

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Mayawati raises questions over rising crimes against women in country

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Sri Lankan Marxist leader Dissanayaka leads presidential vote



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BRIEFLY

PACS are being made viable by linking them with 25 different activities: Shah

Top News Report

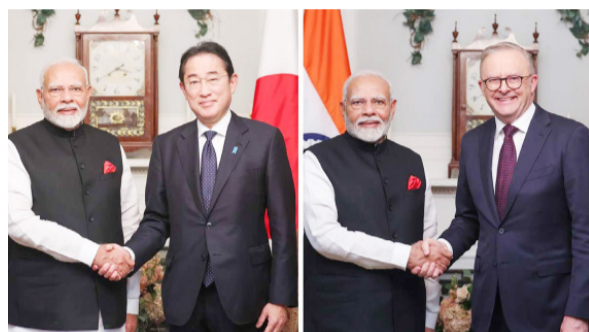
JAMMU, Sep 22: The Green Revolution played a significant role in farmers' development, and so did the White Revolution. While the Green Revolution began to achieve self-sufficiency in crop production, the White Revolution aimed to improve farmers' economic conditions and increase milk production. An increase in milk production will not only make milk available to the general public at lower prices but also benefit the farmers. Under the leadership of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah, the Ministry of Cooperation is committed to making the country's rural women and farmers self-reliant. Through innovation in the dairy industry and the expansion of cooperative societies under White Revolution 2.0, efforts are underway to not only empower rural women but also strengthen the nation's economic condition. Cooperation is proving to be a strong medium for rural development and making women self-reliant. Specifically, the dairy sector has played a significant role in the economic empowerment of women. Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah said, "The goal of cooperation is to harness the good qualities of every individual for the development of the nation." He further mentioned that cooperative societies, particularly Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS), are being linked with 25 different activities to make them more viable. The example of Gujarat shows how 36 lakh women involved in the dairy industry are conducting business worth Rs 60,000 crores. This has not only become a major source of employment for rural women but is also strengthening the country's economy. Additionally, the dairy sector plays an important role in reducing malnutrition and promoting a healthy lifestyle. The objective of linking PACS with 25 different activities is to make them more useful and economically viable. Under this initiative, PACS are being connected to financial inclusion, food processing, seed distribution, and other agriculture-based services. Amit Shah said that the primary goal of this initiative is to modernize cooperative societies in rural areas and increase their productivity.

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PM Modi holds bilateral talks with Japanese and Australian counterparts

NEW DELHI, Sep 22 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday held bilateral talks with his counterparts in Japan and Australia, Fumio Kishida and Anthony Albanese, on the sidelines of the Quad Leaders' Summit in Wilmington.

In his meeting with Kishida, Modi thanked the Japanese leader for his unwavering dedication and leadership in enabling advances in the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership



over the last few years. "The two prime ministers warmly recalled their many interactions, especially since their first

Annual Summit in March 2022," the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.

Both Modi and Kishida

noted that the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership is in its 10th year and expressed satisfaction at the progress made in the relationship.

"The two Prime Ministers reviewed the multi-faceted relationship between the two countries and exchanged views to deepen cooperation further, including defense and security ties and B2B and P2P collaborations," the PMO further said.

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All set for second phase of assembly polls in J&K; Omar Abdullah in the fray



SRINAGAR, Sep 22 (Agencies): After an impressive turnout of over 61 per cent in the first phase, Jammu and Kashmir is now set for the second phase of assembly elections on September 25.

In the second phase, the election will take place in 26 assembly segments including 11 seats from three districts of Jammu. The constituencies include Hazratbal, Khanyar, Habbakadal, Lal Chowk, Channapora,

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Modeve announces major expansion plans, bringing global fashion trends to local markets

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 22: Modeve, a fashion brand renowned for its trendy and affordable designs, is excited to announce its expansion into the rapidly growing Indian market. This strategic move is part of the brand's long-term vision to establish a strong foothold in one of the most vibrant fashion hubs.

With an ambitious goal of presence across more than 1000 MBO's across key metropolitan cities including Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad



along with significant presence across Tier 1 and Tier 2 cities by the end of 2025, Modeve aims to make high-quality, trend-forward fashion accessible to the Indian consumer. Modeve's product offerings, which range from chic casual

wear to sophisticated evening attire, will cater to India's diverse and style-conscious demographic.

The product offerings will include a full range of Modeve's collections, featuring both global and local fashion trends. In addition to physical stores, Modeve will enhance its digital presence through its own website www.modeve.in in alongwith presence across all major marketplaces in India. The brand plans to launch an eco-friendly collection in

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Amit Shah talks tough on terror, says no stone peltter will be released in J&K

SRINAGAR, Sep 22 (Agencies): Talking tough on terror, Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said no stone peltter or terrorist will be released in Jammu and Kashmir and there will be no talks with Pakistan till terrorism is wiped out.

At an election rally in Nowshera in support of J-K BJP president Ravinder Raina, the senior BJP leader said he would like to talk to the youth of



Jammu and Kashmir, whom he referred to as "lions".

They (NC-Congress alliance) want to release stone peltters and terrorists (after formation of their government as promised in their manifesto). Farooq Abdullah is talking about revival of terrorism in Jammu hills but I want to tell them that this is Modi government

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Women's contribution is crucial to building strong, vibrant nation: Rekha

JAMMU, Sep 22: Women's empowerment was not a political issue for the BJP but an idea that is intrinsic to its work culture, said BJP senior leader, District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan made the remarks during the program of Muslim Mahila interaction with the community here today. Women, being the biggest beneficiaries of the Modi Government's flagship schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) and Pradhan Mantri Ujj-



wala Scheme, have experienced freedom from financial dependency and

day-to-day life.

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Odisha police personnel protest against suspension of 5 cops over alleged sexual assault of Army officer's fiancée

ODISHA, Sep 22 (Agencies): In a rarity, Odisha police personnel, including women, conducted a silent protest on Sunday condemning suspension of five police personnel over alleged sexual assault of an Army officer's fiancée under custody in police station. The police personnel demanded the withdrawal of their suspension and a proper probe into the alleged incident.

The police personnel said a proper probe should be conducted into the alleged incident of sexual assault at Bharat-

pur police station. The police personnel said there was no need to suspend the cops before completion of investigation.

The Odisha police association condemned the suspension and said there is no reason to suspend the personnel. "As investigation is ongoing, there is no reason to suspend the five police personnel. They should not be suspended until proven guilty," said organising secretary Umesh Chandra Sahu, PTI reported.

On Saturday, a group of retired police officers

also met Police Commissioner Sanjeeb Panda to voice concerns. Retired officer Suryamani Tripathy said, "There is no point in suspending police personnel before they are found guilty. We will approach the DGP, Home Secretary, and the Chief Minister to demand the withdrawal of the suspensions."

The Odisha police suspended five police personnel, including an inspector-rank officer, after a woman restaurant owner alleged sexual harassment by cops while

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UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Maya Sharma** W/o Shri Vipan Sharma R/o House No.7 Link Road Purani Mandi, Jammu.

Uthala will be performed on Monday 23 Sept. 2024 at Brahma Sabha Parade at 4.30 pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Shri Vipan Sharma -**Husband**
Devar & Devrani
Smt Miral & Shri Naveen Sharma
Smt Kamini & Kabir Chaudhary -**Nanad & Nandoi**
Sons & Daughter-in-law
Smt Akriti & Shri Hitesh Sharma
Smt Priya & Shri Mayank Sharma
Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt Sakshi & Shri Rajat Thakur
Grand Sons: Avyukt & Aariv
Phone No's: 9596700016 / 7600030465 / 8825053379



Smt Maya Sharma

TENTH DAY KRIYA

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved mother, **Smt. Kamla Brij Dulari Kuchroo**, W/o Lt. Sh. Brij Mohan Kuchroo, originally a resident of Rajghat, Baramulla, Kashmir and presently residing at H.No. 22/1, Sec-1, Naseeb Nagar/ Pamposh Colony, Janipur, Jammu. The **Tenth-Day Kriya** will be performed on Wednesday, 25th September 2024, 9:00 AM at Muthi Ghat, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Sons and Daughters-in-Law
Sh. Surinder and Smt. Nancy Kuchroo
Sh. Harish and Smt. Salochana Kuchroo
Sh. Vinod and Smt. Anoopma Kuchroo
Lt. Sh. Virender Kuchroo
Daughters and Sons-in-Law
Lt. Smt. Usha and Dr. B.K. Raina
Smt. Pushpa and Sh. G.L. Ganjoo
Smt. Daisy and Sh. R.K. Goja
Miss. Sushma Kuchroo
Brother-in-Law and Sister-in-Law
Sh. Makhn Lal and Smt. Shanta Kuchroo
Lt. Sh. Ashok and Smt. Shubini Kuchroo
Sisters and Brother-in-Law
Smt. Ratna and Lt. Sh. Somnath Pandita
Smt. Krishna and Justice M.L. Koul

Brothers and Sister-in-Law
Sh. Tej Krishan and Smt. Kanta Pandita
Lt. Sh. Vijay and Smt. Pinky Pandita
Lt. Sh. Rajinder and Smt. Bita Pandita
Contact Details : 9419610419, 8700359488, 7889666145



SMT. KAMLA BRIJ DULARI KUCHROO

10TH DAY AND KRIYA

With profound and sorrow we regret to inform you the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh Yudhishter Sharma** S/o Lt Sh Devi Ditta Mal R/o H No. 136, Raghunath Pura Jammu.

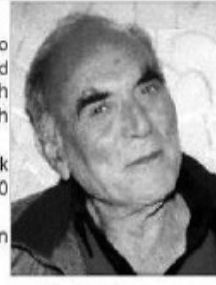
Tenth Day will be performed at Rani Park on Monday 23rd September 2024 at 11.00 AM.

Kriya will be performed at our residence on 24th September (Tuesday) at 12 noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN :
Son & Daughter-in-law
Mr Naveen Chander & Mrs Lt Kanchan Bala
Mr Vivek Sharma & Mrs Kiran Sharma
Mr Rakesh Sharma & Mrs Sheetal Sharma
Mr Vikram Sharma & Mrs Shetal Sharma
Mr Dinesh Sharma & Mrs Sakshi Sharma
Daughter & Son in law
Mrs Kavita Sharma & Mr Chandeshwar Dubey
Mrs Babita Sharma & Mr Rajesh Sharma
Mrs Lt Rita Sharma & Mr B N Sharma
Mrs Anshu Sharma & Mr Rohit Vaid

SH YUDHISHTER SHARMA

ALL SADHOTRA FAMILY
706974830, 94191-33631, 706636112




TENTH DAY KRIYA

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.

Grief Stricken
Father & Mother
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 & Udes- **Brother**



Amit Kumar Raina


Mob.: 9419575785, 979

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform our beloved and respected Father **Sh. Pran Nath Bhat** S/o Lt. Sh. Ram Chand Bhat originally resident of Nagam Chadpora, Budgam at present 316, Shantidoot Apartment Vasundhra Enclave New Delhi, left for heavenly abode on 15/9/2024.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on Tuesday, 24th September, 2024 at Murad Nagar, Ghaziabad.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Sarbosh Bhat - Wife
Sh. Ravinder Bhat & Dolly Bhat (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Smt. Renu Bhat - Daughter-in-law
Smt. Ritu Bhat - Daughter-in-law (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Smt. Jyoti Peer & Sh. Ravinder Peer
Smt. Anjali Kaul - **Daughter**
Grand Children : Ankush, Eshaan, Anant, Shuhul
Samast Bhat Family
Contact Details : 9971711926, 9818673789



Sh. Pran Nath Bhat

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA


With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Taro Devi Ji** W/o Late Sh. Kripa Ram Sharma R/o H.No. 104, Patoli Magotian Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 13-9-2024.

Tenth Day will be performed on Saturday 21-9-2024 at Bus Datti Temple Patoli Magotian Jammu.

Kriya will be performed on Sunday 22-9-2024 at our residence after 12 Noon onwards.

Uthala will be performed on Friday 4-10-2024 at Bus Datti Temple Patoli Magotian from 4:30 PM - 5:00 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Smt. Sheela Devi & Late Sh. Dev Raj Sharma
Smt. Krishna Devi & Sh. Ganpat Sarngar
Daughters-in-law & Sons
Smt. Ballesh Kumar & Sh. Sat Pal Sharma (Former Secretary Red Cross, Jammu Region)
Smt. Anita Kaur & Sh. Ravinder Sharma (Retd. DM SFC)
Dr. Sukham Sharma & Dr. Rajy Saini - **Grand Daughter & Son-in-law**
Er. Manik Magotra - **Grand Son**
Er. Adish Magotra & Dr. Sunaina Sharma (JKAS) - **Grand Son & Daughter-in-law**
Grand Grand Children : Advait, Medhaansh
Contact Nos.: 9419108501, 952246282



Smt. Taro Devi Ji

10TH DAY/ KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Mr. Sanjay Kumar Chandel and Mrs. Veena Kumari**, R/o 310-D Master Lane Pata Bohri Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 14th September, 2024.

10th Day will be performed on 23rd Sept 2024 (Monday) at Ved Mandir, Amphala, Jammu at 9:00 AM. **Kriya** will be performed on 26th Sept, 2024 (Thursday) at our residence after 10:00 AM onwards. **Uthala** will be performed on 27th Sept, 2024 (Friday) at Trikuta Yatri Niwas, Ved Mandir Complex, Ved Mandir Road Amphalla from 4:00-5:00 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
Chacha and Chachi
Sh. Om Prakash Chandel and Smt. Kanis Chandel
Smt. Hema Chandel
Smt. Pooja Chandel
Daughters
Dr. Sarvani Chandel, Dr. Jharvi Chandel

Brothers and Bhabhis
Mr. Rajeev Kumar and Mrs. Sujata Chandel
Dr. Raman Chandel and Dr. Hans Chandel
Mr. Ajay Chandel and Mrs. Mona Chandel
Dr. Miraj Chandel Mrs. Renu Chandel
Sisters & Brothers-in-law
Smt. Ramita Kaushal and Sh. Sanjay Kaushal
Smt. Shally Sharma and Sh. Sanjay Sharma
Contact No. 705138 5740, 858068 5287, 9622379255



MR. SANJAY KUMAR CHANDEL **MRS. VEENA KUMARI**

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Shakuntla Gupta** W/o Lt. Sh. Jagan Nath Gupta (Sohal wale) resident of H No 10 Ward No 4 Choughan Mohalla Akhnoor, who left for heavenly abode on (13-09-2024).

TENTH DAY will be performed on 22-09-2024 (Sunday) from 10:00 am to 11:00 AM at Jio Pota Mandir Akhnoor.

KRIYA will be performed on 25-09-2024 (Wednesday), at our residence at 12:00 NOON.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Ashwari Gupta & Manju Gupta
Rajesh Gupta & Renu Gupta
Rakesh Gupta & Rajni Gupta
Prince Gupta & Veenu Gupta
Daughter & Son in law
Radha Gupta & Kuldeep Raj Gupta
Grand Children: Movil Vaid, Saksham Mahajan (JE PWD), Sayam Mahajan, Sarthak Gupta, Ansh Mahajan, Mavil Vaid, Aastha Mahajan, Anvi Mahajan, Sarthika Gupta
M/s Jagan Sons Pacca Danga Akhnoor
8082131042, 8491063134



SMT. SHAKUNTLA GUPTA

UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Sh Sham Lal Gupta (Ex Joint Director, Planning)**.

UTHALA will be performed on 23rd Sep. 2024 at 4.00 PM to 5.00 PM at Shiv Mandir, Housing Colony.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Neelam Gupta- **Wife**
Brothers and Bhabhi
Sh. Madan Lal Kalsotra & Kailash
Sh. Suresh Kalsotra & Guddi
Daughter and Son in law:
Sugandha Gupta & Sahil Gupta
Shriya Gupta- Daughter



SH SHAM LAL GUPTA
(EX JOINT DIRECTOR, PLANNING)
S/O LATE SH KAMESHWAR NATH KALSTRA
WARD NO 7, HARI NAGAR UDHAMPUR

PRAYER MEET AND 10TH DAY KRIYA

This 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 Mahaldar at 76-A Patoli Magotian, Jammu on Friday, 20th Sept 2024 from 4 PM to 7 PM.

TENTH DAY and Subsequent Days/Rituals will be held at Haridwar from 23rd Sep 2024 to 26 Sep 2024.

Anita and M K Koul
Anita and Sanjay Watal
Anupama and Abinesh Khashu
Hopeson and Vijayta Mahaldar
Anshinee and Akhil Koul
Nishchint and Kajal Mahaldar
Mob: 9878618451, 9849145151




SMT. GIRJA MAHALDAR (ASHA JI)
23-04-1953 TO 15-09-2024

10TH DAY KRIYA/OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Smt. Soom Rani Ambardar (Kaushalya Ji)** W/o Late Sh. Soom Nath Ambardar original resident of Nazuk Mohalla Anantnag 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 Ambardar W/o Lt. Sh. Sham Sunder Ambardar
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.
Contact Details : 9419121396, 9596868866, 91496 81564



Smt. Soom Rani Ambardar

UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Nirmal Gupta** W/o Late Sh. Gauran Kumar Gupta (Kala Shah) R/o H. No. 12A Kdesh Nagar, Jammu on 20th September, 2024.

UTHALA will be performed on 23rd September, 2024 (Monday) from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM at 80th Chand Kaur Gunawara, Chand Nagar, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Rupesh (Chota) & Mohal Gupta - **Son & Daughter-in-law**
Sunita & Vikrant Gupta - **Daughter & Son-in-law**
Megha & Rishi Bhatti - **Daughter & Son-in-law**
Anoop & Late Sh. Sunam Gupta - **Son-in-law & Brother**
Disha & Late Sh. Vinod Gupta - **Sister-in-law & Brother**
Rishi & Late Sh. Anshu Gupta - **Sister-in-law & Brother**
Rishi & Rajeev Gupta - **Sister & Brother-in-law**
Lt. Late Devi & Lt. Shri Krishan Lal - **Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law**
Shashi & Lt. Shri Ranjit Datta - **Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law**
Lt. Subodhina & Shri Ansa Saroop - **Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law**
Dr. Suresh & Dr. Sargat Dayal Gupta - **Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law**
Lt. Raj Rani & Lt. Ruan Chand Gupta - **Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law**
Lt. Dhanraj & Lt. Janki Raj Gupta - **Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law**
GRAND CHILDREN:
Disha, Aditya, Anupama, Anant, Ankit, Anandhara & Samarth
MS DARSHAN GENERAL STORE, 3-HARIMARKET JAMMU
M/S DARSHAN KUMAR & CO., 97 FRUIT MARKET, NARVAL, JAMMU
94191195, 97968686, 94190855




Smt. Nirmal Gupta

13TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Kamla Sharma**, who left for heavenly abode on 13-9-2024.

13th Day Kriya will be performed on Wednesday 25-9-2024 at our residence, Moh. Sheesh Mahal W.No.13 Poonch.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sh. Maheshwar Nath -**Husband**
Daughter and Son-in-law
Neetu Sudan and Sanjeev Sharma
Rashmi Sudan and Sanjeev Kumar
Jagriti Sudan and Bharat Ranyal
Sudan and Raina family
Contact: 7051077895, 7780881689



Smt. Kamla Sharma

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 Fatehpura, Anantnag 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. P. P. Bhat (9418035869)
Phoolo Bakshi (8847347448)
Bhat Family (Fatehpura, Anantnag)
Kamal Ji Fotedar (94191 86890)
Fotedar Family (Mattan)



Uma Shree Bhat

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF **SMT. TRIPTA SHARMA (RETD. SR. TEACHER) W/O SH. SHANTI SAROOP SHARMA** R/O H.NO. 544 PACCA TALAB, BAHU FORT, JAMMU ON 13-09-2024 AT JAMMU.

TENTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON SUNDAY 22ND SEPT. 2024 AT PACCA TALAB, BAHU FORT, JAMMU AT 11 AM.

KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON MONDAY 23RD SEPT. 2024 AT OUR RESIDENCE AT 12 NOON.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sh. Shanti Saroop Sharma -**Husband**
Smt. Kanika Sharma & Sh. Subash Sharma -**Devrani & Devar**
Smt. Karuna Sharma & Sh. Anil Sharma -**Daughter & Son-in-law**
Smt. Sunita Sharma & Sh. Kapil Khajuria -**Daughter-in-law & Son**
Smt. Isha Sharma & Sh. Naveen Khajuria (Manager J&K Bank) -**Daughter-in-law & Son**
Sh. Surinder Sharma -**Nephew**
Sh. Pankaj Khajuria & Smt. Geeta Sharma -**Nephew & Daughter-in-law**
Sh. Anoop Magotra & Smt. Asha Sharma -**Son-in-law & Niece**
Grand Children: Yatharth Vasudha, Paresraj, Prajwal, Alekhini, Abhinav, Devansh, Kanav
PROP. KHAJURIA MEDICOS
M.No. 9906230422, 9419258856



SMT. TRIPTA SHARMA

10TH DAY KRIYA/OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Smt. Soom Rani Ambardar (Kaushalya Ji)** W/o Late Sh. Soom Nath Ambardar original resident of Nazuk Mohalla Anantnag 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 Ambardar W/o Lt. Sh. Sham Sunder Ambardar
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.

"Mourning from the family and the Malun Parivar will be held at Community Hall-1, Butta Nagar"

Contact Details : 9419121396, 9596868866, 91496 81564



Smt. Soom Rani Ambardar (Kaushalya Ji)

FIFTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Jija Ji Vikas Mahajan**, Husband of Sonia Gupta R/o Ward No. 1, R.S. Pura, who left for his heavenly abode on Thursday, 19th September, 2024.

Fifth Day shall be performed on Monday, 23rd September, 2024 from 11.00 am to 12.00 Noon at Durga Palace, Rampura, Nai Basti, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Mrs. Nitika & Mr. Manoj Malhotra
Mrs. Monica & Mr. Rakesh Kumar Gupta



Vikas Mahajan

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform about the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Shakuntala Koul (Dolly)** W/o Sh. Ramesh Koul originally resident of Veer Nowbagh Anantnag A/p TRT Nagrota, Block G, Flat No 1 on 19-09-2024.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 28-09-2024 at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education at 8.30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Kamlawati Koul -**Mother in Law**
Ramesh Koul -**Husband**
Smt Jaya Koul & Sh. Roshan Lal Koul -**Devrani & Devar**
Diskha Koul -**Daughter**
Ajay Koul -**Son**
MOBILE NO: 9419284196, 9868804896



SMT SHAKUNTALA KOUL (DOLLY)

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Door to door campaign reflects changed security scenario, asserts Arun Gupta

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 22: The National Conference and the Congress are busy these days, day in and day out hurling abuses at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). They are able to campaign for much longer hours of the day, be it day or night. A few days ago, in Kashmir's Zadibal assembly segment, NC patriarch Farooq Abdullah sat in open auto-rickshaw along with his party candidate Tanvir Sadiq and roamed on the streets of downtown Srinagar freely. These were areas out of bounds for politicians and considered hotbeds of terrorism. Dr Farooq Abdullah was canvassing support for his party and talking ill about the BJP government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi accusing it of not doing enough for the locals.

If we just sit back, watch carefully and analyze closely, we will realize

that something like this, door to door campaigning by top leaders, was happening in Kashmir in 2024 assembly elections for the first time after 1987. It was during Farooq Abdullah's tenure as CM when he led the NC-Congress coalition that terrorism started in late 1989 and early 1990. It was the rampant corruption, mismanagement and high handedness of his government that created fertile ground for terrorism, BJP spokesperson Arun Gupta said on Sunday.

We then need to go a step further into trying to make sense of all this door-to-door campaign and lack of fear among the candidates as also common people. How is it that something like this has become possible and who is responsible for this pleasant change? On looking back into the recent past, we realize that all these positive changes have happened



after August 5, 2019, abrogation of Article 35-A and 370, Mr Gupta pointed out.

In all elections held after 1987 when Farooq Abdullah was the CM, be it of the elections for the Lok Sabha, Legislative Assembly, or even panchayat or local bodies, rampant violence was witnessed. Killing of common people as also of contesting candidates of different parties was common, Mr Gupta pointed out. Stone pelting incidents and hartals were witnessed all over

the Kashmir valley leading to repeated disruptions in all sectors. The hartals led to closure of educational institutions, businesses suffered, tourism and industry suffered too, he added.

These repeated closures harmed the economy tremendously and created a fear psychosis where no investor was willing to put his money into Jammu & Kashmir. In 1997, Farooq Abdullah sought investments from all over India and even abroad but was rebuffed soundly. The potential investors were requested to invest hundreds or thousands of crores into J&K but could not own an inch of land in their names. They were told that they should create jobs for thousands of people of J&K but they could not own any houses and had to live as tenants permanently, Mr Gupta recalled.

This put off many would-be investors who said if

they were being asked to invest in J&K, they should at least be allowed small patches of land for their personal needs also as residences. Since Articles 35-A and 370 were in force, allotting land even for residential purposes to "outsiders" (as defined by the NC, Indians from other states) was not possible and would-be investors had to be turned away, Mr Gupta said. Today, investment proposals worth thousands of crores have been received and many industrial estates are being set up all over J&K, he said.

The NC should give up on its agenda of uselessly talking about restoration of these articles which have been buried forever. It should thank PM Modi and admit without hesitation that he has changed the ground realities and hence the perceptions about J&K, not only domestically, but also globally, he concluded.

J&K witnessed unprecedented development under the Modi Regime: Randhawa



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 22: Ahead of the 2024 assembly election, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) senior leader, MLA Candidate for Bahu constituency Vikram Randhawa conducted a mammoth citizen rally (public outreach) program in Chatta and its adjoining pillars of Bahu Constituency. The aim is to cover and direct connection with the general public of Bahu constituency. The main objective of the campaign is to directly connect with the common masses and highlight the Modi-led government welfare schemes.

Randhawa emphasized that we are celebrating the festival of democracy. Everyone should vote; this is our fundamental right as well as our duty. You can vote for everyone, and casting your vote is important. Highlights from Randhawa the prime minister, Narendra Modi, has a particular place in his heart for the union territory of J&K. He

stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assertion that he is committed to '24x7 for 2047' is not just a slogan but what he really puts into practice.

Randhawa criticized the previous regimes led by the National Conference and Congress, highlighting the disparity and neglect faced by the people of the Jammu region. "For decades, the people of Jammu endured stepmotherly treatment under successive NC and Congress governments. They were deprived of fair access to education, development funds, job opportunities, and overall growth," he asserted.

Randhawa described that the people of Gorkha Samaj, who were denied residentship, thus rendering them ineligible for government jobs and voting rights by the previous Congress-NC governments, have been granted Residentship and also granted reservations under the OBC category. Which is a big relief for the Gorkha

Samaj in J&K. He said the Modi government has paid great attention to the sections of society who were neglected by the previous governments. Randhawa elaborates that under the missions Sabka Saath, Sabka Viswas, and Sabka Vikas, the Modi government has granted reservations to the socially and educationally backward sections of the societies, and Gorkhas.

Randhawa said J&K has attained new heights in development and growth after the abrogation of Article 370 under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi. Referring to the National Conference's poll manifesto that calls for the restoration of Article 370, Mr. Randhawa reiterated, "Article 370 has been buried forever. The BJP won't allow the efforts aimed at its restoration. It will not come back." He elaborates that J&K, since Independence, has been important for the BJP. We have always tried to keep this land intact with India.

Under leadership of Yudhvir Sethi, OBC leader Joy Khokhar joins BJP

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 22: Under the leadership of Yudhvir Sethi, the BJP candidate from Jammu East, prominent OBC leader and social worker Joy Khokhar, along with his followers, joined the BJP. The event was attended by Brahm Jyot Satti, Incharge of the BJP OBC Morcha in Jammu and Kashmir, along with other BJP leaders.

Khokhar expressed his enthusiasm for joining the BJP, praising its commitment to the OBC community and highlighting the party's hard work under Prime Minister Modi's leadership. He noted that the BJP is the only party focused on the upliftment of OBCs, citing the increase in OBC reservation from 2% to 4% as a significant achievement.

In his address, Yudhvir Sethi emphasized the BJP's dedication to the nation and the growing support from prominent citizens. He described OBCs as the backbone of India, acknowledging their crucial role in the electorate. He asserted that the upcoming elec-



tions are not merely about party affiliation but about choosing an ideology that serves the nation's interests.

Sethi lauded the Modi government for its decade of service, noting its focus on public welfare through initiatives like Sewa, Sushasan, and Garib Kalyan. He highlighted Modi's approachable nature and the numerous beneficial schemes launched for OBCs, urging the community to take advantage of these programs.

Brahm Jyot Satti welcomed the new entrants and reiterated that the OBC community is integral to the nation. He commended the BJP's

accomplishments over the past ten years, such as employment generation and addressing significant national issues like the surgical strike, the construction of the Ram temple, and the abrogation of Article 370.

Satti further mentioned various government initiatives aimed at the OBC community, such as the Vishwakarma and Ayushman Bharat schemes, Kisan Samman Nidhi, the cleanliness campaign, Aawas Yojna, and the Ujjwala gas scheme. He concluded by expressing confidence that the OBC community would play a vital role in securing a decisive mandate for the BJP in the upcoming elections.

NC leader appeals people of J&K to vote for better future

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 22: Former Minister and senior National Conference (NC) leader, Babu Rampaul has appealed the electorate of Jammu and Kashmir to vote and support the National Conference and Congress (INDI Alliance) candidates in the ongoing Assembly elections for the better future and overall development of J&K.

In his message to youth (Yuva Shakti), women folk (Matra Shakti), intellectuals (Budhijeevi), senior citizen (civilized society), Mazdoor (Nirman Dhata), Kissan (Ann Data), Schedule Caste (Dalit Varg), Backward classes (Pushmanda Tabka Jaat), ST (Tribal) poor, downtrodden and weaker sections of the society, Babu Rampaul said "it is a high time to come forward for the restoration of full-fledged state of Jammu and Kashmir and democratic set up (Riyasat, Virasat, and Siyasat)."

He also said that the NC and Congress parties are committed and would fight for the constitutional/legitimate rights of the people of Jammu



and Kashmir. Meanwhile, he called upon the people at this crucial juncture to cast their valuable franchise for change, the present dispensation, and play a significant role in pulling up democratic values crushed by the reactionary forces.

The National Conference leader also appealed to the people to fully support and strengthen the hands of nationalist, socialist, secular, and democratic forces and defeat the nefarious design of the fundamentalists.

He further said, "We should untidely work for peace, progress, prosperity, integrity, and strengthen the bonds of communal harmony and brotherhood among the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

Indian Muslims are getting defamed because of Jihadis: Chandel

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 22: A significant Mahapanchayat was held in the courtyard of Shiv Mandir at Tila Mode, bringing together prominent figures from 23 districts, including Sarpanches, city leaders, and religious leaders. Notable attendees included Sadhvi Prachi, Hindu Sanatani leader Gurujee Raju Chandel, Kshatriya Mahasabha's National Leader Thakur Ashwani Singh, and Regional MLA Nandkishore Gurjar.

During the event, Sadhvi Prachi urged Sanatanis to unite against what

she described as a "well-planned conspiracy" by individuals with a "Jihadi mentality." She accused such elements of contaminating food and drinks, calling for a collective boycott of those she labeled as Jihadis.

Regional BJP MLA Nandkishore Gurjar issued a strong warning, demanding that all alleged Bangladeshi infiltrators leave the area. He proposed that Muslim shopkeepers identify themselves clearly to maintain religious integrity. Gurjar claimed that individuals with Jihadi inclinations have committed egregious acts, including

tampering with food. Raju Chandel emphasized that Muslims in India should be seen as part of the Hindu community, asserting that infiltrators from other countries are tarnishing their reputation. He urged unity to combat the spread of Jihad and hatred.

Thakur Ashwani Singh declared India a Hindu nation, insisting that it should be governed by its Constitution rather than Jihadi ideologies. He warned that a significant campaign would be launched against those who do not conform to this belief.

Sawhney intensifies campaign, criticises implementation of Property Tax

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 22: Congress-NC candidate for Jammu East, Yogesh Sawhney, Ex-MLA Jammu East and Former Minister J&K has ramped up his election campaign, raising several key issues of smart meters, property tax, surge in electricity bills etc as markers of economic exploitation by current regime.

Addressing gatherings across the constituency, Sawhney particularly voiced strong opposition to the imposition of property taxes, stating that it is exacerbating the already dire economic situation of the people.

Sawhney highlighted that QR codes have been installed on houses as part of the taxation system, a move which he says is an attempt at further control by the current regime. "The people of Jammu are already under immense financial pressure, and these taxes are just another way to squeeze the middle class and poor. This must stop immediately," Sawhney asserted during a rally.



He further criticized the government for its series of unpopular policies, including the installation of smart electricity meters, and warned of the anticipated introduction of water meters. "It is evident that the present government is not working for the welfare of the people, but to economically exploit them. We cannot allow this exploitation to continue," Sawhney added.

The former Minister further said, the property tax, along with the prospect of new charges for basic utilities, is hurting the middle class and working-class families the most. "People are struggling to make ends meet, and instead of providing

relief, the government is burdening them further," he said, urging voters to push for a change in governance.

Sawhney said that the same feelings have resonated with many residents of Jammu East, especially those in the middle-income group, who have felt the brunt of the government's policies. We will continue to emphasize that change is necessary for the welfare of all citizens, and we want to form a welfare based government instead of a tax based government. In addition to the property tax, then the anticipated water tax, there are several toll taxes people of Jammu pay. The nationally implemented GST is

only the cherry on top. Sawhney said that this BJP led governance has left no stone unturned in extorting money out of public pockets in the name of taxation.

"Economic exploitation cannot and should not be the foundation of governance. The people deserve better," Sawhney said, calling for a decisive change in the upcoming elections to put an end to these burdensome policies. The Congress party remains committed to the cause, with property tax, smart meters, and the looming threat of water meters being few of the many concerns of people and to provide real, tangible relief to the people of Jammu East.

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE RETURNING OFFICER
(Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Hiranagar)

"Greater Participation for a Stronger Democracy"

Subject: - General Election to J&K Legislative Assembly-2024- Home Voting through postal Ballot of absentee voters in the category of Senior citizens of 85+ age group, Person with disability and COVID-19 suspects or affected persons in AC-68 Hiranagar-reg

NOTIFICATION

In terms of instructions issued by the election commission of India on the above mentioned subject, It is brought to the notice of public in general and all contesting candidates/political parties that the following dates are hereby notified for home visiting by the polling teams in respect of the absentee voters under the category of senior citizens/ (AVSC), persons with disabilities (AVPD) and COVID19 affected/suspect persons who have opted for the same IN 68-HIRANAGAR ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY.

S.No.	Visit No.	Date of visit
1	1 st visit	20.09.2024
2	2 nd visit	21.09.2024

- The team of polling officers shall visit the electors at the address mentioned in their application in form 12D for facilitating their voting by postal ballot.
- The list of AVSCs, AVPDs and AVCPs shall be divided for distribution among the different teams of Poll Officers in such a manner that each team gets a list of persons in geographically compact area.
- The concerned Nodal Officer shall prepare a route plan of the teams by mapping of the eligible households falling in such category and share the same with this office at the earliest.
- Police security cover shall be provided to the poll officers during their visits arrangement for Videography of the proceedings at the address of Absentee Voters shall be made in such a manner that secrecy of vote is not violated at any stage.
- The detailed guidelines issued in this regard by the Election Commission of India shall be followed in letter and spirit.

No.- RO/GELA/Hgr/2024/433-436
Date:- 19.09.2024

DIP/J-51 20/24



Rakesh Kumar, IAS
Returning Officer
(Sub-Divisional Magistrate)
68-Hiranagar AC

EDITORIAL

CHANDRAYAAN-4
MISSION

India's ambitious space program continues to make strides with the upcoming Chandrayaan-4 mission, aimed at furthering lunar exploration. Following the success of Chandrayaan-1 and Chandrayaan-2, this mission is set to deepen our understanding of the Moon and its resources, building upon the knowledge gained from previous missions.

The primary objectives of Chandrayaan-4 revolve around exploring the lunar surface and studying its geology, mineralogy, and the presence of water ice in permanently shadowed regions. The mission aims to:

Investigate the Moon's Surface Composition: Chandrayaan-4 will carry advanced spectrometers to analyze the mineral composition of the lunar surface, focusing on areas that have not been extensively studied before. This will help in identifying potential resources that could support future lunar habitation.

One of the most exciting prospects of lunar exploration is the discovery of water ice, which is crucial for future manned missions. Chandrayaan-4 aims to map regions with potential water deposits, especially in craters that remain in perpetual darkness.

Utilizing high-resolution cameras, the mission will create detailed maps of the lunar terrain, which will be vital for understanding geological processes and planning future missions.

The mission will also focus on studying the thin atmosphere of the Moon, known as the exosphere, to understand its composition and dynamics.

Chandrayaan-4 will consist of an orbiter, a lander, and a rover, following a similar design to its predecessor, Chandrayaan-2. However, advancements in technology and design will enhance its capabilities.

The orbiter will be equipped with sophisticated scientific instruments, including a high-resolution camera and various spectrometers. Its primary role will be to collect data from the lunar surface and relay it back to Earth.

The lander will be designed to touch down on the Moon's surface with precision. It will be equipped with instruments to analyze the soil and monitor seismic activity, providing insights into the Moon's geological stability.

The rover will be capable of traveling across the lunar surface, conducting in-situ analysis of soil samples, and looking for signs of water ice. It will be outfitted with various scientific instruments to perform chemical analysis and gather data on the Moon's surface conditions.

Chandrayaan-4 is scheduled for launch in late 2024, with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) planning to employ a GSLV Mk III rocket for this mission. After a journey of approximately four days, the orbiter will enter lunar orbit, followed by the deployment of the lander and rover.

Once on the Moon, the mission is expected to last for several months, during which data will be continuously transmitted back to Earth. Scientists will analyze this data to enhance our understanding of the Moon and to prepare for future human missions.

The Chandrayaan-4 mission holds significant importance for several reasons. The mission is likely to attract international collaboration, as countries and space agencies around the world express interest in lunar exploration. This collaboration could lead to shared knowledge and resources, enhancing scientific outcomes.

The mission will showcase India's growing capabilities in space technology and engineering. Successful execution will enhance India's standing in the global space community.

Chandrayaan-4 will lay the groundwork for subsequent missions, including potential crewed lunar expeditions. Understanding the Moon's resources is critical for planning long-term human habitation on the lunar surface.

The data collected from Chandrayaan-4 will contribute to various scientific fields, including geology, planetary science, and astrobiology, helping scientists understand not only the Moon but also broader cosmic processes.

Chandrayaan-4 is poised to be a landmark mission in India's space exploration journey. By delving deeper into the mysteries of the Moon, it promises to unlock valuable insights that will not only benefit India but also contribute to the global understanding of our nearest celestial neighbor. As preparations continue, the excitement surrounding this mission reflects humanity's enduring fascination with the Moon and the possibilities it holds for the future.

India must be ready for a prolonged LAC standoff

By: Manish Tewari

Speaking at the Geneva Centre of Security Policy, the Indian external affairs minister ostensibly stated according to reportage in the public domain that "those negotiations are going on, we have made some progress. Roughly, you can say about 75 per cent of the disengagement problems are sorted out... We still have some things to do, but there's a bigger issue — that if both of us have brought forces close up, in that sense the level of militarisation of the border has increased. How does one deal with it?" He further added: "I think there are larger issues in respect of India-China. We have a long struggle with the trade issue... The economic relationship with China has been very unfair. It has been very imbalanced that we don't have market access there. They have much better market access here in India. We have many concerns today in various areas, like technology, telecom, and digital." Also Read - Krishna Shastri Devulapalli | I don't know why the mediocre bird sings Advertisement If 75 per cent of the disengagement problems have indeed been sorted out along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) it is a welcome step as both India and China can move ahead and focus on the other aspects of the relationship including and not limited to the unfair and imbalanced trade relationship that he alluded to. However, there is a bigger challenge that the external affairs minister advertently or inadvertently flagged and that is the increased militarisation along the LAC. This is a portentous indicator for the simple reason that People's Republic of China (PRC) announced an annual defence budget of about \$236.1 billion for fiscal year 2024. India, by comparison, has a defence budget of \$74.3 billion in fiscal 2024-25. China spends more than the next 17 Indo-Pacific militaries combined. The US, by contrast, spends ten times more on defence than what China does. Also Read - Anita Katyal |

Atishi, as CM, has tough times ahead; Kejriwal shouldn't be underestimated Military expansion along the LAC: The Line of Actual Control, a de facto border dividing India and China, has seen intensified military activity from the Chinese side. China has been aggressively expanding its military infrastructure in the region, including constructing roads, airfields and fortifications. A notable development is the construction of a 400-metre-long bridge across Pangong Lake in the Aksai Chin region — a territory occupied by China since 1960 but that falls within Indian sovereign territory. This bridge will significantly reduce the time required to move troops and equipment from 12 hours to about four, bolstering their logistical capabilities and consolidating its military presence. Also Read - Shobhaa De | The Kutta Billi ki Kahani derails Trump campaign Satellite imagery and various reports confirm that China has established permanent military installations near the LAC, enhancing its power projection capabilities. Increased troop deployments and military drills in high-altitude conditions suggest that China is not merely preparing for local skirmishes but is reinforcing its strategic positions. This military buildup includes advanced surveillance systems, missile platforms, and integrated defence networks, indicating that China's objectives extend beyond mere border disputes. Also Read - Claude Arpi | The India-China standoff: One border, two systems India's response to the military escalation: In response to Chinese military expansion, India faces a complex strategic dilemma. Countering China's rapid militarisation in these remote, high-altitude areas is both logistically challenging and comes at an unavoidable and inevitable defence expenditure. India has also enhanced its military presence along the LAC by deploying additional troops, air defence systems, and advanced weaponry. However, maintaining a robust military posture in these isolated regions places a considerable strain on India's

defence budget. The economic impact of this military escalation is significant. With India's defence budget already under pressure, a prolonged arms race with China could hinder its ability to modernise its forces and address other pressing security concerns. Balancing immediate security needs with long-term strategic objectives, while avoiding an economically draining standoff, remains a critical challenge for India. Moreover, the increasing militarisation of the LAC carries broader geopolitical implications. The risk of miscalculations is high, and minor clashes between Indian and Chinese forces could escalate into more severe confrontations. Given that both nations possess nuclear capabilities, the potential consequences of such escalation are grave. India also faces a nuanced diplomatic challenge. Traditionally, it has sought to maintain a balance between relations with China and the United States. However, the growing militarisation of the LAC might push India closer to Western allies, as evidenced by initiatives like the Quad — a strategic alliance involving India, Japan, Australia, and the United States. While strengthening ties with the West could enhance India's military capabilities, it may also exacerbate tensions with China. Recent developments, such as China's construction of a new heliport 20 kilometres east of the LAC in the sensitive "Fishtails" region of Arunachal Pradesh, further complicates the situation. The dichotomy of engagement and militarisation: While the claim that 75 per cent of the disengagement process has been completed might suggest that tensions along the LAC are easing, the situation is far more complex. Disengagement involves the withdrawal of troops from close-contact standoffs in certain areas, but it does not address the broader issue of China's military buildup along the LAC. China's ongoing infrastructure development, including extensive road and airfield construction, and increased troop deployments indicate a long-term strategy of maintaining a

strong presence in the region, rather than de-escalating. This situation presents India with a complex diplomatic and strategic dilemma. On one hand, India remains committed to engaging China through military and diplomatic channels, aiming for a peaceful resolution to the border dispute. On the other hand, the reality on the ground necessitates a robust military response to counter China's aggressive posture. The militarisation of the LAC raises a critical question: Can diplomatic efforts succeed in the face of China's expanding military presence, or is militarisation becoming the new status quo along the border, fundamentally altering the dynamics of the India-China relationship? Navigating the path forward: Given the current situation, disengagement alone does not signify true de-escalation but rather a strategic repositioning. India must recognise the new reality and prepare for a potentially extended standoff. To address the militarisation of the LAC, India needs a comprehensive strategy that balances immediate military readiness with the long-term goal of a peaceful resolution to the border dispute. This strategy should include enhancing India's military infrastructure along the LAC while continuing diplomatic efforts with China. Additionally, India should seek to strengthen alliances with other Indo-Pacific nations to counterbalance China's expanding influence. While avoiding a prolonged military standoff remains the ideal objective, India must be prepared for such a scenario if necessary. In conclusion, the increasing militarisation of the LAC underscores the complexity of the India-China border dispute. Disengagement may offer temporary relief, but it does not resolve the underlying strategic shifts. India's approach must be multifaceted, combining enhanced military readiness with robust diplomatic efforts to navigate the ongoing tensions and work towards a sustainable resolution.

Language courses are becoming a top career choice for emerging students

By: Vijay GarG

India's economic growth, coupled with its expanding global footprint, has created a robust demand for professionals proficient in multiple languages. In an increasingly globalised world, the ability to communicate across linguistic boundaries has become a valuable skill. This has led to a significant surge in interest among students in India in pursuing language courses. With the rise of international business, cultural exchange programs, and global migration, language proficiency is no longer just an academic pursuit but a gateway to diverse career opportunities.

The Indian language services market is expected to grow by USD 7.55 billion from 2023 to 2028, progressing at a CAGR of 14.37 percent during the forecast period. This growth is driven by the need for translation, interpretation, and localisation services as Indian businesses expand internationally.

This demand is evident in industries like IT, tourism, hospitality, and international trade, where language skills can significantly enhance job prospects.

As India continues to integrate more deeply with the global economy, the demand for multilingual professionals is expected to grow.

This trend is likely to encourage more students to pursue language courses, viewing them as a viable and lucrative career option. Moreover, with the advent of technology, online language learning platforms are making language education more accessible, enabling students from all parts of the country to acquire these valuable skills.

EDUCATIONAL LANDSCAPE: LANGUAGE COURSES ON THE RISE

Recognizing the importance of

multilingualism, educational institutions in India have begun offering specialised language courses. Universities and colleges are introducing programs in languages such as Mandarin, Spanish, French, German, and Japanese, and even regional Indian languages like Tamil, Bengali, and Marathi.

The Ministry of Education has also initiated programmes to promote the learning of foreign languages at the school level, emphasising the importance of linguistic diversity. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 also highlights the importance of multilingualism, advocating for the inclusion of more languages in the curriculum. This policy shift is expected to further boost the popularity of language courses among students.

Director of Admissions, Gitam Deemed to be University has shared the most common foreign languages adopted by Indian students

French
French is one of the most popular foreign languages among Indian students, partly due to its global presence and the extensive network of French-speaking countries

Institutions: The Alliance Française network in India, along with numerous schools and universities, offers comprehensive French language programmes.

Career Opportunities: French proficiency is valuable in international business, diplomacy, tourism, and academia.

German
German is highly favoured, especially among students interested in engineering, technology, and science, due to Germany's strong industrial base.

Institutions: The Goethe-Institut (Max Mueller Bhavan) plays a significant role in promoting German language learning in India.

Career Opportunities: German is crucial for careers in engineering, automotive industries, and higher education, particularly for those aiming to study or work in Germany.

Spanish
Spanish is gaining popularity rapidly due to the large number of Spanish-speaking countries and its status as the second most spoken language in the world.

Institutions: Instituto Cervantes and various universities across India offer Spanish language courses.

Career Opportunities: Knowledge of Spanish is beneficial for careers in international business, tourism, translation, and BPO (Business Process Outsourcing) sectors.

Mandarin Chinese
With China being a major global economic power, Mandarin is increasingly being adopted by Indian students aiming for careers in business and trade.

Institutions: Several universities and cultural centres like the Confucius Institutes offer Mandarin courses in India.

Career Opportunities: Proficiency in Mandarin is particularly useful in sectors like international trade, business, and diplomacy.

Japanese
Japanese is popular among students interested in technology, engineering, and electronics, due to Japan's strong presence in these industries.

Institutions: The Japan Foundation and various universities in India offer Japanese language programs.

Career Opportunities: Japanese language skills are highly valued in industries such as automotive, IT, and electronics, and for those interested in working with Japanese companies.
advertisement

Russian
Russian is chosen by students interested in science, technology, and literature, especially due to India's long-standing ties with Russia.

Institutions: Several universities in India offer Russian language courses.

Career Opportunities: Russian is useful for careers in international relations, defence, and technology sectors, as well as for students pursuing higher education in Russia.

Korean
Korean is growing in popularity, driven by the Korean wave (Hallyu) and South Korea's strong presence in the electronics, entertainment, and automotive industries.

Institutions: The King Sejong Institutes and various universities in India offer Korean language programs.

Career Opportunities: Korean language skills are valuable in sectors like entertainment and technology, and for those seeking opportunities in South Korean companies.

The rising demand for language skills across various industries, coupled with the growing availability of language courses in educational institutions, has made language courses a top career choice for emerging students in India. For students looking to position themselves for success in the global economy, investing in language education is a strategic and forward-thinking choice.

*(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist Malout)*

Dimple Leads Protest Against Rising Commodity Prices

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 22: Jammu witnessed significant protests led by Sunil Dimple, president of Mission Statehood, who addressed a gathering on Janipur High Court Road, highlighting the alarming increase in prices of essential commodities. Demonstrators expressed their frustration over soaring costs of vegetables, fuel, and electricity, which they believe have become unaffordable for the average citizen.

Dimple pointed out that the prices of staple vegetables, including tomatoes, potatoes, and onions, have surged to between ₹80 and ₹100 per kilogram. He stated that this spike in prices is breaking the backs



of low-income families, making it increasingly difficult for them to afford basic necessities. "All essential items, including edible oils and LPG, are now beyond the reach of the common man," he emphasized.

Accusing the Jammu and Kashmir food and

supply authorities, as well as local price control offices, of colluding with hoarders, Dimple urged the government to take immediate action against those manipulating prices. He criticized the current BJP government for failing to implement effective measures to

control the costs of daily essentials, stating, "The prices of everything have reached a point where they are no longer manageable for the common person."

The protest also included a call for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to bring petrol, diesel, and

LPG under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) to alleviate the financial burden on citizens. Dimple highlighted that the introduction of smart meters has led to exorbitant electricity bills, further adding to the misery of residents. He noted that the halt of the darbar move after the abrogation of Article 370 has compounded the struggles of both people and traders in Jammu and Kashmir.

Joining Dimple in the protest were other leaders, including Raju Kumar, Dev Raj, Jetinder, Vipin, Mukesh Mahajan, and Sham Sharma, all advocating for urgent government intervention to address these escalating issues and restore relief to the citizens of Jammu.

U17 Kho Kho Tournament Kicks Off in Kathua



Top News Report

KATHUA, Sep 22: Following the successful conclusion of the U19 boys' Kho Kho tournament, the Inter District Division Level Kho Kho tournament for U17 boys commenced today in Kathua. Organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports Kathua, the event is supervised by District

Youth Services and Sports Officer Sh. Sunil Singh Sambhal.

The opening match featured Doda facing off against Reasi, with Parveen Singh Lakharpuria introducing the players and conducting the coin toss. Doda, having won the toss, chose to chase. They secured victory in their first match against Reasi by 8 points.

In the second match, Jammu narrowly defeated Rajouri by just 1 point. The third match saw Ramban triumph over Kishtwar by a margin of 3 points. The fourth and final match of the day was a thrilling contest between Kathua and Poonch, where Poonch emerged victorious by a mere 1 point, making for an exciting start to the tournament.

PUCA moves application in SC for extension in cutoff dates of admission

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 22: Punjab Unaided Colleges Association (PUCA), an association of Technical Colleges of Punjab, has knocked the door of the Supreme Court and has filed civil appeal for extension of cut-off dates of admission in the county. It is to be mentioned that as per All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi, the admission in the entire country has been closed on 15th Sep.

Dr. Anshu Kataria, President, PUCA; Chairman, Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh said that around 23.3 Lac students were stuck because of the ongoing court case



of NEET in the Supreme Court. Due to this court case, not only 23.3 lac but other students were also kept on waiting for the final judgment. Also, due to various other reasons, including late counseling in various states, disturbance in the north-east region, students were not able to secure seats.

Adv Amit Sharma Senior Vice President PUCA urged the government to extend the cut-

off dates of admission to 30th Oct. As Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) & Indian Nursing Council (INC), New Delhi have also extended cut of dates of admission to 30th Nov & 30th Oct respectively, on the same term the AICTE should extend cut of dates to 30th Oct, requested Sharma.

It is to be mentioned that on 15th September, the admission process of approx 8000 Technical Colleges of India is stopped as per AICTE notification, but lakhs of seats are lying vacant in technical colleges of country. Lakhs of applicants are there who are seeking admission but are helpless as admission has been stopped.

Max Hospital Mohali celebrates World Heart Day

Top News Report

CHANDIGARH / JAMMU, Sep 22 Max Super Speciality Hospital, Mohali, marked World Heart Day today with a special focus on heart health for senior citizens. A comprehensive cardiac health check-up camp and a health talk session with the cardiology team were organised at the hospital premises. The health talk was aimed at educating older adults on how to prevent and manage heart diseases.

The camp featured a range of specialized services, The event featured a range of specialized services, including Special Yoga Sessions for Cardiovascular Health and Cardiac Awareness Sessions by experts with personalized consultations. Attendees were



also provided with informative materials and resources to enhance their understanding of cardio-related ailments, their risks, and lifestyle modifications for the prevention and management of the disease. During the event, Dr. Kapil K. Chhatree, Director, Cardiology, Max Hospital, Mohali, said, "Our mission is to empower individuals with the knowledge and tools to lead healthier lives. By organizing this camp, we hope to make a positive impact on the commu-

nity's understanding of cardiovascular diseases and encourage proactive healthcare practices. The event witnessed a remarkable participation of around 120 people availing various health checkups and consultations. The hospital staff, including nurses, technicians, and administrative personnel, worked tirelessly to ensure a smooth and efficient process for all attendees."

Dr. Dr. Kapil emphasized that "cardiovascular diseases account for 27% of all deaths in India each year, stressing the importance of creating widespread awareness about these conditions, along with appropriate treatment and preventive strategies to combat cardiac issues."

In addition to the health camp and talk, a painting competition for children from various schools was also organized, centered around the theme of World Heart Day.

Kaith continues door to door campaign in Marh Constituency

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 22: Independent candidate for Marh Mohan Lal Kaith on Sunday continued his election campaign with door to door outreach campaign in Marh Assembly Constituency.

During his campaign, Kaith covered areas like Raj Pura, Chorpur, Manyal, Jhiri, Kalyan Pur, Burj, Simbli, Sui, Chatha Gujran, Makhyalan, Bachyal, Marh, Pallassren, Dine Chack, Smailpur, Shahzadpur, Choana Chack, Ghou-Manhasan, Tikri Rakhwalan, Kukrayan, and Kirpal Pur. Kaith's door to door campaign allowed him to connect with people from all walks of life, under-



standing their daily struggles and challenges. He was warmly received by the residents, who expressed their optimism about his candidacy.

Kaith assured that he will work tirelessly to address issues of the people of constituency that he 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 their well-being, he added.

Throughout the campaign, Kaith was accompanied by Ex Sarpanch Harjeet Singh and Marh Block's Leader Shakti Sharma.

Madhuparamhans Maharaj addresses religious congregation in Mishriwala

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 22: Sadguru of Sahib Bandagi Shri Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj, while delighting the congregation with the nectar of his discourses in Mishriwala, said that there are crores of names in the world, but the soul cannot be liberated by them. The true name of saints is unique. It is a wonderful consciousness. It cannot be written, it cannot be read. It is beyond saying or hearing. There is bliss in it.

It is also written in the scriptures that the soul is blissful. There is no greater bliss than the soul. Some are saying that the soul is everything. I ask them that if the soul is

supreme then why is it bound. All the people of the world accept two things. Even if they do not believe in God, they still believe that the soul is blissful. They believe in the soul. There is no mention of God anywhere in Mahatma Buddha's Ashtang Yoga. There is only mention of the soul. I asked a Brahmgyani. He was also saying that the soul is everything. San'yasis also say the same thing - Aham Brahmasmi. I asked him that brother if soul is everything then how did it get bound. He said that because of karmas. Then karma itself became big. Then how did soul become everything. Here also there is a word that everyone is trapped



in karmas. These karmas become both auspicious and inauspicious. Here one thing comes that both sinful and virtuous karmas are binding. Our soul has no relation with karma. Whatever karma we do, we do it through 14 senses. All these work according to the mind. In this way every person is under the control of mind. Mind is Kaal, which is making the living being dance and miser-

able. Sahib is saying that Kaal in the form of mind is staying with the living being. It is a complete web of mind. We are also saying that we are bound in mind and Maya. But we are not trying to get free. What is concentration? Soul is meditation. That is why Kabir Sahib established Surat'i Yoga. That is, soul is pure consciousness in the body. That pure consciousness controls the body. It stays in Agya Chakra and controls the life in the body. But it is amazing that the soul has accepted itself as the body. Goswami Tulsi-das ji also said the same thing that the inanimate body and the conscious soul have become tied together. Even if it is false,

it is still not coming apart. Sahib is saying that both sin and virtue are chains. Both types of deeds are binding for the soul. The whole world is tied in the noose of deeds. After taking the body, the soul is in immense pain. Everyone is suffering this punishment. The soul has been tied with many bonds. It cannot be freed by its own strength. Goswami ji is saying that the Vedas and scriptures are telling many remedies but it is getting more and more entangled. No one can free this knot without the name of Sadguru. What is this name? The essence of the name is the Satpurush himself. That is, he can free one himself.

SNM organises blood donation camp at Kathua



Top News Report

KATHUA, Sep 22: The Sant Nirankari Mission (SNM) has been contributing to the social upliftment, relief and rehabilitation of the society for the last 90 years along with its core ideology of spiritual awareness.

SNM Branch Kathua organized a voluntarily blood donation camp at

Sant Nirankari Satsang Bhawan Kathua. Devotees from Branch Budhi, Basohli, Bani, Nagri and Mandli also participated in this camp. A total of 194 Units of blood donated in this camp.

The Camp was inaugurated by Ranjeet Singh MD SC ST Corporation JKUT while speaking on the occasion he said that Sant Nirankari Mission is

a leader in social activities especially in blood donation and large number of devotees came forward for this noble cause as blood donation is a great initiative for society. I hope more and more peoples and organizations came forward in the field of Blood Donation.

Ajit Singh Zonal Incharge SNM Jammu said that SNM is all-embracing

socio-spiritual dynamic and practical Mission and its objective is to establish and maintain love, peace, equality, oneness and a world without walls, without any prejudice or discrimination, under the blessings of Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj nearly 600 camps organized by the mission throughout the year in India. From the past 23 years Blood Donation Camps was organized in Kathua.

BR Nirankari Sanyojak Kathua welcome the Chief Guest and Donors presented on the occasion.

Other dignitaries presented were Dr Sonia Incharge Blood Bank GMC Kathua, Dr. Major Sahil Gorka from Blood Bank GMC Jammu. The camp was held in collaboration with blood & transfusion dept. of Govt. Medical College Jammu, of Govt. Medical College Kathua and JKACS.

Natrang stages Hindi play 'Girgit'

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 22: Hindi play 'Girgit' directed by Neeraj Kant featured here today in Natrang's weekly Theatre series 'Sunday Theatre' at Natrang Studio Theatre.

Based on a Russian short Story by Anton Chekhov the play proved to be the hard hitting satire on the present socio-political system. The adaptation of the play was deeply rooted in the soil of Jammu and its dramatic structure made the audience feel as if they are watching their own story. Every time the play is staged, some highly contemporary and situational aspect is added to it which refines its beauty. Natrang has been endeavoring to showcase highly relevant political and social satires and today's play demonstrated to be the shining



example of that. The play Girgit revolves around a Dog and corrupt Police Officer, who changes colours like a chameleon, every time as the situation changes irrespective of right or wrong. The stage action starts when a Dog bites a pickpocket who approaches the officers to help him to roundup owner but in vain. A passerby hints that the dog belongs to the local Minister as he saw a similar dog moving around his Bungalow. On getting his clue, the

officer starts beating the pickpocket for teasing a respectable dog. The officer claims that a dog of minister cannot bite unless and until forced to do so. While he is beating the pickpocket, another man from the crowd observes that the local minister cannot keep such dog, as he is known to have pointer-hunting dogs only. On this, dog is thrashed and search continues for the owner of the dog to enable the pickpocket to claim the compensation. The beat-

ing of the dog continues until a servant of the minister appears on the scene. At first he refuses to recognize the dog but later identifies him as the minister's brother's dog who has visited from Delhi. Here the dog is escorted back home with full official protocol.

Mihir Gujral as Police Officer portrayed aesthetically the changes of colours of the central character who was equally supported by Aadesh Dhar as his subordinate. Kananpreet Kaur as the senior officer successfully exhibited the complexities of the senior bureaucrats. Among others who gave impressive performances included Vishal Sharma as thief, Kushal Bhat as Minister's Servant, Lal Mohd. as Dog, Palshin Dutta, Vrinda Gujral, Vansh Pandotra, Pratibha Verma.

Comedy is becoming increasingly difficult, we have our filters now: Sunil Grover

Sunil Grover says performing comedy has become more challenging over time as comedians now have to be more mindful about what jokes are appropriate in the current cultural and social climate.

The situation the comedians face today, according to Grover, is akin to a video game where as the player progresses, they face more hurdles in their quest.

"Comedy is slowly becoming like a video game. When we would play Mario game, the first few stages would be easy and then there would be difficult stages.

"Similarly, comedy is becoming increasingly difficult to do. There are more challenges because we can't say this thing or that thing because it might hurt someone or the other. So, we have our filters," Grover told agency in an interview.

Grover, who previously worked on TV shows like "Comedy Nights with Kapil" and "The Kapil Sharma Show", gained popularity for playing the characters of Gutthi, Dr Mashhoor Gulati and Rinku Devi.

Despite the challenges, the 47-year-old actor said he is glad to have garnered a diverse fan base, who come to watch his comedy acts.

"There's nothing bigger and



more satisfying than a live audience watching you. When we travel, all kinds of people compliment us saying during tough times, we made them laugh," said the actor, also known for starring in movies such as "Jawan", "Bharat", "Gabbar is Back" and "Pataakha".

He recalled a moment from January 2022 when he was admitted to a hospital to undergo a heart surgery.

"When I was in hospital, people in four adjacent rooms were watching comedy shows because the doctor had advised them to do so. It's so beautiful. We want to do our best and we intend to make people laugh, and nothing else. We do it with all our heart," he added.

The comedian currently features in "The Great Indian Kapil Show" which kickstarted on Netflix with its first season in June this year. Its sophomore chapter started streaming on Saturday.

Another permanent fixture in the Netflix show, Archana Puran Singh has come to be known for her infectious laughter that often spills over to the audience as well.

"I laugh genuinely. I'm not sitting there and saying, 'Make me laugh'. I'm not distracted with anything else like how we often get while watching TV at home, so my whole focus is on them, I understand and appreciate the nuances of the performances. Sometimes I appreciate the character, punch lines and some

nuisance as well," Singh said.

She lamented that during her previous stint as a judge on the 2007 show "Comedy Circus", her laughter was manipulated and used inappropriately to lift weak jokes.

"The format of having someone just laugh at the jokes was new at that time. So, even if the joke was not good or the contestant had just begun his act, the production team believed that by adding my laughter anywhere they could lift a weak joke," she said.

"For instance, if a contestant would say, 'Ek Aadmi Tha', and they would put my laughter in the edit, am I some nut case to laugh even before the joke has started? I was very upset with this attitude. My integrity as a judge was decimated, people thought I laughed for no reason," she added.

The second season of the celebrity chat series will see actor Alia Bhatt and filmmaker Karan Johar promoting their upcoming film "Jigra". "Devara" stars — Jr NTR, Saif Ali Khan and Janhvi Kapoor — and members from the T20 World Cup-winning cricket team will appear on the show as well.

"The Great Indian Kapil Show" also features Krushna Abhishek, Kiku Sharda and Rajiv Thakur.

'I'm always keen to work with him again': Kiran Rao



Renowned Bollywood director Kiran Rao who is currently basking in the success of her 2024

satire-drama 'Laapataa Ladies' has shared on working again with her ex-husband Aamir Khan.

During a special event, when the host asked her about working with Aamir again, she said, "No, we will definitely work together in the future. I don't know in what capacity because I enjoy working with him, you know, he was the producer on this. Aamir found the script. So I'm always keen to work with him again."

"Whether Aamir is acting, whether he'll produce, I don't know and honestly, I haven't, I feel like I need to focus on the story first and then it'll take its own organic journey. So hopefully we will work together again," she concluded.

For the unversed, Kiran and Aamir collaborated on the 2021 drama film 'Dhobi Ghat' which also marked the directorial debut of Kiran Rao. The film featured Aamir Khan, Prateik Babbar, Monica Dogra and Kriti Malhotra in the lead roles.

When Parineeti Chopra encountered 'mirchi' moment in Budapest

Actress Parineeti Chopra has shared a fiery food adventure on how she bravely tackled the challenge of eating one of the hottest chillies in Budapest, that she humorously described as nearly "killing" her.

Taking to Instagram, Parineeti, who has an impressive 44.1 million followers, shared a candid reel video recounting her spicy culinary adventures.

In the clip, she humorously reflects, "But the hottest chilli I have ever eaten in my life, twice it happened—once was in Budapest and once was in Australia. I just took a big spoon, but that was the only chilli in the world that has killed me."

The post is captioned as, 'Episode: All things food'.



Karan Johar: My kids, Yash and Roohi, still don't know what I do

Karan Johar may have conquered the global stage, but at home, his kids Yash and Roohi are still trying to figure out what dad does for a living. The filmmaker made the confession in an episode of The Great Indian Kapil Show.

The filmmaker was seen in the first episode of second season of the show, which is streaming on Netflix, with Jigra actors Alia Bhatt, Vedang Raina and director Vasant Bala.

On his kids

Karan got candid about his life as a father during an interaction with the host Kapil Sharma.

"They don't know what I do. I have told them that I am a director. They come back and ask me if the director is typically behind the camera... Because they see me on the television," he said.

Karan continues, "I tell them about what I do. Once somebody asked them, 'what does your dad do', and they said 'we are very confused. We don't know what he does'. They really don't know".

Karan revealed that they get amused when his kids see him



in make-up, changing clothes with a costume designer at home. "They keep wondering what is happening," he added.

Here, Kapil asked about his twins trolling him, and Karan admitted it with a laugh. "They are my biggest trolls... So, why should I fear others when I have my kids," Karan quips.

On fatherhood
In the episode, Karan also

daily," he shared.

Karan also revealed that he is surprised at himself for "telling them so many nonsensical stories". "They loved animals, and used to like to hear about lions, tigers, elephants and birds. So, I used to come up with ridiculous stories," he shared.

About Karan's twin kids

Karan welcomed his son Yash and daughter Roohi via surrogacy in February 2017. He named Yash after his father late Yash Johar, while Roohi is an anagram of his mother's name Hiro.

Karan's upcoming work

When it comes to the film front, Karan has co-produced Jigra along with Alia Bhatt. Alia is leading the film, which narrates the story of a brother and sister. It also stars Vedang Raina.

Apart from this, he will be making a highly anticipated web series for Netflix. The project, a passion project for the director, is set to feature a star-studded ensemble of celebrated female actors. The script is finalised, and production is slated to begin in early 2025.

Sayani Gupta: I have been practicing Kalaripayattu since the age of 20

Actor Sayani Gupta recently shared a video while practicing Kalaripayattu, a form of martial arts, on her Instagram handle. While talking to us, she tells us that she has been doing Kalaripayattu "since the age of 20". "I first learnt kalaripayattu in LSR (Delhi University college) under the guidance of a brilliant teacher, Sagar sir," she continues, "I have always been a dancer so I was just exploring a new form of art which I really enjoy till date with the discipline that it has given me."

The 38-year-old further adds that she stopped practicing the form after graduation but continued during her time at FTII. "I resumed my Kalaripayattu practice, as I prefer not to stick to one thing but still have the same skill as my basics

are strong being a life-long dancer.

The video I shared is from 2021 for a big campaign based on Kalaripayattu that we were practicing during that time. I genuinely enjoy it, hoping to continue it my whole life," she reveals.

How does she maintain her physical and mental conditioning for Kalaripayattu? "Any form of Martial art comes from a deep place of centering that includes your spine core, which has to be in the center and stable. These factors do make an impact on your physical and even mental being. Especially as a woman, anything that makes you feel strong should be practiced. Martial art especially makes you feel calmer. Kalaripayattu is one of the Fathers of martial arts and if you are a true



practitioner, it can have a major impact on your physical and mental health," Gupta reveals.

The actor, who was last seen in Call Me Bae, tells us that Kalaripayattu is not something she has been practicing since childhood, but it actually started later in life - "I didn't always want to learn Kalaripayattu as I was not aware about it. But thankfully, I got introduced to so many forms of dance or martial arts at a very young age which led from one thing to another."

Gupta also expresses her desire to incorporate martial arts in her future roles of projects. "Honestly, I would love to do an action film with Kalaripayattu in it. It would be amazing to practice something professionally that I've been doing as my interest," she ends.

Florence Pugh has 'wanted kids' for years now: 'I love the idea of a big family'



Actor Florence Pugh, who is known for her roles in Dune, Lady Macbeth, The Little Drummer Girl, Fighting with My Family, among others, talked about her wish to be a mother and said that she loves kids, reported agency.
Florence Pugh on her love for kids

"Oh, I've always been thinking about starting a family," Florence said. "I've wanted to have kids since I was a child myself," she continued.

The actor added, "I love the idea of a big family. I come from a big family. I love kids. I love hanging out with kids. If ever there's a dinner party, I go straight to the kids to chat to them."

She shared that for her chatting with kids is easier as compared to adults. "I love the honesty," she explained. "I love how bored they can get. I've never stopped knowing that I want to have kids. It's just figuring out when."

Earlier, she opened up on why she decided to shave her head for her new movie We Live in Time, however, director John Crowley told her that wigs and other hairpieces were options.

"I just stopped him mid-sentence and I was like, 'John, no one can play a character like this in a movie like this and not do the thing that is needed to be done,' " she shared, adding, "And if you don't want to do it, I believe that you shouldn't be doing a story like this."

Florence debuted her buzz cut at the 2023 Met Gala. "I think there was this weird rumour on the internet saying that I did it to take back my identity," she recalled, reported agency.

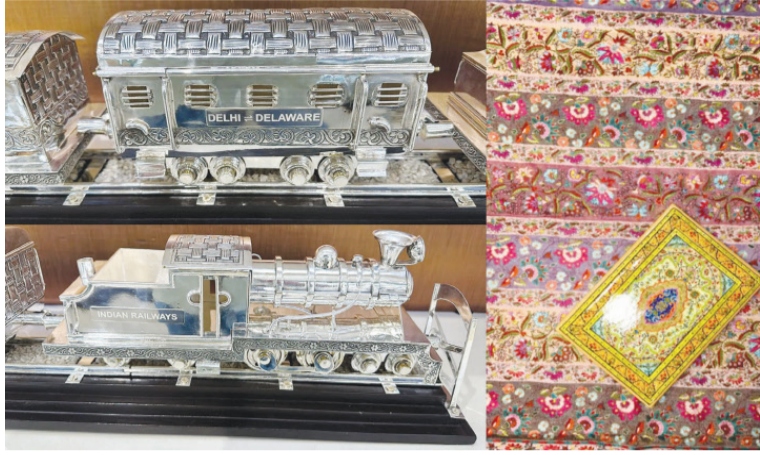
In US, PM Modi gifts silver train model to Biden, pashmina shawl to First Lady

Hand-engraved train model made by Maharashtra artisans; shawl presented in papier mache box

NEW DELHI / DELAWARE, Sep 22 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday gifted US President Joe Biden an antique silver hand-engraved train model. He also presented First Lady Jill Biden with a high quality pashmina shawl woven from the shearing of goats found in the higher altitude areas of Ladakh.

The vintage silver hand-engraved train model is a rare and extraordinary piece, masterfully crafted by artisans from Maharashtra -- renowned for its rich heritage in silver craftsmanship. Made of 92.5 per cent silver, the model showcases the pinnacle of Indian metal-working artistry, with elaborate details achieved through traditional techniques such as engraving, repoussé (hammering from the reverse to create raised designs) and intricate filigree work.

This creation is a tribute to the steam locomotive era, with



artistic brilliance merging with historical significance. Signifying the robust linkages between India and the US, the model has been customised by inscribing "Delhi-Delaware" -- Delaware is the home state of President Biden.

On the sides of the carriage, the words "Indian Railways" is inscribed in English and Hindi -- based on the standard format used on passenger trains in

India. The pashmina shawl was presented to the First Lady in a papier mache box.

The story of the shawls begins with goats that inhabit the Changthang plateau in the high altitudes of Ladakh. The goat's winter coat, known as "pashm", is the soul of the shawl. This fine and soft fibre is hand-combed. Skilled artisans spin "pashm" into yarn, often by hand using

traditional techniques passed down through generations.

The palette of a pashmina shawl is as diverse as the land it hails from. Natural dyes derived from plants and minerals infuse the fabric with vibrant hues.

Pashmina shawls are heirlooms passed down through generations, carrying memories and emotions within their threads. Contemporary designers are incorporating modern sensibilities, experimenting with bolder colors, playful patterns and even fusion styles.

Pashmina shawls traditionally come packed in papier mache boxes from J&K, which are renowned for their exquisite beauty and craftsmanship. These boxes are handmade using a mixture of paper pulp, glue and other natural materials. Each box is a unique work of art, reflecting the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir. These boxes are functional and serve as decorative items in their own right.

PM conspired to prove me corrupt: Arvind Kejriwal's big charge



NEW DELHI, Sep 22 (Agencies): Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo and former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi conspired to prove that he was corrupt.

Speaking during the 'Janta ki Adalat' event at Jantar Mantar in Delhi on Sunday, he said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi conspired against us. He conspired to prove me and (AAP leader) Manish Sisodia corrupt. He tried

to taint our image."

Kejriwal said that he had been running the Delhi government for the past 10 years "with honesty", and PM Modi felt that the only way to "win against him was to attack his honesty".

Kejriwal said, "I resigned because I am not hungry for the Chief Minister's chair. I am not here to earn money, but to change the politics of the country."

The AAP chief said that he would leave the Chief Minister's residence in a

few days. Kejriwal further claimed that he didn't have a house in Delhi even after being the Chief Minister for 10 years.

He said that he doesn't have a "thick skin" and he felt "sad" and was "suffering" when the BJP called him corrupt.

"If Arvind Kejriwal is dishonest, would he have made electricity free? If he is dishonest, would he have made bus fares for women free? If he was dishonest, would he have built schools for children? If he was dishonest, would he have made treatment in hospitals free? The BJP is in power in 22 states. Have they made electricity or bus ride free for women in any of the states?" the AAP chief said.

He further questioned if he was the "thief" or the people who sent Kejriwal to jail were thieves.

Gujarat AAP MLA, 20 others booked for attacking restaurant owner over bill settlement

RAJPIPLA, Sep 22 (Agencies): A case has been registered against an MLA of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and 20 others for allegedly attacking a restaurant owner in Gujarat's Narmada district, police said on Sunday.

Based on a complaint, the police on Saturday registered an FIR against AAP MLA Chaitar Vasava, along with six identified and around 15 unidentified persons, for the incident that occurred in Dediapada on September 16, an official said.

Chaitar Vasava, who won the 2022 Gujarat election from the Dediapada constituency, and the other accused allegedly hurled verbal abuses and thrashed the complainant and restaurant owner Shantilal Vasava, the official said.

The FIR states that the legislator and others attacked the complainant on the night of September 16 after he was asked to settle a restaurant bill, he said.

The complainant alleged that he called



Chaitar Vasava on his mobile phone and asked him to settle the bill. This angered the MLA and he asked the latter to wait for him at his house, the official said.

He said the MLA allegedly reached the complainant's house along with a group of 20 people, slapped him and verbally abused him. The AAP leader's accomplices also thrashed him and threatened to kill him.

A case has been registered against the accused under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) pertaining to

rioting, unlawful assembly, voluntarily causing hurt, intentional insult, criminal intimidation and criminal conspiracy. No arrests have been made so far, the official said.

Chaitar Vasava unsuccessfully contested the 2024 Lok Sabha election along with a group of 20 people, slapped him and verbally abused him. The AAP leader's accomplices also thrashed him and threatened to kill him.

The MLA was arrested in December last year for allegedly threatening a forest official, firing in the air and extorting money. He spent nearly six weeks in jail before a sessions court granted him regular bail.

Mamata again writes to PM Modi on Bengal flood, says her govt not consulted on water release by DVC

KOLKATA, Sep 22 (Agencies): Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee wrote another letter to PM Narendra Modi on the flood situation in West Bengal, maintaining that Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) released water from its reservoirs without consulting her government, inundating several districts.

Responding to Banerjee's earlier letter to the PM, Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Paatil had said the state's officials were informed at every stage about the release of water from DVC reservoirs, which was essential to prevent a major disaster.



Banerjee said, "While the hon'ble minister claims that the release from DVC dams was carried out by consensus and collaboration with the Damodar Valley Reservoir Regulation Committee, including consultations with representatives of the government of West Bengal, I may respectfully disagree."

"All the critical deci-

sions are made unilaterally by representatives of the Central Water Commission, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India without arriving at a consensus," she added.

Banerjee claimed that sometimes water is released without any notice to the state government and the views of her government are not honoured.

"Moreover peak release from the reservoirs lasting for a prolonged period of nine hours were conducted with only 3.5 hours notice which proved insufficient for effective disaster management," she said in the letter dated September 21, which was made public on Sunday.

In her letter to PM Modi on September 20, she claimed that 5 million people in the state were affected by the floods, and urged him to immediately sanction and release central funds to address the widespread devastation.

In his letter, Paatil addressed the chief min-

ister's concerns about the flooding caused by the release of water from the DVC reservoirs.

He explained that the releases were managed by the Damodar Valley Reservoir Regulation Committee (DVRRC), which includes representatives from the Central Water Commission, West Bengal, Jharkhand, and the DVC.

Paatil clarified that from September 14 to 17, the release of water from the Maithon and Panchet reservoirs was curtailed by 50 per cent at the request of West Bengal officials due to heavy rainfall.

2 underage boys rape seven-year-old girl in UP, detained



BALLIA, Sep 22 (Agencies): Two minor

boys allegedly gang-raped a seven-year-old

girl in Ballia, police said on Sunday.

Both the accused have been caught, they said.

The incident took place in the Kotwali area on Friday afternoon when the boys aged around seven to eight years lured the girl and raped her, the police said.

They said the girl returned home later and

when her condition deteriorated on Saturday, the family took her to the district hospital.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Vikrant Veer said they reached the district hospital after receiving information about the incident late on Saturday.

The girl was shifted to Varanasi for better treat-

ment, Veer said.

Based on the complaint lodged by the girl's father, a case has been registered against both the juvenile offenders under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, he added.

LPG cylinder found on railway tracks in Kanpur in another train derailment bid

KANPUR, Sep 22 (Agencies): A major train accident was narrowly avoided early Sunday after an LPG cylinder was found on the rail tracks near Perambur Railway Station in Kanpur district of Uttar Pradesh. The cylinder was spotted ahead of a goods train, prompting the loco pilot to apply the brakes just in time.

This marks the fourth incident in September where unidentified miscreants have attempted to derail trains. On September 8, the Kalindi Express, traveling from Prayagraj to Bhiwani, struck an LPG cylinder placed on the tracks in Kanpur.

The train halted after hitting the cylinder, and the loco pilot also noticed other suspicious items, including a petrol bottle and matchboxes.

Indian Railways reported on September 10 that there have been 18 attempts to derail trains nationwide since August.

Between June 2023 and now, 24 such incidents have occurred, with objects like LPG cylinders, bicycles, iron rods, and cement blocks being found on tracks. According to the Railways, of the 18 incidents, 15 took place in August and four in September, including the latest train derailment attempt in Kanpur.

Tirupati laddu row: Jagan Reddy writes to PM Modi, wants CM Naidu to be reprimanded for spreading 'lies'



AMARAVATI, Sep 22 (Agencies): Dubbing the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister as a "habitual liar", YSR Congress chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Sunday sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention to reprimand Chandrababu Naidu over the Tirupati laddu adulteration issue.

In a letter addressed to PM Modi, Jagan alleged that CM Chandrababu Naidu has stooped so low as to hurt the beliefs of crores of people purely for political objectives.

Detailing the process undertaken at Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) the custodian of the super-rich shrine of Sri Venkateswara Swamy for accepting ghee, in an eight-page letter, Jagan alleged that Naidu's actions lowered not only the stature of CM but also that of everyone in public life, the sanctity of TTD and its practices.

"Sir, the entire country looks to you at this crucial juncture. It is very imperative that Mr Naidu be reprimanded in the severest way for his shameless act of spreading lies and the truth be brought to light. Sir, this would help allay the suspicions that Mr Naidu has created in the minds of crores of Hindu devotees and restore their faith in sanctity of TTD," Jagan wrote in his letter.

Explaining the sequence of events, he said it is crucial to note that the ghee allegedly adulterated was rejected and not allowed to enter the premises of TTD. However, Naidu with malafide intention raised the issue at a political party meeting on September 18.

During an NDA legislative party meeting a few days ago, the TDP supremo claimed that the previous YSRCP government did not even spare Sri Venkateswara temple and used sub-standard ingredients and animal fat for making laddus.

Two days later on September 20, TTD Executive Officer J Shyamala Rao in a press conference said Lab tests had revealed the presence of animal fat and lard in chosen samples and the board is in the process of blacklisting the contractor who supplied "adulterated" ghee.

Mayawati raises questions over rising crimes against women in country



LUCKNOW, Sep 22 (Agencies): BSP president and former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Mayawati expressed concern over "rising" crimes against women across the country and questioned governments' intentions and policies on women's safety.

"It is very sad to indulge in narrow politics of allegations and counter-allegations on the increasing incidents of crimes against women across the country including UP, Bengal, Odisha, Karnataka, whereas this is the time for serious thinking whether there

is a grave flaw in the intentions and policies of governments regarding women's safety and respect?" the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief said in a post on 'X' in Hindi on Sunday.

She said that prima facie the "negligence" of governments and the "involvement" of police in such heinous crimes happening one after the other is making the situation even more serious.

"It is very important for everyone to abandon this negligence and be impartial and serious so that the state and the country can be saved from the disrepute caused by such heinous crimes," Mayawati said in her series of posts on 'X'.

Hezbollah fires over 100 rockets across a wider and deeper area of Israel as fears of war mount

NAHARIYA, Sep 22 (Agencies): Hezbollah launched more than 100 rockets early Sunday across a wider and deeper area of northern Israel, with some landing near the city of Haifa, as Israel launched hundreds of strikes on Lebanon. The sides appeared to be spiraling toward all-out war following months of escalating tensions.

The rocket barrage overnight set off air raid sirens across northern Israel, sending thousands of people scrambling into shelters. The Israeli military said that rockets had been fired "toward civilian areas," pointing to a possible escalation after previous barrages had mainly been aimed at military targets.

One rocket struck near a residential building in Kiryat Bialik, a community near Haifa, wounding at least three people and setting buildings and cars on fire. Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said that a total of four people were wounded by shrapnel in the barrage.

Avi Vazana raced to a shelter with his wife and 9-month-old baby before he heard the boom of the rocket hitting in Kiryat Bialik. Then he went back outside to see if anyone was hurt. "I ran without shoes, without a shirt, only with pants. I ran to this house when everything was still on fire to try to find if there are other people," he said.

Lebanon's Health Ministry said that one person was killed and another wounded in an Israeli strike near the border.

The barrage came after an Israeli airstrike in Beirut on Friday killed at least 45 people, including one of Hezbollah's top leaders as well as women and children. Hezbollah was already reeling from a sophisticated attack that caused thousands of personal devices to explode just days earlier.

The Israeli military said that it carried out a wave of strikes across southern Lebanon over the past 24 hours, hitting about 400 militant sites, including rocket launchers. Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani, an Israeli



military spokesman, said those strikes had thwarted an even larger attack.

"Hundreds of thousands of civilians have come under fire across a lot of northern Israel. They spent the night and now the morning in bomb shelters," he said. "Today we saw fire that was deeper into Israel than before."

The military also said it had intercepted multiple aerial devices fired from the direction of Iraq, after Iran-backed militant groups there claimed to have launched a drone attack on Israel.

Israel's Health Ministry said that all hospitals in the north would begin moving operations to protected areas or shelters within the medical centers.

In a separate development, Israeli forces raided the West Bank bureau of Al-Jazeera, which it had banned earlier this year, accusing it of serving as a mouthpiece for militant groups, allegations denied by the pan-Arab broadcaster.

Israel and Hezbollah have traded fire since the outbreak of the war in Gaza nearly a year ago, when the militant group began firing rockets in solidarity with the Palestinians and its fellow Iran-backed ally Hamas. The low-level fighting has killed dozens of people in Israel, hundreds in Lebanon, and displaced tens of thousands on both sides of the frontier.

Neither side is believed to be seeking a war, and Hezbollah has so far stopped short of targeting Tel Aviv or major civilian infrastructure. But in recent weeks, Israel has shifted its focus from Gaza to Lebanon

and vowed to bring back calm to the border so that its citizens can return to their homes. Hezbollah has said that it would only halt its attacks if there is a cease-fire in Gaza, which appears increasingly elusive as long-running talks led by the United States, Egypt and Qatar have repeatedly bogged down.

The war in Gaza began with Hamas' Oct. 7 attack into Israel, in which Palestinian militants killed about 1,200 people and took around 250 others hostage. They are still holding around 100 captives, a third of whom are believed to be dead. Gaza's Health Ministry says that more than 41,000 Palestinians have been killed. It doesn't say how many were fighters, but says women and children make up more than half of the dead.

Families of the hostages have raised fears that a war in the north would distract from their plight and further complicate the negotiations over their release.

Israeli media reported that rockets fired from Lebanon early Sunday were intercepted in the areas of Haifa and Nazareth, which are further south than most of the rocket fire to date. Israel canceled school across the north, deepening the sense of crisis.

Hezbollah said that it had launched dozens of Fadi 1 and Fadi 2 missiles — a new type of weapon the group hadn't used before — at the Ramat David airbase, southeast of Haifa, "in response to the repeated Israeli attacks that targeted various Lebanese regions and led to the fall of many civilian martyrs."

In July, the group released a video with what it said was footage it had filmed of the base with surveillance drones.

Hezbollah also said it had targeted the facilities of the Rafael defense firm, which is headquartered in Haifa, calling it retaliation for the wireless devices attack. It didn't provide evidence, and the Israeli military declined to comment on the statement.

Hezbollah has vowed to retaliate against Israel for a wave of explosions that hit pagers and walkie-talkies belonging to Hezbollah members on Tuesday and Wednesday, killing at least 37 people — including two children — and wounding around 3,000. The attacks were widely blamed on Israel, which hasn't confirmed or denied responsibility.

On Friday, an Israeli airstrike took down an eight-story building in a densely populated neighborhood in Beirut's southern suburbs as Hezbollah members were meeting in the basement, according to Israel. Among those killed was Ibrahim Akil, a top Hezbollah official who commanded the group's special forces unit, known as the Radwan Force.

Lebanese authorities say at least seven women and three children were killed in Friday's airstrike on the building and that another 68 people were wounded, including 15 who were hospitalized.

It was the deadliest strike on Beirut since the bruising monthlong war in 2006 between Israel and Hezbollah, and the casualty count could grow, with 23 people still missing, a government official said.

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said that the attack broke up the group's chain of command while taking out Akil, who he said was responsible for Israeli deaths.

Akil had been on the U.S. most wanted list for years, with a \$7 million reward, over his alleged role in the 1983 bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut and the taking of American and German hostages in Lebanon during the civil war in the 1980s.

Iran coal mine blast kills 30, says state media

IRNA said a leak of methane gas led to the blast in two blocks of the mine.



TEHRAN, Sep 22 (Agencies): A blast caused by a gas leak at a coal mine in eastern Iran has killed at least 30 people, state media said Sunday, with more than 20 others reported missing.

"The death toll in the Tabas mine accident increased to 30", the official IRNA news agency said, revising an earlier toll of 19 killed.

Javad Ghenaat, governor of South Khorasan province where the mine is located, told state TV that rescue teams were working to recover 22 trapped workers.

According to IRNA, "17 others were injured" in the explosion at around 9:00 pm (1730 GMT) on Saturday, when 69 workers were present at the site.

It said a leak of methane gas led to the blast in two blocks of the mine.

State TV broadcast footage of ambulances and helicopters arriving at the scene of the incident to transport the injured to hospital.

Online footage carried by IRNA showed bodies of some of the victims, wearing their work uniform, carried out of the site on mining carts.

President Masoud Pezeshkian, in remarks carried state TV before departing for the UN General Assembly in New York, offered his condolences to the families of the victims and ordered a probe into the deadly incident.

"Unfortunately, we learned that an accident occurred in one of the coal mines in Tabas and a number of our compatriots lost their lives. I offer my condolences to their respected families," Pezeshkian said.

His first vice president, Mohammad Reza

Aref, spoke with cabinet members to ensure "emergency follow-up" and support for the victims and their families, IRNA said.

Iran's Red Crescent said search and rescue operations were underway in the mine, where some workers remained trapped.

But "gas accumulation in the mine" has made the search operations difficult, local prosecutor Ali Nesaei was quoted by IRNA as saying.

"Currently, the priority is to provide aid to the injured and pull people from under the rubble," Nesaei said.

He added that "the negligence and fault of the relevant agents will be dealt with" later on.

Last year, an explosion at a coal mine in the northern city of Damghan killed six people, also likely the result of methane leak according to local media.

In May 2021, two miners died in a collapse at the same site, local media reported at the time.

A blast in 2017 killed 43 miners in Azad Shahr city in northern Iran, triggering anger toward Iranian authorities.

German chancellor's Social Democrats seek to hold off far right in Brandenburg state election

BERLIN, Sep 22 (Agencies): A state election is taking place in Brandenburg on Sunday, three weeks after a far-right party made gains in two other states in eastern Germany.

Around 2.1 million people are registered to vote for a new state parliament in Brandenburg, the state that surrounds the German capital, Berlin.

Sunday's election is being watched closely for signs about the country's political direction.

The latest polls showed that the far-right Alternative for Germany is neck-and-neck with the Social Democrats, the party that has governed Brandenburg continuously since German reunification in 1990.

The Social Democrats, the largest party in Chancellor Olaf Scholz's three-way coalition government, are hoping to maintain control of their stronghold in the face of rising support for parties on the extreme right and left.

If the Social Democrats lose in Brandenburg, it would be seen

as a bad omen for Scholz a year before a federal election that is due to be held on Sept. 28, 2025. Scholz lives in Potsdam, the capital of Brandenburg, and German political observers believe the chancellor's political future will be shaped by the results of Sunday's vote in Brandenburg.

The fate of the Brandenburg governor, Dietmar Woidke, is also hanging in the balance. He made it his goal for his Social Democrats to beat Alternative for Germany, or AfD, and vowed to resign should the AfD win.

"If I lose against the AfD, I am gone," Woidke said.

The Alternative for Germany won the most votes in the state of Thuringia and also did well in an election in Saxony on Sept. 1. A new party founded by a prominent leftist also made a strong impact, while the parties in Scholz's unpopular national government obtained extremely weak results.

That was the first time the far right won an election in Germany since World War II, and it dealt a heavy blow to

Scholz's centrist coalition. It also generated concerns in Germany and abroad about the growing support for the extreme right in the largest European Union country, and a member of NATO.

The far-right party has gained support amid a growing backlash to large-scale migration to Germany over the past decade and several recent extremist attacks. Germany's economy, once a powerhouse, has been weakening, adding to a general feeling of malaise.

Sunday's vote follows a heated election campaign centered on the issues of migration, internal security and peace. Both the far right and the new leftist movement, the Saha Wagenknecht Alliance, or BSW, want to end weapons deliveries to Kyiv as Ukraine tried to defend itself against Russia's full-scale invasion.

Even if the Alternative for Germany wins in Brandenburg, it is unlikely to govern because other parties have refused to work with it.

Over 20 people wounded after Russia strikes apartment blocks in Ukraine's Kharkiv



KYIV, Sep 22 (Agencies): Russian strikes hit high-rise apartment blocks in Ukraine's Kharkiv, leaving dozens wounded in a second consecutive nighttime attack this week.

The bombs fell Saturday night on the district of Shevchenkivskyi, in Ukraine's northeast, local Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said. Residential 16 and 9-story buildings were destroyed, and seven more buildings were damaged, he added.

Twenty-one people were wounded, including an eight-year-old, two 17-year-olds and several older adults, according to Syniehubov and Kharkiv mayor Ihor Terekhov.

The attack came after another late Friday that wounded 15 people,

including a 10- and 12-year-old, as Russian airstrikes hit three Kharkiv neighborhoods, Terekhov said.

According to Ukrainian officials, KAB-type aerial glide bombs were used in both attacks, a retrofitted Soviet weapon that has for months laid waste to eastern Ukraine.

Russia also launched 80 Shahed drones and two missiles at Ukraine overnight into Sunday, the Ukrainian air force said in an online statement.

Ukrainian air defense shot down 71 drones, and another six were lost on location due to electronic warfare countermeasures, the statement said.

Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in Feb. 2022.

Sri Lankan Marxist leader Dissanayaka leads presidential vote

COLOMBO, Sep 22 (Agencies): Anura Kumara Dissanayake, the leader of the Marxist JVP's broader front National People's Power (NPP), on Sunday consolidated his lead in the Sri Lanka's presidential election.

On Saturday, Sri Lankans voted to elect a new president for the first election since the economic meltdown in 2022.

The voter turnout in the presidential election was around 75 per cent. Lower than the 83 per cent polled in the previous presidential election held in November 2019.

In the cumulative vote count declared by 7 am on Sunday, 56-year-old Dissanayake amassed 7,27,000 votes or 52 per cent against his nearest rival 57-year-old Sajith Premadasa, the main opposition leader who received 3,33,000 votes at 23 per cent.

The incumbent Ranil Wickremesinghe, 75, was trailing way behind with 2,35,000 votes at 16 per cent.

Dissanayake won 21 of the 22 postal district votes while bagging several results declared thus far from the 168 geographical parliamentary seats from different districts.

Wickremesinghe is yet to concede defeat but his Foreign Minister Ali Sabry on X congratulated Dissanayake for his win.

"After a long and arduous campaign, the results of the election are now clear. Though I heavily campaigned for President Ranil Wickremesinghe, the



people of Sri Lanka have made their decision, and I fully respect their mandate for Anura Kumara Dissanayake. In a democracy, it is crucial to honour the will of the people, and I do so without hesitation," Sabry wrote on X.

"I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Dissanayake and his team," he added.

Premadasa camp senior Harsha de Silva too congratulated Dissanayake.

NPP sources said they would be visiting the presidential secretariat on Sunday to discuss the formalities of the transition in the morning hours.

The swing Dissanayake garnered was of unbelievable proportions despite pre-poll expectations of his victory which was considered foregone, analysts said.

Dissanayake's NPP had only garnered 3 per cent of the vote in the previous election - the 2020 August parliamentary election.

Sri Lanka's crisis has proven an opportunity for Dissanayake, who

has seen a surge of support due to his pledge to change the island's "corrupt" political culture.

This time, the minority Tamil issue is not on the agenda. Instead, the nation's battered economy and its recovery have taken centre stage with all three front runners vowing to stick with the IMF bail-out reforms.

Dissanayake and Premadasa want to tinker with the IMF programme to give more economic relief to the public.

The polls were held on Saturday from 7 am to 4 pm local time at over 13,400 polling stations in 22 electoral districts in the election which had the highest number of candidates, 38, but no female aspirant for the top post.

Voters in Sri Lanka elect a single winner by ranking up to three candidates in order of preference. If a candidate receives an absolute majority, they will be declared the winner. If not, a second round of counting will commence, with second and third-choice votes then taken into account.

Sobat Ali continues campaign in Bahu Constituency, seeks votes from Govindpura, adjoining areas

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 22: Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) candidate from Bahu-Gandhi Nagar Assembly Constituency, Sobat Ali on Sunday continued his election campaign at Govindpura and adjoining areas near the Jammu Airport.

While campaigning, senior DPAP leader and former JMC Councillor, Sobat Ali Choudhary visited door-to-door to



directly interact with the people of the area to know their issues.

The locals of Govindpura and adjoining areas raised the issues

of poor water supply, frequent power cuts, poor road condition, hefty power bills, drug addiction, unemployment and many more issues.

While interacting with them Sobat Ali assured the concerned authorities for appropriate solution to the issues raised by the public.

He said that the previous regimes paid no heed to the burning issues of the public due to which miseries of the people increased.

"Now the time has come for a change," Sobat Ali maintained asking the people of Bahu-Gandhi Nagar Constituency for support

so that he may win with a good margin to work hard for public welfare.

He further said that DPAP under the leadership of Ghulam Nabi Azad is determined to ensure public welfare and developments in Jammu and Kashmir at any cost.

"Election symbol of DPAP is bucket and I request you all to press the button on EVM in front of bucket so that welfare of all is ensured," he maintained.

JSS Jammu hosts conclusion of CBSE Kho Kho Cluster XVIII Girls Championship

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 22: Jammu Sanskriti School (JSS) Jammu celebrated the successful culmination of the CBSE Kho Kho Cluster XVIII Girls Championship, showcasing the spirit of sportsmanship and teamwork among young athletes. The event was graced by Dr. Neha Sharma, JKAS, Under Secretary in the Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board, who served as the Chief Guest. Distinguished Indian para-athlete Chandeeep Singh was also present as a special invitee.

In her address, Dr. Sharma highlighted the essential role of sports in developing discipline and resilience. She emphasized that events like these not only promote physical fitness but also impart valuable life skills. Her words inspired the young athletes to embrace the challenges that lie ahead. She also commended the Jammu Sanskriti School staff for

their efforts in ensuring the smooth execution of the event.

Chandeeep Singh shared his inspiring journey, encouraging participants to view obstacles as opportunities. "Every setback is an opportunity for a comeback," he stated, motivating the athletes to strive for excellence in their endeavors.

The championship concluded with a spirited awards ceremony. In the Under 14 category, GNM Public School, Jalandhar, took home the first trophy, followed by Divine Will Public School, Batala, in second place. Delhi International School, Hoshiarpur, and Stephens International School, Jammu, shared the third position. Mannat from GNM was named Best Defender, while Sukhpreet Kour from Divine Will was recognized as Best Attacker.

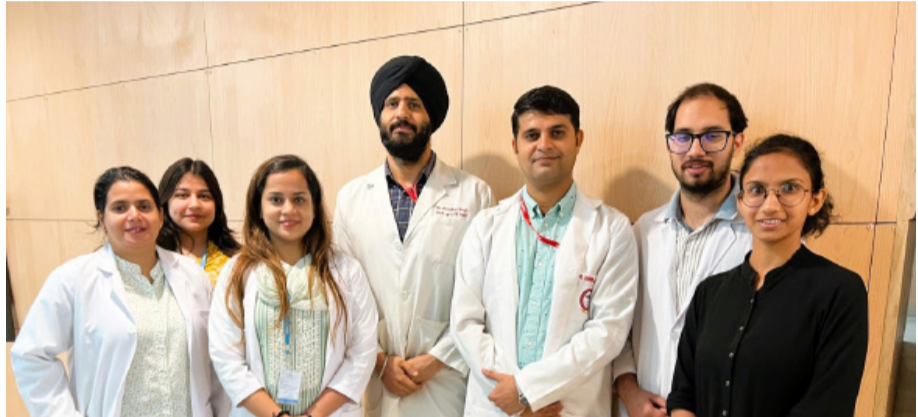
In the Under 17 category, SGH Sur Singh, Taran Taran, emerged as the champion, with Divine Will Public

School, Batala, securing second place. DIPS, Pathankot, and GNM, Jalandhar, shared third. Jasmine Kour from Shri Guruharkrishan School, Taran Taran, was awarded Best Defender, and Sukhleen Kour from Divine Will was named Best Attacker.

Shifally International School, Ludhiana, won the Under 19 category. Rohini Aima, Principal and Vice-Chairperson of Jammu Sanskriti School, expressed immense pride in the championship's success, stating, "Our students have demonstrated remarkable spirit and commitment throughout this event." She underscored the importance of sports for holistic development and the school's dedication to nurturing both academic and athletic excellence.

The event also featured vibrant cultural performances, highlighting the rich traditions and talents of the students, fostering a sense of unity and celebration among all participants and spectators.

AIIMS Jammu expands ENT surgical services



Top News Report

JAMMU Sep 22: AIIMS Jammu has made a significant leap forward in enhancing healthcare services with the launch of a comprehensive range of ENT surgical procedures.

A submandibular gland tumor and ear canal tumor was excised on Friday by ENT department operating team comprising of Dr Amardeep Singh (Associate Professor), Dr Darwin Kaushal (Additional Professor), Dr Akriti Mahajan (Senior resident) and Dr Nikhil Bhatti (Junior resident), under supervision of Anaesthesia team comprising of Dr Shruti Sharma (Additional Professor), Dr Bindu (Senior resident), Dr Deeba (Senior resident) and Dr Ajay Shankar (Junior resident).

This expansion not only signifies a vital improvement in patient care but also addresses a pressing need for advanced medical services within the region.

The importance of newly introduced surgical options in ENT field

cannot be overstated. Head and neck tumours and other serious diseases in ENT often present unique challenges that require intricate surgical techniques and a multidisciplinary approach. By offering these specialized procedures, AIIMS Jammu is committed to improving early diagnosis, timely intervention, and overall treatment outcomes. This is particularly crucial as many patients with these conditions may experience significant symptoms that impact their daily lives, making timely access to care essential.

In addition to improving patient outcomes, the availability of advanced ENT surgical services at AIIMS Jammu will significantly reduce the need for patients to travel long distances to seek treatment in larger cities. For many residents in Jammu and the surrounding areas, accessing specialized care has often meant facing not only the physical toll of travel but also financial burdens associated with out-of-town

healthcare. This new initiative will enable local patients to receive high-quality treatment closer to home, fostering a sense of trust and reliance on local healthcare facilities. As a result, patients will be encouraged to seek timely medical attention for ENT issues, potentially leading to better health outcomes and reduced complications.

The impact of this expansion extends beyond patient care; it is also a strategic investment in the local healthcare workforce. By training local surgeons and medical professionals in these advanced ENT techniques, AIIMS Jammu is cultivating a pool of expertise that will benefit not only current patients but also future generations. This commitment to education and training helps ensure that healthcare providers in the region are equipped with the latest knowledge and skills to deliver top-notch care.

Furthermore, this initiative aligns seamlessly with national health objec-

tives aimed at improving access to specialized medical services across India. By establishing a center of excellence in ENT care, AIIMS Jammu is contributing to the broader goal of reducing healthcare disparities and ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their geographic location, have access to the care they need.

The ENT Department, AIIMS Jammu is soon going to start all advanced ENT surgical procedures like Head

neck cancer surgery, Skull base surgeries, Cochlear implant surgery, Voice and airway surgery, Snoring and sleep apnea surgeries, Rhinoplasty surgery, ear reconstruction surgery.

Under the visionary guidance of Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta, ED and CEO AIIMS Jammu, The Department of ENT, with consultants Dr Darwin Kaushal (Additional Professor) and Dr Amardeep Singh (Associate Professor) is committed for excellence.

DFSS stages protest denouncing Er Rashid released on bail

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 22: Kashmiri Member of Parliament (MP) Engineer Rashid walked out of Tihar Jail on September 11, following a Delhi court's grant of interim bail in a terror-funding case, valid until October 2. His release comes just ahead of the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, set to conclude on October 1, with results to be announced on October 8.

Rashid was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in August 2019, shortly after the abrogation of Article 370, and faces charges related to a criminal conspiracy involving the collection of funds for separatist



activities through hawala channels. This case links him to proscribed terrorist organizations, including Hizb-ul-Mujahideen and Lashkar-e-Taiba.

In response to his release, workers from

the Dogra Front & Shiv Sena (DFSS), led by president Ashok Gupta, staged a rally in Jammu, denouncing Rashid as a "hardcore separatist" and a "voice of Pakistan" in Kashmir. Gupta criti-

cized Rashid for defying the 26/11 mastermind Hafiz Saeed's actions as a "political cause," accusing him of perpetuating extremist narratives. Gupta called for all

political parties to refrain from forming alliances with Rashid, stating that he promotes separatism and aligns with Pakistani agendas. He also appealed to the Election Commissioner of India, urging that individuals with anti-India cases against them should be barred from contesting elections, specifically referencing Rashid's situation.

The protest saw participation from various party workers, including Sandhya, Prem, Bantu, Kalu, Vivek, Abhishek, Geeta, Sunita, Rani, and Ashish, among others, underscoring local tensions surrounding Rashid's release and the ongoing electoral landscape in Jammu and Kashmir.

FROM PAGE 1

PM Modi holds bilateral talks with Japanese and Australian counterparts

Meanwhile, Modi and Albanese in their meeting discussed strengthening bilateral cooperation across a wide range of areas such as political and strategic, defence and security, trade and investments, education and research, climate change and renewable energy, and people-to-people ties.

They also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

"Both leaders renewed their commitment to strengthening cooperation in the multilateral fora and reiterated their commitment to take the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership to even greater heights," said the PMO statement.

It said the two prime ministers acknowledged that the frequency of high-level contacts has imparted a strong momentum to bilateral relations.

All set for second phase of assembly polls in J&K: Omar Abdullah in the fray

Zadibal, Eidgah, and Central Shalteng in the Srinagar district. Five constituencies including Beerwah, Khansahib, Chrar-i-Sharief and Chadoora in Budgam district in central Kashmir.

The constituencies in Jammu's Reasi district include Gulabgarh (ST) and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi. Kalakote-Sunderbani, Nowshera, Rajouri, Thanamandi and Budhal are in Rajouri district, while the remaining three—Poonch-Haveli, Mendhar, and Surankote—are in Poonch district.

In Ganderbal, central Kashmir, National Conference vice president and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is in the fray. Abdullah is also contesting from Budgam, where he is pitted against PDP's Agha Syed Muntasir, cousin of NC leader and MP Agha Syed Rooullah Mehdi. The Agha family holds influence among the Shia Muslims in Budgam, who constitute 40 per cent of the electorate, while the remaining are Sunni Muslims. In

both constituencies, Omar faces strong opposition from the People's Democratic Party (PDP).

Another key constituency in the Ganderbal district is Kangan, reserved for Scheduled Tribes (ST), where seven candidates are contesting. The NC-Congress alliance has given the mandate to Bhupinder Singh, while the BJP has fielded Baldev Raj Sharma. Pratap Krishan Sharma is contesting from the JKPPD, and four independent candidates—Jugal Kishore, Bansilal, Raj Kumar, and Sham Singh—are also in the fray.

Another notable constituency in this phase is the newly created Mata Vaishno Devi assembly seat in the Reasi district, which was previously part of the Reasi constituency. Seven candidates are competing for this seat; NC-Congress alliance has fielded Bhupinder Singh, the BJP has fielded Baldev Raj Sharma, and Pratap Krishan Sharma is contesting from JKPPD. Four independent candidates—Jugal Kishore, Bansilal, Raj Kumar, and Sham Singh—are also in the race.

The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly election is being conducted in three phases, with voting on September 18, September 25, and October 1. The counting of votes will take place on October 8. Adequate security arrangements have been made to ensure smooth and incident-free elections.

Modeve announces major expansion plans, bringing global fashion trends to local markets

collaboration with local artisans, ensuring that it remains committed to ethical sourcing and production methods.

Akhil Sachdeva, Co-founder, Modeve said, "We are looking to significantly expand our presence across more than 1000 MBO's across India. We are thrilled to expand Modeve's presence across India, a country that celebrates fashion, innovation, and creativity. Modeve is poised to become a leading fashion brand in India."

Gaurav Sachdeva, Co-founder, Modeve said, "We believe Modeve's unique blend of style, affordability, and sustainability will be a perfect fit for India's evolving fashion landscape. Our goal is to provide Indian consumers with world-class fashion while respecting the rich cultural diversity that defines this dynamic market."

Amit Shah talks tough on terror, says no stone pelted will be released in J&K

"and we will bury terrorism in patal" (deep inside earth). No terrorist or stone pelted will be released, he said.

Shah said the NC and Congress are battling for talks with Pakistan.

"I want to tell Farooq Abdullah and Rahul Gandhi that there will be no dialogue with Pakistan till terrorism is wiped out. I will talk with my lions (youth of J-K) and not with Pakistan."

Referring to underground bunkers constructed by the government for the safety of border residents over the years, he said there will be no need for such structures as nobody has the power to open fire from across the border.

If they fire a bullet, we will respond with a shell, he said.

He also slammed the NC-Congress leaders' remarks on reservation, and said nobody will be allowed to touch reservation given to deprived sections, including Paharis, Gujjars, Dalits, other backward classes.

Rahul Gandhi is saying in America that there is no need for reservation. I want to tell him that you will not be allowed to finish reservation for the deserving communities, he said.

Women's contribution is crucial to building strong, vibrant nation: Rekha

The love and support they have shown in return has been unprecedented. She high-

lighted key initiatives undertaken by the Modi government to uplift Muslim women. These include education and skill development, scholarship programs and vocational training to enhance employability and economic independence, healthcare and nutrition, improved healthcare facilities, sanitation, and nutrition programs.

Rekha emphasized PM Modi's unwavering commitment to Muslim welfare, citing notable achievements, including the Triple Talaq Abolition, as a significant step towards ensuring dignity and equality for Muslim women. These initiatives have significantly improved the lives of Muslim women, enabling them to contribute meaningfully to their families and communities.

Rekha Mahajan recently engaged with Muslim women, emphasizing the numerous achievements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government in empowering the Muslim community. Mahajan's outreach efforts aim to foster a stronger connection between the BJP and Muslim women, promoting inclusivity and development. She stated that women play a crucial role in the Modi-led government and are always committed to the empowerment and upliftment of women in India. Rekha highlighted the significant contribution of women in the Modi-led government, stating that they play a crucial role in shaping policies and are always committed to creating a better future for women in India.

Rekha said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has moved rapidly towards becoming a developed nation. Today, there has been development in every field. The biggest companies in the world want to come to India. Due to this, India's economy has strengthened. She added that India is moving forward rapidly under PM Modi's leadership.

Rekha Mahajan's engagement with Muslim women marks a significant step towards fostering a stronger, more inclusive BJP. By highlighting PM Modi's achievements, Mahajan aims to build trust and promote a sense of ownership among Muslim women, ensuring their active participation in the country's development journey.

Odisha police personnel protest against suspension of 5 cops over alleged sexual assault of Army officer's fiancée

she and her Army officer fiancée were under custody. The National Commission for Women has taken suo motu cognisance of the incident and has sought a report from Odisha police.

The victim woman, talking to presspersons alleged a group of miscreants attacked her and her Army officer friend while returning home after closing the restaurant. The woman said though they approached Bharatpur Police Station to file a complaint, the police were non-cooperative and the woman constable on duty abused her.

The woman alleged she was overpowered when she tried to fight back and police personnel put her in a room after tying her hands and legs. "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 part, he asked me how much time you want to remain silent," she alleged.

However, Odisha police said the woman and her Army officer friend were drunk and attacked a police personnel while he was on duty. Police alleged the duo vandalised the police station.

PACS are being made viable by linking them with 25 different activities: Shah

Behind this broad vision of cooperation lies the goal of applying every individual's strength to the development of the nation. The core principle of the cooperative movement is that every person contributes according to their ability and plays a part in the economic and social progress of the country.

India to take retaliatory measures against EU's safeguard duty on steel

For India, these safeguard measures have been costly. India estimates that its steel exports to the EU have faced a cumulative trade loss of USD 4.412 billion from 2018 to 2023.

NEW DELHI, Sep 22 (Agencies): India is likely to impose higher import duty on specific goods from the European Union (EU) in retaliation to the EU's extension of safeguard duties on 26 steel items, significantly impacting India's steel exports. The safeguard duty will remain in place until June 2026.

India's steel industry is already struggling with cheap imports from China and is facing challenges in meeting the requirements of the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), set to take effect in January 2026. The EU's safeguard measures, which have been in place since 2018 have drastically reduced India's export volumes to the EU, causing significant financial losses.

According to Ajay Srivastava, founder, Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), the EU's safeguard measures are designed to protect its domestic steel industry from an oversupply of cheaper imports. These measures apply to 26 categories of steel products, including non-alloy and alloy hot-rolled sheets, cold-rolled sheets,



metallic coated sheets, organic coated sheets, and other key steel products.

The EU has established import quotas for each steel product by country, with in-quota imports facing a 0% duty. However, once imports exceed the quota, an out-of-quota duty of 25% is imposed. The quota amounts vary depending on the product category and the exporting country.

For India, these safeguard measures have been costly. India estimates that its steel

exports to the EU have faced a cumulative trade loss of USD 4.412 billion from 2018 to 2023.

In this period, the EU has collected duties amounting to USD 1.103 billion on Indian steel exports.

In response, India has notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) on 17 September 2024 of its intention to take retaliatory action under Article 12.5 of the Agreement on Safeguards.

According to GTRI, India's proposed action involves suspending trade concessions

on selected EU products, with plans to raise tariffs on these imports. The tariff increases will be proportional to the trade losses incurred due to the EU's safeguard measures and may be adjusted in response to future developments. India's response comes after the EU extended its safeguard measures, which were originally set to expire in June 2024, for an additional two years until June 2026.

India had earlier imposed retaliatory tariffs on imports from the United States on 16 June 2019 after the US imposed tariffs on Indian steel and aluminium.

The US had imposed a 25% tariff on steel and a 10% tariff on aluminium imports from several countries, including India, citing national security concerns. In retaliation, India raised tariffs on 28 U.S. products, including almonds, apples, walnuts, chickpeas, and certain chemicals. India's retaliatory tariffs were aimed at offsetting the impact of the U.S. tariffs on Indian steel and aluminium exports.

OYO acquires G6 hospitality for 525 million dollars, expands US footprint

NEW DELHI, Sep 22 (Agencies): Oravel Stays, the parent company of the global travel technology firm OYO, announced that it is acquiring US-based G6 Hospitality from Blackstone Real Estate for \$525 million in an all-cash deal. The transaction is expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2024, subject to customary closing conditions.

G6 Hospitality, a leading economy lodging franchisor, is the parent company of the well-known Motel 6 and Studio 6 brands. The franchise network of Motel 6 generates gross room revenues of \$1.7 billion, which provides a strong fee base and cash flow for G6.

OYO has been expanding its presence in the United States since its launch in the region in 2019. The company currently operates over 320 hotels across 35 states. In 2023, OYO added nearly 100 hotels to its

US portfolio and aims to add 250 more by 2024.

"This acquisition is a significant milestone for a startup company like us to strengthen our international presence. Motel 6's strong brand recognition, financial profile, and network in the US, combined with OYO's entrepreneurial spirit, will be instrumental in charting a sustainable path forward for the company, which will continue to operate as a separate entity," said Gautam Swaroop, CEO of OYO International.

Under Blackstone's ownership, substantial capital was invested to create value and enhance the Motel 6 brand, transforming the business into a leading asset-light lodging company with a franchise network of 1,500 hotels across the United States and Canada.

Rob Harper, Head of Blackstone Real Estate Asset Management Americas, stated, "This transaction is a terrific

outcome for investors and is the culmination of an ambitious business plan that more than tripled our investors' capital and generated over \$1 billion in profit over our hold period. We believe G6 is extremely well-positioned for the future and we look forward to seeing its brands continue their success in the years to come."

This acquisition comes just a month after OYO reported its first-ever annual profit after tax (PAT) of ₹229 crores for FY24. OYO's Adjusted EBITDA grew by 215% to reach ₹877 crores in FY24, up from ₹277 crores in FY23.

The company also recently raised ₹1,457 crores from a consortium of investors in its latest funding round, giving OYO a valuation of \$2.4 billion. This funding came shortly after the company decided to withdraw its initial public offering (IPO) papers for the second time.

French media sue Google for \$1.1 billion over advertising

PARIS, Sep 22 (Agencies): Seven French media groups plan to sue Google seeking more than 1 billion euros (\$1.1 billion) for alleged anti-competitive practices in online advertising, a report said.

The professional information service Mind Media said the seven groups, representing a total of 22 companies, had either begun or were about to begin legal action.

The move comes after the French competition watchdog fined Google 220 million euros in June 2021 for favouring its own services in the online advertising sector.

"Google has clearly been found guilty of anti-competitive behaviour. The French competition

authority has stated that Google has for years favoured its own solutions to the detriment of those of its competitors," said Figaro CEO Marc Feuillie, quoted in the report.

Feuillie said he believed that his group was "a victim of this with the technological system we were using" and was therefore seeking "compensation".

The plaintiffs are Le Figaro, SIPA/Quest-France, Prisma Media, Les Echos-Le Parisien, Adevinta/Leboncoin, CMA Media and sports daily L'Equipe.

Initial hearings to set the trial schedule took place in early September at the Paris commercial court, and the proceedings could last two to three years.

Google's advertising practices are also subject to investigations or proceedings in Britain, the EU and the United States.

Early in September, the UK's competition watchdog concluded in provisional findings that Google used "anti-competitive practices... which it believes could be harming thousands of UK publishers and advertisers".

Google's VP of Global Ads, Dan Taylor, argued that the case "rests on flawed interpretations" of the sector.

Its parent company Alphabet recently reported that revenue from online ad searches climbed to \$48.5 billion in the second quarter of this year.

iPhone 16 Pro series sees 25 per cent surge in opening sales in India

NEW DELHI, Sep 22 (Agencies): The Pro models of the iPhone 16 series performed well in India's opening sales. A few sellers reported 25 per cent higher opening-day sales for the iPhone 16 Pro series compared to last year.

According to Counterpoint Research's early estimates, first-day sales of the iPhone 16 and iPhone 16 Plus were 20 per cent higher than last year, while sales of the pro models were 25 per cent higher. Industry leaders attribute the success to the accessible pricing of the iPhone 16 series pro-models, compared to previous generations.

"Our initial assessment suggests that the iPhone 16 series, particularly the Pro models,

has resonated well with the market. The more accessible pricing compared to previous generations has expanded its appeal, aligning with the ongoing trend of premiumisation in the Indian smartphone market. This favorable market dynamics is expected to drive significant upgrades, as evidenced by CyberMedia Research's projection of a 30% year-over-year growth in iPhone 16 sales during the launch quarter," said Prabhu Ram, VP - Industry Research Group (IRG), CyberMedia Research (CMR).

Echoing similar views, Faisal Kawoosa, founder of Techarch, said that the excitement in the market for the iPhone 16 series is at the same

level, even if not higher.

"This excitement was evident across all platforms, whether online or offline stores, or delivered through quick commerce platforms like Blinkit," he said.

"As per my understanding, of all smartphones sold in India, around 30 per cent of them were iPhones, it includes not just the latest iPhone 16 series, but also other models. However, premium models like the iPhone 16 Pro and iPhone 16 Pro Max are emerging as clear winners," said Kawoosa.

Tarun Pathak, Research Director at Counterpoint, believes that with this momentum, Apple is likely to have a record iPhone sales quarter in India.

The company is likely to reach 12 million iPhone sales in India.

"We believe Apple will have a record iPhone sales quarter in India, reaching our estimated 12 million sales," said Pathak.

"There are a couple of reasons. Apple is ready with its India-specific strategy, despite a later rollout. The new iPhone features significant hardware upgrades, including camera, battery, and Apple silicon, compared to last year's base model. Additionally, many people are upgrading their iPhone 11 or iPhone 12 models and are finding the iPhone 16 a great upgrade," added Pathak.

The highly anticipated iPhone 16 series went

on sale on September 20, 2024.

In India, long queues were formed outside stores in Mumbai and Delhi as people eagerly awaited getting their hands on the device.

Interestingly, this year quick-commerce platforms like Blinkit and BB Now have teamed up with Apple retailers like Unicorn to deliver the iPhone 16 directly to customers' doors within minutes of placing the order.

The iPhone 16 series is priced from Rs. 79,900 for the base model, Rs. 89,900 for the iPhone 16 Plus, Rs. 1,19,900 for the 128GB iPhone 16 Pro, and Rs. 1,44,900 for the 256GB iPhone 16 Pro Max, with pre-orders having started on September 13.

Triptan drugs found to be more effective against migraines than newer ones

NEW DELHI, Sep 22 (Agencies): Triptan class of drugs are more effective in treating migraine headaches, compared to newer and more expensive drugs, an analysis of nearly 140 clinical trials, involving about 90,000 participants, has suggested.

The analysis, published in The British Medical Journal, showed that eletriptan, rizatriptan, sumatriptan, and zolmitriptan were better in relieving pain than the relatively recently developed drugs—lasmiditan, rimegepant, and ubrogepant. All these drugs are marketed in India.

Commercially available since the 1990s, triptan drugs work by changing how blood is circulated in brain and by silencing overactive pain nerves, they change how pain is processed.

While numerous anti-migraine drugs are available, researchers, including those from



Copenhagen University Hospital in Denmark, said that there is clear consensus as to which performs best in treating the neurological condition affecting more than a billion around the world. It is also the leading cause of disability or poor health in girls and women aged 15-49 years.

The researchers said that triptans are widely underused and added that they should be "considered the treatment of choice for migraine episodes, owing to their capacity for inducing rapid and sustained pain freedom."

While some of the triptan class of drugs have been studied to lower menstrual migraines too, which can be more severe and last longer than non-menstrual migraines, women should be cautious and avoid overuse, according to the American Migraine Foundation.

The authors called for an improved access to triptan drugs worldwide by including them into the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines, along with updating international clinical guidelines for diagnosing and managing migraines.

For the study, the researchers identified a total of 137 randomised controlled trials, published up to June 24, 2023, and comprising 89,445 participants—who were aged 40 years on average and 86 per cent of whom were women.

"When the active interventions (drugs) were compared with each other, eletriptan was superior to almost all the other drugs for achieving pain freedom at two hours, followed by rizatriptan, sumatriptan, and zolmitriptan," the authors wrote.

Further, among the triptan drugs, eletriptan was found to be the most effective in bringing about a sustained freedom from pain for up to 24 hours.

The researchers said that the results "offer the best available evidence to guide the choice of acute oral drug interventions for migraine episodes."

Lancet study finds air pollution top risk factor for brain stroke akin to smoking

NEW DELHI, Sep 22 (Agencies): For the first time, a study on Thursday showed that ambient particulate matter air pollution is a top risk factor for subarachnoid haemorrhage—a type of brain stroke—at par with smoking.

The study, led by an international team of researchers from India, the US, New Zealand, Brazil, and UAE showed that air pollution contributed to 14 per cent of the death and disability caused by this serious stroke subtype, on par with smoking.

The study showed that coupled with air pollution, high temperatures as well as metabolic disorders, fuelled a significant rise in global cases and deaths due to stroke in the last three decades.

The number of people worldwide having a new stroke rose to 11.9 million in 2021 -- up by 70 per cent since 1990. Stroke-related deaths rose to 7.3 million—up by 44 per cent since 1990.

The study identified



23 modifiable risk factors responsible for 84 per cent of the stroke burden in 2021.

In 2021, the five leading global risk factors for stroke were high systolic blood pressure, particulate matter air pollution, smoking, high LDL cholesterol, and household air pollution, with considerable variation by age, sex, and location.

It also showed substantial progress made in reducing the global stroke burden by reducing particulate matter air pollution (20 per cent), and smoking (13 per cent).

"With 84 per cent of the stroke burden linked to 23 modifiable risk factors there are tremendous opportunities to alter the trajectory of

action to prevent and control modifiable risk factors such as high blood sugar and a diet high in sugar-sweetened drinks.

There is a critical need for interventions focused on obesity and metabolic syndromes, Johnson said.

They also called for measures such as clean air zones and public smoking bans, which have been successful.

The findings based on the Global Burden of Disease, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study (GBD) showed that more than three-quarters of those affected by strokes live in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

The study also found that worldwide, the overall amount of disability, illness, and early death—a measurement known as disability-adjusted life years (DALYs)—lost to stroke increased by 32 per cent between 1990 and 2021, rising from around 121.4 million years of healthy life lost in 1990 to 160.5 million years in 2021.

stroke risk for the next generation. Given that ambient air pollution is reciprocally linked with ambient temperature and climate change, the importance of urgent climate actions and measures to reduce air pollution cannot be overestimated," said co-author Dr Catherine O. Johnson, Lead Research Scientist at the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME).

While stroke is now the third leading cause of death worldwide (after ischaemic heart disease and Covid-19), the condition is highly preventable and treatable.

The researchers called for identifying sustainable ways to work with communities to take

Chennai Test: Ashwin scalps 6 wickets as India trump Bangladesh by 280 runs

Maintaining a clean slate against Asian neighbours, India now lead two-match series 1-0; second Test at Kanpur from September 27

CHENNAI, Sep 22 (Agencies): Veteran off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin's mastery over his craft, underlined by a six-wicket haul, proved too immense for Bangladesh as India catered to a massive 280-run victory in the first Test with five sessions to spare, here on Sunday.

Maintaining a clean slate against the Asian neighbours, India now lead the two-match series 1-0.

Starting from their overnight 158 for four, Bangladesh were bundled out for 234 in their second innings as Ashwin scythed through their line-up (6/88).

Ravindra Jadeja supported him with a three-wicket haul (3/58).

Skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto waged a lone battle for the visitors with a sparkling 82 (127b, 8x4, 3x6), but there was hardly any meaningful support for him from his colleagues.

The day, however, began on a bright note for the Bangladeshis with Shanto and Shakib Al-Hasan (25) extending their fifth-wicket stand to 48 runs, resisting the Indian bowlers in the first hour.

Mohammed Siraj was the standout bowler for India during this phase as he worked up good pace and hit fine lines, but luck was not in his favour as edges eluded him or fell short of fielders.

It left the pacer a frustrated



man, evidenced in his constant tirade against Shanto, who remained unruffled.

Shakib, who played a lovely front foot pull off Siraj for a boundary, also received a reprieve as Rishabh Pant missed a stumping chance off Jadeja when the batter was on 17.

At the first drinks break of the day, Bangladesh were 194 for four and they might have hoped to further stretch the home side.

However, the introduction of Ashwin immediately after the resumption of play changed the complexion of the proceedings.

There was nothing much on the surface for the spinners but Ashwin, who possesses a scientist's acumen, does not need such generosity from the deck or conditions.

The Chennai man put into use his ability to find acute angles

from around the wicket to left-handers to optimum effect against Shakib.

Ashwin pushed the ball a bit deep and it hit the handle of Shakib's bat as he attempted a forward defence, and the resultant edge went into the eager hands of Yashasvi Jaiswal at backward short leg.

Soon, the star off-spinner completed his 37th five-wicket haul, equalling Australian legend Shane Warne, nipping the stay of Mehidy Hasan Miraz (8), who lobbed a catch to Jadeja at long-on.

In the process, Ashwin also went past New Zealand legend Richard Hadlee's five-wicket haul tally - 36. It was also the fourth time the veteran all-rounder took five-wicket or more in a Test match alongside a hundred.

Jadeja, the long-time second

fiddle to Ashwin, too had his own moments as he scalped the wickets of Shanto and Litton Das, who edged the left-arm spinner to Rohit Sharma at first slip.

However, Shanto's batting will give a speck of hope for Bangladesh ahead of the next match for the visitors. While the wickets were on a constant tumble at the other end, Shanto batted calmly and with purpose.

The left-hander swept, reverse swept and cut spinners and pacers to collect his runs from all corners of Chepauk. But the task was way beyond such a one-man show on this day. Given his cavalier methods at the crease, the dismissal was inevitable and it came in the 59th over.

Shanto tried to hoist Jadeja out of the park, but the shot lacked power and timing, and Jasprit Bumrah comfortably settled under the ball near mid-wicket.

The dismissal also ended Bangladesh's hopes to last at least beyond the first session, and now they will have to think of ways to regroup ahead of the second Test at Kanpur, beginning September 27.

Brief Scores:
India 376 and 287/4 in 64 overs (Shubman Gill 119 not out, Rishabh Pant 109).

Bangladesh 149 and 234 all out in 62.1 overs (Najmul Hossain Shanto 82, Shadman Islam 35, Zakir Hasan 33; Ravichandran Ashwin 6/88).

OTD 1986: India and Australia play historic tied Test in Chennai



CHENNAI, Sep 22 (Agencies): On September 22, 1986 Test cricket witnessed just the second tied match in its history as India and Australia played out a historic game at MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai. Heading into Day 5, Australia captain Allan Border declared their second innings on 170/5 setting India a target of 348 in a minimum of 87 overs.

Indian openers Sunil Gavaskar and Krishnamachari Srikkanth were up to the task as the latter came out with an attacking intent and scored 39 (49). On the other hand, Gavaskar played a magnificent innings of 90 (168) and took India's total past 200.

Mohinder Amarnath (51), Mohammad Azharuddin (42), Chan-

drakant Pandit (39) also made valuable contributions to take India to 291/6 needing 57 more runs to win. With a well set Ravi Shastri and Chetan Sharma, India were cruising at 330/6 just 18 runs adrift of the target.

Just when India looked in complete control of the match, Ray Bright brought Australia back with a remarkable spell and picked three quick wickets to throw the match wide open. At 344/9, all three results were possible and the packed crowd in Chennai was on the edge of their seats witnessing one of the greatest matches ever in the 109-year-long history of the format.

A thrilling finish in last over

The equation came down to four needed off

the last over and Ravi Shastri (48*) scored three runs off the first three balls to ensure that doesn't lose. However, the match was still to be won with no 11 Maninder Singh facing Greg Matthews with India one run away from the win. Matthews trapped Maninder in front of the stumps on the penultimate ball of the match and umpire V Vikramraju raised his finger to signal out, a decision he stands firmly on till date.

As a result, Test cricket had its second tied match ever after 26 years after the first one between Australia and West Indies in Brisbane in 1960. The match laid the foundation for the intense rivalry between Australia and India in the years to come. Dean Jones was adjudged Player of the Match for his hard-fought double hundred in the first innings which landed him in hospital. Kapil Dev was also adjudged Player of the Match for his brave first innings hundred. The next two matches of the series were drawn and the series ended 0-0.

OTD in 2007: Yuvraj 70 helps India beat Australia to reach T20 World Cup final

NEW DELHI, Sep 22 (Agencies): On September 22, 2007, Yuvraj Singh played a blistering 70-run knock to help MS Dhoni-led India thrash Australia in the semi-final and storm into the final of the inaugural ICC T20 World Cup. Under the leadership of MS Dhoni, India registered a thrilling 15-run win, setting up a historic final clash against arch-rivals Pakistan.

Fresh from his unforgettable six sixes in an over against England's Stuart Broad, Yuvraj continued his aggressive form. Right from the outset, Yuvraj took the Australian bowlers to task. His fluent driving, coupled with his trademark effortless pulls, sent the ball flying to all parts of the ground. Yuvraj's battle with Brett Lee and Stuart Clark was particularly enthralling. He smashed Lee for a monstrous 119-meter six, one of the biggest of the tournament, and continued to dominate the Australian pace



attack.

Australia, led by Adam Gilchrist, mounted a strong chase but eventually fell short, finishing at 173/7. Matthew Hayden (62 off 47) and Andrew Symonds (43 off 26) kept Australia in the game, but India's disciplined bowling attack, led by Sreesanth and Irfan Pathan, ensured they never got too far ahead. Sreesanth's crucial wicket of Hayden was the turning point, halting Australia's momentum and swinging the match in India's favor.

India's journey to the final was nothing short of a fairytale. Having been written off after their early exit from the 50-over World Cup earlier that year, India

entered the tournament as underdogs. Yet, under the inspiring captaincy of a young MS Dhoni, they played fearless cricket. The team, made up of a mix of young talents and experienced players, displayed exceptional resilience and confidence.

Two days after this iconic win, India went on to lift the inaugural ICC T20 World Cup trophy, defeating Pakistan in a nail-biting final at the Wanderers in Johannesburg. Yuvraj's match-winning performances, especially his memorable 70 against Australia, remain etched in the minds of cricket fans as one of the key moments in India's remarkable T20 World Cup triumph.

Dubois beats up Joshua to retain IBF heavyweight title with brutal 5th-round knockout

Joshua's corner threw in the towel but that wasn't needed. There was no coming back for a boxer whose best days look behind him.

LONDON, Sep 22 (Agencies): Daniel Dubois is no longer an accidental world heavyweight champion.

With a brutal fifth-round knockout of Anthony Joshua in front of 96,000 fans at Wembley Stadium, Dubois showed he might be the real deal — and the future of boxing's marquee division.

"Are you not entertained?" Dubois roared to the crowd after dominating the all-British title fight to complete his quest to legitimize his status as a heavyweight titleholder, three months after gaining the IBF belt vacated by Oleksandr Usyk.

The 27-year-old Dubois entered the ring first — an unusual twist given he was the champion — to strengthen the feeling this was being treated as a homecoming for Joshua, the decade-long darling of British boxing who was bidding to emulate the likes of Muhammad Ali and Lennox Lewis as a three-time heavyweight champ.

Dubois left the ring as the heavyweight's next big thing, having floored Joshua in the first and third rounds before ending the fight 59 seconds into the fifth with a counter right that



sent Joshua face first into the canvas.

Joshua's corner threw in the towel but that wasn't needed. There was no coming back for a boxer whose best days look behind him.

"This is my time, my redemption story," said Dubois, who put himself in position to potentially fight the winner of the Dec. 21 rematch between WBA, WBC and WBO champion Usyk and Tyson Fury. "I'm not going to stop until I reach my full potential."

As for the outclassed Joshua, he vowed to continue boxing

disorientated and vulnerable.

The knockdown late in the third, off a big left from Dubois, dumped Joshua onto his backside through the ropes.

"I had a sharp opponent, a fast opponent," Joshua said. "But a lot of the mistakes were mine." A record post-war boxing crowd in Britain witnessed a changing of the guard.

Joshua has been a marketing phenomenon for the past decade, selling out U.K. stadiums and making hundreds of millions of dollars mainly because of his punching power. He might be back, but surely not as a realistic title contender after slipping to 28-4.

Dubois (22-2, 21 KOs) is undoubtedly the future. He said after the fight that he wanted another shot at Usyk, to whom he lost in Wroclaw, Poland, last year — but only after sending the Ukrainian to the canvas with a disputed low blow from which Usyk was given time to recover.

Otherwise, there's potentially a money-spinning fight with the 36-year-old Fury in the offing.

"I'm a gladiator. I'm a warrior to the bitter end," Dubois said. "I want to go to the top level of this game."

CSK's IPL 2025 retention list: Gaikwad, Jadeja, Pathirana in, says report. No place for...

MS Dhoni's IPL future depends on BCCI's retention policy but Chennai Super Kings have already drafted their shortlist of players they wish to keep.

NEW DELHI, Sep 22 (Agencies): The clock is ticking as the Indian Premier League (IPL) franchises look to finalise their retention shortlist for the forthcoming mega auction. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is reportedly yet to convey the number of retentions a franchise can make ahead of the auction. The entire cricketing fraternity awaits BCCI's

call on the retention policy, but Chennai Super Kings are arguably more desperate to understand the retention guidelines than any other franchise, as the board's policy could decide whether the legendary MS Dhoni plays another season or not.

According to a report in RevSportz, CSK have already drafted a 5-man shortlist of players they wish to retain

ahead of the mega auction. Though there have been reports of the BCCI allowing franchises to retain as many as 6 players, including Right-To-Match, an official decision is yet to be conveyed.

The five players that top CSK's retention list include the likes of Ruturaj Gaikwad, Ravindra Jadeja, Shivam Dube, Matheesha Pathirana, and MS Dhoni.



Surprisingly, there was no place for Deepak Chahar, Devon

Conway, Daryl Mitchell, Maheesh Theekshana, etc. in the retention list

the franchise has reportedly drafted. Considering Dhoni might not play beyond the 2025 season, CSK really took a bold call by letting some of their top players go.

CSK's bosses had earlier also asked BCCI to bring back the old rule which allowed the franchises to retain a retired player in the uncapped category.

However, the board

hasn't yet announced its decision on the subject. Whether such categorisation is allowed or not, isn't yet known, but it is all but certain that Dhoni will be retained in the lowest-paying category.

The said rule allowed players who said goodbye to international cricket for more than 5 years to be treated as uncapped players. The rule started in 2008 and was in implementation

till 2021, after which it was discontinued. Dhoni retired from international cricket in 2019. If the rule comes back, Dhoni and CSK would benefit.

Dhoni would be hoping to go on a high in IPL 2025 season, after CSK failed to qualify for the playoffs in the 2024 campaign.

But, his largely depends on the retention policy the BCCI drafts.

DC Doda Harvinder Singh Lauded for Successful Assembly Elections

Top News Report

DODA, Sep 22: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Doda, Harvinder Singh, has earned widespread recognition for his commendable role in the successful conduct of the recent Assembly elections in Doda district, Jammu & Kashmir. The elections, which concluded peacefully, were noted for their exemplary organization, transparency, and a remarkable increase in voter turnout compared to previous years. Under DC Singh's leadership, the district administration ensured that the entire electoral process was conducted seamlessly, adhering to all necessary protocols.

One of the most significant outcomes of this election was the impressive rise in voter participation. Doda district, which has historically seen moderate voter engagement, witnessed an encouraging surge in voter turnout, reflecting the public's increased awareness and interest in the democratic process. This substantial increase in voter participation is largely credited to the district administration's effective implementation of the System-

atic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program.

The SVEEP initiative, led by DC Harvinder Singh, played a pivotal role in ensuring that every eligible voter was not only aware of their right to vote but also motivated to exercise it. The comprehensive program was aimed at educating voters, particularly targeting first-time voters, women, and those from remote and underrepresented areas of the district.

Through an extensive outreach strategy that included both traditional and digital platforms, the district administration reached every corner of Doda. From organizing public rallies and voter awareness camps to deploying social media campaigns and leveraging local influencers, the SVEEP program left no stone unturned in encouraging voter participation. In collaboration with local bodies, community leaders, and educational institutions, the administration ensured a collective effort toward promoting the importance of voting in a democracy.

DC Harvinder Singh, acknowledging the suc-



cess of the SVEEP campaign, emphasized the importance of citizen engagement in strengthening democracy. "Our efforts were focused on ensuring that every individual in Doda understands the power of their vote. The rise in voter turnout is a testament to the growing awareness among the people, and we are proud of the way the election was conducted in a peaceful and fair manner," Singh stated.

The impact of the SVEEP initiative was reflected in the voter turnout figures, which showed a marked improvement from previous election cycles. The overall voter percentage saw a significant boost, with many first-time voters and women stepping forward to cast their ballots. Observers noted that this was a clear indication of the growing trust in the

electoral process and the efforts made by the administration to ensure inclusivity.

Locals across Doda have expressed their satisfaction with the manner in which the elections were conducted. "This is the first time I have seen such an organized and peaceful election in Doda," said a local resident. "The efforts by the administration to ensure we all vote were commendable, and it made us realize how important our role is in shaping the future of our district."

Apart from the increased voter turnout, the smooth conduct of the elections was also widely appreciated. From security arrangements to the management of polling stations, the entire process was well-coordinated, minimizing disruptions and ensuring that voters could cast their votes without any difficulty. The district's mountainous terrain and remote areas posed logistical challenges, but the administration under DC Harvinder Singh managed to overcome these obstacles with meticulous planning and efficient resource management.

Harvinder Singh's efforts

have been praised not only by local residents but also by state officials, who have acknowledged the district's performance as a model for other regions in Jammu & Kashmir. The peaceful conduct of the election and the high voter turnout have set a new benchmark for electoral processes in the region.

The success of this election in Doda is a shining example of how proactive voter education and participation initiatives like SVEEP can transform the democratic landscape. DC Harvinder Singh's unwavering commitment to enhancing the electoral process has been instrumental in making this election one of the most successful in the history of Doda district.

As the results of the election unfold, Doda's high voter participation will undoubtedly contribute to a more representative and robust governance structure. The district administration's efforts in engaging the electorate will serve as a foundation for future elections, encouraging even greater participation and setting a standard for electoral management across Jammu & Kashmir.

LFO-BHF Organises Free Medical Camp at Vishwakarma Sabha



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 22: Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation, in collaboration with Talla Jewellers and Ujala Cygnus JK Medicity, successfully organized a Free Medical Camp at Vishwakarma Sabha, Bakshi Nagar. The program was inaugurated by Mr. Gaurav Gupta, Secretary Jammu Club. The event was supported by Vishwakarma Sabha Bakshi Nagar and Prime Health Care, with Bolchal TV as the broadcasting partner.

The camp offered free consultations with a team

of specialized doctors, including Dr. Aamir Gen. Physician, Dr. SD Abrol Orthopaedics, and Dr. Avleen Kour Ophthalmologist and Mr. Mehran & Mr. Dinesh from Marketing Team. Additionally, free basic medical tests and medicines were provided, ensuring accessible healthcare for the local community.

Mr. Abhishek Raina, Secretary of Jammu Province and Health Domain Incharge, emphasized the importance of such initiatives, stating, "Our goal is to provide quality healthcare to those in need and

create awareness about the importance of regular check-ups. We are grateful to our partners and the medical professionals who made this event a success."

The camp was well-received by the public, reflecting the commitment of the Foundation and its partners to improving community health.

Members who were present are Jyoti, Diya, Stuti Abrol, Kashish Katoch, Shubam Verma, Abhishek Gupta, Vidit, Vishanki, Manvi Mahajan, Radhika, Tsering, Vishal and many more.

IIM Jammu hosts Roundtable Conference at Pune

Top News Report

PUNE/JAMMU, Sep 22: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu hosted a Roundtable Conference on February 21, 2024, at Hotel Conrad, Pune, themed "Fostering Academia and Industry Partnership: The Way Ahead." This premier forum brought together policymakers, academics, and industry leaders to explore innovative collaborations aimed at bridging the gap between education and employment.

The event was graced by Chief Guest Chandrakant Dada Patil, Minister of Education, Government of Maharashtra, and Guest of Honor Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudhe, Vice President of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini.

The inaugural and valedictory sessions featured Dr. Milind P. Kamble, Chairman of IIM Jammu's Board of Governors, Shri Shrikant Badve, Board Member, and Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director of IIM Jammu, among other



prominent figures.

Chandrakant Dada Patil highlighted the critical role of academia-industry partnerships in enhancing education's relevance to employment, emphasizing the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020's aim to create a flexible, interdisciplinary education system. He called for skill-based courses tailored to meet sector-specific demands, ensuring graduates are well-equipped to contribute to India's growth.

Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudhe stressed the importance of ethical leadership and the need for curricula that reflect emerging fields like Data Science, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Virtual Reality (VR). He advocated for robust

industry-academia collaborations to foster sustainable development and expressed hope for stronger ties between Jammu and Pune.

Dr. Milind P. Kamble emphasized the ongoing efforts of IIM Jammu to bridge academic learning with industry practices, advocating for innovation in education to meet the dynamic needs of the global economy.

Prof. B.S. Sahay shared insights on IIM Jammu's

growth, particularly the

MBA in Hospital Administration and Healthcare Management, developed in collaboration with IIT Jammu and AIIMS Jammu, aligning with NEP 2020. He encouraged youth to embrace government initiatives like Project YUVA, aimed at enhancing employment through entrepreneurship.

Ashok W. Kakade and Kailash Zanzari, both highlighted the importance of skills in the

evolving landscape of education and industry. The conference featured three panel discussions, focusing on fostering partnerships, navigating the future of work with AI, and the role of corporates under NEP 2020, showcasing insights from industry leaders and academic experts.

The event concluded with a valedictory session, reinforcing IIM Jammu's commitment to fostering academia-industry partnerships that will shape future professional development. The conference served as a significant milestone in strengthening collaboration between academia and industry, paving the way for actionable outcomes benefiting both students and the corporate world.

Pavneet Kour pledges to establish biggest sports academy for youth

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 22: During a meeting held at Ajeet Nagar on Sunday, Pavneet Kour, the Apni Party candidate for Jammu South, reaffirmed her commitment to the youth of the region.

She announced her plan to establish Jammu South's biggest sports academy, which aims to provide a platform for young talents and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

Speaking to a large and supportive crowd, Pavneet Kour emphasized the need for progressive leadership in the upcoming elections.

"This sports academy will not only promote

physical fitness but also keep our youth away from drugs, offering them the opportunity to excel in sports at both national and international levels," she said.

She further appealed to the public to choose their representative wisely, asking, "What have your previous representatives done during their tenure? It's time to demand accountability and elect leaders who truly work for the welfare of the community."

The meeting at Ajeetnagar was marked by enthusiastic support from the local residents, who expressed their faith in Pavneet Kour's vision for a brighter future for Jammu South.

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