bronze. 11-14 yrs: Sakeena, gold, Aleena, silver and Ayra Shabeer, bronze.

Small Race Event: Esa, gold and Mustaqeen, silver
1000 Meter Race
BOYS 5-7 yrs: Zayeem, gold, Hasnain, silver and Abdullah Irfan, bronze. 9-11 yrs: Ibrahim Pindoo, gold, Mohd. Ayan Wani, silver and Irhaan, bronze. 11-14 yrs: Anas, gold, Haider, silver and Himayat, bronze.

GIRLS 5-7 yrs: Maarsha Wasim, gold and Alima, silver. 7-9 yrs: Khadijah,

gold, Ilma, silver and Aroush Fatimah, bronze. 11-14 yrs: Sakeena, gold, Aleena, silver and Ayra Shabir, bronze. 9-11 yrs: Huriya, gold, Armeen, silver and Zunairah Shah, Bronze.

Small Race Event: Esa, gold and Mustaqeen, silver. The Jammu and Kashmir Rollers Skating Association President G.S Khurmi extends his heartfelt congratulations to all the winners and participants.

The championship was a testament to the growing enthusiasm for roller skating in Srinagar and a crucial step in nurturing the next generation of skating champions.