TOP NEWS OF J&K



Soldier killed, 6 others injured as **Army vehicle** rolls down into gorge in **Kathua**

JAMMU, Sep 20 (Agencies): An Army soldier was killed while as six others were injured after their vehicle met with an accident near in Kathua district on Friday.

Officials said that the army vehicle skidded off the road and rolled down into gorge at Sukrala Mata Ashram road, resulting in the death of an army soldier and injuries to six others.

The injured were immediately shifted to Sub District Hospital Billawar, where from they were referred to MH Pathankot for advanced treatment, they said.

Also, body of the deceased soldier identified as Ram Kishore was brought to SDH. The injured have been identified as Anil Singh(35), Bhupender Singh (30), Mahipal Singh (37), Sunder Pandya (37) and Lokinder Singh (26)

submit a report on the issue in two days after seeking administrative directions from the Chief Justice, the Bench posted the matter for Wednesday. Taking suo motu cognisance of media reports on controversial remarks by Justice Vedavyasachar Srishananda of the Karnataka High Court that a particular area in Mysore was in Pakistan,



Friday sought a report from the Registrar General of the high court. "We may lay down some basic guidelines



from the Registrar General of the high court," a five-judge Bench led by CJI DY Chandrachud told Attorney General R after seeking a report Venkataramani.

Asking the Karnataka High Court Registrar General to submit a report on the issue in two days after seeking administrative directions from the Chief Justice, the Bench posted the matter for Wednesday. The Bench – which also included Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Justice BR Gavai, Justice Surva Kant and Justice Hrishikesh Roy – sought Attorney General Venkataramani and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta in the matter.

Turn to page 9

NEW DELHI. Sep 20 (Agencies): The Supreme Court's You-Tube channel was hacked on Friday and showing videos promoting a cryptocurrency developed by US-based company Ripple Labs. A blank video with the



on the hacked channel. The apex court has been using YouTube to stream live hearings of Turn to page 9

question paper theft case, before the Special Court for CBI cases in Patna. The charge sheet has been submitted under various provisions of the

in NEET UG

2024 paper

Indian Penal Code, **Turn to page 9**

Army flags off Tiger Prowl Cycling Expedition 2024 from Jammu to Himachal Pradesh

JAMMU, Sep 20 (Agencies): An 18-member Army team of Lightning Streaks Regiment of Tiger Division has set out to establish a record of its own, undertaking a cycling expedition to the world's highest village connected by a motorable road, Komic in Himachal Pradesh situated at an altitude of 15,100 feet.

the Supreme court on

A defence spokesperson in a statement said that the Tiger Prowl Cycling Expedition 2024 from Jammu to Komic, Himachal Pradesh via Yol exemplifies the



indomitable spirit and resilience of Indian Army.

He said the expedition consisting of 18-mem-

Bhanwala, General Officer Commanding, Tiger Division, Jammu on 20 September 2024. The team will navigate

tions throughout Himachal Pradesh covering approximately 988 kms with majority of it being off road.

This expedition route is considered one of the most treacherous routes in the world by virtue of weather extremities and landslide prone areas, offering the unique adventurous experience for the participants. The expedition will touch base with 26 border villages including five Vibrant Villages as declared by Government of India and Himachal Turn to page 9

BJP betrayed our people, pushed them to brink: Farooq Abdullah

SRINAGAR, Sep 20 (Agencies): The President of Jammu and Kashmir National, Dr Farooq Abdullah, has expressed concern over the surge in terrorist activities in the Jammu region during the BJP's rule.

This he said while addressing a series of public meetings in Kathua and Vijaypur areas of Jammu province. Provincial President Rattan Lal Gupta was also present on the occasion.



tranquil area in darkness, jeopardizing the safety and security of people. Even regions that were previously cleared of militancy are now being targeted with increasing frequency. Our valiant soldiers are making the ultimate sacfear. The sense of security has been shattered, and the people are desperate for peace," he said. The NC-Congress

alliance is dedicated to restoring the rights of the people of Jammu. "This includes giving them control over their minerals, contracts, jobs, and trade. Our goal is to ensure that the people of Jammu have priority when it comes to jobs and mineral resources, and that their culture is preserved. The BJP

Confirming it a police official told GNS that a case has been registered in this regard.

One person die in road accidents in Ramban

SRINAGAR, Sep 20 (Agencies): One person died while two others injured after a truck they were travelling in met with an accident at National Highway at Battery Cheshma in Ramban district.

"The truck rolled down into a deep gorge which led to the death of one person while two others got injured, who was shifted to nearby hospital for treatment," the officials said.

"The civil QRT Ramban and police are on job," they said.

J&K: Five employees suspended for unauthorised absence

JAMMU, Sep 20 (Agencies): Five employees have been suspended for failing to report for election duty. An inquiry has been ordered to address the matter.

The officials were deployed for Home voting on September 17, and failed to report in their respective Turn to page 9

bers was flagged off by Major General Mukesh challenging route and varying weather condi-

"This disturbing trend has enveloped the once

rifice, while locals are forced to live in constant

made grand promises, Turn to page 9

BJP raising bogey of Pakistan to hide its 'Failures': Mehbooba Mufti

SRINAGAR, Sep 20 (Agencies): Hitting back at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Friday said the BJP is raising the bogey of Pakistan to hide its "failures".



ference (NC) and Con-

Modi said the PDP along with the National Congress was implementing the neighbouring country's agenda in Jammu and Kashmir. "I feel the BJP has

failed on every front. They had promised two crore jobs every year which meant 20 crore

Turn to page 9

Rahul Gandhi to meet Professionals from various sectors in Jammu next week

SRINAGAR, Sep 20 the AIPC said this piv-(Agencies): The All India otal event aims to foster Professional's Conopen dialogue on the gress (AIPC) is holding significant challenges an exclusive meeting faced by professionals of professionals' from in the region, providing Jammu and Kashmir a unique opportunity for with Rahul Gandhi, their voices to be heard Leader of the Opposiat the national level. tion, on September 25 It said for the first time, in Jammu. a political platform like In a statement issued, AIPC is offering professionals the chance to directly share their concerns, aspirations, and ideas.

Gandhi's Rahul involvement underscores the growing recognition of the professional community's importance in shaping Jammu and Kashmir's

Turn to page 9

Top BJP, Congress leaders to campaign in Jammu for upcoming Election Phases

SRINAGAR, Sep 20 (Agencies): Ahead of the 2nd and 3rd phase of Assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh are visiting Jammu region once again on September 21 to garner scheduled to address a

support for the party public rally in Surankote. candidates. Congress Also, Defence Minisleader Rahul Gandhi ter Rajnath Singh will is also all set to visit address the rally in Sun-Jammu's surankote on darbani, RS Pora and September 23. Poonch Former BJP The Home Minister Amit Shah will arrive in Jammu between September 20 and 21 and is

President and Union Minister J.P Nadda will hold a road show in Jammu east.

Turn to page 9



OBITUARIES



Contact: 9419131791, 9796108861, 9779455949

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform sad and untimely demise of our beloved wife Smt. Chinta Kumari W/o Sh. Jagdish Chander Kapoor R/o Galak Tehsil Ramkot District Kathua on 12-09-2024.

Tenth day will be performed at Panchayat

Sh. Jagdish Chander Kapoor- Husband

Abeer, Amaya & Amyra (Grand Children)

TENTH DAY will be performed on 22nd September 2024, at Muthi Ghal at 8:00 AM near Directorate Of Schoo GRIEF STRICKEN: (Brother and Sister-in-law) Sh. Veer Jee Pandita & Smt. Princy Pandita Sh. Roop Chand Pandita (Son & Daughter-in-law) r. Opender Pandita & Mrs. Asha Pandita (Daughter & Son-In-law) Mrs. Neeta Bhatt & Mr. Sunny Bhatt



GRIEF STRICKEN Sardarni Kulwant Kaur, Retd. CEO (Wife) Kirandeep Kaur, JKAS (Daughter) Dr. Puneet Kaur & Dr. Jasvinder Singh (Daughter & Son-in-law) Gunwant Singh (Son) Jivhunar Kaur (Grandchild)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

2

alive in our memories.

residence Nowshera.

Grief Stricken

Father & Mother

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform sad and untimely demise of our beloved son Amit Kumar Raina S/o Sh. Ashok Kumar Raina R/o Kathwar Budgam at present Lane No. 6 Block No. 28, Flat No. 9 Jagti Nagrota, Jammu. Tenth Day will be performed on 24-09-2024 at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education at 8.00 am.

Smt. Sunita Raina & Ashok Kumar Raina Ranjeeta Raina and Vijay Raina- Uncle & Aunty Daleep Raina and Sushma Raina- Do Shalni Raina- Sister Pinky and Ramesh Pandita- Fufi & Fufad Neetu Dhar & Winoo Ji Dhar- Fufi & Fufad Raj Raina- Fufi Yogeta, Shruti, Tejasvi, Pihu- Sisters Karan & Udesh- Brother

OBITUARY/10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Chuni Lal Dhar original resident of Lal Nagar Chanapora, Srinagar at present 174-D, Pocket-A, Mayur Vihar Phase 2, East Delhi-91 on Friday 13th September 2024.

10th Day shall be performed on Sunday 22nd September 2024 at Murad Nagar (UP).

Assembly will be held at our residence at Sh. Chuni Lal Dhar 11 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Jaya Dhar & Sh P.N. Dhar - Sister-in-law & Brother Smt. Jai Kishori Raina - Sister Smt. Girja Parimoo - Sister Smt. Anjali & Sh. Umesh Dhar - Daughter-in-law & Son Smt. Anjali & Sh. Vinod Khushu - Daughter & Son-in-law Grand Children: Arushi, Yatharth, Ishita, Parth Mobile - 9910084954, 9717198866, 9818333475

PRAYER MEET AND **10TH DAY KRIYA**

'his is to inform everyone that a prayer meet will be held to honour the life and legacy of our dearest Mother, Smt. Girja Mahaldar (Asha Ji) wife of Sh. Kundan Lal





Narimarg Shopian. Education.





Ghar Galak on 21th September 2024 (Saturday) at 11:00 AM. Kriya will be performed on at our residence on 24th September 2024 (Tuesday) at

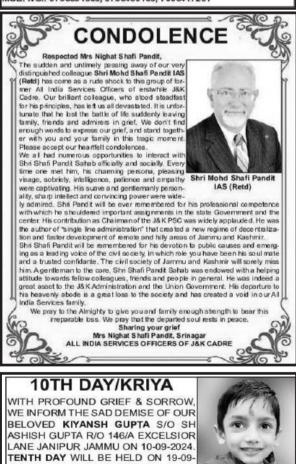
Smt. Vinod and Sh. Shiv Kumar Kapcor - Devar & Devrani.

Chinta Kumari

mt Kundan Bhat, Sh. B.L. Bhat, Smt, Sharika Bhat, Sh. R.K. Bhat, Smt. Jolly Shangloo, Sh. Inder Krishan Shangloo

ar-in-laws & Broth

Grandchildren: Avvan, Vihaan, Vivomi MOB. NO.: 9796691883, 9796480183, 7006417281



DURGA MANDIR (LANE NO. 1). KRIYA WILL BE HELD ON 21-09-2024 MASTER AT OUR RESIDENCE H.NO. 146-A KIYANSH GUPTA EXCELSIOR LANE JANIPUR JAMMU. **GRIEF STRICKEN**

SMT USHA GUPTA -GRAND MOTHER

2024 AT 11.00 AM AT LAKKAD MAND

SMT SHIKHA & SH ASHISH GUPTA -MOTHER & FATHER SMT SARUCHI & SH RAJEEV GUPTA -BUA & FUFAD JI SMT ARTI & SH AMISH GUPTA -CHACHI & CHACHA JI SH SHUBHAM MAHAJAN -MAMU JI MOB. 9906024466



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



With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform about the sad demise of our beloved Sh Omkar Nath Mussa originally resident of Mattan Kashmir. Presently H No. 37, Lane No. 3 Bharat Nagar, Bantalab Jammu.

10th Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 21-09-2024 at 9:00 am.

Grief Stricken : Viley Devi (Wife)

Sanjay Mussa & Anju (Son & Daughter in law) Rahul Mussa & Suhani (Son & Daughter in law) Ankit Mussa & Shilpy (Son & Daughter in law)

Arti Khar & Dr Vinod Khar (Daughter & Son in law)

Usha Ji & Sh Ashok Ji Mussa (Sister & Brother in law)

Grand Children : Swastik, Suhana, Hardik, Ruhani, Kaviya, Aradhiya, Aradhana 9149518330, 9419225122

10TH DAY KRIYA/OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of Smt. Soom Rani Ambardar (Kaushalaya ji) W/o Late Sh. Soom Nath Ambardar original resident of Nazuk Mohaila Ananthag at present Butta nagar Paloura jammu on 14/09/2024. Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 23/09/2024 at Muthi Ghat 8:00 AM.

Grief Stricken:

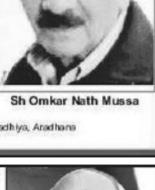
Smt Rajni and Sh. Ashok Kumar Ambardar. Smt Nancy W/o Lt. Sh. Shuban Krishan Ambardar Smt Vijay Ambandar W/oLt.Sh Sham Sunder Ambandar Smt. Veena Raina and Sh. Anoop Ambardar

Smt. Anupama and Sh. Sanjay Goja

Smt. Anjali and Sh. Deepak Raina Mr. Sunny Ambardar

Ms. Nishu Ambardar and Mr. Rohit Raina. Children:

Rohit, Ankit, Ridhu, Shuhul, Vinku & Divu.



Smt. Soom Rani Ambardar

(Kaushalaya ji)

"Mourning from the family and

the Malun Parivar will be held at

Community Hall-1, Butta Nagar*

Contact Details : 9419121396,

9596868866, 91496 81564

OBITUARY / 10TH DAY With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that our beloved Uma Shree Bhat (Bhabhi) Wife of Late T.N Bhat, resident of Fatehpora, Ananthag at present residing at Tata Primanti, Sector 72 Gurgaon, left for her heavenly abode on 15 September. 10th Day shall be performed on 24 September 2024 at Gauri Shankar Mandir in Gurgaon. GRIEF STRICKEN Sushma Mujoo (9891948532-WhatsApp Call only) Prof. J L Bhat (8825021983) Dr D P Bhat (9418035869) Uma Shree Bhat Phoola Bakshi (8847347448) Bhat Family (Fatehpora, Anantnag) Kamal Ji Fotedar (94191 86890) Fotedar Family (Mattan)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With grief and sorrow, we inform about sad demise of our beloved father Late Nand Lal Khar S/o Sh Mehtab Ram formerly resident of Uma Nagri Brari Angan Ananthag presently at H No. 12, Lane No. 2 Bharat Nagar, Bantalab Jammu on Friday Sept 13, 2024 at 12.15 PM.

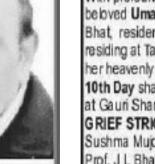
Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on Sunday Sept 22, 2024 at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education at 08.30 am exact. Grief Stricken : Smt Gouri Pandita Wo Late P N Pandita (Daughter) Son and Daughter in law Sh M K Khar and Smt Nirmala Khar Grand Son in law and Grand Daughter Sh Arun Pandita and Smt Chatna Pandita

Sh Sumukh Khar- Grand Son AMAST KHAR'S, PANDITA'S AND DHAR'S



Late Nand Lal Khar

Contact : 9419201799, 9906383712



12 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Pardeep Kapoor - Son

+91-9149798287. +91-9149878058

Ph: +91-8493853546.

BJP using negative agenda against NC-Cong alliance to distract from its own failures in governance: Rattan Lal

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 20: Provincial President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), Rattan Lal Gupta, has reaffirmed that the National Conference (NC) remains the sole champion of restoring true democracy in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a gathering at a joining programme held at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu, Organized by Sardar Jatinder Singh Lucky Vice Chairman Cantt. Board Jammu. Rattan Lal Gupta accused BJP of fearing from the NC and its leaderships and resorting to the use of a negative agenda against NC-Congress alliance to distract from its own failures in governance.

The senior NC leader criticized the BJP's failed development narrative in Jammu and Kashmir. highlighting the party's inability to address basic public needs. "The BJP

has miserably failed to provide basic amenities to the people, and their narrative of development has completely collapsed in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Recalling the pivotal role played by Dr. Farooq Abdullah in restoring democracy in Jammu and Kashmir in 1996, Rattan Lal Gupta contrasted it with the current state of affairs under BJP rule. "Instead of strengthening democracy, the BJP has divided a full-fledged state into two Union Territories. stripping the people of their political rights," he

stated. Expressing concern over recent polling, Rattan Lal pointed out that the high voter turnout in Assembly elections was a clear reflection of the people's frustration with the BJP. "The high turnout is not an endorsement of BJP's policies, but rather an expression of public outrage against their misgovernance and failure to

deliver. Rattan Lal Gupta expressed confidence in the NC's return to power, asserting that the party will secure a comfortable majority in the upcoming

elections. "The National Conference, with its propeople policies and commitment to development, is the only party capable of delivering for the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

Earlier, Paramjeet Kour President BJP Mahila Morcha Suchetgarh and large number of people from BJP joining the NC, a testament to the party's growing popularity.

Rattan Lal Gupta welcomed the new members, emphasizing that the NC's developmental agenda and focus on public welfare were the driving

forces behind the growing support in Jammu and Kashmir.

Among those who joined the party fold included: Jasveer Kour, Manpreet Kour, Seema Devi, Parsheno Devi, Pushpa Devi, Balkar Singh, Jasvinder Singh, Vansh Kumar, Vinay Kumar, Arjun Kumar, Ragubir Singh, Inderjeet Singh, Naryan Singh, Sahil Choudhary and others.

Those who were present include: Sheikh Bashir Ahmad Provincial Secretary Jammu, Bimla Luthra former MLA, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Satwant Kour Dogra Provincial President Women wing, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, Puspa Dogra Vice President Women wing, Vikram Puri Chairman Trade and Industry, Pooja Jaggi, S. Gurmeet Singh (Jimmy) Som Raj Taroch Secretary

Central Zone and others.

Raghunath Ji Corridor Traders Council meets with Yogesh Sawhney, presents key demands

They also urged that

these establishments be

entitled to the benefits

accorded to the service

industry, without the need

for NOCs from revenue

and municipal authorities.

This, they argued, would

help streamline opera-

tions and promote tourism

A significant demand

included the regularisa-

tion of all colonies estab-

lished before 2001. The

traders stressed that

occupants of up to one

kanal per family should be

recognised as the rightful

owners of the land and

should have the free-

dom to engage in either

business or residential

activities, according to

the master plan. They

further requested that all

constructions up to one

in the area.

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 20: The Shri Raghunath Ji Corridor Traders Council met with Yogesh Sawhney, the Congress-NC joint candidate for Jammu East. to discuss various pressing issues faced by the local business community. During the meeting, the traders presented a charter of demands aimed at easing the burden on small tourism units and ensuring a smooth regulatory environment for local businesses

The council requested that all existing small tourism units, including hotels, lodges, guest houses, handicraft stores, and dry fruit stores operating on land up to one kanal, be exempt from registration and renewal processes.

structed before 2017 be treated as regularised.

The council also called for local shopkeepers to be protected from undue interference by state requlatory agencies, stating that no action should be taken without prior consultation with the local trade association. They emphasized that such measures would ensure better coordination between businesses and the administration.

Yogesh Sawhney, after patiently hearing their concerns, assured the traders that these issues would be addressed while representing Jammu East on election. He reaffirmed his commitment to supporting the local business community and working towards a more businessfriendly environment in the region.

kanal, whether commercial or residential, con-Will empower weaker section of society,

Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Sep 20: Apni Party's Contesting Candidate for Vijaypur Assembly Constituency, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh has assured that if he gets elected as Member of Legislative Assembly from the Vijaypur Constituency, he will try to uplift the living standard of the weaker section of society by empowering them and ensuring equitable development.

"The Vijaypur Assembly Constituency has remained neglected for decades, apparently the poor population and members of Schedule Caste/Schedule Tribes, were among the worst affected people, who were allegedly discriminated and not provided the benefits of the Govt schemes to uplift their living standard and ensure development of road infrastructure in their respective areas." said S. Manjit Singh, addressing one of the public meetvijaypur Constitu ency. The Former Minister addressed series of public meetings and led road marches in different areas during which the people from different walks of life met him and informed him about their plight without the development, unscheduled power cuts, irregular tab water, unhygienic condition of localities, damaged/uprooted/kacha roads, narrow passages

uplift their living standard: Manjit Singh

that require widening work, and growing unemployment.

In these meetings, Manjit Singh expressed his gratitude towards the people, who came forward and extended their unconditional support. "I am overwhelmed with

the response shown by the people. The people are jubilant to participate

He vowed that he would fight for the people and their demand of equitable development, upgradation of living standard of the economically weaker section, to curb drug addiction/smuggling, generation of opportunities of employment for the educated youth etc.

he added

He said that the people

Randhawa connects with Bahu Constituency residents through door-to-door campaign and healthcare, enhancing access to quality education and healthcare



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 20: Progress and promising governance are enigmas of the BJP's popularity across the region, as the party has made a superiority in the political arena by making the population realize the importance of good governance in the real sense. This was expressed by MLA Candidate for Bahu Constituency Vikram Randhawa during door-to-door campaign in Ward No. 20, Greenbelt, and its adjoinnd areas of Bahu stituency in the presence of Pushpinder Singh. Rahul Kumar, Narinder Koki, Sandeep Gupta, Bharat Bhushan, Satbir Singh, Indu Bhushan, Vijay Verma, Ritika Trehan, and Kulbushan Attri, who were present on the occasion.

Randhawa asserted that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is confident of achieving its target of winning over 50 seats to

form the next government with its chief minister for the first time in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. "After Jammu now in Kashmir, we also have been a stronghold in the Valley, and I'm confident that the "lotus" will bloom across the Union Territory in the assembly polls. During his interactions.

Randhawa assured the

public that he would ful-

services, employment opportunities, creating job avenues for youth, and promoting entrepreneurship. Randhawa's door-to-door campaign allowed him to connect with people from all walks of life, understanding their daily struggles and challenges. He was warmly received by the residents, who expressed their optimism about his candidacy.

> Local residents of Bahu constituency were impressed by Vikram Randhawa's willingness to listen to their concerns. He has assured us that he will work tirelessly to address our issues. They added that Randhawa's door-to-door campaign has given us hope that our voices will be heard. We look forward to seeing positive changes in our constituency."

NC-Cong treated women as 2nd class citizens, PM Modi empowered them: Rajni Sethi



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 20: The J&K BJP Spokesperson, Rajni Sethi, on Friday said that previous governments of NC and Cong treated the women as second-class citizens, while the BJP government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi empowered women by ending anti-women laws and launching pro-women schemes.

This was stated by Rajni Sethi, while addressing a press conference at BJP media center, here today. Mahila Morcha Prabhari and BJP Vice President, Anuradha Charak. Mahila Morcha General Secretary, Neha Mahajan, and BJP Media Incharge, Dr Pardeep Mahotra were also present in the press Conference. "For the last 70 to 80 years, NC-Cong governments treated women as 2nd class citizens but PM Modi after assuming office in 2014 empowered the women and gave them equal rights", Rajni Sethi said

enjoying equal rights,' she said, while adding, "Prior to abrogation of Article 370, women of J&K who married outside were denied all rights but after abrogation of Article 370 on 5 Aug 2019 women got all rights even if they marry outside". NC-Cong used women only as vote bank and did not empower them. she said, adding that PM Modi launched several schemes for empowering women like 'Sukanya Smridhi Yojna', 'Drone

that BJP has also prom-

ised 33% reservation to

women in local bodies

and in J&K BJP has

promised 50% reserva-

tion to women in local

bodies (panchayats,

is committed for women

empowerment," she said

and appealed to the

women to support BJP in

BJP will form next gov-

the Assembly elections.

"This shows that BJP

Didi Yojna' 'Lakhpati Didi 'I adli Beti vojana' etc. Raini Sethi also said

till the promises made to the residents of Bahu Constituency. He emphasized his dedication to ensuring the region's development, focusing on key areas such as infrastructure development, improving roads, drainage, and public amenities, education

their well-being.'

Randhawa assured the people of Bahu Constituency that "I will leave no stone unturned in fulfilling the promises made to them. Their trust and support are my greatest strength, and I will work relentlessly to ensure

Enhancement of Pension from Rs 1000 up to Rs 5000 in core agenda: Pavneet Kour

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 20: Pavneet Kour, the contesting candidate from Jammu South representing the Jammu Kashmir Apni Party, has reaffirmed her commitment to uplift the most vulnerable sections of society by declaring that one of her core agendas is to raise the old-age pension from the current \Box 1000 to □5000

Speaking at a large public gathering in Rampura, Ward No. 23, she emphasized that this move is critical to ensuring dignity for the elderly, widows, and people with disabilities.

"This increase in pension is not just a promise; it is the core agenda of my campaign and the Jammu Kashmir Apni Party. I belong to a common family, and I feel the pain of the common man," said Pavneet Kour.

"Unlike the BJP and Congress, who have neglected the needs of



her political opponents,

accusing the BJP and

Congress of creating

the people."

that if given the mandate, ward-wise camps will be organized to ensure that beneficiaries of old-age, widow, and disability pensions receive their dues without the need to visit government offices. "Under my leadership, the administration will come to the people, setting up camps in every ward to ensure that pensions are delivered efficiently to those who need them," she stated. She strongly criticized

the vulnerable, I understand their struggles. Our goal is to bring the government directly to

unnecessary hardships for the common man. Kour further assured "These parties have only focused on their political agendas, ignoring the real struggles of the people," Kour said. "With the support of the people, we will bring about real change." Pavneet Kour called on the people of Jammu

South to support her and the Apni Party in the upcoming elections, stressing that this pension reform is a crucial step in addressing the region's most pressing

issues

"Now, women are living a dignified life in J&K and

ernment in J&K on its own and women will play an important role in this, she said. Shiv Sena warns Pakistan

BDCs).

against interference in India's internal affairs



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 20: Manish Sahni, chief of the Shiv Sena (UBT) in Jammu and Kashmir, has strongly condemned comments made by Pakistan's Defense Minister Khawaja Asif regarding the ongoing assembly elections in the region. He urged Pakistan to refrain from interfering in India's internal affairs and advised them to remain silent

Sahni also called on the Indian Foreign Ministry to in the legislative assembly elections to elect their representatives with a purpose to get their works done. For the last ten years, the people were deprived of democratic institutions, and elected representatives. Under these circumstances. the bureaucracy worked as their wishes and their unilateral decisions have shaken the faith of the people as most of them were against the poor, and unprivileged people,"

want a balanced Govt that could address their concerns without creating division among the people for their political agenda. The Apni Party is the only political party that is straightforward and tells truth to the powers. Hence, if the Party forms the Govt, we will not allow the outsiders to grab the resources - that are meant for the local population, and employment in industries and other sectors would be reserved for

President Mahajan Sewa Sangh to support Arvind **Gupta, BJP Candidate for Jammu West**

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 20: A public meeting was organized by Neeraj Gupta, President of Mahajan Sewa Sangh, along with Shiv Gupta, at Bakshi Nagar near the J&K Bank ATM, to rally support for Arvind Gupta, the BJP's candidate for the upcoming MLA elections from Jammu West.

The event drew a large crowd of enthusiastic supporters, where Arvind Gupta articulated his vision for the constituency. His agenda focuses on enhancing community welfare, improving local infrastructure, and ensur-

ing better governance. Neeraj Gupta opened the meeting with a passionate address, highliahting Sh. Arvind Gupta's dedication to public service. " Arvind Gupta is a candidate who truly understands the needs of our community. His



commitment and experience make him the ideal choice for Jammu West," he stated

During the meeting, Sh. Arvind Gupta engaged with the audience, addressing their concerns and sharing his plans to foster economic growth and development in the region. "I am deeply committed to representing the voices of the people in Jammu West. Together, we can build a brighter future for our community, Gupta affirmed. The gathering reinforced the importance of community involvement as the election approaches, with attendees expressing their enthusiasm for Gupta's candidacy and their readiness to support his campaign. The people who were present on the occasion included Atul Bakshi Mandal President BJP, R. K Gupta Gen Secretary MSS, Advocate Monika Gupta President Women Wing MSS, Krishna Gupta, Rinku Gupta, Ajay Gupta, Preeti Gupta and Rakesh Gupta.

formally warn Pakistan against such statements, asserting that Pakistanoccupied Kashmir, along with Jammu and Kashmir, is an integral part of India. He emphasized that Pakistan has no authority to comment on these matters

Furthermore, Sahni condemned remarks made by Pakistan's Foreign Minister regarding Articles 370 and 35A reiterating the need for Pakistan to focus on its own issues rather than

meddling in India's affairs.

OP-ED

EDITORIAL

Promoting Border Tourism

B order tourism, often overlooked, presents a unique opportunity to foster cultural exchange, promote peace, and drive economic growth in border regions. With the increasing interest in travel and adventure, there is a significant potential to develop this sector, which can benefit local communities and enhance national security.

Border tourism refers to travel activities that take place in areas adjacent to international borders. It encompasses visits to historical sites, cultural exchanges, and nature exploration in these unique regions. Countries around the world, such as India, Nepal, and Bhutan, have successfully harnessed border tourism to promote their cultural heritage and foster goodwill among neighboring nations.

One of the primary benefits of border tourism is its potential to promote cultural exchange. When tourists visit border areas, they not only explore the natural beauty but also engage with local communities, traditions, and lifestyles. This interaction fosters understanding and respect among diverse cultures, breaking down stereotypes and building friendships.

For instance, the India-Pakistan border in regions like Punjab and Rajasthan showcases a rich tapestry of shared history and culture. Events like the Wagah Border ceremony draw thousands of tourists, providing an opportunity for people-to-people contact and dialogue. Such interactions can play a significant role in peacebuilding by humanizing the "other" and demonstrating the shared values that transcend political boundaries.

Border tourism can serve as a powerful economic driver for local communities. By developing infrastructure, such as roads, hotels, and recreational facilities, governments can create jobs and boost local economies. Small businesses can flourish, offering local crafts, food, and experiences that attract tourists.

For example, the border towns in northeastern India have immense potential for tourism, given their rich culture and biodiversity. By investing in eco-tourism and adventure sports, these areas can not only enhance their appeal but also provide sustainable livelihoods for local populations.

Moreover, by promoting cross-border tourism, countries can benefit from shared resources and attractions. Joint marketing strategies can attract a larger number of visitors, thus increasing revenue for both nations involved. The potential for bilateral tourism initiatives can create a win-win scenario, where both sides benefit economically and socially.

To capitalize on border tourism, significant investment in infrastructure and connectivity is essential. Improved transportation networks, such as roads, railways, and airports, can facilitate easier access to border regions. Enhanced security measures should also be implemented to ensure the

The India-China standoff: One border, two systems

By: Claude Arpi

n September 12, 2024, India's national security adviser Ajit Doval met Wang Yi, a member of the politburo of the CPC central committee and de facto Chinese foreign minister. The encounter took place in St. Petersburg, on the sidelines of a Brics meeting, and a Chinese communiqué says: "The two sides discussed the progress made in the recent consultations on border affairs and believed that the stability of China-India relations is in the fundamental and long-term interests of the two peoples." Also Read - Indranil Banerjie | Blasts in pagers, other devices in Mideast: Battle is turning dirtier Advertisement Wang Yi noted that in the face of a world in turmoil, as two ancient Eastern civilizations and emerging developing countries, "China and India should adhere to independence, choose unity and cooperation, and insist on mutual achievement and avoid mutual consumption." On the disputed Line of Actual Control (LAC), it said: "Both sides agreed to work with urgency and redouble their efforts to realise complete disengagement in the remaining areas." Also Read - Sunil Gatade | Double trouble for BJP as Assembly polls lie ahead This is much easier said than done, for the simple reason that in the first place, China has never admitted to having changed the status quo by advancing into India's territory in six places in eastern Ladakh in 2020. Another issue is that the LAC has been moving over the years. The line, which was agreed by Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai in 1956 (and reconfirmed in

cent of the disengagement has already been achieved in eastern Ladakh, but the remaining 25 per cent is certainly the most complex, to put it mildly. As in previous encounters with Indian leaders, Wang Yi tried to argue that India and China are in the same boat and if they work together, the two nations can change the whole world. Also Read - Sanjeev Ahluwalia Budget for right results: State needs to step back However, one should not forget that the systems of governance of India and China are vastly different; in fact, they stand at opposite ends. While India is a democracy with all its good and less good aspects, China is a totalitarian regime with a leader appointed for life. Some examples show the difference between the two Asian nations. Today's "disputed" border is with an occupied country, namely Tibet; before 1950, India had no border dispute with its northern neighbour. Beijing tries to change this basic fact with intense propaganda. On September 11, the International Campaign for Tibet (ICT), a think tank based in Washington DC, released a report: "China launches new propaganda centre in Lhasa". It explains that "in the latest escalation of China's efforts to control the narrative on Tibet, a new propaganda centre called the Tibet International Communication Centre was launched in Lhasa on September 2, 2024." The Chinese propaganda would like us to believe that all is well in Tibet, which is not the case. If it was true, why should China stop visitors from coming to Tibet or Tibetans to visit their leader, the Dalai Lama, in India? In fact, the border discussed by Wang Yi and Ajit Doval is hermetically closed, even the centuriesold trade exchanges between the Indian Himalayas and Tibet have stopped; ditto for for the Kailash-Manasarovar Yatra which is not accessible

for Indian devotees. The first stage of the new propaganda campaign is to replace the name "Tibet" with a Sinicized version "Xizang", and begin to manifest Chinese President Xi Jinping's old slogan "tell a good Chinese story on the global stage". Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR) party secretary Wang Junzheng argued that "external propaganda is an important part of the cause of the Party and the country. We must thoroughly implement General Secretary Xi Jinping's important expositions on external propaganda [and] fully and accurately implement Xi Jinping's important instructions on Tibet work". The instructions are that all is fine in Tibet. One of the tools used by the Chinese propaganda is the Beijing-selected Panchen Lama, the second highest figure in Tibetan Buddhism. The Tibet Daily recently remarked that the lama, whom the Tibetans name as the "fake" Panchen Lama, "carried out a series of Buddhist and social activities in Lhasa, the capital city of southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region". The "Panchen" gave a talk during which he stressed "the need to firmly uphold the Communist Party of China central committee's final say on the reincarnation of Living Buddhas of Tibetan Buddhism and voiced strong opposition to secession, while calling for national unity, ethnic unity, and religious and social harmony". China is already preparing for the Dalai Lama's succession. You could ask how this is connected with the border issue between India and China? But forceful propaganda is always linked to a weakness. Remember the Great Leap Forward, during which 30 or 40 million people died of starvation following Mao's flawed agricultural policies? The years 1958-1961 witnessed more propaganda posters on the bumper harvests in the Middle Kingdom and the happiness of the

masses than at any other time. Propaganda always tries to cover a flaw or a shortcoming. As Tibetans are today prisoners in their own country, they are shown enjoying Xi's policies; this is the crucial difference between populations on the Indian and Tibetan sides of the Himalayas. This should be noted by New Delhi. On September 10, the TAR announced the beginning of the celebrations for the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China; since the ministry of public security had already designated Year 2024 as "the year of special action to combat and rectify online rumours", it was decided "to deploy public security organs across the country to carry out a one-year special action". The public security organs "have responded quickly and taken the initiative to crack down on Internet-related crimes... making every effort to maintain the order of cyberspace and social security and stability," observed the Chinese media; quite ominous for an already over-monitored region. An article mentioned the launch of a "special action": "...the public security organs of the whole region have cleared more than 13,000 online rumour information, investigated 69 online rumour cases, and shut down 65 illegal and irregular accounts according to law.... More than 650 offline publicity activities have been carried out, and 200,000 people have benefited and participated." It concluded that "the public security organs treated both the symptoms and the root causes, supported by special operations, and helped to maintain the security of cyberspace effectively". Let us remember that there is one border, but two opposite systems. It is certainly something that India should use to its full advantage to counter China's propaganda.

safety of tourists while maintaining the integrity of national borders.

Moreover, developing tourist facilities like hotels, restaurants, and recreational centers can significantly enhance the tourist experience. Collaboration between governments and private sectors is vital to establish a comprehensive plan that addresses the needs of tourists while respecting local cultures and environments.

Border regions often boast unique ecosystems and biodiversity, making them ideal for eco-tourism. By promoting responsible travel practices, stakeholders can ensure that tourism contributes positively to conservation efforts. Initiatives that focus on environmental protection can help preserve the natural beauty of these regions while providing educational opportunities for visitors.

Sustainable tourism practices, such as community-based tourism, can empower local residents to take charge of their resources. This approach not only enhances tourist experiences but also ensures that the benefits of tourism are distributed equitably among local communities.

In the digital age, leveraging technology and social media can significantly enhance border tourism promotion. Creating engaging content that highlights the unique experiences offered by border regions can attract potential tourists. Virtual tours, online travel guides, and social media campaigns can effectively showcase the cultural and natural richness of these areas.

Additionally, partnerships with travel influencers and bloggers can amplify reach and awareness, drawing more visitors to border destinations. By embracing innovative marketing strategies, border tourism can be positioned as an attractive option for travelers seeking unique and meaningful experiences.

Promoting border tourism is not merely about economic gain; it is a holistic approach that embraces cultural exchange, community empowerment, and peacebuilding. By investing in infrastructure, fostering sustainable practices, and leveraging technology, nations can unlock the immense potential of border tourism. This initiative can pave the way for stronger ties between neighboring countries, promoting unity and understanding while enhancing the livelihoods of local communities. As we move forward, embracing border tourism could be a crucial step toward building a more interconnected and harmonious world. December 1959) is far from the present Chinese claims. Also Read - Dilip Cherian | Senior Andhra cops suspended for wrongful arrest of model Recently, India's external affairs minister S. Jaishankar said that 75 per

Ozone protects life and poses risks, its dual nature demands vigilant global action

By: Vijay GarG

zone is a paradoxical element – it shields life from harmful UV radiation in atmosphere but is also a big pollutant on the ground

People often think of two different things when they hear the word "ozone": on the one hand, an essential shield in the atmosphere that protects life on Earth from the Sun's dangerous ultraviolet radiation; on the other, a pollutant that causes health problems and damage to the environment. Ozone is indeed a double-edged sword because its effect on human life depends on where it is and how much of it there is.

The "good" ozone in the upper atmosphere is significant, but the "bad" ozone at ground level is very bad for people and the world. This dual nature needs immediate care, new ideas, and cooperation worldwide so that people can continue to live.Ozone creates the well-known ozone layer high in the stratosphere, between 10 and 30 miles (16-48 km) above the surface of the Earth. This protective layer absorbs the bulk of the Sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation UV-C and UV-B. Ecosystems would almost certainly be unable to survive as they do now without this natural shield, which exposes life on Earth to hazardous radiation levels.

Although life depends on the ozone layer in the stratosphere, ground-level ozone, found in the troposphere, is a hazardous contaminant. This ozone, created by sunlight-induced chemical interactions between nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), is mainly caused by human activity, including certain chemicals, industrial processes, and automobile emissions.

This ozone will affect crop productivity and ecosystem dynamics. In the mid-20th century, scientists discovered that chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) were causing the systematic depletion of the ozone layer. In response to the pressing need, a global accord, the Montreal Protocol, was adopted in 1987 to gradually eliminate the manufacturing of chemicals that cause the depletion of the ozone layer. The main objective of this accord was to eliminate progressively chemicals that cause erosion of the ozone layer, notably chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which are extensively used in refrigeration, aerosols, and other industrial uses.

India is also a signatory to this accord. Indian industries, especially those in the refrigeration, air-conditioning, and foam production sectors, were compelled to transition to ozone-friendly alternatives. The phasing out of CFCs initially led to the adoption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), but attention soon shifted toward more environmentally friendly solutions, such as natural refrigerants, hydrofluoroolefins (HFOs), with lower global warming potential.

Since the implementation of the Montreal Protocol, global emissions of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) have dramatically decreased. The ozone layer has shown signs of recovery, particularly over Antarctica, where the famous "ozone hole" is gradually closing. This recovery is essential for shielding the planet from harmful UV radiation.

In addition, the phase-out of CFCs and other ODS has had a measurable impact on global temperature regulation. This is significant when considering the urgency of limiting temperature rise to avoid catastrophic climate impacts. The Protocol has become a symbol of what international cooperation can achieve if people unite and work together to protect the environment.

The illegal production of CFCs and incomplete phase-outs in some regions could slow progress. While ozone protects life and poses risks, its dual nature demands vigilant global action. Striking the right balance between preserving the protective ozone layer and mitigating harmful ground-level ozone is essential for humanity's and the planet's health. We can ensure a safe future only through international cooperation and innovative solutions.

(Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational columnist Malout)

Prof. Uppal receives Commendable Contribution to Changing Education System Award-2024

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 20: The prestigious "Commendable Contribution to Changing the Education System Award-2024" has been presented to Professor Emeritus Dr. Rajinder Kumar Uppal, Principal of Guru Gobind Singh College of Management and Technology, Gidderbaha. It recognizes Dr. Uppal's exceptional contributions to the field of education, particularly in the specialist genre of literature, as

presented by the Preethvi Educators Association-India (PAAI)

This is one of the most

Top News Report

Ladakh.

prestigious awards in the field given to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding contributions to education and research. Under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Harshwardan Singh, the founder of PAAI, this organization motivates educators and works to improve the education system.

Uppal's illustrious career spans multiple roles, including Principal at GGS College of Management and Technology and MTC Global Chair Professor in Banking and Finance. As a Research Professor in Finance at the Indian Institute of Finance in

CEC Tashi Gyalson launches Mahindra

Thar ROXX MX5 in Leh



New Delhi, he shapes national and international discourse on banking and finance Dr. Uppal has won

awards in academia and research for his scholarly eminence. leadership acumen, and unwavering commitment to excellence. Inspiring gen-

erations, transcending disciplinary boundaries and charting an exciting course for the future, his work continues to inspire generations. PAAI's recognition demonstrates Dr. Uppal's towering presence in academia and his farreaching influence on the field of education. Currently, he is a member of an advisory board of editors for national and international research journals of repute.

As chief-in-editor of a reputable research journal, he expanded his skills in other areas as well. Over fifty articles on current social and economic

issues were written by Dr Uppal for leading Indian newspapers. He was invited to give expert talks by various government agencies. and private TV Channels and All India Radio, Jalandher. He designed syllabi of UGC job oriented courses such as e-banking and e-commerce from Certificate level upto advance Diploma. He also mentors young teachers to yield quality research under faculty

development programme. He, truly, is the embodiment of mission and vision of critical thinking, professionalism, excellence and innovation.

Shradhanjali Samaroh organised to pay tributes to Amarjeet

Top News Report

R S PURA, Sep 20: A Shradhanjali Samaroh was organised at Village Chohala here on Friday, wherein a large number of people from social and political fields paid tributes to Amarjeet, the most respected lady.

While paying tribute, the religious teacher said, our whole life is nothing but a school; one huge life long school. We take many courses. Some are easy, and some are very tough. Our human bodies are special hosts that we merge with, in order to experience existence in this physical world. Every class we take in this school is customized for each and every one of us. Our ultimate goals are to elevate our souls to higher spiritual levels. Basically, the higher you go, the more satisfaction you have, and the happier you become. The real you and I are



the souls, not our human hosts. We souls are immortal, and cannot die. When our human hosts die, we just slip life, usually on earth. tributes to Amarjeet were Messers R.L.Kaith, Ravi Kaith, Harbans Lal, Prem Pal Motan, Jagdish Raj, Raj Kumar, Kamal Kishor, Joginder Pal. Surinder Kumar, Mukesh Kumar

and Rakesh Kumar.

back to our real homes Head of the Department in the afterlife. We stay of English, delivered the there for varied periods, welcome address, prolearning new things, and viding a comprehensive preparing for our next overview of the college's history and its academic Among others who paid

Later, the visiting team

Expert delegation from Mizoram visits GGM Science College

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 20: An expert team from Mizoram, led by Madhup Vyas, Commissioner Secretary of Higher Education and 1Technical Education, Government of Mizoram, visited Govt. Gandhi Memorial Science College, Jammu. The team included prominent officials: K. Lalhmangaihzuala (Joint Secretary), Laltanpuia (Joint Secretary, IQAC), and Prof. Benjamin Lalrinsanga (State Nodal Officer, NEP 2020), all representing the Higher and Technical Education Department of the Government of Mizoram

On behalf of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Raman Jandyal, Under Secretary to the Government's ARI and Training Department. served as the Liaison Officer for the visiting delegation whereas, Dr. Devinder Sharma, Associate Professor at GGM Science College, accompanied the team as Nodal Officer.

The delegation was warmly received by Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal of Govt. Gandhi Memorial Science College, along with heads of various departments of the college. Mementoes were presented to each of the visiting officers as a gesture of welcome.

Dr. Vandana Khajuria, infrastructure.



interacted individually with the heads of different departments to gain insight into the functioning of each department, fostering an exchange of ideas and educational practices. Later Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta briefed the visiting team on the administrative structure of GGM Science College, a Constituent College of Cluster University of Jammu. He also discussed various academic processes and performance indicators that contribute to the col-

lege's success The interaction further continued regarding the opening of colleges and universities in Mizoram, during which Dr. Gupta elaborated the three key parameters to the visiting delegation that need to be carefully considered before sanctioning and establishing any educational institution. He appraised the visit-

ing delegation, emphasizing the importance of these factors to ensure the successful and sustainable development of higher education in the region.

One of the highlights of the visit was a tour of the Dr. D.N. Wadia Museum of Geology, the second oldest geology museum in India. The museum houses a rare collection of minerals, rocks, and fossils, including a remarkable fossilized tusk of Stegodon Ganesa, an ancient relative of modern elephants.

The team explored various sections of the museum, including the radioactive minerals section, precious and semi-precious minerals section, and sea life section, and was thoroughly impressed by the rich geological heritage on display. The visit concluded on a positive note, with the team from Mizoram expressing admiration for the college's facilities, academic initiatives, and its contribution to higher education.

This signals potential for future collaboration between GGM Science College and educational institutions in Mizoram. As a result, the visit is expected to strengthen educational ties and foster collaborations between the Government of Mizoram and academic institutions in Jammu and Kashmir.

ment to promoting local entrepreneurship. CEC Gyalson also stressed the "vocal for local" initiative, highlighting the need to prioritize

kicks off in Kathua

supporting local prod-

ucts and indigenous

initiatives. He remarked

that the launch of the

Mahindra Thar ROXX

MX5 showcases engi-

neering excellence and

reinforces the commit-

LEH, Sep 20: The Chairman/CEC,LAHDC, Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, along with Thiksay Councillor Stanzin Chosfail, officially launched the Mahindra Thar ROXX MX5 in During the event, CEC Gyalson congratulated Mentokling Mahindra for introducing this innovative vehicle, emphasizencouraging collaboraand support local indusing the importance of

tries, further noting the significant contribution by Mentokling Mahindra in generating employment opportunities for locals, emphasized the importance of harnessing local resources and talent to strengthen the

local economy. The event served as a platform to discuss the significance of supporting local industries,

Kho-Kho U19 Boys Tournament

tion between businesses and the community. CEC urged attendees to embrace local craftsmanship and innovations, fostering a culture of sustainability and self reliance in Leh. The Mahindra Thar

ROXX MX5 is anticipated to have a significant impact as a product of high engineering standards.

If BJP forms government, they will take action against three corrupt mine owners: Chandel

Top News Report JAMMU, Sep 20: BJP

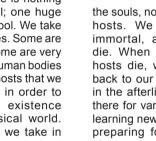
SIPS Alumnus excels in CUET-UG 2024, secures AICTE PMSSS Scholarship admission to persue

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 20: Stephens International Public School is thrilled to announce that its distinguished alumnus, Laxman Choudhary, has achieved a remarkable All-India Rank of 22 in the CUET-UG 2024 B.Sc. (Hons) Mathematics program at Hansraj College, University of Delhi, one of the most sought-after institutions in the country. Laxman's exceptional performance in the highly

empowers students to achieve their full potential. As one of the topranked students from Jammu and Kashmir, Laxman serves as an inspiration to his peers and the entire school community.

The management, teachers, and staff at Stephens International Public School extend their heartfelt congratulations to Laxman for this significant achievement. His dedication and accomplishments make the school proud, and his journey is a source of inspiration for current students aiming to follow in his footsteps.





Top News Report

KATHUA, Sep 20: The Department of Youth Services and Sports, District Kathua, has officially launched the Inter-District Division Level Kho-Kho Tournament for U19 boys, running from 20 to 28 September at the Sports Stadium in Kathua. The opening ceremony featured Sh Jarad Pratik Anil (IAS), Assistant Commissioner (UT), as the chief guest, with

Top News Report

CHANDIGARH/

JAMMU, Sep 20: A

patient awareness semi-

nar to create awareness

on childhood and adult

asthma was held at

LIVASA Hospital, Mohali

Speaking during the occasion, Dr Suresh

Goyal, director pulm-

onology said," With an

estimated 1.5-2 crore

asthma patients, at least

one in every 10 asthma

patient globally lives in

Dr Sonal consultant

pulmonology said that

asthma is considered the

most common chronic

disease among children

and is prevalent in all

today.

India,

Sh Tara Chand, Principal of Government Higher Secondary School Boys Kathua, serving as the guest of honor. **District Youth Services** and Sports Officer Sunil Singh Sambval welcomed the chief guest with a bouquet and highlighted the department's achievements. In his address, Sh Anil encour-

A total of 10 districts from the Jammu Division are competing in this event. The opening match saw Jammu take on Doda, where Jammu won the toss and chose to bat, ultimately defeating Doda by an inning and 1 point. The second match featured Udhampur facing Samba, with Udhampur securing victory by 14 points. aged the players to embody the true spirit of Evening session matchsportsmanship throughes were ongoing at the

eader Raju Chandel addressed journalists today, expressing confidence in the party's strong public support ahead of the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections. He stated that it feels as though the people have already shown their love for the

BJP government. Chandel emphasized that if the BJP forms the government, they will take decisive action against three alleged corrupt mine owners, promising their imprisonment in Tihar Jail and the confiscation of their properties. He asserted that every penny misappropriated from Jammu and Kashmir's state funds

Dr. S P Verma pays tribute to **Mohd Shafi Pandit**

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 20: Padma Shri Dr. S.P. Verma expressed grief over the said demise of former Chairman of the J&K Public Service Commission, Mohd. Shafi Pandit, who passed away yesterday.

Padma Shri Dr. S.P. Verma, who had a long association with Pandit since 1976 when he served as District Development Commissioner in Doda, expressed profound sorrow at his loss.

Describing Pandit as an "exemplary and visionary mentor," Dr. Verma highlighted how he helped shape the lives of many in the region.

"Words cannot express the depth of our sorrow." he stated, noting that Pan-



would be accounted for. He also claimed that the BJP aims to secure around 60 assembly seats by collaborating with independent candidates. Highlighting the party's commitment, he mentioned that national leaders have vowed not to compromise with the families he described as corrupt, reiterating the BJP's mission of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" as a foundation for development in the region.

dit's passing is a significant loss to the nation, especially Jammu and Kashmir. He praised Pandit's unwavering dedication, simplicity, and infectious enthusiasm, emphasizing that he was a symbol of

peace. Dr. Verma extended his floral tributes to Pandit Sahib and offered sincere condolences to Nighat Shafi, along with family and friends during this difficult time.

examination.

Laxman has also been selected for the prestigious AICTE Prime Minister Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS), an initiative that provides financial assistance to students from Jammu and Kashmir. His impressive performance has earned him

PMSSS scholarship are a testament to his hard work, determination, and the solid academic foundation he built during his years at Stephens International Public School. His success reflects the school's commitment to nurturing academic excellence and fostering an environment that

competitive CUET-UG

and his selection for the

RM Public School hosts Inter-School picnic



elevated by the captivat-

To top it all off they

savored their favourite

foods. The teachers

extend their heartfelt

gratitude for this wonder-

Chairman Rameshwar

Mengi welcomes the

students whole heart-

edly with a warm smile

and make them valued

and appreciated. He

galvanize the students

Mengi said "The picnic is

an excellent opportunity

for little kids to unwind,

Rakshan

ing Puppet Show.

ful opportunity.

potential.

Director

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 20: R.M. Public School hosted a vibrant Inter-School picnic on Friday welcoming Pre-Primary institutions like Astro Kids (Sainik Colony)along with the senior Coordinator Talvinder Kour, Astro Kids (Chatta), Astro Kids (Sunjwan) along with Respected Principal Simran Kour and Kidzee School (Bishnah)along with Principal Surbhi.

The event was a resounding success with hundreds of little toddlers converging on the school's sprawling grounds for a day of unstoppable laughter, play and friendship.

The tiny toddlers enjoyed the thrilling socialize and create lasting memories with their rides, swings, train ride peers and teachers. along with DJ party. The Vice Principal Dr. Harexcitement was further

vinder Kaur emphasizes the importance of extracurricular activities in enhancing overall student development.

Administrator Surinder Singh added that we believe in providing holistic education. Incharge Mala Goel and Co-Incharge Rajinder Kour showered blessings on the little champs for a brilliant future ahead.

Coordinator of Pre-Primary wing also motivated the students for new voyages to learn something new and excited to excel in life.

countries, whether they are developed or underdeveloped. In fact, over 80 per cent of asthma deaths, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), occur in low and lower-middle-income countries.

out the tournament.

in India: Dr Suresh Goyal

One in every 10 asthma patient lives

Dr Sonal also shared that asthma affects 30 million Indians, and less than 10 % patients

receive proper treatment. proper advice from qualified pulmonologist or chest specialist. Asthma is genetic, lifelong, worsened by dust, smoke, stress, potentially causing fatal attacks. Symptoms of Asthma Include shortness of breath,

"Myths prevent taking coughing, wheezing and

chest tightness," Asthma can be allergic, non-allergic, late onset, cough variant and obesi-

ty associated. Depending upon the type of asthma, the treatment in the form of immunotherapy, biologicals etc along with inhaler are advised, said Dr Goyal.

time of the latest reports.

Sunveer Bambara VP operations LIVASA Hospital Mohali said that with a launch of a new advance asthma clinic the patients of Moahali, Chandigarh, Panchkula, Zirakapur, Yamauananagar, Ambala, Ropar, Nawanshahr, Patial, Karnal, Kaithal, Solan & Shimla are going to be immensely benefited from this.

ENTERTAINMENT

Alia Bhatt says she fought with Ranbir Kapoor over who Raha would address first

Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt's daughter Raha Kapoor has learnt to say "mumma," and Alia left no stones unturned to record the first time she addressed her. In an interview with Allure, Alia recalled how she recorded Raha calling her "mumma" for the first time as proof.

6

"The first time my daughter Raha said "mumma," it was just me and her, we were playing on her playing mat. And before that, the backstory is there was a fight at home about whether she's going to say "mumma" first or "papa" first. So of course, mumma was like, 'Say mumma, mumma, mumma!" And papa was like, 'Papa! Papa! Papa!' When she said it, it was just me and her. So I immediately pulled out my phone and said,



'Say it again! What did you say? Say it again, say say! (laughs). And she was like, "Mumma (in a hushed voice).' 'Raha, say it in the normal voice.' And then she fully said it, "Mumma." Of course, we take great pride and joy in that moment. So I remember that moment very

Alia and Ranbir began dating on the sets of Ayan Mukerji's 2022 hit fantasy film Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva. They tied the knot at the latter's Mumbai residence in April 2022 and became parents to Raha in November of the same year. They had a no-photo policy of

Raha till she turned one. On the work front, Ranbir and Alia will reunite on screen in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Love & War, slated to release in cinemas on Eid 2026. Alia will also be seen in Jigra, Alpha, and Jee Le Zaraa. Meanwhile, Ranbir has Nitesh Tiwari's adaptation of the Ramayana and Animal Park on his slate.

called Ranbir to tell him about

the moment, and he was fast

asleep at night in India.

Newlyweds Aditi Rao Hydari, Siddharth make first public appearance after wedding

Newlyweds Aditi Rao Hydari and Siddharth made their first public appearance following their recent wedding, charming fans as they were spotted together at the Mumbai airport.

The couple, who tied the knot in an intimate ceremony earlier this week, was photographed holding hands, radiating joy and affection as they returned to Mumbai on late Thursday night.

Aditi, known for her sophisticated style, opted for a simple yet elegant pink Anarkali.

The ensemble featured a scoop neckline. fulllength churidar sleeves, and a relaxed silhouette, showcasing her minimalist aesthetic. The Anarkali, adorned with gold gota embroidery, was paired with matching churidar pants and a dupatta that boasted bright red borders and a floral bandhani print. The actor completed her look with traditional jhumkis, rings, and Kolhapuri sandals, enhancing her natural beauty

clearly and I have it on video.

So if anybody needs proof, she

She also recalled that the first

time Raha kicked in the womb

was when she was filming her

international debut, Tom Harp-

er's 2023 Netflix spy thriller

Heart of Stone abroad. Alia had

said mumma first," Alia said.

port look. He wore a blue denim jacket paired with black jeans. The 'Rang De Basanti' actor also with a no-makeup look. wore a denim cap paired Meanwhile, Siddharth with white sneakers. opted for a casual air-The couple's wedding

earlier this week was a lavish affair, with Aditi stunning in a handwoven Maheshwari tissue lehenga complemented by a Benarasi dupatta from the Sabyasachi

tion. Siddharth matched her elegance in a Sabyasachi silk kurta and handwoven dhoti. Their love story has been discreet, with reports suggesting that Aditi and Siddharth fell in love on the sets of their film "Maha Samundram" in 2021. Earlier this year, Aditi

Heritage Textile collec-

social media confirming their engagement, writing, "He said yes! E. N. G.A.G.E.D." alongside a charming selfie showcasing their engagement rings.

When it comes to sexism, actor Kritika Kamra feels men have a huge responsibility towards addressing it and solving it. And she said that the first step is to call it out in their own circle.

> Recently when speaking at Prime Video's Maitri: Female First Collective, Kritika emphasised on the importance of men taking responsi-

Kritika Kamra: There's a fine line between a compliment and objectification



bility for fighting sexism in men-only spaces. She feels men have a huge role to play in eradicating sexism from society. "I think it's up to men to call out sexism, objectification, and vulgar jokes in their maleonly spaces- boys' locker room talk, casual banter when it's just the guys hanging out, or even how they perceive women on-screen and

off," she said. The actor added, "There's a fine line between a compliment and objectification, and if men can call out their friends without hesitation, it would make a real difference.3

Kritika is known for her versatile roles and impactful performances. She has become a popular name for her work in television, OTT space as well as films. From Hush Hush to Bambai Meri Jaan, she has opted for versatile roles to proven her mettle in acting.

Kritika was most recently seen in ZEE5 series, Gyaarah Gyaarah, which is a remake of hit South Korean drama, Signal. Next, she will be seen in Nagraj Manjule's debut OTT series. Matka King. She is excited about working with the director, known for Marathi hits such as Fandry. Sairat and Hindi film Jhund with Amitabh Bachchan.

"I had never thought I'd ever get to work with him . Before 'Jhund', he was making more Marathi films, and I couldn't speak Marathi so it was not a thing that I thought would happen. But when I got this chance, I jumped at it because if he is doing something in Hindi, I want to be part of it," the actor said sometime back.

Shilpa Shetty says she can't endorse unhealthy products: 'I think more than other people in my field'

There has been an ongoing debate around several Bollywood celebrities promoting unhealthy lifestyles through their brand associations despite having a disciplined diet for themselves. But that is not the case for actor Shilpa Shetty, who says there is a lot of diligence behind every brand she gets associated with. In an interview with agency, the actor got candid about her responsibility as a public figure and said she will never stand and endorse things which isn't good for health.



the wellness brand, and

has become the face of

Talking about the

thought process behind

getting associated with a

brand, the actor shares,

"Investing or partnering

with Nutrispray, or even

with brands that I have

invested in, came from

a knee-jerk reaction

to the rising consumer

awareness in this time

Elaborating on her

views, Shilpa says, "I

really feel that today

when you are a brand

endorser, who has also

invested monetarily,

there's a kind of onus

and trust that the con-

sumer places in the

On finding a personal

Till now, Shilpa asserts

that she always sees if

it is the product that she

would introduce to her

the brand.

and age".

product".

touch

family. "Is it something that I would use in my life and if it ticks that box, it's a big yes for me. For Nutrispray, it came from a place of discovery from my father-in-law, who lives abroad." reveals the mother of two. Shilpa shares that her father-in-law suffered from severe iron deficiency, and the iron levels were not increasing for a long time. "Then he came to India and bought the iron supplement online. His iron levels went up. I have to give him credit for discovering this. This is not a story. This is the truth. I'm not making this up," she narrates, adding that her 79-year-old father hates medicines. The actor continues, "That said a lot about the product's efficacy. The improvement in his health made me aware of the fact that there isn't this awareness that they can avail such a thing".

Shama Sikander has spoken about an uncomfortable incident during a shoot

and was inappropriate with her. 'When he tried to hug me, I felt uncomfortable'

When asked about how he 'hugged her in a very wrong manner', Shama, without taking any names, said in Hindi, "So hugging me wasn't a part of the shoot initially. But I feel he wanted

weird for me. I said that man was a superstar why does he have to pull such a stunt? It was a very shocking incident in my life. I had met that person for the first time and he had an attitude, something didn't seem normal about him. I will never work with him in my life, even if I become a big star.' When asked about casting couch in Bollywood, Shama recalled starting work on a big movie and even being at the shoot and getting her makeup done, when she was told at the last minute that her shoot was cancelled. She said she was working with a 'very big star,' who did not turn up for the shoot. As she was leaving, the director told her that they had cast someone else for her role. The actor said she was 'shocked and cried all night'. She added such incidents, wherein actors have been removed from projects 'overnight', are 'common' in the film industry.

shared a joyful post on

On responsibility as a celebrity

When asked about the responsibility, she admits that she thinks about the commitment to health a bit more than her colleagues.

"As an actor, I have endorsed a couple of products where I'm like 'ismein thodha zada sugar hai' (it has more sugar)... But then I can't be the wicked witch from hell. You know, people have a little bit of sugar, but even so I am extremely particular. I think a little more than other people in my field," Shilpa tells us.

The actor adds, "For me, health is a gift. Refined sugar, junk food and aerated drinks are things that I don't want to endorse purely out of choice. People who are doing it out there ... It's their choice."

To each their own is something Shilpa believes in firmly. She emphasises that she has nothing against people who endorse such projects.

"But these are not

things that I feed my family. I practise what I preach. You have to walk the talk and you have to really win it. These are things that are not going to give you great health so I can't stand there and endorse it. There is a lot of due diligence that goes into what I endorse and that comes from a place of truth and passion," adds the actor, who was last seen in the web series Indian Police Force. On getting associated with brands During the conversa-

tion, the actor revealed there is always a personal connection which drives her towards a brand. And that explains her most recent investment in supplement spray brand Nutrispray, founded by Arpit Save. She has invested an undisclosed amount in

"If I, as a celebrity, can do that for this brand, it really works in the bigger scope of things, and that's how the partnership happened," she concludes.

Shilpa will next appear in the upcoming Kannada film KD: The Devil. The film also stars Dhruva Sarja, V Ravichandran, Ramesh Aravind, Sanjay Dutt, Jisshu Sengupta and Nora Fatehi in lead roles. Directed by Prem, KD-The Devil, the multilingual is set to release in Tamil, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, and Hindi. It is a period action entertainer based on true events from 1970s Bangalore.



Shama Sikander, known for her television show Yeh Meri Life Hai, among others, has spoken about an uncomfortable incident during an ad shoot. In a new interview with agency, Shama spoke about how an actor improvised a scene

to hug me for some reason. You know, you understand the vibe some people have, so when he was shooting with me, he improvised and he said he would put the jewellery on his wife (me). Then I would twirl her and hug her. So when he tried to hug me, I felt that I was uncomfortable with that kind of touch. I had never sensed that before."

'It was very shocking and weird for me'

The actor also said, "I have worked with so many people, I have many guy friends, and they have never made me feel that way. It was very shocking and

Vivek Oberoi on the 'absurd' star entourage expense: Unnecessary cost to cinema

Vivek Oberoi recently shared his experiences of working in low budget films. He spoke about handling his own expenses in order to reduce the producers burden. In an interview with agency, the actors said that at times high entourage prices can add "unnecessary cost to cinema."

Vivek, when asked about his opinion on the current debate over 'absurd' entourage cost of actors stated that, "I have never done it. I am very simple man. I hear such reports. At my house, whatever cars I love, I own them. But, when I go to a shoot, I ask them (producers), 'What's convenient for you?' If it's Innova, it works for me. As long



as it's comfortable and gets me from my hotel to the set, I will come and shoot. When I will want to drive a car, I will buy it with my own money and enjoy. I think it adds unnecessary cost to cinema."

However, he pointed out, it's an exception "when you are expected to look a certain way, especially for girls, then its worth it."

Vivek further said, "In my case, what I have done is, when people

didn't have the budget for a team that I want or my staff who is been with me for 20+ years, I say don't worry about it, I will take care of it with my own money. I will pay them. If I want an upgrade in terms of an hotel, I will pay for it. I am being paid enough to do a film."

Vivek made his acting debut with Ram Gopal Varma's Company. He later acted in movies like Saathiya, Yuva, Masti, Kaal, Omkara, Shootout at Lokhandwala, Kurbaan, Rakta Charitra I, Rakta Charitra II, Krrish 3, Vivegam, PM Narendra Modi, Lucifer and Khudiram Bose. Vivek was also seen in Rohit Shetty's debut web series - Indian Police Force.

NATIONAL

Congress most corrupt, run by 'tukde tukde' gang, urban Naxals: PM Modi

Modi also spoke of the "anti-India agendas" of the Congress leaders in their speeches abroad, without naming that party's leader Rahul Gandhi.

WARDHA, Sep 20 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday lashed out at the Congress, saying the "most corrupt" party was being run by the tukde tukde gang and urban Naxals.

"The Congress which you see today is not the party with which a great man like Mahatma Gandhi was associated," Modi said, addressing a public meeting at Wardha in Maharashtra on completion of one year of the PM Vishwakarma scheme.

"The ghost of hatred has entered the Congress," Modi said.

"In today's Congress the soul of patriotism has breathed its last," he added.

Modi also spoke of the "anti-India agendas" of the Congress leaders in their speeches abroad, without naming that party's leader Rahul Gandhi, who is facing flak from the ruling dispensation for his remark in the US on scrapping the reservation system.

"If there is a corrupt party it is the Congress and the most corrupt family is its shahi parivar." Modi said, without naming the Gandhi family.

"Congress hates Ganpati puja as well," Modi said.

"I went to a Ganesh puja programme and Congress criticised it for appeasement politics. Ganpati Bappa was put behind bars



he added.

community.

Modi said the SC, ST and OBC

categories are the biggest bene-

ficiaries of the PM Vishwakarma

scheme, and accused the pre-

vious Congress governments

of neglecting the Vishwakarma

"Congress did not allow SCs,

STs and OBCs to prosper. We

have put an end to the mindset of

the Congress which didn't allow

these communities to prosper.

Our vision is to ensure that the

beneficiaries don't remain just

artisans but also become entre-

He said his government wants

to take the textile industry to the

global market and restore the

Modi said the British rulers had

"Mahatma Gandhi gave a

boost to rural traditional skills

conspired to finish off India's tra-

glory of the textile sector.

preneurs," he said.

ditional skills.

in Karnataka. Ganpati idol was put in a police van," he said. "Congress allies in Maharashtra kept mum and did not take a stand on Ganpati Bappa's insult," Modi said.

In an apparent reference to the ensuing state assembly elections in Maharashtra later this year, Modi said, "In Maharashtra, we have to be aware of their duplicity. Falsehood and betraval are the hallmark of the Congress and people of Maharashtra should beware of the party," he said.

The Congress used farmers only for politics and corruption, Modi said

"We should not give another chance to Congress, which destroyed farmers. Falsehood and betrayal is the hallmark of Congress," Modi said. The Congress did not fulfil its

election promises in Telangana,

but governments after Independence did not give justice to the Vishwakarma community, leading to deterioration in the sector," Modi said.

"Through Vishwakarma scheme, we have pledged prosperity through labour and a better tomorrow through skill," Modi said.

In the last one year, more than 20 lakh people from 18 professions were linked to the Vishwakarma scheme, and more than 8 lakh craftsmen and artisans got skill training, he said.

Vishwakarma Yojana not just a government programme but a roadmap to utilize thousands of years old skills to develop India, he said.

Modi also visited the exhibition at the National PM Vishwakarma programme and met some of the scheme's beneficiaries. He also launched the "Acharya Chanakya Skill Development Centre" scheme of Maharashtra Government, and the Punyashlok Ahilvadevi Holkar Women Startup Scheme of Maharashtra Govt for support to women-led startups. He laid the foundation stone of

a 1,000-acre PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Park at Amravati in Maharashtra.

He also released a commemorative postage stamp to mark one year of the Vishwakarma scheme.

that.'

Amit Shah says Naxalism

will end by March 2026, asks

Maoists to surrender arms

Addressing 55 victims of Naxal violence, Union

Home Minister Amit Shah said that Maoists will

take their last breath on March 31, 2026.

The Gandhinagar

MP further added that

security forces have

achieved significant

success in their opera-

tions against the Mao-

ists as the problem is

now confined to just four

districts of Chhattisgarh.

Shah said that Mao-

ists once had planned to

establish a corridor from

Pashupatinath (Nepal)

to Tirupati (Andhra

Pradesh) but that was

destroyed by the Nar-

endra Modi-led Central

The Union Home Min-

istry will soon chalk out

a welfare scheme for

Naxal violence-affected

people of Chhattisgarh,

government.

NEW DELHI, Sep 20 (Agencies): While appealing to the Maoists to give up violence, lay down arms and surrender, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday set March 31, 2026, as the date to end Naxalism in the country.

Addressing the 55 victims of Naxal violence, Shah said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has decided that Naxal violence and ideology will be wiped out from the country. March 31, 2026, has been fixed as the last day of Naxalism in this country and I ensure that we will finish Naxalism before in close coordination with the state government, Shah said. "We will help you in whatever way we can through our welfare measures in jobs, healthcare and other

areas," Shah said. SECURITY FORCES **INTENSIFY ANTI-NAX-**AL OPERATIONS

The security forces have intensified their operations against Naxalism, with as many as 164 Maoists being killed in anti-Naxal operations in 2024.

Data compiled by the South Asia Terrorism Portal (SATP) and sourced from media reports shows that out of 164 Maoists, 142 were killed in Chhattisgarh alone in the first half of 2024. Approximately 90 per cent of the Maoist deaths in Chhattisgarh occurred in the Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai district, which was carved out of Rajnandagaon in 2022, on the Maharashtra border.

6 killed, 17 injured in collision between bus, truck in Maharashtra's Jalna

JALNA, Sep 20 (Agencies): Six persons were killed and 17 injured when a state transport bus and a private truck collided in Maharashtra's Jalna district on Friday morning, police said.

The accident occurred near Shahapur on the Wadigodri-Jalna route.



Odisha Police register case over 'sexual assault' of woman in custody

BHUBANESWAR, Sep 20 (Agencies): The Crime Branch of the Odisha Police on Friday registered a case in connection with alleged sexual assault of an army officer's fiancé in police custody, a senior officer said.

The case was registered against former Bharatpur police station inspector-incharge Dinakrushna Mishra, sub-inspectors Baisalini Panda, Salilamayee Sahoo, Sagarika Rath and constable and announced that the opposition party would hold a demonstration in front of the Raj Bhavan here on Saturday.

"We will submit a memorandum to the President, who is also a woman," BJD leader and Bhubaneswar Mayor Sulochana Das told reporters here.

Congress leaders Sonali Sahu and Maisha Das, in a press conference, termed the BJP dispensation as a "Talibani government". The party strongly condemned the alleged sexual

West Bengal and his fiancé had approached Bharatpur police station early on Sunday to lodge a complaint of road rage in which they were allegedly harassed by some local youths. At the police station, the duo got engaged in a quarrel with the personnel over the registration of an FIR. The woman, who was arrested in Bhubaneswar for allegedly misbehaving with the police, claimed that she was sexually harassed after being taken into custody. She

When I raised the voice that they cannot put an Army officer in custody as it is unlawful, two female officers started physically assaulting me," she alleged on Thursday.

The woman said she tried to fight back and bit the hand of a policewoman when she tried to get hold of her neck. The police personnel then put her in a room after tying her hands and legs, she alleged. "After some time, a male officer opened the doors and kicked on my breasts several times He lowered down my pants and his as well. Showing his private parts, he asked me how much time I wanted to remain silent," the woman alleged. Taking suo motu cognisance of the incident, the National Commission for Women sought an action taken report from the DGP.

Many of the injured were pulled out by breaking windows of the bus, run by the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation, an official said.

The state transport bus was on its way

from Gevrai to Jalna, while the truck, carrying oranges, was coming from Ambad at the time. Six persons died and 17 suffered injuries due to the collision, the official said.

With the help of locals, police rescued the injured persons and rushed them to hospitals in Ambad and Jalna, he said, adding that an investigation is underway.

Balaram Hansda.

The Odisha Police had on Wednesday suspended the five personnel in connection with the alleged assault of an army officer and "molestation" of his fiancé at Bharatpur police station in Bhubaneswar.

The BJD criticised the crime branch inquiry into the incident

assault of the army officer's fiancé

Former Odisha chief minister and BJD president Naveen Patnaik on Friday demanded a court-monitored SIT probe and a judicial inquiry into the alleged sexual assault of the army officer's fiancé in police custody. The army officer posted in

was on Thursday released on bail granted by the high court. The woman, who is undergoing treatment at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar, said some more personnel arrived at the police station on that night and asked her friend to write a complaint. "I don't know what happened,

they put him in the lockup.

Health Minister Nadda seeks detailed report on Tirupati laddu issue

NEW DELHI, Sep 20 (Agencies): Union Health Minister JP Nadda on Friday sought a full report on the Tirupati laddu issue, saying the government will further examine matter and take suitable action. Andhra Pradesh Chief

Minister N Chandra-

babu Naidu's claim that

animal fat was used in Tirupati laddus during the previous government has triggered a massive political row. with the YSRCP accusing Naidu of indulging in "heinous allegations" for political gains and the TDP circulating a lab report to back its claim. During an NDA leg-



islature party meeting on Wednesday, Naidu claimed that the previous YS Jagan Mohan Reddy-led government did not even spare the Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple in Tirupati and used substandard ingredients and animal fat to make laddus.

Mamata Banerjee writes to PM Modi over Bengal floods, seeks urgent action



floods

KOLKATA, Sep 20 (Agencies): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on released about 5 lakh cusec of water, triggering floods in South Bengal districts.

In the letter to PM Modi, Mamata Banerjee urged the Centre to immediately release central funds to mitigate the widespread devastation caused by the at "nearly 5 lakh cusecs from the combined system of Maithon and Panchet dams owned and maintained by DVC" triggered floods in Bengal.

On Thursday, Mamata Banerjee lambasted the Jharkhand government and ordered the sealing of the interstate border for three days.

Meanwhile, a fierce political showdown is brewing between the Trinamool Congress and BJP as tensions escalate over West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Baneriee's "cutting ties with the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) and sealing borders with Jharkhand" orders. BJP MLA Suvendu Adhikari, in a stern ultimatum to Mamata, stated, "Reopen the borders by 2 PM, or will file a formal complaint to Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, the Home Minister, and the Governor."

3 FIRs filed in Chhattisgarh against Rahul for remarks on Sikhs

RAIPUR, Sep 20 (Agencies): Three FIRs have been registered against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in parts of Chhattisgarh for allegedly hurting the religious sentiments of the Sikh community through his remarks made during the recent US visit, the police said on Friday.

While two cases one at the Civil Lines police station in capital Raipur and another at the Bilaspur Civil Lines

police station in Bilaspur district - were registered on Thursday, an FIR was filed at the Kotwali police station in Durg district on Friday, they said.

The cases were registered based on the complaints lodged by BJP leaders. Similar complaints have been submitted at police stations in other districts of the state, too, by ruling party leaders. In all these cases, he has been booked under

various Sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

State BJP spokesperson Amarjeet Singh Chhabra, in his complaint lodged in Raipur, stated that Rahul Gandhi remarked whether Sikhs would be allowed to wear a turban or a 'kada' and go to gurdwaras in India. His statement had hurt the religious sentiments of the Sikhs, Chhabra said in the complaint. "In the entire world,



and even in India, the Sikh community is not prohibited from wearing a turban, a 'kada' and visiting gurdwaras. Even the Prime Minister visits gurdwara wearing a turban. Rahul Gandhi's

statement is intended to hurt the sentiments of the peace-loving Sikh community, which may create discrimination and animosity with other religions of the society," he claimed.

Friday wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi over floods in the state. Reiterating her call to severe ties with Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC). she stated that DVC

dar and adjoining areas after 2009. I earnestly request that you give this matter serious consideration and direct the concerned ministries to address these issues as top priority, including the sanction and release of substantial central funds to undertake extensive

"The state is now

facing the biggest

floods in Lower Damo-

flood management works in the interest of people, who suffer the most," she wrote.

Mamata alleged that the "unplanned and unilateral release" of a huge volume of water

INTERNATIONAL

Israel launches massive strikes on Lebanon as tensions with Hezbollah escalate

US and UK urge restraint over fiercest strikes

BEIRUT, Sep 20 (Agencies): Israeli warplanes carried out late on Thursday their most intense strikes on southern Lebanon in nearly a year of war, heightening the conflict between Israel and Lebanese armed group Hezbollah amid calls for restraint.

The White House said a diplomatic solution was achievable and urgent, and Britain called for an immediate ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah. The US is "afraid and concerned about potential escalation," White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre told a briefing.

The intense barrage followed attacks earlier in the week attributed by Lebanon and Hezbollah to Israel that blew up Hezbollah radios and pagers, killing 37 people and wounding about 3,000 in Lebanon.

In Thursday's late operation, Israel's military said its jets over two hours struck hundreds of multiple-rocket-launcher barrels in southern Lebanon that were set to be fired immediately toward Israel.

The bombardment included more than 52 strikes across southern Lebanon after 9 p.m.(1800 GMT), Lebanon's state news agency NNA said. Three Lebanese security sources said these were the heaviest aerial strikes since the conflict began in October.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Israel's military vowed to continue to attack Hezbollah and said its strikes throughout Thursday hit about 100 rocket launchers plus other targets in southern Lebanon.

In a TV address on Thursday, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said the device explosions on Tuesday and Wednesday "crossed all red lines".

"The enemy went beyond all



controls, laws and morals," he said, adding the attacks "could be considered war crimes or a declaration of war."

Israel has not directly commented on the pager and radio detonations, which security sources say were probably carried out by its Mossad spy agency, which has a long history of carrying out sophisticated attacks on foreign soil.

The Lebanese mission to the U.N. said in a letter to the Security Council on Thursday that Israel was responsible for detonating the devices via electronic messages and explosives implanted in them before they arrived in Lebanon, in line with theories that have circulated since the explosions.

The 15-member Security Council is due to meet on Friday over the blasts. Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati called on the Security Council to take a firm stand to stop Israel's "aggression" and "technological war".

ISRAEL VOWS HEZBOLLAH TO PAY 'INCREASING PRICE' As Nasrallah's broadcast aired, deafening sonic booms from Israeli warplanes shook Beirut, a sound that has become common in recent months but has taken on greater significance as the threat of all-out war has ramped up.

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said late on Thursday that Israel will keep up military action against Hezbollah.

"In the new phase of the war there are significant opportunities but also significant risks. Hezbollah feels that it is being persecuted and the sequence of military actions will continue," Gallant said in a statement.

"Our goal is to ensure the safe return of Israel's northern communities to their homes. As time goes by, Hezbollah will pay an increasing price," Gallant said. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu convened his close circle of ministers for consultations, Israel's Channel 13 News reported.

Two Israeli soldiers were killed in combat on Thursday in Israel's north, the Israeli military said.

'BIG HARSH BLOW'

Hezbollah fired missiles at Israel the day after the Oct. 7 cross-border attack by the Palestinian militant group Hamas which triggered the Gaza war. Since then, constant exchang-

es of fire have occurred. Although neither side has allowed this to escalate into full-scale war, it has led to the evacuation of tens of thousands of people from the border area on both sides. Nasrallah said Hezbollah hoped Israeli troops would enter southern Lebanon because that would create a "historic opportunity" for the Iran-backed group. No military escalation, killing, assassinations or all-out war would return Israeli residents to the border area, he added.

Israel will face "a crushing response from the axis of resistance", Iran's Revolutionary Guards Commander Hossein Salami told Nasrallah on Thursday, according to state media, referring to a coalition of Iranaligned militant groups including Hezbollah, Yemen's Houthis, Hamas and armed groups in Iraq and Syria.

Speaking in Paris, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken urged restraint, adding he did not want to see escalatory actions by any party that make a Gaza-ceasefire deal more difficult.

The attacks on Hezbollah communications equipment sowed fear across Lebanon, with people abandoning electronic devices for fear of carrying bombs in their pockets.

Nasrallah said thousands of pagers had been targeted simultaneously, with some of the explosions happening in hospitals, pharmacies, markets, shops and streets busy with civilians, women and children. Israel says its conflict with Hezbollah, like its war in Gaza against Hamas, is part of a wider regional confrontation with Iran, which sponsors both groups as well as armed movements in Syria, Yemen and Iraq.

Israel has been accused of assassinations including a blast in Tehran that killed the leader of Hamas and another in a Beirut suburb that killed a senior Hezbollah commander within hours of each other in July.

Separatist rebels say Indonesian army attacks threaten the safety of kidnapped New Zealand pilot

JAKARTA, Sep 20 (Agencies): Separatist rebels in Indonesia's restive Papua region warned Friday that increased Indonesian military attacks in recent days to rescue a New Zealand pilot who was taken hostage over a year ago could instead threaten his safety.

Independence fighters led by Egianus Kogoya, a regional commander in the Free Papua Movement, stormed a single-engine plane on a small runway in Paro and abducted Philip Mark Mehrtens on Feb. 7, 2023. The pilot from Christchurch was working for Indonesian aviation company Susi Air.

His abduction reflected the deteriorating security situation in Indonesia's easternmost region of Papua, a former Dutch colony in the western part of New Guinea that is ethnically and culturally distinct from much of Indonesia.

Kogoya initially said the rebels would not release Mehrtens unless Indonesia's government allows Papua to become a sovereign country.

Despite promises from other leaders of the West Papua Liberation Army, the armed wing of the Free Papua Movement, known as TPNPB, that they would let Mehrtens go, the pilot is still being held.

The rebels issued a proposal on Tuesday for freeing Mehrtens that outlined terms including news media involvement in his release.

"The Indonesian Government appears to be ignoring the TPNPB Proposal for the release of the Susi Air Pilot from New Zealand," rebel spokesperson Sabby Sambom said in a statement Friday. "Therefore, the NZ Government must be serious and urge their friendly country, Indonesia, to stop the Military operations during the process, because it endangers the life of the New Zealand Pilot Philip Mark Mehrtens."

Sambom said the Indonesian government has deployed more troops in Nduga, a regency in Papua Mountains province known as a rebel hotbed, and launched airstrikes with helicopters since Monday on the TPNPB headquarters in Alguru village, where the pilot is believed to be held.

A spokesperson for New Zealand's

foreign affairs ministry said Friday that officials were aware of the rebels' proposal, and that New Zealand would continue to work closely with all parties for Mehrtens' release and would not discuss the details of its efforts publicly.

In another statement on Thursday, Sambom said Indonesian soldiers with tanks were on their way from neighboring Wamena district to Alguru to rescue the pilot.

The Cartenz Peace Taskforce, the joint security force set up by the Indonesian government to deal with separatist groups in Papua, could not immediately be reached for comment on the rebels' statements.

In April, armed separatists attacked Indonesian troops who were deployed to rescue Mehrtens. The group sent a letter the next month to Indonesian President Joko Widodo. Sambom said they received a response indicating that Widodo would negotiate with the TPNPB, but there was no further communication.

Indonesian authorities have said they are making efforts to free Mehrtens "by prioritizing persuasive aspects and approaches."

In August, gunmen stormed a helicopter and killed its New Zealand pilot, Glen Malcolm Conning, after it landed in Alama, a remote village in the Mimika district of Central Papua province. No one has claimed responsibility for that attack, and the rebels and Indonesian authorities have blamed each other.

In 1996, the Free Papua Movement abducted 26 members of a World Wildlife Fund research mission in Mapenduma. Two kidnapped Indonesians were killed by their abductors. The remaining hostages were freed within five months.

Papua was incorporated into Indonesia in 1969 after a U.N.-sponsored ballot that was widely seen as a sham. Since then, a low-level insurgency has simmered in the region, which was divided into five provinces last year to boost development in Indonesia's poorest region. Conflict has spiked in the past year, with dozens of rebels, security forces and civilians killed.

The EU's chief is trying to help Ukraine prepare for winter

KYIV, Sep 20 (Agencies): European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen arrived in Ukraine on Friday focused on helping the country to repair and reconnect its wardamaged electricity grid and boost its heating capacity as winter approaches. Around half of Ukraine's energy infrastructure has been destroyed during its war with Russia, and rolling electricity blackouts leave parts of the east in darkness for four hours at a time. Von der Leyden said it was as though all of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia had lost electricity.



'Water is flooding everywhere' as torrential rains sweep through West and Central Africa

As torrential rains sweep through Central and West Africa, floods have killed more than 1,000 people and displaced hundreds of thousands across the region

Meanwhile, winter is approaching. "Heating season starts

in two weeks and Russia's relentless attacks on Ukraine's civilian energy infrastructure aims to inflict maximum damage," von der Leyen said as she arrived in Kyiv for talks with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. "We will help Ukraine in its brave efforts to overcome this."

The main aim is to help Ukraine decentralize its power grid, and to become less reliant on the big power stations that make easier targets for Russian forces. Around 260 missiles rained down in a major attack on energy infrastructure late last month.

The Europeans have

already sent more 10,000 generators and transformers, and they're supplying small and more mobile gas turbines too. These types of electricityproviding equipment is harder to hit and easier to repair.

Ukraine's winter runs from late October through March, with January and February the toughest months. The Europeans hope to help supply around 25% of the 17 gigawatts of power that the country is likely to need this winter.

One aim of the EU assistance is to provide an incentive for people to stay in Ukraine. Some 4 million people have fled since the war began in February 2022, often to Poland and other neighboring countries.

The EU is providing assistance, such as short-term help to find a place to stay, jobs or education. But recently the number of people leaving has climbed. The commission, the EU's powerful executive

branch, estimates that 10,000 more people are applying for help each week.

> On Thursday, the commission announced that it would provide an extra 160 million euros (\$180 million) to help fortify Ukraine's energy network. Of that, 100 million euros (\$112 million) come from the windfall profits the EU has earned from interest on frozen Russian assets. Von der Leyen said the plan is to make "Russia pay for it through the revenue generated by their frozen assets." Denmark is also leading the charge on using the

money to place orders for weapons and military equipment directly with Ukraine's defense industry.

She and Zelenskyy will also discuss the use of loans organized by the Group of Seven major industrial powers to help bolster Ukraine's conflict-ravaged economy, and weigh progress in Kyiv's efforts to join the EU. ABUJA (NIGERIA), Sep 20 (Agencies): Houses swept away to the very last brick. Inmates frantically fleeing the city's main prison as its walls got washed away by water rising from an overflowing dam. Corpses of crocodiles and snakes floating among human bodies on what used to be main streets.

As torrential rains across Central and West Africa have unleashed the most catastrophic floods in decades, residents of Maiduguri, the capital of the fragile Nigerian state of Borno — which has been at the center of an Islamic extremists' insurgency — said they have seen it all.

The floods, which have killed more than 1,000 people and displaced hundreds of thousands across the region this year, have worsened existing humanitarian crises in the countries which have been impacted the most: Chad, Nigeria, Mali and Niger. Over four million people have been affected by flooding so far this year in West Africa, a threefold increase from last year, according to the U.N.

With rescue operations still underway, it is impossible to give an accurate count of lives lost in the water. So far, at least 230 were reported dead in Nigeria, 265 in Niger, 487 in Chad and 55 in Mali, which has seen the most catastrophic flooding since the 1960s.

While Africa is responsible for a small fraction of global greenhouse gas emissions, it is among the most vulnerable to extreme weather events, the World Meteorological Organization said earlier this month. In sub-Saharan Africa, the cost of adapting to extreme weather



events is estimated between \$30-50 billion annually over the next decade, the report said. It warned that up to 118 million Africans could be impacted by extreme weather by 2030.

Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state, has been under significant strain. Over the last decade, Borno has been hit by a constant string of attacks from Boko Haram militants, who want to install an Islamic state in Nigeria and have killed more than 35,000 people in the last decade.

Saleh Bukar, a 28-year-old from Maiduguri, said he was woken up last week around midnight by his neighbors.

"Water is flooding everywhere!" he recalled their frantic screams in a phone interview. "They were shouting: 'Everybody come out, everybody come out!" Older people and people with disabilities did not know what was going on, he said, and some were left behind. Those who did not wake up on time drowned right away.

Local authorities are overwhelmed by the scale of the disaster: over 400,000 people in Nigeria have been displaced, and at least 240 people were killed.

Last week, floods killed about 80% of the animals at the Borno State Museum Park and an unspecified number of reptiles escaped. The city's main prison was so damaged that hundreds of inmates escaped. The waters knocked down the walls of the local police station and some of the government's offices.

The World Food Program has set up kitchens providing food to the displaced in Maiduguri as well as emergency food and cash assistance to people in the most hard-hit areas. USAID said Wednesday it has provided more than \$3 million in humanitarian assistance to West and Central Africa, including \$1 million provided in the immediate aftermath of the floods.

But many say they were left to fend for themselves.

Floods in mostly arid Niger have impacted over 841,000 people, killing hundreds and displacing more than 400,000. Harira Adamou, a 50-yearold single mother of six, is one of them. She said the floods destroyed her mud hut in the northern city of Agadez.

"The rooms are destroyed; the walls fell down," she said. "It's a big risk to live in a mud hut but we don't have the means to build concrete ones."

Adamou, who is unemployed and lost her husband four years ago, said she has not received any support from the state and has not had the opportunity or the means — to relocate. She and her children are living in a temporary shelter next to their shattered hut, and fret that the torrential rains might return.

"I understood there was a change in the weather," she said. "I have never seen a big rain like this year here in Agadez."

In Maiduguri, 15% of the city remains underwater, according to local authorities. As forecasts predicted more rains across the region, Nigerian authorities warned earlier this week that more floods are expected.

Bukar said he kept going back to see whether the water that swallowed his home had receded, but that has not happened. He said he has not received any aid from authorities except for some food items handed out at the local school, where he is sheltering with 5,000 others.

He is trying to stay sane by helping others. Along with his friend, he helped recover 10 bodies and rescued 25 people, rowing down the streets in a canoe. He said he's also helping out cooking meals for those that are sheltering with him.

"I am volunteering to help, but I am also a victim," he said. "Our people need us. They need help."

LOCAL/CONTD....

Samsung India's Al-powered 'Big TV Festival' gets bigger this festive season

promotion. Offering

unparalleled deals on

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 20: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, is set to make this festive season more delightful with the launch of its 'Big TV Festival' promotion. Offering unparalleled deals on premium AIpowered big-screen televisions like Neo QLED 8K. Neo QLED 4K. OLED and Crystal 4K UHD TVs, the limited period offers runs from September 14 till November 10, 2024. bringing exciting freebies, cashback, a 3-year warranty and special EMI offers.

Samsung Big TV Festival is about to set a new standard in visual immersion and sound quality with Al-enabled features. The offers are available across the Neo

QLED, OLED and Crystal 4K UHD TV range on select models.

Customers can also avail free Samsung TV models worth up to INR 290000, and free sound bar worth INR 100000, with select purchases. Samsung is also offering irresistible cashbacks up to 20%, 3-year comprehensive warranty and Easy EMIs starting at INR 2777 on its ultra-premium Big TVs, with a long tenure EMI up to 36 months. These attractive deals will be available across Samsung.com, and select Samsung retail outlets across India

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The Neo QLED 8K range comes powered by the NQ8 AI Gen2 Processor, which enables Alpowered content viewing experience, providing life-like picture quality. The NQ8 AI Gen2 Processor is powered by 256 Al neural networks that help transform both picture and sound to deliver an 8K experience, whether its streaming OTT

services, playing video games or watching live sports. Samsung's Neo QLED 8K TVs also come with Motion Xcelerator Turbo Pro for creating consistently crisp visuals and blazing-fast speeds for high-speed gaming. The 2024 Neo QLED 4K line-up is powered by the NQ4 AI Gen2 Processor which breathes life into almost any content, rendering it in stunning 4K resolution. Enhanced by Quantum Matrix Technology, the screen ensures impeccable contrast even in complex scenes. With the world's first Pantone Validated display for colour accuracy and Dolby Atmos for an immersive audio experience, the Neo QLED 4K range of TVs raises the

man/CEC Tashi Gyalson, LAHDC, Leh accompanied Executive Councillor for Agriculture Stanzin Chosphel, DC/CEO Santosh Sukhadeve, and Naib Tehsildar Attaullah Khan conducted an official visit to the LAHDC Agriculture Excellency Center and the Farmer Training Institute. The primary focus of this visit was to review the ongoing construction of the hostel and assess the overall progress of the institute.



to promote sustainable agricultural practices in the region and emphasised the importance of optimizing the use of land for innovative agricultural research. The delegation also

inspected the prog-

ress of the CSIR Indian

Institute of Integrative

Medicine's experimental

research farm in Palam

Foundation shall provide

the modern digital soil

testing analyzers along

with 50 free testing kits

to each school at first

instance, during both the

Kharif and Rabi seasons.

also provide students with

practical, hands-on learn-

Students will be actively

involved in soil sampling,

testing, and interpreting

soil health cards, thereby

gaining crucial insights

into the science of soil

ing experiences.

CEC Tashi Gyalson visits LAHDC Farmers

During the visit, CEC Gyalson reviewed the status of land allotment, ensuring that resources are effectively utilized

Top News Report

LEH, Sep 20: Chair-

bv

Chuchot. This site plays a crucial role in advancing agricultural research and practices, contributing significantly to the development of the local farming community. The visit highlighted

LAHDC's ongoing commitment to fostering agricultural excellence and supporting the livelihoods of farmers in Leh.

GOC-IN-C Northern Command inaugurates Him Tech Symposium

Top News Report

LEH, Sep 20: Him Tech Symposium 2024 was inaugurated at Leh by Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar, GOC-in-C, Northern Command.

Him Tech Symposium 2024 has been organised by the Indian Army in coordination with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). Military and civil dignitaries including SP Shukla, Chairman FICCI attended the event. Lt Gen Hitesh Bhalla, GOC Fire and Fury Corps delivered the welcome address.

The symposium provided a platform for Indian Defence Industry to showcase their products. This year the theme of the symposium is "Harnessing Defence Technology for High Altitude Areas".

Severe cold, low oxygen



present significant chalchallenges and enhance lenges for troops stacombat readiness. tioned in High Altitude This event underscores Areas. Equipment main-India's commitment to tenance and personstrengthening its military nel survivability become capabilities with indige-

nous technology following increasingly difficult in these conditions the principles of Atmanirb-Road disruptions har Bharat. More than 90 vendors caused by avalanches from various parts of India and landslides, along with rugged terrain and showcased their products adverse weather condion autonomous systems. tions complicate road and green energy, human susair movement. The symtainability, equipment susposium aims to leverage tenance, waste disposal,

and infrastructure development. The symposium provided an opportunity to

Indian Defence Industry to interact with the soldiers deployed in High Altitude Areas During the inauguration

ceremony, the Him Tech 2024 compendium was unveiled. Senior military officers and dignitaries visited the Expo Stalls set up at Rinchen Auditorium in Leh and interacted with the Indian Defence

Manufacturers. Indian Army organised a display of ideas and innovations to highlight the advancements and modifications made by its personnel based on the day-to-day challenges being faced by them and their ingenious solutions This was a valuable

bar for an ultimate 4K

experience.

opportunity for Indian defence manufacturers to gain insight into real challenges and requirements. Him Tech 2024 offered a crucial platform for defence forces, industry leaders and technology innovators to collaborate and tackle the challenges of high-altitude warfare. The event exemplified the spirit of selfreliance embodied by the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives. The symposium is open to the public from 3 PM from 21 Sep 2024 onwards.

NABARD sanctions 26 soil testing labs for J&K schools

Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Sep 20: NABARD has sanctioned grant assistance for the implementation of 1,000 Mini Soil Testing Labs in 1,000 schools under the School Soil Health Programme of Integrated Nutrition Management (INM) of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

The project is being implemented by NAB Foundation, a subsidiary of NABARD. The pan India project is being implemented in two phases with a total financial outlay of Rs 12 crore. In J&K, 26 such labs will be established, 15 in Jammu and 11 in Kashmir region.

Deputy General Manager NABARD, Surinder Singh said that the project aims to facilitate the testing of soil samples across 26 schools in J&K. NAB health and its significance in agriculture.

"In terms of educational impact, the project is set to foster a deep understanding of soil health among students and teachers alike. By engaging students in practical learning, the project will help build knowledge about sustainable farming practices, encouraging them to adopt and promote such methods in the future. This hands-on approach will create a strong educational foundation in soil science, benefiting the participants in both their academic and personal

growth," he said. He further said that the project will directly impart knowledge on soil health to an estimated 50,000 to 1,00,000 students, thereby creating a large-scale impact on future generations of both farmers and agricultural professionals.

SC takes suo motu note of 'Pakistan' remarks by Karnataka High Court judge

and Aman Kumar Singh. CBI had earlier, filed the first charge sheet against 13 accused on August 1, 2024.

The investigation has revealed that Ahsanul Haque, Principal of Oasis School in his capacity as City Coordinator. Hazaribagh for the NEET UG 2024 exam, along with Md. Imtiyaz Alam, the Vice-Principal of the same school and the Centre Superintendent for the NEET UG 2024 exam, conspired with other accused to steal the NEET UG question paper. So far, a total of 48 individuals have been arrested in connection with the NEET Paper leak case. CBI has also identified the beneficiary candidates of this paper leak and has shared their details with the National Testing Agency for necessary action. Investigation with regard to remaining arrested accused and further investigation with regard to other aspects is continuing.

FROM PAGE 1 **BJP betrayed our**

people, pushed them to brink: Faroou Abdullah

but they have failed to deliver on a single one. where are the jobs they promised? Where is the investment they boasted about? Instead, Jammu is losing jobs and contracts to outsiders. Toll taxes on roads are burdening the poor, while the lack of electricity and water is adding to the struggles of our youth. Rising tariffs on electricity and water are hitting the poor hard, and ration cuts are pushing them to starvation. The BJP has betrayed our people and pushed them to the brink." He further added, "It is time for a change. The NC-Congress alliance is committed to fighting for the rights and well-being of the people of Jammu."

enthusiasm about the alliance of the NC and Congress here, but the neighbouring country is very excited.'Unki balle balle Pakistan mein ho rahi hai' (They are being celebrated in Pakistan)".

Hitting back, Mehboob said Modi should be thankful to the regional parties.

Only invited persons can be allowed who can register at https://profcongress.in/register, it said.

The event will be held at Radisson Blu Hotel, Jammu, and participants have been urged to be seated by 10:20 am on September 25. Also registration desk will be

The facility will provided be free of cost to farmers in the initial period of implementation and later a very nominal amount shall be charged by these schools from the farmers for availing this facility. He said that the initiative seeks to cover an area of approximately 20,000 hectares, ensuring comprehensive soil testing. The project will not only focus on soil testing but

Noting that its attention has been drawn to the media reports on the comments made by Srishananda of the Karnataka High Court during court proceedings, the CJI sounded a note of caution for judges. "In this age of social media, court proceedings are closely watched and thus we have to act accordingly," the CJI said.

Supreme Court's **YouTube channel** hacked

cases listed before constitution benches and matters involving public interest. In a unanimous decision taken by the recent full court meeting headed by then CJI UU Lalit, the top court decided to live-stream proceedings of all constitution bench hearings following a path-breaking verdict on the matter in 2018.

CBI files second chargesheet in NEET UG 2024 paper leak case

including Section 120-B (Criminal Conspiracy), Section 109 (Abetment), Section 409 (Criminal Breach of Trust), Section 420 (Cheating), Section 380 (Theft), Section 201 (Causing Disappearance of Evidence), and Section 411 (Dishonestly Receiving Stolen Property).

Additionally, substantive charges have been invoked under Section 13(2) read with Section 13(1)(a) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018) against the Oasis School's Principal who was appointed as the City Coordinator and the Vice-Principal who was appointed as the Centre Superintendent by NTA for conduct of NEET UG-2024 examination.

This second charge sheet has been filed against the following six accused individuals namely Baldev Kumar alias Chintu, Sunny Kumar, Ahsanul Haque (Principal, Oasis School, Hazaribagh and City Coordinator of Hazaribagh), Md. Imtiyaz Alam (Vice-Principal, Oasis School and Centre Superintendent), Jamaluddin alias Jamal (Reporter of a Newspaper, Hazaribagh)

Army flags off Tiger Prowl Cycling Expedition 2024 from Jammu to Himachal Pradesh

Pradesh State Government. The cycling team will traverse through the Vibrant Villages of Chitkul, Chango, Pooh, Leo and Nako and will also pass through Hurling, Tabo and Kaza, culminating their expedition in Kaza on 16 Oct 2024, the statement said

As per the statement, the expedition team will distribute books and pamphlets enroute to raise awareness about the Agnipath scheme, Officer Entry Schemes and Girl Child Entry in Sainik Schools, Rashtriva Indian Military College, Dehradun and Officers Training Academy, Chennai. The cyclists will also meet ex-servicemen, veer naris widows and gallantry award winners enroute. As they traverse challenging terrain and vibrant villages, the expedition embodies the ethos of service and camaraderie that defines the Indian Army and showcases their physical endurance and espirit-de-corps.

In addition, interaction with locals will also strengthen the bond between the armed forces and the civil populace, reflecting a dedication to national integration and border development, highlighting Indian Army's commitment to fostering community ties and promoting tourism in border areas, the statement added.

BJP raising bogey of Pakistan to hide its 'Failures': Mehbooba Mufti

jobs in 10 years. After indulging in Hindu-Muslim, lynching of Muslims, demolition of mosques, now they remember Pakistan. They are raising these issues just to hide their failure," she told reporters here.

The former chief minister said if the regional parties had implemented Pakistan's agenda, then J-K would have been a part of that country.

"In my view, if the Abdullah (of NC) family had implemented Pakistan's agenda, then J-K would not have been a part of India, but Pakistan's," she added.

The prime minister on Thursday launched a scathing attack on the Congress and NC alliance following remarks by Pakistan's defence minister regarding Article 370 and accused the coalition of pursuing the neighbouring country's agenda.

Pakistani defence minister Khawaja Asif said his country, NC and the Congress are on one page on the issue of J-K's special status and the restoration of statehood.

At a rally in Katra, Modi had said, "You must stay vigilant. You have to be cautious. Every vote for the Congress facilitates the implementation of the manifestos of the National Conference and the PDP. What are they announcing? "They will restore Article 370 and bring back the era of violence and bloodshed. Maybe there is no

I believe Modi Ji should be thankful especially to Sheikh (Abdullah) family. It is because of (NC founder) Sheikh (Mohammad) Abdullah that J-K's accession with the country took place.

"When Omar Abdullah was a minister in the BJP (government), they (NC) brought POTA here, banned Shahtoosh, and BJP even took Omar across the world to show that J-K is not a (political) issue, but only a terrorism-related issue which should be resolved by attacking Pakistan," she said.

"I think the BJP should be thankful to Sheikh family and Omar, he helped them to implement their agenda here when he was a minister," she added.

The PDP president said as far as her family and party were concerned, Modi must remember that the BJP requested her party on two occasions to form government with them.

"They remained at our doors requesting us to make government with them first time for two months, and then three months. They said all our condition will be acceptable. We put conditions like Article 370 will not be touched, opening of roads, removal of AFSPA, dialogue with Pakistan and Hurriyat.

"They (BJP) came to our doors themselves, like they came to Omar for making him minister. What are they talking about now?" she questioned.

Rahul Gandhi to meet **Professionals from** various sectors in Jammu next week

future. Professionals will have the opportunity to address issues related to economic development, employment opportunities, industry-specific challenges, and innovation, while collaborating on potential solutions, the statement said.

AIPC invited professionals to join this critical conversation and contribute to shaping the future of Jammu and Kashmir," said Sanjay Sapru, AIPC JK Unit Head.

He said, "This event marks a significant milestone in our efforts to empower professionals and foster meaningful change in the region."

open at 10:00 am on September 25, 2024 the statement said.

Top BJP, Congress leaders to campaign in Jammu for upcoming **Election Phases**

On the other hand, Congress leader and party's star campaigner Rahul Gandhi will arrive in Jammu on September 23 and will address people in Surankote area.

Over 23 lakh voters will decide the fate of 219 candidates, including 90 Independents, who are running for 24 assembly segments in the first phase.

The other two phases are scheduled to be held on September 25 and October 1, while the counting of the votes will take place on October 8.

Senior leadership of both the BJP and Congress has been making a beeline in Jammu and Kashmir in view of the crucial polls that are being held in the erstwhile state.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday visited Srinagar and Katra and addressed people, promising massive development and end to dynastic politics.

J&K: Five employees suspended for unauthorised absence

place of posting. District Election Officer Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan has suspended the employees while, Kulbushan Khajuria, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Reasi shall conduct inquiry in the matter and submit a report within ten days.

"Under the Rule 31 (1) of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification Control and Appeal) Rules 1956, these officials are placed under suspension with immediate effect. During suspension, these officials shall remain attached in office of the Chief Education Officer, Reasi," reads the order. The suspended employees include Mohd Ashraf, Gian Chand, Gulam Ahmed, Mohd Nazir and Mohd Iqbal. All of them are teachers.

Saint-Gobain Gyproc India backs Gowhar Bilal to champion 2024 World Skills Competition

Business, expressed

his enthusiasm for this

initiative, stating, "We

are incredibly proud to

Top News Report

10

JAMMU, Sep 20: Skilling the youth of India remains at the forefront of Gyproc India's mission, as part of its ongoing commitment to shaping the future of the construction industry. As part of its dedication to the Skill India initiative, Gyproc India is thrilled to sponsor Gowhar Bilal, a talented young professional from Baramulla, Kashmir, who will proudly represent India at the 2024 World Skills Competition in Lyon, France. As part of the Skill India initiative, Saint-Gobain Gyproc India is dedicated to transform the landscape of skill development in the construction sector. Partnering with government bodies and industry leaders, Gyproc India is pioneering efforts to nurture talent and create opportunities for a brighter future.

Since its establishment in 2013, Gyproc Gypsum Academy has consistently driven skill development in the drywall and plastering sectors. The Academy has trained over 1,800 candidates, facilitated



1.400+ placements within and quick thinking. The India and 25+ internationholistic support provided ally, and has empowered by Gyproc, including 52 individuals to become accommodation, nutrientrepreneurs. From a tion, and health care, has small town in Baramulla, further enhanced his skills Kashmir, Gowhar's ambiand overall well-being. tion led him from civil Reflecting on his experiengineering studies at ence, Gowhar express-Government Polytechnic es, "Gyproc has not only College in Anantnag to equipped me with technical skills but has also a transformative experience at Gyproc's Acadgiven me the confidence emy. His introduction to to pursue my dreams. I the World Skills Program am determined to bring modern construction techwas a turning point, opening doors to exceptional niques to my community training and international in Jammu & Kashmir and exposure to inspire others to follow their passions."

Gowhar's training at the Gyproc Academy in Wada, Maharashtra, included a rigorous 9-month program focusing on agility, strength, finishing, measuring,

also demonstrates our belief in the power of local talent to drive global standards. Gowhar's journey is an inspiring testament to what can be achieved when talent is nurtured with the right resources and support, and we are thrilled to stand behind him as he represents India on the world stage.' Gyproc India's initiatives extend far beyond traditional technical training, embodying a broader vision of fostering and elevating the next generation of leaders in the construction industry. Their commitment to skill development is not just about impart-Sudeep Kolte, Managing Director - Gyproc

support Gowhar Bilal

as he embarks on this

remarkable journey. His

dedication and passion

exemplify the values

we hold dear at Gyproc

India. This sponsorship

not only highlights our

commitment to develop-

ing world-class talent but

ing knowledge but about empowering Indian talent to achieve excellence on the global stage. The participation of professionals like Gowhar in the World

Skills Competition stands as a testament to the remarkable potential that can be unlocked through such opportunities. Gyproc India is lead-

ing the charge in nurturing talent and creating opportunities for a brighter future. Our commitment is to empower individuals with the skills they need to excel. Discover Gyproc India's extensive skill development programs by visiting our website https://www.gyproc.in/ about-gyproc-skill-initiatives or reaching out directly at [7666692307, 9967229071] for more information. Interested candidates can apply for skill courses and schemes through the Skill India digital portal or register for an NSDC course by filling out the online application form provided by an authorized training centre. Prospectuses are also available for purchase at authorized centres. Don't miss this chance to enhance your skills and make a significant impact on the global stage.

KCPS holds basic counselling skills training for teachers

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 20: The 4th phase of Basic Counselling Training programme for teachers took place at KC Public School on September 18 & 19.

It is a part of the school's ongoing commitment to provide holistic education and support to its teachers and students. KC Public school is the only school in the region to have its teachers certified in the basic counselling skills. Saloni Priya, Director, Ummeed Counselling and Consulting Services, Kolkata, with 24 years of experience in the field conducted the workshop. The training program

aims at equipping teachers with essential counselling skills and strategies to better address the diverse needs of students. By enhancing their understanding of mental health issues, effective communication techniques, and strategies for building positive rela-



tionships with students, teachers are better equipped to provide emotional and mental health support within the school community.

With the increase in

stress levels among stu-

dents and the growing

prevalence of emotional

issues, it has become

imperative for teachers to

possess the necessary

skills to address these

The highlights of the

sessions were topics

such as addiction, its

kinds, stage and symp-

toms, emotional man-

agement, probing skills

in counselling, middle

phase of counselling skill,

formulation of hypoth-

concerns

esis, SWOT analysis, objectives of counselling outcomes, setting life goals and intervention tools.

"By investing in their professional development and providing our educators with the necessary tools and resources, we are able to create a more supportive and nurturing environment for our students to thrive in", remarked Amarendra Kumar Mishra, the Principal .KCPS remains dedicated to fostering a safe and inclusive learning environment where students feel supported, understood, and empowered to reach their full potential.

BLSKS celebrates International Day of Peace

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 20: The Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS), in coordination with Sangam Tru Art Production, celebrated the International Day of Peace by presenting its 459th Friday Series Musical, "Mann Ka Vishwas," at the Rehearsal Hall, Durga Bhawan, Janipur, Jammu.

The musical, written, produced, and directed by Dr. M.L. Dogra, former Regional Director of the Song and Drama Division, featured music composed by Raju Bajgal, Music Instructor at BLSKS. The event was inaugurated by V.K. Magotra, former Regional Director of the Directorate of Field Publicity, Government of India. Guests of honor included Dr. Tara Singh Charak, Romesh Chander, Dr. Anju Dogra, and Mukesh Singh.

The program opened with several impactful



Magotra emphasized generation.

come address, remarked that the day serves as

ed global celebrations of peace through various activities, urging attendees to commit to building

Raju Bajgal noted the significance of the day in honoring victims of war and violence, while also celebrating progress in promoting peace. The musical performance featured talented singers, musicians, and actors from the Music and Computer Institute, captivating the audience.

Deepak Kumar concluded the event with a vote of thanks, marking a successful celebration of peace.

Khelo India Volleyball Tournament organized at Bhatt Dhurian

Top News Report

POONCH, Sep 20: The recent volleyball tournament organized by the Indian Army for the youth of the southern Pir Panjal region concluded in an exhilarating finale on 19 Sep 2024. Aimed at promoting sportsmanship and community engagement, the event attracted significant participation and local enthusiasm.

The tournament kicked on 08 Sep at Govt Higher Secondary School, Bhatt Dhurian, which became a hub of activity as six teams from various villages competed. The initiative was part of the Indian Army's outreach program, designed to engage with young people in remote areas, here access to orga-



vouth. The teams were awarded trophies and medals emphasizing the importance of recognition in fostering continued participation in sports.

Following the final match, a ceremony celebrated all participants and highlighted outstanding individual performances. Awards for categories

Overall, the volleyball tournament was a resounding success. leaving a lasting impact on the community and its youth. Many participants expressed renewed enthusiasm for sports, and discussions about establishing regular sports programs in the including councillors,

CEC holds mediation conference discussion

Top News Report

LEH, Sep 20: The Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson called upon a delegation of Principal District and Sessions Judge, Manoj Parihar, along with Member Secretary of the Ladakh Legal Services Authority, Spalzes Angmo; Under Secretary, LLSA, Stanzin Dachom and Mobile Magistrate, Chemit Yurgyal, to discuss an upcoming mediation conference aimed at enhancing legal awareness in the region. During the meeting, Judge Parihar emphasized the importance of the mediation conference, particularly for elected representatives,

Sarpanches, and BDC members. The confer-

ence aims to promote mass awareness about mediation as an effective alternative to lengthy legal disputes, showcasing its numerous advantages in resolving conflicts amicably. The Chairman congratulated the newly appointed District and Sessions Judge on joining the Leh district and welcomed the collaborative efforts to advance legal education and mediation awareness in the community.

The LAHDC Leh encouraged all stakeholders to participate in this crucial event to foster a culture of dialogue and dispute resolution through mediation.

BLSKS artists. that the International Day of Peace, celebrated annually on September 21st, serves to promote peace and raise awareness of its importance worldwide. He encouraged staging such cultural events across the state to foster awareness of India's rich heritage and inspire the younger

Dr. Dogra, in his wel-

and sustaining peace.

nized sports is often limited.

The Indian Army recognized the potential of sports to build community ties and foster essential life skills among

such as "Best Player" and "Best Setter" showcased the talents of players from all teams, reinforcing the tournament's commitment to personal growth.

The Indian engagement with local youth has set a precedent for future initiatives, ensuring that the spirit of teamwork and competition continues to thrive in the Pir Panjal region.

area have begun.

Kaith highlights burning issues of Marh block people

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 20: Inde-

pendent candidate from

Marh Mohan Lal Kaith

expressed deep concerns

over unemployment, per-

sistent power shortages

and skyrocketing power

tarrifs especially in Marh

block areas where most

of the people hardly make

Kaith emphasized that

the issue has become

one of the most trouble-

some concerns for the

He highlighted how

frequent power outages

are affecting daily life of

School/College/Univer-

people of Marh block.

both ends meet.

SMVDU students, faculty visit IIT Jammu for Educational Tour



ous areas. The students

were accompanied by Dr.

Ratna Chandra (Associ-

ate Professor & Head,

School of Biotechnol-

ogy), Dr. Rakesh Kumar

(Assistant Professor),

Arvind Kumar Yadav

(Assistant Professor),

and Dr. Indu Bhushan

(Assistant Professor). Dr.

Chandra, expressed the

significance of such visits

in broadening students'

The students also

had the opportunity to

explore potential ave-

nues for future collabo-

rations, including intern-

ships, joint research

projects, and workshops

between SMVDU and IIT

Jammu. Such exchang-

es are part of SMVDU's

ongoing efforts to pro-

vide students with expo-

sure to top-tier institu-

tions, fostering a culture

intellectual horizons.

Top News Report

KATRA, Sep 20: A group of PG and UG students of the School of Biotechnology, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) visited the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu as part of an educational tour, aimed at fostering collaboration, knowledge sharing, and hands-on learning. The visit provided an invaluable opportunity for the students to interact with leading academicians, researchers, and innovators at IIT Jammu.

During the visit, the SMVDU students were given a guided tour of the state-of-the-art facilities at IIT Jammu, including the advanced laboratories. research centers. and innovation hubs.

They were introduced to ongoing research projects and technologiof innovation and excelcal innovations in varilence.

> The students also engaged in interactive sessions with IIT Jammu faculty members Dr. Mithu Baidya (HOD, Bioscience and Bioengineering), Dr. Vinay Sharma (Assistant Professor), and Dr. Shirsha Bose (Assistant Professor). Students had the opportunity to ask questions and receive valuable advice from these distinguished faculty members, further igniting their passion for scientific research and innovation. HVC, SMVDU, Prof. Pragati Kumar complimented the School of Biotechnology for consistently organising such visits and also encouraged the faculty members and the students to further pursue such interactions for academic enlightenment

sity going students. Kaith stated that despite numerous assurances from the current administration, the situation has only worsened

the uninterrupted supply

With elections approaching, Kaith urged the people to think deeply before casting their most precious vote.

Congress leader Sheikh Zafarullah appeals all to support alliance candidates in Assembly Elections **Top News Report**

KISHTWAR, Sep 20: Congress leader and candidate Sheikh Zafarullah has urged all citizens of Jammu and Kashmir to support the Alliance Candidates in the upcoming 2nd and 3rd phases of the assembly elections.

"These elections are not just a test of our political strength they are a testament to our commitment to democracy, peace, and the prosperity of our beloved region. The Alliance we represent embodies a vision of unity, inclusivity, and progress. Together, we can ensure that the voices of every citizen are heard and respected", said Zafarullah Zafarullah also added that by voting for the Alliance Candidates, you are not just choosing representatives; you are choosing a future filled with hope, progress, and development.

Let us come together as one community, transcending divisions, to build a stronger Jammu and Kashmir, he added. In conclusion, he urged all to exercise their democratic right and make their voice heard in these elections Stand with us in this pivotal moment, and together, let's pave the way for a brighter future, he added.

songs, including "Mann Ka Vishwas," "Shanti Se Harkam Karna Hai," and "Hum Sab Ek Hi Hai,"

a reminder that peace is more than just the absence of conflict; it represents a positive state of

NILM Hosts School-Level Painting Competition in MIE School Paloura



school, who showcased

their artistic talents and

unique perspectives on

themes related to literacy

and education. The event

not only provided a plat-

form for creative expres-

sion but also fostered a

spirit of healthy rivalry

among participants, rein-

forcing the importance of

environment conserva-

tion. "Art is a powerful

tool for communication

and self-expression,'

said R S Thakur Project

Director of the National

Incredible Literacy Mis-

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 20: The National Incredible Literacy Mission held schoollevel painting competition at the Major Institute of Education in Paloura Dhok, Jammu. This initiative aimed to promote literacy and creativity among students, encouraging them to articulate their thoughts and ideas through the medium of art. The competition attracted enthusiastic participation from students of said

sion. "Through this competition, we aim to inspire students to embrace their creativity while raising awareness about healthy environment.

The school staff members who actively participated in the event included Abhishek Singh Chairman of the school , Jyoti Devi Principal of said school along with Neeru Dogra and Shivani Manhas. At the end of the event certificates were distributed among the participants

AAI Jammu conducts Health Camp in collaboration with ASCOMS

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 20: The Airports Authority of India (AAI) Jammu Airport marked Swachhata Hi Sewa Week by organizing a free health camp in collaboration with Acharya Shri Chander College of Medical Sciences (ASCOMS) Jammu. This camp provided complimentary consultations and health check-ups for the employees and stakeholders of airport.

The health camp, led by Dr. Supinder

Singh, was aimed at promoting health and wellness, in line with the government's initiative for improving the quality of life for all citizens.

"We are deeply committed to ensuring the well-being of our employees, contractual employees and stakeholders," said Airport Director, Sanjeev Kumar Garg.

He further added that "This health camp is a reflection of our ongoing efforts to prioritize health and contribute to a healthy work environment.

over time. The people are suffering. They face long hours of load shedding and are burdened by hefty power tariffs. This is unacceptable he said. He urged the administration to take immediate corrective measures to ensure

of electricity.

SPORTS

IPL 2025: Vikram Rathour reunites with coach Rahul Dravid at Rajasthan Royals

Rajasthan Royals appointed Vikram Rathour as their batting coach for the upcoming season

NEW DELHI, Sep 20 (Agencies): Rajasthan Royals appointed Vikram Rathour as their batting coach for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 season. Rathour will reunite with Rahul Dravid after his stint as the batting coach of the senior national men's team came to an end in June. The decision comes weeks after Rajasthan roped in Dravid as their head coach for the upcoming season.

Vikram Rathour worked under Rahul Dravid for the Indian team during their tenure from 2021 to 2024. Rathour played a key role in India's success, including their first International Cricket Council title in 11 years -- the T20 World Cup triumph earlier this year. Dravid decided not to reapply for the position of head coach after the World Cup triumph.

Rahul Dravid welcomed the appointment of Rathour, a former India opener, as the batting coach, praising his



technical expertise and calm demeanour.

"Having worked closely with Vikram for many years, I can confidently say that his technical expertise, calm demeanour, and deep understanding of Indian conditions make him a perfect fit for the Royals," Dravid said in a statement.

"Together, we've built a strong rapport, guiding India to key successes, and I'm thrilled to reunite with him. His ability to nurture young talent and elevate players' potential will be invaluable as we aim to further strengthen our squad and continue building a world-class team here at Rajasthan Royals," he added.

PRIVELEGE TO BE PART OF **ROYALS FAMILY: RATHOUR** Dravid and Rathour will work with Kumar Sangakkara, the Director of Cricket of Rajasthan Royals. Notably, Sangakkara doubled up as Rajasthan's coach in IPL 2023.

"It is a privilege to be part of the Royals family. The opportunity to work again with Rahul, and now with a talented group of young cricketers, is exciting. I look forward to contributing to the team's vision and working toward our goal of developing top-class players for the Royals and for India which can help in winning championships," Rathour said.

Vikram Rathour played six Tests and seven ODIs for India between 1996 and 1997. Having had a successful stint with the Indian team as coach, Rathour will be keen on making a mark with the Royals.

Rajasthan Royals, led by Sanju Samson, finished third in IPL 2024, reaching the playoffs for the second time in three years.



Chahal shines with successive

five-wicket haul for Northamptonshire

losing just the wicket of

Skipper Luke Procter

(68 not out) and George

Bartlett (54 not out)

Leicestershire, after

resuming the final day

on 69/4, recovered

through strong batting

from Scott Currie and

Tom Scriven (48), with

Currie reaching a cen-

tury (120) before being

dismissed by Chahal

But Chahal was

instrumental in break-

ing through Leices-

tershire's middle and

He dismissed key

players, including skip-

per Lewis Hill (14) with

a well-pitched delivery

for his fifth wicket.

lower order.

sealed the chase.

Gus Miller (11).

NORTHAMPTON Sep 20 (Agencies): Indian leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal worked his magic to grab five wickets in his second successive match as Northamptonshire resisted a Leicestershire fight-back to secure a nine-wicket win in the English County Championship. Following up on his 4/82 in the first innings, Chahal claimed 5/134 - a nine-wicket match haul - as Northants bowled out Leicestershire for 316 to set an easy target of 137 in the **Division Two County** Championship here. Northants romped home in 30.3 overs, that turned sharply, and Liam Trevaskis (2) with a catch at short leg.

Despite conceding runs during an aggressive 110-run (141 balls) partnership between Currie and Scriven, including an expensive 19-run over, Chahal's persistence paid off as he eventually claimed Currie's wicket to have them reeling at 303/9. Their innings lasted three more overs with Saif Zaib (2/61) dismissing Louis Kimber. In the previous match, Chahal had claimed 5/45 and 4/45 in Northants' 133-run win over Derbyshire.

Brief Scores: Leicestershire 203 and 316 in 102.1 overs (Scott Currie 120, Sam Wood 57, Tom Scriven 48; Yuzvendra Chahal 5/134) lost to Northamptonshire 383 and 137/1 in 30.3 overs (Luke Procter 68 not out, George Barlett 54 not out) by nine wickets.

IOA conflict stalls skier Arif's scholarship fund for Olympics

NEW DELHI, Sep 20 (Agencies): The internal conflict within the executive committee of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) is starting to affect Indian athletes. Alpine skier Mohammad Arif Khan, who had earned a scholarship from the International Olympic Committee's Olympic Solidarity Fund, is still awaiting the first instalment.

Arif had earned the scholarship worth \$18,000, which was allocated to him to prepare for the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milano and Cortina. The first instalment of \$6000 was transferred to the IOA's account in May. However, the IOA finance committee did not transfer the amount to Arif.

The committee is



wrote a letter to Edward Kensington, continental manager for Asia of Olympic Solidarity — Athlete and Sport Development Division, to release the funds

directly to Arif. "...However, it is with regret that I must inform you that the Finance Committee of IOA has not yet released the funds. Instead, they have questioned the rationale behind Sh. Arif Khan's selection for the funding by IOC," Usha assured Arif that they are in the process to release the funds directly to him. However, in a worrying note, he openly addressed the conflict within the IOA.

"We made a first payment to your NOC on 6 May 2024 of USD 6,000 for your scholarship for the period of March to June 2024. We are aware that these funds have not been transferred to you by your NOC and we have been following up with them on a regular basis. Indeed, due to an internal conflict within your NOC the release of the payment has until now been blocked. Our institutional relations and governance depart-

ment is working with the

Indian Olympic Associa-

tion to try and resolve

this internal conflict,"

Kensington said in his

"In parallel we have

now started the proce-

dures for your NOC to

letter to Arif.

Chess Olympiad: Indian men's team extend unbeaten run to inch closer to gold medal

Indian men's hammered Iran 3.5-0.5 to extend their unbeaten run to 8 games. While the men's team inched closer to the gold medal, the women's team suffered a shock loss to Poland.

BUDAPEST, Sep 20 (Agencies): The Indian men's team scored yet another thumping 3.5-0.5 points victory over Iran to stake claim for the gold medal in the Open section, but the women suffered a shock 1.5-2.5 points defeat at the hands of Poland in the eighth round of the 45th Chess Olympiad currently underway in Budapest.

With their eighth victory in as many matches, the Indian men took their tally to 16 points and stretched their lead to a massive two points over nearest rivals Hungary and Uzbekistan, with just three rounds left in the biggest chess event on the planet. World number four Arjun Erigaisi started the rampage with black pieces and crashed through the defenses of Bardiya Daneshvar, who proved no match for the Indian. World Championship challenger D Gukesh then put it across Parham Maghsoodloo with black pieces, swindling the Ira-

nian towards the end of the first time-control. R Praggnanandhaa played out a draw with Amin Tabatabaei to make sure of an Indian victory, and Vidit Gujrathi added to the team's tally as he outclassed Idani Pouya in all departments of the game to give another huge victory to the team.

For Arjun, this was another step towards the 2800-rating mark as he took his personal tally to a remarkable 7.5 points from eight games. In live ratings, Arjun is now at 2793 points, and if he does cross the 2800 mark, he will be the 16th player in histoy—and only the second tion against the Sicilian Indian after Viswanathan Anand-to do so. Taking a cue from Arjun, Gukesh made sure he kept closing in, and his victory took him to 2785 rating points. by Tabatabaei. This is the first time ever that there are two Indians in the top five of the world rankings. Arjun created early complications again, going for the reverse Benoni with his black

pieces. Daneshvar fell for some tactical tricks in the middle game and could not recover. Gukesh also won with black, and it was another Queen pawn game wherein the Indian chose to play the Dubov variation in the Tarrasch defense. Maghsoodloo went for some unwarranted complications and was caught offguard as the clock ticked away in the middle game. Soon, the Iranian parted with a piece for a handful of pawns but fell prey to an easy tactical stroke that ended the game. Vidit Gujrathi went for the Sozin varia-

was Harika's third loss in the event. Polish Monika Socko defeated R Vaishali on the second board in a technical endgame where the latter made some unforced errors, while Divya Deshmukh fought very hard to beat Aleksandra Maltsevskaya on the third board. It was left to Vantika Agrawal to equalize, and it looked like she had a complete winning position on hand. However, in the sixth hour of play, Vantika made an optical blunder under time pressure and had to be content with a draw in the end with Alicja Sliwicka. The Indian women's

(16) 0.5 - 3.5(Parham Maghsoodloo lost to D Gukesh; R Praggnanandhaa drew with Amin Tabatabaei; Bardiya Daneshvar lost to Arjun Erigaisi; Vidit Gujrathi beat Idani

Pouya) Hungary (14) beat Armenia (12) 2.5-1.5; Serbia (12) lost to Uzbekistan (14) 1.5-2.5; United States of America (13) beat France (11) 2.5-1.5; China (13) beat Romania (11) 2.5-1.5. Women: Poland (14) beat India (14) 2.5-1.5 (Alina Kashlinskaya beat D Harika; R

chaired by senior vicepresident Ajay Patel and has Rajlaxmi Singh Deo, Bhupender Singh Bajwa, Rohit Rajpal, Amitabh Sharma, Monal Chokshi and Lt Gen (retd) Harpal Singh as members.

Arif had made several requests with the IOA officials and after failing to get his issue addressed sought IOA president PT Usha's help in the matter. Usha

said in his letter to Kensington.

"In order to ensure that the athlete receives the necessary support as soon as possible, I would propose that the IOC releases the funds directly to the athlete instead of routing through the IOA to avoid further disruptions

request Olympic Solidarity to make the payment of your Milano Cortina scholarship directly to your private bank account. We will keep to the athlete's training programme," she you informed and thank you for your understanding," he added.

Kensington has now

added

defense by Pouya, and his attack was simply overwhelming, while Praggnanandhaa took things easy to ward off any serious counterplay behind.

In the women's section, the Indian team faltered for once as the women are pitted Grandmaster D Harika continued to struggle against the USA. Results (Round 8) with her form on the top board, going down to Open: Alina Kashlinskaya. This Iran (12) lost to India

Vaishali lost to Monika team was joined by Poland and Kazakhstan Socko; Aleksandra Malton 14 points apiece sevskaya lost to Divya Deshmukh; Vantika at the top of the table, while the USA, Armenia, Sliwicka) and Ukraine are a point In the next round, Indian men will take on Uzbekistan, while

Agrawal drew with Alicia Kazakhstan (14) beat France (12) 2.5-1.5; Uzbekistan (11) lost to United States of America (13) 0.5-3.5; Hungary (11) lost to Ukraine (13) 1.5-2.5; Armenia (13) beat Mongolia (11) 3.5-0.5.

Travis Head eager to 'keep the chatter on' around his promotion as Test opener

NOTTINGHAM, Sep 20 (Agencies): Star Australia cricketer Travis Head is eager to keep the chatter on around his promotion as the Test opener amid his stellar form across formats. Head registered his best-ever innings in ODIs as he scored a brilliant 154* (129) in the series opener against England and helped his team chase down 316 in iust 44 overs.

Following his sensational hundred, Head was asked whether he would be interested in taking the opening slot in Tests as well, as the team has the massive shoes of David Warner left to be filled. The southpaw remained tight-lipped on the matter but encouraged the media to continue with the chatter.

makes it interesting. I'm not going to dive into that. I'll just let that play out. I've worked extremely hard over a few years and I probably play the game a bit more relaxed now. I take it for what it is and try to enjoy what I'm doing. It's coming off in the way I'm playing," Head was quoted as saying by cricket.com.au.

"Keep the chatter: it

Head has been on an incredible run across formats from 2022 onwards. He etched his name in history books by scoring the first hundred in the World Test Championship final against India in 2023. His 163 helped Australia get crowned the Test champions. He also played a major

role in Australia's ODI World Cup 2023 triumph



by scoring 137 (120) in the final.

Travis Head's numbers as Test opener

The opener also finished as the third-highest run scorer of the T20 World Cup 2024 with 255 runs from seven innings. However, he hasn't opened for Australia in Tests since March 2023 and has predominantly batted at number five throughout his career.

Head has opened five times in Test matches

so far and scored 223 runs at an average of 55.75 with one halfcentury to his name.

Following Warner's retirement, Steve Smith was pushed to open the innings for Australia. However, the star batter hasn't looked at his best in the opening slot and hence the management is hell-bent on bringing him back to his original number four position which will possibly leave the opening slot open once again.

Sanju Samson smashes 94-ball hundred in solid Duleep Trophy outing in Anantapur

ANANTAPUR, Sep 20 (Agencies): Wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson hit his maiden hundred in the Duleep Trophy first-class competition, getting to the landmark in just 92 balls for India D against India B on Friday, September 20. It was Samson's 11th first-class hundred as he made a mark in red-ball cricket at the start of a long domestic

season. Sanju Samson was initially not in the Duleep Trophy squads, but an injury to Ishan Kishan forced the selectors to bring the Kerala wicketkeeper in as a replacement in Team D, led by Shreyas Iyer. Samson had made 5 and 40 against India A in the second round after warming the bench in the first round. The Rajasthan Royals



Saini.

Samson stitched

handy partnerships

with Saransh Jain and

Ricky Bhui, perfectly

playing the aggressor's

role. With India D's top

three -- Devdutt Padik-

kal (50), KS Bharat (52)

and Ricky Bhui (56) --

getting fifties, Samson's

hundred propelled them

to a handy first-innings

India D had a bit

of a wobble after a

strong start as Nishant

total of 349.

captain made full use of the opportunity in the third and final round. Sanju Samson batting at No. 6, made sure India D continued their good work with the bat. Samson hit 12 boundaries and three sixes in an aggressive knock against a high-quality India B bowling unit, which had the likes of Mukesh Kumar, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar, Rahul Chahar and Navdeep Sindhu (19) and captain Shreyas Iyer (0) were dismissed quickly. However, Samson made sure India B bowlers did not take control by playing a counter-attacking knock.

Samson was unbeaten on 89 at Stumps on Day 1 and he made sure he got to his hundred on Friday morning in quick time. Navdeep Saini dismissed Samson for 106 in 101 balls.

The hundred will give Sanju Samson a massive boost in confidence ahead of the Ranji Trophy season, starting in October. The 29-yearold wicketkeeper-batter will look to keep himself in the mix with a strong performance for Kerala after having had red-ball exposure in the highlycompetitive Duleep Trophy.

Brainstorming session on Climate Change Resilience in Himalayas held

Top News Report

LEH, Sep 20: A significant one day brainstorming session titled "Enhancing Climate Change Resilience in the Himalayas: Integrating Biodiversity, Water Resources, Sustainable Tourism, and Livelihood" was held on Friday, marking a crucial step towards addressing the pressing environmental challenges facing the region.

A comprehensive presentation was delivered, focusing on climate change resilience in the Himalayas. The presentation outlined the key challenges faced in the region and proposed innovative solutions to address these issues. The event was graced

by the Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv Tashi Gyalson, as the Chief Guest; Executive Councillor, Stanzin Chosphel, as the Guest of Honour; Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Nameeta Prasad; Vice Chancellor of Uni. of Ladakh S.K.Mehta as the special guest; Director of

NIHE, Prof. Dr. Sunil Nautival, Sc-E of NIHE, Dr. Sandipan Mukherjee and various other dignitaries.

menced with a ceremonial lamp lighting, symbolizing enlightenment and the pursuit of knowledge.

Key insights were shared by various dignitaries, with Nameeta Prasad delivering a pivotal address. In her remarks. Ms. Prasad emphasized her commitment to addressing Ladakh's environmental challenges. "I have gained valuable insights into the climate issues facing Ladakh, and I want to reiterate that while Ladakh contributes minimally to pollution, it is



the actions of developed countries that impact your alaciers. As mentioned by the CEC, we must work collaboratively to tackle The session comthese challenges.'

She highlighted the significance of every action in the fight against climate change, stating, "Every little action contributes to improvement. I am particularly encouraged to hear about the reverse migration initiatives in Ladakh and am committed to addressing the Environmental Public Responsibility (EPR) issues you face.

Executive Councillor for Agriculture Stanzin Chosphel in his address, emphasized the

need to enhance the G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE) in the coming times. He advocates for strengthening its research and development initiatives to better address environmental challenges and support sustainable agricultural practices in the region.

CEC Tashi Gyalson expressed gratitude to all participants, highlighting the need for collaboration among government, NGOs, and local communities to address the impacts of climate change. He called for timely action in light of glacier melting and its effects on local livelihoods. CEC

further addressed the challenges faced by Ladakh, advocating for financial independence and the establishment of autonomous bodies to effectively manage and promote sustainable initiatives. The discussions included proposals for the Environmental Public Responsibility (EPR) initiative. CEC further highlighted several impactful green initiatives undertaken by LAHDC, including the Climate Cup focused on sustainability, geothermal energy projects, and advancements in electric transportation. These efforts reflect a commitment to fostering an eco friendly future and promoting sustainable practices within the region. In conclusion, the event

served as a platform for stakeholders to voice concerns, share solutions, and reaffirm their commitment to enhancing climate resilience in Ladakh. The collaborative spirit displayed during the session is a testament to the determination of all involved to create a sustainable future for the region.

JSS Jammu marks commencement of CBSE Cluster XVIII Kho Kho Championship for girls

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 20: The inaugural ceremony of the CBSE Cluster Kho Kho for girls was held at Jammu Sanskriti School, Jammu, marking a significant milestone in promoting sports among young female athletes.

The event was graced by Chief Guest Rajinder Singh Tara, Director General of the Youth Services & Sports Department, alongside distinguished guests including Dr. Vikesh Kaur, Principal of Doon International School and President of the Jammu Sahodaya School Complex as Guest of Honour alongwith Dr. Pramod Kumar Srivastava, Principal of Model Academy and Zonal Coordinator for NTA, Dr. KCS Mehta, Director Academics of IDPS Akhnoor Advisor to the Jammu Sahodaya School Complex, Ved Prakash, Joint Director, Jitendra Mishra, Deputy Director



solemn oath-taking cer-

emony where participants

of YSS, and Harvinder Kour, DYSSO Jammu as special invitees.

pledged to uphold the The ceremony comspirit of sportsmanship and fair play. Cultural permenced with a welcome song, followed by an formances showcased inspiring address from the rich traditions and Rohini Aima, Principal talents of the students, cum Vice-Chairperson of adding vibrancy to the Jammu Sanskriti School. occasion and receiving

Rajinder Singh Tara remarked, "Today, we celebrate not just sports, but the spirit of empowerment that comes with it. Engaging in activities like Kho Kho helps our young girls build confidence, teamwork, and leadership skills. I urge all par-

During the inaugural ceremony, Chief Guest Rajinder Singh Tara remarked, "Today, we celebrate not just sports, but the spirit of empowerment that comes with it. Engaging in activities like Kho Kho helps our young girls build confidence, teamwork, and leadership skills. I urge all participants to embrace this opportunity and strive for excellence both on and off the field." Additionally, a friendly match was initiated during the ceremony, further fostering camaraderie and sportsmanship among the participants. This event stands as a testament to the commitment of the Jammu Sahodaya School Complex in

Awareness Seminar on GST and Taxation held at DIHAR



Top News Report

LEH, Sep 20: A seminar focused on Goods and Services Tax (GST) and other taxation issues was held at the Defense Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR) Auditorium.

The event was graced Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv.Tashi Gyalson; Deputy Chairman Tsering Angchuk; Hon'ble Councillor for Minority Ghulam Mehdi; Councillors of various constituencies; DC/CEO, LAHDC, Leh Santosh Sukhadeve; Director of NIELIT, Phuntsog Toldan; Preeti Singh and Ankit Prasad, both Chartered Accountants and others. The seminar commenced with a welcome speech by Phuntsog Toldan, Director of NIELIT, who emphasized

the importance of bridging local industry with skilled manpower. He expressed hope for future programs to enhance knowledge in advanced GST and accounting.

DC Santosh Sukhadeve delivered opening remarks, highlighting the significance of tax education in promoting economic growth. He noted the importance of under-

standing both direct and indirect taxes and their implications for local businesses

In his keynote address, CEC Tashi Gyalson outlined the seminar's objectives, emphasizing the crucial need for skilled manpower in Ladakh's accounting sector. He stated, "With the implementation of GST, it's essential that our local professionals are equipped with the knowledge to manage tax filings effectively. This is not just about compliance; it's about empowering our community to maximize the benefits of these regulations." CEC also addressed the

need for ongoing training programs, noting that the seminar is just the beginning of a series of initiatives aimed at enhancing the financial capabilities of the youth in Ladakh. "The participation of over 30 students in this crash course is a testament to their eagerness to learn. It's imperative that we continue to invest in our human resources, ensuring that they are well prepared to handle the complexities of accounting and taxa-

A certificate distribution ceremony recognized candidates who successfully completed a 10 day Accounting Fresher Course, furthering their skills in financial management.

Chartered Accountants, Preeti Singh and Ankit Prasad, led an informative session on GST, followed by a Q&A segment where participants engaged in discussions about tax awareness and accounting practices. They highlighted the lack of awareness about tax benefits and the importance of accurate filings for local businesses.

The seminar concluded on a positive note, as CEC Gyalson announced plans for future training sessions, ensuring that more residents have access to essential accounting skills. The event was well received, with a strong turnout of over 30 participants eager to learn and enhance their capabilities.

This initiative reflects LAHDC's commitment to empowering the youth of Ladakh through education and skill development, fostering a more informed and self-sufficient community.

BJP MLA candidate Bishnah Assembly Constituency Dr. Rajeev Bhagat urges voters to choose development

tion in a rapidly evolving

economic landscape.'

Top News Report

BISHNAH, Sep 20: Dr. Rajeev Kumar Bhagat, BJP MLA Candidate Bishnah Assembly Constituency, addressed a gathering at Chorli, Bishnah, emphasizing the need for development in the region. "I urge you to vote for development, progress,



and a brighter future for

Bishnah," Dr. Bhagat said

growth and prosperity." Present on the occasion were Former MLA Bishnah Ashwani Sharma. Satish Bharti Sushil Bhatia BJP Mandal Bishnah, Former Naib Sarpanch Ranieet Singh Charak, Pt. Narayan Dutt Executive BJP J&K. who expressed their support for Dr. Bhagat's candidacy.

In her speech, she emphasized the transformative power of sports, stating, "Engaging in sports instills discipline, teamwork, and resilience in our students, preparing them for future challenges." The event included a enthusiastic applause from the audience. During the inaugural ceremony, Chief Guest ticipants to embrace this opportunity and strive for excellence both on and off the field."

nurturing young talent and promoting a culture of physical fitness and sportsmanship.

and added we can achieve great things and make our constituency a model of

Tahir Fazal qualifies Ph.D

Top News Report

KATRA, Sep 20: Tahir Fazal Choudhary, son of Fazal Hussain and Sayeeda Begum, has been declared qualified for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in the School of Economics by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) Katra, J&K.

The candidate has worked on the topic "Agriculture under Climate Change: A Study of the Western Himalayan Region of India" under the supervision of Dr. Meenakshi Gupta, Assistant Professor, School of Economics, SMVDU, Katra

Tahir Fazal Choudhary has published his research work in various peer-reviewed ABDC, SSCI, and Scopusindexed journals and presented papers at international conferences. The candidate thanked



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University for providing institutional fellowship. as well as the necessary support and facilities for carrying out the research work.

Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar (Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU), Dr. Ashutosh Vashishtha (Dean Faculty of Management), Dr. Meenakshi Gupta (Supervisor, SOE) and other committee members congratulated Tahir Fazal Choudharyand wished him a bright future ahead.

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Edited, Printed, Published and Owned by: Rajiv Mahajan, Office : 17- New Rehari Jammu, Published from 17- New Rehari Jammu, and Printed from GK Offset Printing Press situated at Shivalik Puram Janipur, Jammu on behalf of Rajiv Mahajan. Senior Editor : M. K Bangroo, Executive Editor : Anita Gupta, Photo Journalist: Aman Sharma (9906198186), Head Office Jammu. Mobile No : (9906300707, 9086072548), Fax No: 0191-2561688.

e-mail: topnewsjk@gmail.com, editortopnewsjk@gmail.com

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