

TOP NEWS OF J&K

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Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Mirzapur road accident: LG Sinha expresses condolences to families of victims

JAMMU, Oct 4 (Agencies): Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday expressed his condolences to the families of victims died in road accident in Pradesh's Mirzapur.

In a post on X, LG Sinha wrote, "The news of the death of many people in a road accident in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh is extremely heartbreaking. I express my deepest condolences to the bereaved families and pray for the Speedy recovery of the injured."

Two soldiers injured in mine blast in Kupwara

SRINAGAR, Oct 4 (Agencies): Two soldiers were injured in a suspected mine blast in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said on Friday.

They said the blast took place along the Line of Control (LoC) in Trehgam at around 3 am when soldiers were patrolling in the area.

"A Havaldar and a Naik of Army's 19 Sikh were injured in the blast, and both the injured were admitted to hospital in Kupwara," officials said, adding that now the condition of both is stated to be stable.

There is no official word from the army about the blast so far.

Home-Cooked meals become dearer in September as Onion, Potato prices shoot up: Report

MUMBAI, Oct 4 (Agencies): Home-cooked meals became dearer in September compared to a year ago as prices of onion, potato and tomatoes shot up, a report said on Friday.

A vegetarian meal cost went up 11 per cent over year to Rs 31.3 in September from Rs 28.1 in September 2023, and inched up from Rs 31.2 in the preceding August, as per the report by domestic rating agency Crisil.

Attributing the rise to firming up in the vegetable prices that account for 37 per cent of a thali cost, the "roti, rice, rate" report elaborated on the factors affecting the overall

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NIA DySP demands Rs 2.5 Cr bribe to spare family from terror charges, arrested by CBI

NEW DELHI, Oct 4 (Agencies): The CBI arrested an NIA deputy superintendent of police posted in Patna and two middlemen on Thursday for allegedly accepting a Rs 20 lakh bribe to extend favours to a person in an ongoing probe, officials said.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had received a complaint from Rocky Yadav, the owner of the Ramaiya Construction, that Deputy SP Ajay Pratap Singh had been extorting money from him by threatening to falsely implicate his family in a



case of illegally stocking unlicensed assault weapons.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted searches at Yadav's premises on September 19 and

asked him to appear for questioning on September 26 before Singh who was the investigation officer of the case, officials said.

It is alleged that Singh, who is in the NIA on

deputation from the Income Tax department, threatened Yadav and demanded a bribe of Rs 2.5 crore to allow him to "escape consequences", they said.

Yadav accepted the demand to save his family from false charges, an official said.

"The accused deputy SP asked the complainant to pay an initial amount of Rs 25 lakh on September 26 (the day of interrogation) and provided him with a handwritten note containing a middleman's mobile number.

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Delhi drug probe finds kingpin's links with political party

NEW DELHI, Oct 4 (Agencies): Delhi Police on Thursday arrested another person in connection with the city's biggest-ever drug haul with investigators finding that the main accused had alleged links with leaders of a national political party, officials said.

The arrested accused, Jitender Gill alias Jassi, a UK resident but Indian national, was nabbed from near Punjab's Amritsar airport



on Thursday evening. He was intending to fly back to London, a senior police officer said.

Gill, aged around 40, had come to India to supervise the drug cartel's operations in the country but was plan-

ning to escape after the arrest of four members, the officer said. He said the accused had been living in the UK for the past 25 years but did not have a citizenship.

He is being brought to Delhi and will be produced before the court on Friday to seek custody for interrogation, the officer said.

On Wednesday, the police claimed to have seized over 560 kilograms of cocaine and 40

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Supreme Court forms SIT to probe Tirupati laddu row



NEW DELHI, Oct 4 (Agencies): The

Supreme Court on Friday appointed a five-

member independent SIT to probe into alleged use of ghee adulterated with animal fat in preparing laddus offered as prasadam at the famous Tirumala Tirupati Temple in Andhra Pradesh.

A Bench of Justice BR Gavai and Justice KV Viswanathan ordered that the SIT appointed by it will take over the probe into the matter

from the SIT earlier appointed by the Andhra Pradesh Government.

It directed the CBI director to nominate two members to the SIT while the state government would nominate two other members and the fifth member would be nominated by the Food Safety and Authority of India (FSSAI). The

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JKNC denies 'back channel' talks allegations, accuses rivals of 'spreading misinformation'

SRINAGAR, Oct 4 (Agencies): Ahead of declaration of Assembly election results on October 8, the National Conference on Friday said that it was not in talks with any party outside the INDIA bloc for post-poll alliance in Jammu and Kashmir.

The party was responding to social media posts that suggested NC had



opened negotiations with the BJP for a pos-

sible government formation in case of a fractured mandate.

"JKNC categorically denies the unfounded rumors of 'back channel' talks with any party outside the INDIA Bloc. Those sensing their impending defeat have resorted to spreading such baseless accusations," the NC said in a

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Army Commander Northern Command visits Rashtriya Rifles Battalions, lauds troops for 'Successful Operations'

SRINAGAR, Oct 4 (Agencies): Lieutenant General M.V. Suchindra Kumar, Army Commander of the Northern Command, accompanied by the Chinara Corps Commander, visited the Rashtriya Rifles (RR) Battalions in Jammu and Kashmir today.

During the high-level visit, they reviewed the operational readiness and recent accomplishments of the troops in



the Kashmir division.

As per the official communication, the Army Commander praised the

troops for their meticulous planning and flawless execution in recent

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Legends Cricket League: Defending Champion Manipal Tigers register their first win



JAMMU, Oct 4 (Agencies): A close encounter between Manipal Tigers and Toyam Hyderabad ended with Manipal Tigers winning the match in the super over to register their first win in the Legends League Cricket 2024. The match which was being played at the Mulana Azad Stadium in

Jammu witnessed some brilliant batting and bowling performances by both the teams.

After winning the toss and choosing to bat first, Phil Mustard and Manoj Tiwary opened the innings for Manipal Tigers. The duo could only add 20 for the first wicket before Manoj

Tiwary was dismissed for 9 from 8 balls by Isuru Udana. They were then down to 38/3 in 6 overs. Obus Pienaar could manage to score 11 from 10 balls. Angelo Perera (18) showed some intent in the middle but was clean bowled by Nuwan Pradeep. Thisara Perera played a valiant innings in the middle and remained unbeaten on 48* from 27 balls which helped his team to post a total of 144/7 in 20 overs. No other batter could manage to reach a double digit score in the innings.

For Toyam Hyderabad, Bipul Sharma (2/20) and Gurkeerat Singh (2/24) were the pick of the bowlers. Nuwan

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AIIMS Jammu conducts first Clinical Grand Round



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 4: AIIMS Vijaypur, Jammu, successfully conducted its first Clinical Grand Round (CGR) as part of an interdepartmental academic activity, under the guidance of Prof. Shakti Kumar Gupta, ED & CEO of AIIMS Jammu, in the pursuit of clinical excellence. The Department of Ophthalmology, led by Dr. Bhavani Raina, Additional Professor, facilitated the CGR, during which two interesting cases were

presented. Dr. Asma Jabeen, Senior Resident, presented a case of Neuro-ophthalmology under the mentorship of Dr. Nitin Kumar, Associate Professor. The patient was diagnosed with non-arteritic anterior ischemic optic neuropathy and proliferative diabetic retinopathy. Dr. Nitin Kumar elaborated on the diagnostic clues for identifying and appropriately managing such cases. He also explained the investigative modalities available, such as visual

fields and fundus angiography. The possible differential diagnoses were discussed with an expert panel of neurologists. The second case, presented by Dr. Gaveshna Garg, Junior Resident, was of Ocular Tuberculosis, under the mentorship of Dr. Ridham Nanda, Assistant Professor. The patient exhibited unique features of tubercular retinal vasculitis, which posed various diagnostic dilemmas. The management options were thoroughly discussed, and Dr. Nanda provided key

insights into distinguishing ocular tuberculosis from other similar conditions. The expert panel included Dr. Nazia Anjum, Assistant Professor from the Department of Ophthalmology; Dr. Padma and Dr. Ajay Kotwal, Assistant Professors from the Department of Neurology; Dr. Taranpreet, Assistant Professor from the Department of Internal Medicine; and Dr. Priya, Assistant Professor from the Department of Microbiology.

Dr. Padma discussed the distinguishing clinical features of arteritic and non-arteritic types of anterior ischemic optic neuropathy. Dr. Priya highlighted the various diagnostic techniques available for identifying ocular tuberculosis, while Dr. Taranpreet reviewed the treatment regimens available for the continuation phase in anti-tubercular therapy. The CGR was an engaging session, offering valuable lessons for clinicians. Prof. Shakti Kumar Gupta emphasized the importance of such multidisciplinary engagements, stating that they foster efficient patient management and encourage interdepartmental research collaborations. He announced that AIIMS Jammu will hold these sessions regularly.

Movement Kalki, Gau Raksha Organization seek strict laws to prevent animal trafficking



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 4: Movement Kalki and Gau Raksha Organization organized a press conference at Jammu Bus Stand to discuss the issue of cow protection. The press conference was chaired by Kaushal Sharma, Board Member of Movement Kalki and President of Gau Raksha Organisation. During the conference, Kaushal Sharma shared detailed information regarding the ongoing incidents of animal trafficking in Jammu city.

He said, "This is not a trivial problem. We have been working tirelessly to raise awareness on this issue for a long time and have organized several press conferences and demonstrations. We have repeatedly demanded that the cow be declared as the 'National Cow Mother' and that strict laws be enacted to prevent animal trafficking." He further mentioned that currently, 200 to 250 trucks are still being used to illegally trans-

port animals daily, and some police officials are involved in this. Without naming anyone, he added, "Some officers seize one truck and claim that they have foiled a trafficking attempt, but the same truck is released for trafficking the very next day. This way, these officers get to show off their achievements while being involved in the trafficking themselves. There are some police stations that earn 15 to 20 lakh rupees a month solely through animal trafficking. When confronted, these officers say that there is no strict law in place, so they can't do much. The government should seriously consider how to stop animal trafficking and take strict action against these corrupt officials."

Kaushal Sharma continued, "We are happy to see that people are becoming aware of this issue and are actively discussing it. Additionally, Shankaracharya Ji has initiated the 'Gau Pratishtha Andolan' (Cow Restoration Movement), which will reach Jammu

on the 22nd of this month. We fully support his efforts. This movement will infuse new energy into our society and further strengthen our positive momentum towards this cause." Movement Kalki and Gau Raksha Organization once again reiterated their demand to declare the cow as the National Animal and to implement strict laws to completely halt animal trafficking. They also appealed to society to not just see the cow as an animal, but to treat her as a mother, to worship and care for her, which will help eradicate the darkness and evils prevalent in society. The press conference was attended by Maharaj Thakur Arjun Ji (Religious Committee Core Member), Sanjeev Dubey (Core Committee Member), Vikram Mahajan (Board Member), Ajay Kumar (Board Member), Pawan Manhas, Runjeet Kumar, Kamal Kumar, Sanjay Sharma, Happy Sharma, Amit Kumar, Kunal Kumar, and other members.

MJR-47 demands election for nomination of assembly member for POJK DPs of 1947

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 4: The Govt of India had made provision for nomination of two Assembly seats for Kashmiri Migrants and one Assembly seat for POJK DP in Jammu and Kashmir Assembly. The said provision was made on the recommendations of Delimitation Commission for giving representation to all sections of people.

The Delimitation Commission was categorical for providing representation to Kashmiri Migrants by quoting two assembly seats whose population count of mere 1.56 lakh (as stated in the said bill passed).

However, the Delimitation Commission did not restrict or enumerate the nominations of POJK DPs of 16 lakh population. The Govt of India ignoring the total population provided only one seat for eye-wash.

Now when govt has provided one seat for DPs of 1947 by nomination, it's impressed that it should be done by election by the DPs voters only. As nomination fails the very purpose of electing representatives by the voters, as per the Representation of Peoples Act, when

the voters are there in abundance for whom the representative is to be selected.

The selection of this proposed nomination should be carried out in respect of POJK DPs by due process of election so that they can send their representatives by selection by election amongst the POJK DPs only.

Even the two seats provided to Kashmiri Migrants may also be done by election so that representation is made by public belonging to the class.

The role of POJK DPs has not been recognized in its true sense. The POJK DPs are the first Saviors of J&K state, fought the Pak Army / Tribal raiders to defend the State and faced genocide sacrificing more than 40,000 lives, dislocation, struggle, misery etc. for more than seven decades are being ignored.

In 1947 before the Indian Army landed in Srinagar raiders had killed more than 4000 DPs in the valley only apart from those killed in POJK.

The role of POJK DPs has been counted as warriors, fighters, saviors, but the Govt of India failed to acknowledge and granted only 01 seat that too

through nomination.

Our organization has called upon the Govt of India numerous times to grant adequate number of assembly seats so that POJK DPs can represent their people in J&K Assembly in right prospective but the government has not paid any heed.

We have requested the government to grant not less than 8-10 seats while reorganization of assembly seats.

Allocation of 8-10 seats for DPs of 1947 would have erased the political imbalance existing between the two provinces of Jammu and Kashmir.

Had the government granted sufficient number of seats to POJK DPs all seats would have been in Jammu province and it would have maintained best political stability. Govt of India even did not bother to afford even one personnel hearing for proper deliberation on the issue.

MJR-47 strongly demanded that the proposed nomination of member for this seat be carried out by due process of open election only otherwise the meager benefit of allocation of just one seat will also be defeated and prove useless

Kavinder slams Pakistan for hosting Wanted Islamic Preacher Zakir Naik

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 4: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, Kavinder Gupta, strongly criticized Pakistan for giving a grand red carpet welcome to the controversial Islamic preacher Zakir Naik, who is wanted in India on charges of money laundering and delivering hate speeches.

In a statement issued here today, Kavinder Gupta expressed outrage over Pakistan's decision to host Naik and allow him to deliver public lectures in multiple cities. He condemned the gesture as a deliberate affront to India's legal efforts to bring the fugitive preacher to justice and a move that encourages radical elements.

"Pakistan's grand welcome to Zakir Naik is both shameful and dangerous. It sends a clear message that Pakistan is willing to embrace individuals who promote division and extremism, despite Naik's proven record of inciting hatred," he stated. He emphasized that providing a platform to someone like Naik not only jeopardizes regional peace but also highlights Pakistan's



double standards on fighting terrorism.

The senior BJP leader called upon the international community to take serious note of this development and urged them to support India's efforts in bringing Naik to justice. He further stated that "India will not stand by as Pakistan glorifies a man who promotes violence under the guise of religion. We demand swift diplomatic action to hold Pakistan accountable for sheltering and promoting such figures." Kavinder Gupta reaffirmed the BJP's commitment to ensuring the security and harmony of India, condemning all attempts to undermine peace by harboring individuals who spread communal hatred. He urged the government to intensify its diplomatic pressure on Pakistan to extradite Naik and prevent the spread of extremism in the region.

Kashmiri Displaced People Wing of DPAP submits demands

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 4: The Kashmiri Displaced People Wing of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) has issued a joint statement expressing urgent demands and hopes for the implementation of initiatives announced by the Prime Minister during his recent visit to Jammu and Kashmir.

This statement was released by key leaders, including Sanjay Dhar (President), Piaray Lal Pandita (Chairman), Raj Kumar Ticku (General Secretary), and Charanjeet Singh (Publicity Secretary).

The leaders emphasized the need for immediate action on enhancing monthly cash assistance for Kashmiri Displaced People living outside the Valley.

They highlighted the severe challenges faced by these families, who continue to live in exile due to the genocidal exodus. The situation has

been further aggravated by the significant rise in essential commodity prices, which have surged over 200% since 2018, making it increasingly difficult for the community to sustain themselves.

The leaders called for an immediate increase in cash assistance. They stress that this increase is a critical requirement until a comprehensive Rehabilitation Policy is established to support displaced families. Additionally, they have requested a reserved nomination from migrant camps for one assembly seat among the five to be nominated by the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of J&K, ensuring representation for the displaced community.

The leaders also urged the establishment of Temporary Town Area Committees in each migrant camp in Jammu to facilitate better governance and amenities for displaced migrants.

Furthermore, they demanded that one seat

each in municipal, panchayat, and local body elections be reserved for migrants in the Valley, particularly in areas with a significant pre-1990 Kashmiri Pandit population. This initiative aims to foster interaction and understanding between minority and majority communities.

The leaders called for the immediate release of budgetary funds for the maintenance and renovation of camp buildings, as well as improvements to sanitation and infrastructure. They noted that living conditions in the camps have become increasingly miserable due to a lack of necessary repairs and upkeep.

The leaders expressed optimism that the Government of J&K will prioritize the welfare of displaced people, recognizing their status as A-class secular citizens of India, and urged the bureaucracy to focus on improving the living conditions and overall wellbeing of the displaced community.

ARSH NGO serves students and inmates of Deaf and Dumb School



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 4: Members of ARSH NGO recently donated stationery items and edibles to the students of the Deaf and Dumb School. This commendable initiative was conducted under the chairmanship of Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, the State Yoga Commissioner, Chairman of the Indian Yoga Association, and President of Vichar Kranti Manch International. The event was organized by Ms. Shikha, President of ARSH, with the support of executive members, including Smt. Arun Patil, Sheetal, Aashu, and Modhni.

During the event, Dr. Jain shared valuable insights on serving the deaf and dumb community. He praised ARSH

NGO for its ongoing commitment to supporting differently-abled individuals and emphasized the importance of compassion and sensitivity in these efforts. Dr. Jain outlined key guidelines for enhancing positive interactions within the community, urging participants to focus on visual communication, provide written instructions, maintain patience and empathy, and use inclusive and empowering language.

The event also highlighted the dedication of the young members of ARSH NGO, acknowledging their act of kindness. Heartfelt gratitude was expressed towards the organization and its members for their contributions to the welfare of the differently-abled. Their consistent support—whether aiding

children battling cancer, assisting blind students, or uplifting the deaf community—demonstrates a noble commitment to inclusivity and empathy.

Roshan Lal Bhan, Principal of the Deaf and Dumb School, along with Kewal Krishna from the Samaj Kalyan Kendra, expressed their sincere appreciation for the support.

The presence of Shubhchander Jain, a prominent social activist from Bangalore, as a special invitee, added significance to the occasion. Mr. Bhan concluded the event with a formal vote of thanks, highlighting the positive impact of ARSH NGO's work, which not only provides material support but also fosters a spirit of unity and understanding within the community.

SOS Int'l calls for non-political nominee for reserved assembly seat for PoJK refugees

Political appointment will further alienate 'neglected, overlooked' PoJK displaced persons: Chuni

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 4: The S. O. S. International—the frontline registered organisation spearheading the struggle for the legitimate and genuine rights of displaced persons from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK)—has urged the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha not to nominate a political party candidate for the single seat reserved in the Legislative Assembly for a community of over 12 lakh refugees.

In a memorandum submitted to the Lieutenant Governor today, Rajiv Chuni, the chairman of



SOS International, said that any political appointment for this seat would make the PoJK displaced persons vulnerable to losing their rights which they have partially secured after nearly three decades of struggle.

"The reserved seat in J&K Legislative Assembly should not be treated as a political sanctuary for any individual. It must instead serve its intended purpose of genuinely representing the interests of the displaced community. If we truly want to address the needs of PoJK refugees, a non-political nominee should be considered. Many political figures have represented this community in both the assembly and the upper house, yet they have failed to deliver meaningful results," Chuni said while cautioning against the political appointment for the reserved seat.

The senior refugee leader said they have campaigned relentlessly to unite PoJK refugees both inside and outside Jammu and Kashmir during the struggle of nearly three decades.

"We raised our issues before various government panels including the Wadhawa Committee, constituted by Ghulam Nabi Azad as Chief Minister of J&K in 2007, the 183rd Rajya Sabha Committee led by Venkaiah Naidu, and the Delimitation Commission. While these bodies recommended eight assembly seats for PoJK refugees, their suggestions were overlooked, resulting in the allocation of only one

seat for a community of over 12 lakhs displaced persons," he said.

Chuni added that the SOS International was the first organization to call for the political empowerment of PoJK refugees in the early 1990s, advocating for their nomination to eight of the twenty-four vacant assembly seats in the J&K Legislative Assembly.

"Our mission has been to politically empower the community, allowing these vulnerable refugees to voice their concerns freely and without political bias in the Legislative Assembly. We firmly believe that the plight of PoJK refugees is fundamentally a humanitarian issue, deserving of a compassionate approach that rises above party politics," he added.

The refugee leader expressed concern over reports suggesting a political figure may be nominated for this single assembly seat and warned that such a move would further alienate PoJK refugees who have been neglected by successive governments over the past three decades.

Chuni said the intention behind reserving this seat was to empower members of the PoJK displaced community and provide them with a platform to advocate for their rights. "It, therefore, becomes imperative to ensure that the process of nominating a person reflects justice and empowerment for displaced persons from PoJK and it could be achieved only by nominating a non-political person from PoJK displaced persons for the seat," he said.

He hoped that the Lieutenant Governor would move cautiously and address the genuine concerns of PoJK refugees while making a nomination for this reserved seat.

EDITORIAL

GROWING PASSION
OF CRICKET

Cricket has long been more than just a sport in India; it is a unifying force that brings people together, transcending regional and cultural divides. In Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), this passion is no different. The game has a unique status in the region, where it serves not only as a source of entertainment but also as a platform for youth engagement, community bonding, and national pride.

The roots of cricket in J&K can be traced back to the British colonial period, but the sport began to gain significant traction in the late 20th century. Initially played in informal settings, it gradually evolved into a structured sport, thanks to the efforts of local enthusiasts and the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA), which was founded in 1952. This organization has been pivotal in promoting the sport at various levels, from grassroots to professional.

One of the critical factors contributing to the rise of cricket in J&K has been the investment in infrastructure. Over the years, several cricket academies and training centers have been established, offering professional coaching to young talents. The iconic Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium in Srinagar stands as a testament to the region's commitment to developing cricket infrastructure. This stadium has hosted various national and international matches, providing local players with exposure to high-stakes cricket.

In addition to stadiums, the establishment of cricket grounds in schools and colleges has fostered a culture of cricket among the youth. Many educational institutions now include cricket as part of their sports curriculum, encouraging students to participate actively. The enthusiasm for the game has led to the formation of several local clubs and leagues, creating competitive opportunities for players at different levels.

J&K has produced a number of talented cricketers who have made a mark on the national stage. Players like Parvez Rasool, who became the first cricketer from J&K to represent India at the international level, serve as an inspiration to many aspiring cricketers in the region. His journey from local tournaments to the national team exemplifies how dedication and hard work can lead to success.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has also recognized the potential of J&K cricketers. With initiatives like the Ranji Trophy and other domestic tournaments, players from the region have been given opportunities to showcase their skills on larger platforms. These experiences are invaluable, as they provide local players with exposure to different playing conditions and higher levels of competition.

Additionally, many talented players have to juggle their cricketing aspirations with educational and employment commitments, as cricket is not yet a primary source of income for most in the region. This dual focus can sometimes hinder their ability to train and compete effectively.

Cricket in J&K has transcended the boundaries of a mere sport; it has become a tool for social change. Numerous initiatives focus on using cricket as a means to promote peace, unity, and harmony in the region. Local leagues often bring together players from different backgrounds, fostering camaraderie and mutual respect.

Moreover, cricket has been used as a platform to engage youth in positive activities, steering them away from negative influences. Various NGOs and community organizations have launched cricket programs aimed at channeling the energy of young people towards constructive endeavors. These initiatives not only help in skill development but also promote teamwork and leadership qualities.

The future of cricket in Jammu and Kashmir looks promising, fueled by the unwavering passion of its people. With continued support from the government, the cricketing community, and local organizations, the region has the potential to emerge as a powerhouse in Indian cricket. As more players from J&K make their mark on the national and international stages, the sport will undoubtedly play a crucial role in uniting the region and uplifting its youth. The journey of cricket in J&K is one of resilience, determination, and hope, embodying the spirit of a community that dreams big against all odds.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi: Living the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi



By: Sumitra Gandhi Kulkarni

In April 2024, I went and casted my vote and was therefore relieved when in June 2024, Shri Narendra Modi became Prime Minister of Bharat for the third time. Mahatma Gandhi or Bapuji as I call him was my grandfather. I lived with him till I was 19. This year, I turn 95 and I feel an urgency to compare Prime Minister Modi with Gandhiji and pen down my thoughts. Generations to come may want to know the views of a family member of Gandhiji who as an adult had the privilege of knowing both these human beings.

In my long years I have known many leaders. However, my association with Narendra Bhai stands out as extraordinary. It began during the challenging period of the 1975 Emergency. Though the exact moment can't be recalled, Narendra Bhai was then a young, dynamic pracharak of the RSS.

In the 1970s sectarianism was continuing to eat away at the national fabric. As a Rajya Sabha member from Gujarat, I was deeply worried about the demographic change

underway in the border districts due to heavy infiltration from Pakistan. The influx into Assam was even greater. No one in my Party, the Congress took serious note of this issue. But I clearly remember how Narendra Bhai even at that young age cared about such matters. He was clearly committed to national issues and the politics of the moment didn't diffuse his focus.

Even in those days he was fully seized with the challenges that women faced in rural Bharat – personal hygiene; clean drinking water; primary health care for their families etc. Soon after becoming Prime Minister, he demonstrated exemplary courage and articulated the need for national cleanliness in his Independence Day speech. He launched the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan which improved sanitation and also the dignity and security of women across Bharat. My grandfather believed in 'Jan Andolan' – people's movement as a basis of sustainable social change. Narendra Bhai's unwavering focus on the word 'Sabka' as in Sab ka saath, Sab ka vikas, Sab ka vishwas, and Viksit Bharat is the same. These are not mere buzz words for him. They are his drivers. His 'humanity first' leadership during the Covid-19 pandemic did not stop at our border, but embraced the entire world. Then again, he swam against the tide to free us from the choking yoke of Article 370. He is systematically completing the agenda that should have been completed after gaining independence. CAA is a case in point.

In this great land of Sanatan Dharma, political freedom was

won by the spiritual force of many Masters such as Sai Nath of Shiridi, Shri Ramana Maharshi etc., and Gandhiji became the instrument to spearhead this. It is no coincidence that decades later, Narendra Bhai has become the instrument to free us from the colonial mind-set. A second struggle of independence.

My grandfather, always said, 'Be the change you wish to see in the world.' Having closely witnessed Narendra Bhai's journey from an RSS worker to the Prime Minister of Bharat, I can say without a doubt that Narendra Modi personifies the change we have all longed for in our beloved Bharat.

While I do not subscribe to hagiography, I must be impartial. The most striking similarity between Bapuji and Narendra Bhai is that their public lives are rooted in the spiritual core of Sanatana Dharma. They both are – Sthithapragnya – unaffected by both, the bouquets and the brickbats. Such a person knows that Truth eventually prevails and therefore has no resistance to waiting patiently for that to happen. This would explain the characteristic silence of Narendra Bhai against relentless onslaughts by his political opponents. This is a sign of a Raja Rishi.

As per our scriptures before Dharma is restored, there is always a churning. Negativity is the first output of such a churning, and these negative forces oppose Truth. Daily we are witness to the extent of this negativity. Even national interests are compromised for political gains. In such circumstances, it takes a person who has absolutely no interest in power, and is incor-

ruptible – to put the interests of the poor and the nation above everything else. It is therefore our duty to acknowledge that even as we enjoy the fruits of Narendra Bhai's efforts, but did not give him the commensurate electoral mandate, he is unaffected and quietly continues with his duty. Let me state without hesitation that had Bapuji been alive today, he would have been a great supporter of Narendra Bhai. Bapuji would have been the first person to warn us about those who have usurped his name and who have made it their life's mission to misuse it to divide us for their political gains.

It will come as a surprise to the many detractors of my grandfather, and those of Narendra Bhai, that Narendra Bhai has rejuvenated Gandhiji's ideals by actually integrating them into modern Bharat's development agenda. Directive principles of State policy have become State policy. By doing so he has ensured that Gandhiji's legacy continues to seep vigorously and ceaselessly into our nation's psyche.

Narendra Bhai just like my grandfather will also have to stand the test of public scrutiny. But, as Lord Krishna told Arjuna, what matters is to do your job and leave the result to Truth – which will prevail eventually. I have faith that history will finally judge both Bapuji and Narendra Bhai kindly.

(Author is the
granddaughter of
Mahatma Gandhi)

The challenges of parenting in the age of technology

By: Vijay GarG

While the challenges are real, so too are the solutions — adaptation and patience remain the cornerstones of successful parenting in these digital times. Conversations these days are rife with the refrain of how challenging life has become and how surfing the turbulent seas is not as easy as it used to be previously. It amuses me that we endorse this view readily despite the conveniences the modern world has introduced to us.

The all-round improvement in quality of life has done nothing much in terms of bringing us the sense of gratification that material accumulation is perceived to bring. Instead, we have only become crazier and more complaining. Among the things that we whine about there is one that stands out – the difficulty of being a parent in these times.

It is not like how it used to be when we were kids, they assert and are at a loss to keep their children under control, be it about the use of gadgets or their demands

for new-age comforts or following well-meaning advice. Children these days have a way of growing up that parents can't seem to get a grip over, and parents are at their wit's end. Has parenting become so tough now, tougher than what it used to be for our parents or theirs?

Before we delve into why it seems more difficult now than ever before, it is important to recognise that parenting has always been tough. Our grandparents may not have had to deal with social media addiction or the anxiety of being on constant alert, but they had their own set of worries—scarcity, lack of information, and fewer opportunities. Yet, they managed, just as we try to manage today. What, then, has changed so significantly that parents now feel a near-constant sense of overwhelm?

For one, the digital age has transformed not only how we live but also how we raise children.

Social media, YouTube, video games—all these distractions are not just forms of entertainment; they shape the way children think, act, and even perceive reality. Parents often feel power-

less in the face of this digital onslaught, unsure how to manage screen time without seeming authoritarian or disconnected from their children's world.

This struggle is exacerbated by the speed at which technology evolves. By the time parents get a handle on one app or platform, their children have already moved on to the next one.

Then, there's the issue of peer pressure, not just on children but on parents too. The 'Instagram-perfect' life adds a layer of stress to parenting that previous generations didn't face. Parents today are not just competing with themselves to be the best versions of their upbringing—they are competing with a curated version of perfection they see online. The pressure to enrol children in extra-curricular activities, make sure they're developing emotional intelligence, cultivate leadership skills, and create future 'success stories' can be crushing. Our grandparents' idea of raising children to be 'good' has been replaced with a need to raise 'achievers,' and this shift in focus can leave parents feeling like they're running a race with

no finish line. Despite these challenges, parenting isn't a lost cause. It is, and always will be, a journey of trial and error. The key is finding balance and knowing that perfection is neither attainable nor necessary. A good place to start is by building a stronger connection with your children. Parents also need to accept that they cannot fight all battles alone.

They must seek help. Many of the challenges we face today are new and unfamiliar, but that doesn't mean they are insurmountable. Just as previous generations found solutions to their problems, so too can we, but it will require adaptation, learning, and, most importantly, patience. After all, our children are not just products of their environment—they are reflections of the love, support, and wisdom we give them, no matter how fast the world around them changes.

(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist street kour
Chand MHR Malout
Punjab)

SVMHC Hospital launches YAG Laser Treatment

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 4: Under the exemplary leadership of Anil Gupta, President of Swami Vivekananda Medical Mission Charitable (SVMHC) Hospital Ambphalla Jammu launches YAG laser treatment at Jammu, marking a significant milestone for the healthcare landscape in Jammu province.

This innovative treatment is being offered at affordable prices, reflecting the hospital's steadfast commitment to humanitarian service guided by the principle of "Nar Sewa, Narayan Sewa." Since its inception, the hospital has prioritized community welfare, focusing on providing accessible healthcare solutions to all. The launch event was attended by a distinguished



committee members, including Amar Chand Gupta, Senior Vice President; B.B. Gupta, General Secretary; B.S. Jamwal, Secretary; Mohan Singh Chouhan, Treasurer; Subhash Chander Gupta, Member; Dr. Sachin Gupta, Member; Dr. Romesh Gupta, Administrator; S. Iqbal Deep Singh, Manager; and

Ashish Dutta, Incharge of Social Media.

Senior Consultant Eye SVMHC Dr. Suruchi Gupta, M.B.B.S, M.S., and former Senior Resident at PGI Chandigarh, emphasized the critical role of YAG laser treatment in ophthalmology during the event. She explained, "YAG laser capsulotomy is an essential procedure

aimed at improving visual clarity following cataract surgery. In certain instances, patients may experience a resurgence of blurry vision months or even years after surgery, necessitating this procedure to restore clear sight."

The advantages of YAG laser treatment are numerous; its minimally invasive nature reduces the risks associated with surgical interventions, requiring no overnight hospital stay. Patients can undergo the procedure and return home the same day.

During the launch event, Anil Gupta, President of the hospital, emphasized the institution's core values and expressed heartfelt gratitude to the medical staff and committee members for their dedicated support. He

stated, "Our mission has always been to serve those in need."

The recent introduction of YAG laser treatment at Swami Vivekananda Medical Mission Charitable Hospital in Jammu marks a significant advancement in addressing post-cataract surgery complications, greatly enhancing the quality of life for numerous patients in the region.

For those seeking more information about YAG laser treatment or looking to schedule an appointment, the hospital is fully equipped to assist. With this latest advancement, Swami Vivekananda Medical Mission Charitable Hospital stands ready to serve the community, ensuring that everyone has access to the quality medical care they deserve.

Vi creates a travel dossier for its customers visiting Vaishno Devi during Navratri

Top News Report

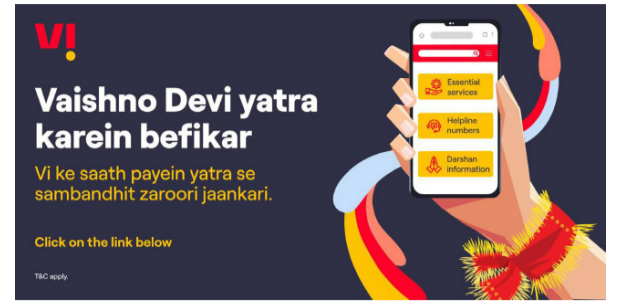
JAMMU, Oct 4: The annual Navratri festival is considered a very auspicious time for devotees to visit Vaishno Devi shrine near Jammu.

The sheer number of pilgrims visiting the shrine during this period often leads to logistical challenges. Combined with the fact that only post-paid mobile services are available in Jammu and onwards to Katra, many travelers who are prepaid users don't have access to the internet.

For the benefit of its users travelling to Vaishno Devi this Navratri, leading Telecom operator Vi has created a travel dossier in the form of a webpage on the Vi website, which will serve as a comprehensive guide to all the essential information related to the Yatra.

This can also be downloaded as a PDF, enabling the pilgrims to access the information offline as well.

The webpage serves as a centralised source of comprehensive information related to the Vaishno Devi Yatra, ensuring



that pilgrims have access to all necessary details on their fingertips. It not only provides essential details such as contact numbers of hospitals, police stations, and other emergency services, but also provides information on the most reliable way to book stay, darshan and other facilities available for the pilgrims.

Understanding the connectivity challenges in J&K, particularly the limitation on prepaid SIM cards from other regions, Vi is providing an option to download the information as a PDF document. It can be accessed offline, ensuring that pilgrims have access to crucial details, even without an active internet connection.

Deepak Rao, Cluster Business Head- Punjab,

Haryana, HP, J&K, Vodafone Idea, said, "At Vi, we are committed to design service offerings that enable our customers to have a seamless experience. Each Navratri, there are lakhs of pilgrims from all over India who undertake the Vaishno Devi Yatra. This travel dossier has been published to ensure our customers can easily find all the important information at their fingertips, enabling them to enjoy the yatra worry-free. Customers can click on the link in the SMS/WhatsApp communication they receive from Vi to access this information and can also download the Yatra Guide as a ready reference to use later. With this, I wish all our valued Vi customers a very happy, auspicious and blessed Navratri."

Tarun Uppal releases devotional song 'Sun Meri Maa'



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 4: Tarun Uppal, Chairperson of Nirbhay Bharat Foundation along with Spiritual leader Pawan Baba, Manik Uppal (Chairman, SWH) and Divyansh Baba on Friday released a devotional video song 'Sun Meri Maa'.

The Bhajan album sung by Anil Kalotra was also released on YouTube Channel of Anil Kalotra official.

Speaking on the occasion, Uppal said that the compositions in the album capture the essence of the mystic devotion of Chandi Maa and will mesmerise the

listeners with its devotional depth and melody.

He appealed to the Union Territory administration to create opportunities for the budding talent of Jammu and Kashmir.

Tarun Uppal emphasised that young artists merit significant support from organizations dedicated to the promotion of art and culture, in addition to electronic media.

He stated, "Young artists should receive encouragement through suitable opportunities that allow them to display their talents on a larger platform," urging Anil Kalotra to set ambitious goals and pursue excel-

lence.

Uppal noted that the Union Territory is rich in talent; however, it requires skilled guidance for proper identification and refinement.

He expressed hope that the album would motivate emerging artists within the UT to uncover their latent abilities and carve out their place in society. "The government must create opportunities for these youth so their talent is channelised properly," said Uppal.

He congratulated whole team comprised of Thakur MM Singh, Lambedar Garu Ram Kalotra, Kumar Arjun, Bunty Shah and others.

JKNC denies 'back channel' talks allegations, accuses rivals of 'spreading misinformation'

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 4: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) has strongly refuted rumors circulating about alleged 'back channel' negotiations with political parties outside the INDIA Bloc.

In a firm message today in its social media handle, the party categorically denied engaging in any such talks, labeling the rumors as baseless and accusing 'rivals of spreading misinformation to distract the public'.

"Those sensing their impending defeat have resorted to spreading such unfounded accusations," the JKNC said.

"We urge the public, who have placed their trust in us, to disregard these false claims and not be swayed by rumor-mongering."

The party emphasized that its commitment remains with the INDIA alliance.

JKNC's rebuttal aims to solidify its standing and reinforce public confidence in the party's leadership amidst swirling rumors.

Jeevaka, Ayurvisharada Awards conferred to JIAR students



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 4: The Himalaya Wellness Company, conferred Jeevaka Award to Ashima Kahi. The Jeevaka award comprises of a memento, a certificate of appreciation and cash prize of Rs 15000 and Ayurvisharada award was conferred to Shruti Khajuria and Kanika Sharma. The Ayurvisharada award comprises of a memento, a certificate of appreciation and a cash prize of Rs 10000 for toppers of

batch 2018-2019, session 2024.

The programme was conducted in Conference Hall of Jammu Institute of Ayurveda and Research, Jammu on Friday.

The award was presented by Dr Nitin Mahajan Principal JIAR, Dr Elisa, Manager Scientific Services Rahul, Suneet and Ankush from Himalaya Wellness Company.

The Coordinator for this event was Dr. Manu Sharma, Professor PG Department of Kriya Sharira.

Director Agriculture Jammu unveils advanced Seed Germinator at State Seed Testing Laboratory



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 4: The Director Agriculture Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen, on Friday unveiled the IndoSaw Seed Germinator and Hot Air Ovens at the State Seed Testing Laboratory in Jammu. This significant advancement aims to enhance seed quality testing and ensure optimal agricultural practices in the region.

During the program, Dr. Gopal Krishan Langeh, Seed Analyst, highlighted the innovative features of the new seed germinator, which includes a CE mark immersion heater for durability and safety, a hermetically sealed standard compressor for consistent performance, an imported gyroclip for precise temperature and humidity measurements essential for seed germination, a shock-proof light fixture to enhance user safety, and PUF

insulation that promotes energy savings through low thermal conductivity.

Dr. Langeh also emphasized the laboratory's ongoing upgrade under the guidance of Director Agriculture Jammu, with NABL Accreditation currently in progress.

Director Agriculture Jammu announced the introduction of seed germinator including new digital moisture meter, which works in conjunction with the new seed germinator.

This advanced technology automatically maintains optimal humidity and temperature conditions, significantly reducing the time required for seed germination tests. This timely information is crucial for farmers and facilitating timely seed procurement and ensuring the delivery of high-quality seeds.

"Through this seed germinator, we will be able to conduct com-

prehensive germination, moisture, and purity tests, ultimately improving the quality of seeds available to our farmers," stated Director Agriculture.

The program was attended by Deputy Director (Central) Dr. Ashwani Sharma, Seed Analyst Dr. Gopal Krishan Langeh, Agronomist (VIS) Vikas Padha, Assistant Entomologist Rajesh Verma, Assistant Agrostologist Amit Sharma, SSA Sonika Rani, JAEO Poonam Jeet Kour, AEA Sanjay Razdan and other members of the State Seed Testing Laboratory team.

Devotees meet Swami Vinay Muni Ji

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 4: Large number of devotees today met Swami Vinay Muni and took his blessings.

R.L.Kaith mentioned to devotees that Swami Vinay Muni is a great pious leader and also a devout personality with great principles.

Swami Vinay Muni said, "I feel proud that I belong to a religion which has taught the world both tolerance and universal acceptance. We believe not only in universal tolerance but we accept all



religions as true. Thus, he set forward the worth of Indian religion exhibiting the values of universal acceptance, oneness, and harmony despite multiplicity in cultures." Devotees included

Ex Corporator Rashpal Bhardwaj, TSO (Retd) Rachhpal Kaith, Ashok Kumar Lakhotra, Bishan Lal Lakhotra, Tilak Raj Bassa, Hans Raj Lakhotra and Darshan Kumar Lakhotra.

LPEF condoles demise of Marhoom Abdul Latief Bangroo

Top News Report

DODA, Oct 4: The District Unit of the Low Paid Employees Federation (LPEF) gathered to express deep sorrow over the passing of Marhoom Abdul Latief Bangroo, who recently passed away in Jammu after a prolonged illness. A retired employee of the Central Cooperative Bank and a resident of Mohalla Sah, he was the father of Umar Latief Bangroo and Sunny Bangroo, and the elder brother of Javed Iqbal, Dr. Farid Ahmad, Gazi, and Ayaz Bangroo.

The condolence meeting was chaired by Niaz Ahmad Rahi, the district president of LPEF. Senior leaders, including Ghulam Hassan Pampori, Shakeel Ahmad Dev, and Er. Nazir Ahmad Sheikh, reflected on Marhoom Abdul Latief's contributions to society, highlighting his intelligence, honesty, and dedication. They emphasized that



he was a pillar of Hindu-Muslim brotherhood and a shining star within the community.

"We stand in solidarity with his family during this difficult time," the leaders stated, offering prayers for the deceased's elevated place in Jannatul-Firdous and strength for the bereaved family to endure this profound loss (Ameen).

Those in attendance included Naseer Ahmad Khora, president of the Chenab Valley Generalist Association; Ishfaq Ahmad Dev, generalist; Faizan Ali Tramboo,

president of NHM Doda; Manzoor Ahmad Bitt, president of Young Star Cricket Doda; Nisar Ahmad Bandat, president of the Teacher Association; and several others from various associations, all expressing their condolences and sharing memories of Marhoom Abdul Latief's exemplary character.

Among the attendees, Riaz Ahmad Najjar from Bhabherwah remarked on Abdul Latief's honesty and brilliance, expressing his sorrow over the news of his passing. Others, including Ajaz Ahmad Siddiqui, Nayem Ahangar, Ghulam Hassan Bagwan, and many more also conveyed their heartfelt condolences, underscoring the impact Marhoom Abdul Latief had on their lives and the community.

The meeting concluded with a collective sense of loss and a commitment to support the family during this challenging time.

Career Counselling Orientation Programme held at Shiksha Niketan School



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 4: Shiksha Niketan Higher Secondary School, Jeevan Nagar, Jammu, on Friday conducted a Career Counselling Orientation Programme for students of the higher secondary wing.

The event aimed to provide insights into various career paths and scholarship opportunities, guiding students toward informed and effective career decisions.

Pawan Diwedi from Parul University, Vadodra, Gujarat, along with Akash, were the esteemed guests who enlightened the students with valuable information.

During his speech, Diwedi discussed a wide range of career options

available in today's world and the skills required to succeed in different fields. His in-depth knowledge provided the students with clarity on how to choose the right path after their higher secondary education.

A key highlight of the orientation was the comprehensive overview of scholarship schemes available both in India and abroad.

Diwedi specifically emphasized opportunities in countries like Germany and the USA, focusing on renowned programs such as the DAAD Scholarship, which facilitates students in obtaining free education in Germany.

He also spoke about various scholarships within India and the USA that can help deserving students pursue higher

education without financial burdens.

The guests were warmly welcomed by the in-charge of the higher secondary wing, who emphasized the importance of such interactive sessions in shaping the future of students.

The orientation programme concluded with an interactive Q&A session where students posed several career-related queries, which were answered in detail by the guests, providing further clarity and guidance.

This event marks another step by Shiksha Niketan Higher Secondary School in fostering a holistic educational environment, ensuring that students are well-equipped to make informed decisions about their futures.

Celebrities talk about balanced diets, healthy habits and fitness tips

In the world of entertainment, maintaining a healthy lifestyle is essential for staying fit, energetic and camera-ready. Many celebrities rely on balanced diets, regular exercise and mindful habits to stay in peak condition. From cutting out junk food to incorporating high-protein meals and staying hydrated, these stars have found routines that work for them.

What we eat matters
Harsh Chhaya

Nutrition is the most important factor. Even if someone doesn't exercise or isn't physically active, sticking to the right food habits can help in losing or maintaining weight. I've been following certain food habits for a long time. I keep junk food away; avoid too much alcohol, oily food and sweets. I also engage in regular exercise and brisk walks, though I hate running. When I'm shooting, I carry my own food. For extended outdoor shoots, I bring along a hotplate and a mixer grinder. I buy ingredients from local markets, like I did during the Undekhi shoot, and manage to prepare my three daily meals on my own!

Energy quotient
Aadesh Chaudhary

It's not just about looking good for the camera; it's about feeling energised and performing at my best. So, nutrition plays a pivotal role



in my overall fitness. A well-balanced diet fuels my workouts, supports muscle recovery, and keeps me mentally sharp. I try to include lean proteins, fresh vegetables, and whole grains in my daily meals. I also stay hydrated throughout the day, which is crucial. I enjoy lighter meals that help me feel energetic, especially before shoots. And of course, I don't believe in deprivation—I allow myself cheat days, but with moderation. I always carry healthy snacks like nuts or fruits to keep me going.

No junk food
Rohit Choudhary

Without good nutrition, achieving good health is impossible. Eliminate all junk and fried foods from your diet and eat homemade, fibre-rich food. I prefer to have fruits handy instead of munching on chips or other unhealthy snacks.

Stay in shape
Vaibhav Sharma

For me, the agenda is simple — eat healthy and home-cooked food. I'm not much of a diet person because of my high metabolism, but I know that what keeps me in shape and on track is my sleep, as also workouts. I try to avoid junk food and focus on eating healthy food.

Diet plan
Prince Dhiman

A well-balanced diet is essential for staying healthy, and a high-protein diet always helps me. I calculate calories to maintain my physique. My sugar and salt intake is very controlled, and I usually eat three-four meals a day. Proper workouts and adequate rest are also crucial. Sometimes it's hard to find time to work out, but I cannot function without exercising, so I take time out for the gym. I'm strict

about my diet.

Be proactive
Anupama Solanki

I believe staying healthy is all about maintaining a balanced daily routine. It's important to eat on time, get enough rest, and indulge in junk food only occasionally. I focus on a balanced diet; I ensure I'm getting essential vitamins, minerals, calcium and fibre. Regular meals and keeping track of nutrition are the key. I also think it's crucial to get annual health check-ups as a proactive way to safeguard your well-being. Taking small steps like these can make a big difference in maintaining overall health.

Moderation is key
Gulfam Khan Hussain

People mistake health for being slim. These are two very different things, and because the idea of being 'slim is prettier,' people follow silly diets and routines that often

harm them instead of helping. This needs to change. I would say eat right, eat healthy, and eat at home. As most people know, I have become much healthier than I was two years ago. A realisation about my health gave a nudge to my consciousness, and I decided to do it the right way. Everything in moderation works for me and should for everyone else too. I workout for an hour every day, eat nutritious food, and sometimes treat myself to sweets in moderation. I don't believe in deprivation, and, of course, I take plenty of rest.

Maintain balance
Sherleen Dutt

I enjoy all my favourite foods, but in moderation. I ensure my meals are rich in proteins, healthy fats, fibres, and include plenty of vegetables and fruits. Balancing my love for food with a commitment to physical and mental fitness has been essential for my well-being. To maintain mental fitness, I meditate for at least 10 minutes daily to stay calm and centered. Two tips that have really helped me are drinking plenty of water throughout the day to stay energised and aid digestion. Consistency is the key. Even on busy days, I make sure to fit in some form of physical activity, whether it's a short Pilates session or a brisk walk.

On war path: Alia Bhatt gears up for Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Love and War



It seems Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt is all in prep mode for her upcoming film Love and War, directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali.

The actress on Thursday was seen outside Bhansali's office in Versova, Mumbai. It was last month, when the makers of the Ranbir

Kapoor, Alia Bhatt and Vicky Kaushal-starrer epic saga Love and War finally announced that the movie is slated to release on March 20, 2026.

Directed by Bhansali, the film's release date falls during the biggest holiday stretch, coinciding with major festi-

vals like Ramzan, Ram Navmi, and Gudi Padwa following one after the other. The film is said to be a love story about a couple who have to go separate ways owing to familial obligations.

Bhansali's latest work was period drama series Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar, which revolved around the lives of tawaifs in the red-light district of Heera Mandi in Lahore during the Indian independence movement against the British Raj.

Meanwhile, this is the second time Alia is collaborating with her husband Ranbir, after the 2022 action adventure film Brahmastra: Part One — Shiva. She last featured in the romantic comedy film Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani, directed by Karan Johar, co-starring Ranveer Singh. She has Jigra and Alpha in the kitty.

Vicky's latest release was Bad Newz and will next be seen in Chhaava, a historical epic based on the life of Maratha Chhatrapati Sambhaji, played by Vicky Kaushal. It is an adaptation of the Marathi novel Chhava by Shivaji Sawant. The film is directed by Laxman Utekar.

Talking about Ranbir, who is basking in the success of his film Animal, will next be seen in Ramayana alongside Sai Pallavi.

Jennifer Aniston sets the record straight on wildest rumours about her

Jennifer Aniston is setting the record straight on some of the wildest rumours about her. During her recent appearance on Jimmy Kimmel Live!, the Friends star dispelled a series of made-up stories about her, including her alleged affair with Barack Obama. "I know Michelle more than him," the 55-year-old actress said of her rumoured secret romance with the former president.

While playing a true-or-false game with host Jimmy Kimmel, Aniston had a hilarious reaction to the outlandish claim that she had a secret romance with Obama. The 56-year-old television host presented her with a copy of InTouch magazine's August edition that featured a cover story with the headline "The Truth About Jen And Barack."

Shortly after the audience burst into laughter, Aniston shut down the claim, calling the story false. "Of all the calls you get from your publicist where you're just like, 'oh no, what's it going to be?', or the email saying, 'some cheesy tabloid is going to make up a story'... and then it's that. I was not mad at it," the Murder Mystery actress joked. "That is absolutely untrue," she added.

Kimmel went on to read out loud some of most wildest stories about her. To this, Aniston said, "Oh good, we're going to dispel rumours. I love this." The We're The Millers star shut down



claims that she had installed a "\$4,000 anti-ageing water filter" for her dogs and that she has a "black belt in jujitsu."

However, she did admit to a few bizarre rumours, including enjoying a salmon sperm facial. "Don't I look like a salmon? Don't I have beautiful salmon skin?" she joked. Another story that Aniston admitted to being true was having a "Ziploc bag" of her "dead therapist's ashes." "Can I plead the... it's a little true," the Horrible Bosses actress said. "Oh, I'm gonna sound like I really need a therapist after this. It's a long story."

Rahul Roy, who was in Chandigarh for an event, tells us how he is gathering the pieces of his life after the brain stroke in 2020

A boy and a girl covered with a jacket, romantic tracks that became chartbusters of all times...The year 1990 saw the rise of Rahul Roy! The man who gave Bollywood a blockbuster called Aashiqui. The man, who became the national crush.

Three decades on, Rahul can still recreate the magic of yesteryear. In Chandigarh, on Wednesday, for an event, he drives his fans into frenzy. They jostle each other to be in the same frame as cameras capture the magic. Rahul, who maintains the same Aashiqui hairdo, is happy at the love he receives, and counts life's blessings.

But then life's been rather unkind to him. After suffering a brain stroke in 2020 while shooting for his film LAC: Live the Battle in Kargil triggered by the harsh weather conditions, he had to spend a considerable time in the hospital. Even four years on, he still takes it slow, a sentence at a time, just grateful that he can work again.

With a film, Agra, in 2023 and mini-series, Kadiyaan, this year, Rahul is back in business. "I have a couple of films, web shows, and many events. I am



happy being back in action," shares the Junoon actor.

He is happy being back in Chandigarh too. He crossed city few weeks earlier for another event in Ludhiana. But his connection is way deeper than a few flying visits. He studied at Lawrence School, Sanawar, and fondly recalls his frequent trips to Sector 17. "Those were the best of times. I am still in touch with my schoolmates and am looking forward to spending time with them."

He is happy at the adulation coming his way but the

memory of the tough phase still troubles him. "When I was taken to Mumbai from Kargil, I was wheelchair bound," he shares. It was his brother-in-law Romeer, and sister (adopted) Hari Maa (Priyanka), who took care of him. "When the entire world shut its doors on me, Hari Maa nursed me back to health. It's only due to her and my jija Romeer that I am able to speak. She is my maa, my sister." Interestingly, before taking the name Hari Maa and embracing spirituality, Priyanka was a model.

Rahul's ex-wife Rajlaxmi saw him through his high and low phases before they parted ways. "Rajlaxmi divorced me in 2014. I have largely been on my own since then."

Another person that Rahul speaks high of is Salman Khan. Ask him of his Bigg Boss days (he won the first season of the popular reality show) and he says, "Those were strange times. Nobody knew if someone would do the task or not. I don't care to remember that phase. Except for Salman. Nobody can do Bigg Boss like he does. He is gem of a person."

Post Aashiqui's, Rahul signed

for a couple of movies, but most of those projects were shelved. The success of Aashiqui could never be repeated. "What Aashiqui did in 1990 was magical. There couldn't be any other time, film, director (Mahesh Bhatt) or the cast. Its music by Nadeem-Shravan still echoes in fans' heart."

Rahul sure has a point. In fact, every song of the film was a hit —Main Duniya Bhula Doonga, Bas Ek Sanam Chahiye, Dheere Dheere Se Meri Zindagi Main Aana, Nazar Ke Samne, Jaane Jigar, Jaane Man and Tu Meri Zidegi Hai to name a few. In 2015 Dheere Dheere was recreated by Honey Singh featuring Sonam Kapoor and Hrithik Roshan, but it could never replicate the charisma of the original track.

The film's sequel Aashiqui 2 starring Aditya Roy Kapoor and Shraddha Kapoor too won big on audience's love. "I watched it. It turned out pretty good," he says.

Acting in movies and shows, doing events in India and abroad, and inching towards full recovery — Rahul Roy is hoping to embrace life fully. Amen!

World Animal Day 2024| Wamiqa Gabbi: Animals teach us the art of letting go

A proud mother of six dogs, actor Wamiqa Gabbi shares a unique bond with animals and on World Animal Day today, she opens up on her equation with the four-legged beings. "I used to be a non-vegetarian but turned vegetarian over four years ago. The only regret I have is why I didn't do it sooner. The connection I feel with animals now is way more than what I felt a few years ago," she says.

Having six dogs at home—Phoebe, Milli, Julie, Fluki, Gabbar and Momo—who she rescued and adopted during the pandemic, Gabbi insists she creates cherished memories with them every day. "Momo was the latest entry in our family and I rescued and adopted him during the shoot of Fursat (2023). There was this two-week-old puppy who was injured and couldn't drink her

mother's milk. I saw that she would die, so I picked her up and brought her home," she recalls, adding that going to Masai Mara National Reserve remains one of her most memorable experiences. "There were so many different animals like cheetahs, lions, elephants, giraffes, various kinds of cows, and I was just silently watching them. It was just beautiful," she shares.

Ask the 31-year-old what makes animals better companions and she says, "I don't know about that, but I definitely find them better than humans as we have somewhere lost our innocence. Animals still possess that innocence and live with it, and I love that. I learn that from them and try to keep it alive in me every day." The actor also admits learning how to forgive and forget from animals: "It doesn't matter



if you have shouted at them or they have done a mistake, they won't hurt you in any way. The next time you call them, they will come back to you with as much love. It's such an impactful message that they teach you about letting go, forgiving and forgetting. All they want to do is love you and I just wish humans could understand that."

Being an animal lover, Gabbi feels hurt when she sees atrocities against animals, and calls for stringent action. "Since childhood, we have been taught to love and be kind and respectful. But as we grew up, we forgot all those important teachings. How would you feel if you saw a video of someone beating a child? That's how I feel when I see videos of humans' bad behaviour towards animals. India is a secular country, and I am sure none of the religions

teach us to be violent towards animals," she asserts, calling out the need for stronger laws: "If you don't consider violence against animals a crime, that's dangerous. If somebody can kill, beat or molest an innocent animal, how can you trust that person to be safer in our society or around children?"

The actor requests people to just "love animals". "Once you have love, you will automatically give them food, shelter during rain and clothes during winters," she says, admitting that she hopes to have an animal farm in future one day. "An image that keeps coming to me is that if I have an animal farm, I want to sleep with my head on a cow's tummy. That's an experience I really want to have in my life," she ends.

Significance of peace has grown amid atmosphere of unrest: President Murmu

'You cannot let an army or police in

JAIPUR, Oct 4 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu on Friday said the significance of peace and unity has increased amid unrest in certain parts of the world.

Addressing the inaugural session of a four-day global summit at the international headquarters of Brahma Kumaris in Mount Abu, the President said, "Today, an atmosphere of unrest is prevailing in several parts of the world. At a time when human values are declining, the importance of peace and unity is increasing even more."

She added, "Peace is also located deep inside the mind. So everyone must keep their mind, words and deeds clean."

Calling on joining forces to overcome the challenge of global warming and pollution, Murmu said, "People should understand that they are not the owners of this earth, but are



responsible for its protection. We are trustees, not owners. We have to protect this planet with our own discretion."

Somewhere there is excessive rain while somewhere there is a drought, she said, highlighting the impact of the climate change.

"The government of India has requested every person to plant a sapling in the name of mother. If 140 crore saplings are planted,

the number of trees will increase which will slowly improve the climate. To achieve this, everyone must plant a sapling each year," she said.

Murmu also said that materialism gives momentary happiness, and people get attracted to it thinking it to be real contentment, but it also becomes the reason for sorrow and dissatisfaction whereas spirituality gives people an opportunity to

recognise their inner strength. "Spirituality gives a new perspective, it creates a sense of compassion towards all creatures and sensitivity towards the nature. Spirituality is a medium to bring positivity in the society. Being spiritual means recognising the inner power, and bringing purity in conduct.

"One can become a better person by improving his actions. Bringing purity in thoughts and actions is necessary for peace and balance in life, and for a healthy society," the president said.

"People sometimes become tainted with lust, anger and attachments. But if the soul is pure, everything will be purified. If we are not mentally clean, external cleanliness will prove meaningless," she added.

The event was also attended by Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Bagade.

Congress wants to take youth to dark world of drugs: Amit Shah on Delhi drug bust



NEW DELHI, Oct 4 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday accused the Congress of leading the nation's youth into the "dark world of drugs" following a recent drug bust in Delhi involving a consignment worth Rs 5,000 crore.

Tushar Goyal, the main accused, was arrested following the recovery of more than 500 kg of cocaine and 40 kg of hydroponic marijuana worth over Rs 5,600 crore in a raid conducted in south Delhi on Wednesday.

The Congress has denied any links with Tushar Goyal, the alleged kingpin behind Delhi's biggest drug bust.

Amit Shah, in a post on X, claimed that while the Modi government is committed to a "zero

tolerance" policy on drugs and is working to guide the youth towards education, sports, and innovation, Congress is allegedly using its political influence to enable drug trafficking.

"While the Modi government is adopting a zero-tolerance policy for a 'Drug-Free India,' the involvement of a prominent Congress leader in the Rs 5,600 crore drug consignment seized from North India is extremely dangerous and shameful," Shah posted.

He highlighted the impact of drugs on the youth in states like Punjab and Haryana during the Congress regime, contrasting it with the Modi government's efforts to steer the youth towards sports, education, and innovation. He further accused Congress of

attempting to drag the youth back into "the dark world of drugs."

"The sin of Congress leaders using their political influence to push the youth into the quagmire of drugs will never be allowed to succeed by the Modi government," Shah stated, adding that the government is committed to dismantling the entire drug network, regardless of the political standing of those involved.

While the Congress has denied any link with Tushar Goyal, the latter reportedly admitted during questioning that he previously served as the chairman of the RTI cell for Delhi Pradesh Congress until 2022.

Investigators also discovered that Goyal had a social media profile where he listed his title as RTI Cell Chairman, Delhi Pradesh Congress.

Goyal, who used the alias "Dikki Goyal" on social media, posted photos with several prominent Congress leaders, including Lok Sabha MP Deepender Singh Hooda and Haryana unit chief Uday Bhan.

Nirmala Sitharaman says living standard of common man to rise steeply

NEW DELHI, Oct 4 (Agencies): Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said India would achieve near doubling of per capita income in the next five years and witness the steepest rise in living standard of the common man in coming decades aided by structural reforms undertaken by the government in the last 10 years.

Addressing the 3rd edition of Kautiliya Economic Conclave here, the minister said, India's critical economic performance in the recent decade was underscored by its leapfrog from the 10th to the fifth largest economy in a matter of five years.

"While it took us 75 years to reach a per

capita income of USD 2,730, as per IMF projections, it will take only five years to add another USD 2,000. The upcoming decades will see the steepest rise in living standards for the common man, truly making it a period-defining era for an Indian to live in," she said.

She further said India seeks to double its per capita income in a matter of a few years for its 1.4 billion strong population (which makes up 18 per cent of the global total) in a fragmented and fractured world where several persistent conflicts may worsen, posing a threat to global peace that is the bedrock of prosperity.

This is being achieved with declining inequal-

ity, as the Gini coefficient (income inequality benchmark) for rural India declined from 0.283 to 0.266, and for urban areas, it declined from 0.363 to 0.314, she said.

"I expect these improvements to continue as the effects of the last ten years of economic and structural reforms manifest more thoroughly in the data in the coming years as the Covid shock fades from the economy," she said. By 2047, as India crosses the 100-year mark of independence, she said, the new Indian era will have core characteristics similar to developed countries.

Viksit Bharat will usher prosperity not just to Indians but to the rest



of the world by becoming central to a vibrant exchange of ideas, technology, and culture, she added.

Speaking on the country's financial system she said the soundness and resilience of India's banking sector have been underpinned by a sustained policy focus on asset quality improvements, enhanced provisioning

for bad loans, sustained capital adequacy, and a rise in profitability.

NPA (non-performing asset) ratios are at a multi-year low, and banks now have efficient debt recovery mechanisms.

Ensuring that the financial system stays healthy and the cycle lasts longer is another of our core policy priorities, the minister said.

IAF looking at full indigenous inventory by 2047: Air Chief

NEW DELHI, Oct 4 (Agencies): The Indian Air Force (IAF) is looking at having the entire inventory produced in India by 2047, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh said on Friday.

At a press conference ahead of the Air Force Day, the Chief of Air Staff also said China was rapidly building infrastructure along the LAC, especially in the Ladakh sector, and India was also trying to match it.

Delving into geopolitical tensions and conflicts in various geographies, the IAF chief said it was important to have indigenous weapons systems to deal with any future security challenges.



To a question, the Air Chief Marshal said three units of S-400 missile systems were delivered by Russia and it had promised to deliver the remaining two units by next year.

Three men gang rapes woman in Pune, her male friend assaulted

PUNE, Oct 4 (Agencies): A 21-year-old woman was allegedly raped by three persons on the outskirts of Pune, while her male friend was assaulted, police said on Friday.

The gang rape was allegedly committed in the Bopdev Ghar area around 11 pm on Thursday, they said.

According to the Kondhwa police, the woman had gone to the locality with a male friend.

"As per preliminary details, the woman and her male friend had gone to the Bopdev Ghar area on Thursday late night where three unknown people allegedly raped



her," said a senior official from Pune police.

He said ten police teams have been formed to trace those behind the alleged gang rape.

Another official from Kondhwa police station said that the incident took place at an isolated place and the trio also assaulted the woman's male friend.

Ten killed in truck-tractor collision in Mirzapur; PM, CM announce ex-gratia

MIRZAPUR, Oct 4 (Agencies): Ten people were killed and three injured when a truck collided with a tractor trolley carrying labourers in the district early Friday, police said.

The incident took place around 1 am on G T Road between Kachhawan and Mirzapur areas on the Mirzapur-Varanasi border, Superintendent of Police (Mirzapur) Abhinandan said.

"The tractor trolley, carrying 13 labourers who were returning from construction work in Bhadohi district, was hit from behind by the truck that had gone out of the driver's control,"



the SP said.

On being alerted, the SP and other senior officers rushed to the scene to oversee the rescue operations.

"Of the 13 injured, 10 died while the three others were taken to the hospital at the IIT-BHU, where their condition is stated to be normal," the officer said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the

loss of lives in the accident and announced a compensation of Rs 2 lakh to each of the deceased's kin and Rs 50,000 to those injured.

"The road accident in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh is extremely painful. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families of those who lost their lives in this. May God give them strength to bear this pain. Along

with this, I wish for the speedy recovery of all the injured," he said on X. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also announced a similar compensation for the kin of the deceased.

"Under the supervision of the state government, the local administration is engaged in helping the victims in every way possible," Modi, also the Lok Sabha MP from Varanasi, said.

Police have sent the bodies to the mortuary, Abhinandan said. A case has been registered at the Kachhawan police station and further legal proceedings are underway, he added.

Authorities are conducting a thorough investigation into the circumstances leading to the accident, the officer said.

According to the police, those killed were Bhanu Pratap (25), Vikas Kumar (20), Anil Kumar (35), Suraj Kumar (22), Sanohar (25), Rakesh Kumar (25), Prem Kumar (40), Rahul Kumar (26), Nitin Kumar (22), Roshan Kumar (17).

Three injured hospitalised in Varanasi were Akash Kumar (18), Jamuni (26) and Ajay Saroj (50).

All of them were residents of Varanasi district, the police added.

Modi Govt facilitating recruitment of Indians in war-torn West Asia, alleges Kharge

NEW DELHI, Oct 4 (Agencies): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday alleged that the Modi Government's skill development cooperation is facilitating the recruitment of about 15,000 Indian workers in Israel in the West Asia war.

He claimed that earlier youth from the country were duped by dubious agents for going to the Russia-Ukraine war and many lost their lives too.

"It speaks volumes about the Joblessness induced by the anti-youth policies of the Modi Government," he said in a post on X.

"The fact that young unskilled, semi-skilled and educated youth are willing to risk their



lives and serve in war-ridden theatres, at reportedly high salaries, tells you that PM @narendramodi's lofty claims on Jobs are nothing but Fake Retorts to hide his own

failures!

"Youth of Haryana who are forced to seek jobs in these conflict zones will teach a befitting lesson to the BJP, tomorrow," Kharge said in his post.

"None less than Modi Government's National Skill Development Cooperation is facilitating the recruitment of about 15,000 Indian workers in Israel, amidst the war in West Asia," he alleged.

The Congress chief's comments came a day ahead of the Haryana Assembly elections, where his party is seeking to wrest power back from the BJP after a gap of ten years.

Encounter erupts between security personnel, Naxalites in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region

RAIPUR, Oct 4 (Agencies): An encounter broke out between security personnel and Naxalites in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region on Friday afternoon, a senior police official said.

The gunfight started around 1 pm in the Abhujmaad forest,

along the border of Narayanpur and Dantewada districts.

The intermittent exchange of fire is still going on, the official said.

A joint team of security personnel is involved in the action and they are reported to be safe, the official said, adding

that further details are awaited.

Security forces on Thursday had busted a Naxalite camp in Sukma district in the Bastar region following an encounter and recovered a huge cache of explosives and other materials, police had said.

"Today's Ukraine could be tomorrow's East Asia": Newly elected Japan PM

TOKYO, Oct 4 (Agencies): Japan's new Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba warned in his first policy speech Friday that "today's Ukraine could be tomorrow's East Asia" while also dubbing the country's low birth rate a "quiet emergency".

"Many fear that today's Ukraine could be tomorrow's East Asia. Why did deterrence not work in Ukraine?" Ishiba told parliament.

"Combined with the situation in the Middle East, the international community is becoming increasingly divided and confrontational," the 67-year-old former defence minister said.

Ishiba made no direct reference to China but his country's relations with Beijing have deteriorated in recent years as it asserts its military presence around disputed territories in the region.

Of particular concern is Taiwan. Beijing claims the democratic island as part of its territory and has never renounced the use of force to bring the self-ruled island under its control.

Japan has also irked China with plans for a major increase in defence spending and by boosting security ties with the United States and its allies including the Philippines and South Korea.

In August, a Chinese military aircraft staged the first confirmed incursion by China into Japanese airspace, followed weeks later by a Japanese war-



ship sailing through the Taiwan Strait for the first time.

Ishiba has backed the creation of a regional military alliance along the lines of NATO, saying on Tuesday that the security environment in Asia was "the most severe since the end of World War II".

Falling population Japan, like many developed countries, is facing a looming demographic crisis as its population ages and the birth rate stays stubbornly low.

The country has the world's oldest population after tiny Monaco, according to the World Bank.

Last year, its birth rate -- the average number of children a woman is expected to have in her life -- stood at 1.2, well below the 2.1 needed to maintain the population.

On Friday, Ishiba called the

birth rate situation a "quiet emergency", adding the government would promote measures to support families such as flexible working hours.

Minimum wage Kishida was unpopular with voters because of a string of scandals and inflation squeezing earnings in the world's fourth-biggest economy.

Ishiba wants to boost incomes through a new monetary stimulus package as well as support for local governments and low-income households.

Within this decade, he said Friday he wants to hike the average national minimum wage to 1,500 yen (\$10.20) per hour, up nearly 43 per cent from the current 1,050 yen.

The yen surged last Friday after the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) voted Ishiba its new leader because he had broadly

backed the Bank of Japan's exit from its ultra-loose policies.

But Ishiba told reporters late Wednesday he did not think the environment was right for further interest rate hikes, sending the Japanese currency south again.

On Friday afternoon, one dollar bought 146.02 yen, having slightly recovered from levels past 147 earlier this week.

Succession Ishiba also weighed in on the dearth of eligible male heirs to the imperial throne.

Male-only succession rules mean the imperial family is facing extinction, with only one young heir: Emperor Naruhito's 18-year-old nephew Prince Hisahito.

The emperor's daughter Princess Aiko, 22, is barred from the throne under the Imperial Household Law, in place since 1947.

Royal women must leave the family when they wed a commoner -- as in 2021, when former princess Mako Komuro, Naruhito's niece, married her university sweetheart.

Lawmakers in May began discussing a possible relaxation of the strict succession rules, and a recent Kyodo News poll found 90 per cent public support for female succession.

"Stable royal succession is extremely important. Stabilising the number of members of the Imperial Family is a particularly urgent issue," Ishiba told parliament, calling for active debate on the issue.

Israel's offensive in Lebanon has displaced 1.2 million, prime minister says

BEIRUT, Oct 4 (Agencies): Nearly one quarter of the Lebanese population has been displaced by Israel's military campaign there, the country's caretaker prime minister said today.

Najib Mikati said 1.2 million people -- out of Lebanon's total 2022 population of 5.49 million, according to United Nations data -- have been forced from their homes by Israel's air and ground attacks.

"We are trying to cope with these problems, but to tell you the truth, security-wise, the most important thing now is to arrange for them shelter, food and how we can manage these displaced peoples," Mikati said during an online event Wednesday hosted by the American Task Force on Lebanon, a nongovernmental organization.

Mikati said that the number of displaced people is the largest in the nation's history, which has been punctuated by civil war and conflict with neighboring nations.

To date, 867 centers have been opened to receive displaced persons in public schools, educational complexes, vocational institutes and universities, Lebanese authorities said, with more than 200,000 Syrians and more than 76,000 Lebanese also crossing the border into Syria. Israel's bombardment has been especially intense in the south of the country, where Israeli troops are now engaged in heavy fighting with Hezbollah units per Israel Defense Forces battlefield reports.

The IDF has issued evacuation notices for some 90 villages there, warning residents to evacuate north of the Awali River around 37 miles from the Israeli border. Anyone using vehicles to cross from the north to the southern side of the Litani River -- around 18 miles north of the Israeli border -- is endangering their "personal safety," IDF spokesper-

son Avichay Adraee said.

Israel is demanding that Hezbollah withdraw its forces north of the Litani, as the militant group agreed to do as part of a 2006 United Nations Security Council resolution ending the last major cross-border conflict. Airstrikes are also still pummeling Beirut, particularly the densely-populated southern suburb of Dahiya -- known as a Hezbollah stronghold in the capital and described by author Hanin Ghaddar as "Hezbollahland." It was in a bunker under Dahiya that Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah was killed by Israeli strikes on Sept. 27. Israel used bunker-busting bombs in the assassination, an Israeli official familiar with the strike told agency.

The IDF said it is hitting Hezbollah "terrorist infrastructure" and "weapons manufacturing plants" in "precise" strikes in the capital. Meanwhile, Hezbollah units continue firing rockets and drones across the border into Israel.

The IDF has issued multiple evacuation orders for residents of Dahiya. Another series of massive strikes rocked the suburb overnight Thursday.

Many people are living on the street, in parks and sheltering under trees. Others sleep on the city's beaches to avoid the attacks. "Another sleepless night in Beirut," the United Nations special coordinator for Lebanon, Jeanine Hennis, wrote on X. "Counting the blasts shaking the city. No warning sirens. Not knowing what's next. Only that uncertainty lies ahead. Anxiety and fear are omnipresent."

Lebanese health officials say more than 1,900 people have been killed across the country since Oct. 8, 2023, when Hezbollah began firing into Israel across the shared border.

More than 9,000 others have been wounded, officials said.

EU tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles are part of an 'economic cold war,' Hungary's Orbán says

BUDAPEST, Oct 4 (Agencies): The European Union risks entering an "economic cold war" with China, Hungary's prime minister said on Friday, pledging to vote against an EU plan to impose higher tariffs on the import of Chinese electric vehicles.

EU countries are set to vote on Friday whether to finalize the tariffs, part of a broader trade dispute over Chinese government subsidies and Beijing's burgeoning exports of green technology to the 27-nation bloc.

The tariffs are expected to pass the vote. But Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said on Friday that his country will oppose them, and warned that Europe's tendency toward economic protectionism would destroy the EU's economy.

"What they're making us do, what the European Union is doing, is an economic cold war," Orbán told state radio. "This is the worst thing that can happen to Europe. ... If this continues, the European economy will die," he said.

The EU in July imposed the provisional tariffs of up to 37.6% on EVs made in China, saying they unfairly benefit from government subsidies. Beijing, in response, filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization in August, saying the tariffs violate WTO rules and undermine global cooperation on climate change.

China also launched retaliatory investigations into French cognac exports and European pork in what some analysts fear could develop into an economically harmful trade war with the EU.

Hungary under Orbán has pursued close ties with China and Russia while



its Western partners increasingly seek to distance their economies from those countries. Moscow's war in Ukraine and fears that a flood of inexpensive Chinese products could disrupt Western markets have accelerated those efforts.

Meanwhile, Hungary has sought major investment from Beijing, opening a series of Chinese EV battery manufacturing plants across the country. Late last year, it announced that BYD, one of China's largest EV makers, will open its first European production factory in southern Hungary.

Orbán on Friday said that EU protectionism represented a "huge danger" to Hungary's export-oriented economy. His government has declared a policy of "economic neutrality" that favors trade with all willing countries regardless of alliances or geopolitical considerations.

He said Western partners including the EU had "attacked" Hungary over its policies in order to "divert it from the path of economic neutrality."

"What's behind every attack is that they're trying to ... force Hungary into the bloc where they are, where I think there is no growth, no development, no future," he said.

North Korea's Kim threatens to destroy South Korea with nuclear strikes if provoked

SEOUL, Oct 4 (Agencies): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un threatened to use nuclear weapons and destroy South Korea permanently if provoked, state media reported Friday, after the South's leader warned that Kim's regime would collapse if he attempted to use nuclear arms.

The exchange of such rhetoric between the rival Koreas is nothing new, but the latest comments come during heightened animosities over the North's recent disclosure of a nuclear facility and its continuation of missile tests.

Next week, observers say North Korea's rubber-stamp parliament is expected to constitutionally declare a hostile "two-state" system on the Korean Peninsula to formally reject reconciliation with South Korea and codify new national borders.

During a visit to a special operation forces unit on Wednesday, Kim said his military "would use without hesitation all the offensive forces it possesses, including nuclear weapons," if South Korea attempts



to use armed forces encroaching upon the sovereignty of North Korea, according to the North's official Korean Central News Agency.

"If such a situation comes, the permanent existence of Seoul and the Republic of Korea would be impossible," Kim said, using South Korea's official name.

Kim's statement was a response to South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's speech at his country's Armed Forces Day on Tuesday. Unveiling South Korea's most powerful Hyunmoo-5 ballistic missile and other conventional weapons that could target North Korea, Yoon said the day that North Korea tries to use nuclear weapons would be the end of the Kim government because Kim would face "the resolute and overwhelming

response" of the South Korean-U.S. alliance.

Kim responded that Yoon's address fully betrayed his "bellicose temerity" and showed "the security uneasiness and irritating psychology of the puppet forces."

In a derisive comment, Kim called Yoon "an abnormal man," saying that "the puppet Yoon bragged about an overwhelming counteraction of military muscle at the doorstep of a state that possesses nuclear weapons." On Thursday, Kim's sister and senior official, Kim Yo Jong, also ridiculed South Korea's showcasing of the Hyunmoo-5 missile, saying there's no way for South Korea to counter the North Korea's nuclear forces with conventional weapons.

Since adopting an

escalatory nuclear doctrine in 2022, Kim has repeatedly threatened to use nuclear weapons preemptively. But many foreign experts say it's still unlikely that he would use his nuclear arms first because his military is outmatched by the U.S. and its allied forces. In July, South Korea and the U.S. signed a defense guideline on integrating South Korea's conventional capabilities with the U.S. nuclear forces to better deal with North Korea's advancing nuclear program. South Korea has no nuclear weapons.

Animosities between the Koreas are at the worst point in years with Kim's provocative run of missile tests and the South Korean-U.S. military exercises intensifying in a cycle of tit-for-tat. All communication channels and exchange programs between the rivals remain stalled since 2019, when a broader U.S.-North Korea diplomacy on ending the North's nuclear program collapsed.

In January, Kim called for rewriting North

Korea's constitution to eliminate the idea of a peaceful unification between the war-divided countries and to cement the South as an "invariable principal enemy."

He also reiterated that his country does not recognize the Northern Limit Line, a western sea boundary that was drawn by the U.S.-led U.N. Command at the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

He called for the new constitution to include a clear definition of the North's territories. North Korea has traditionally insisted upon a boundary that encroaches deeply into waters currently controlled by South Korea.

On Friday, South Korea's military said North Korea was again flying balloons likely carrying trash across the border into South Korea. Since late May, North Korea has launched thousands of rubbish-carrying balloons toward South Korea, prompting South Korea to resume anti-Pyongyang propaganda loudspeaker broadcasts at border areas.

When bomber blew self up, Khamenei had paused Friday sermon for just 3 minutes

TEHRAN, Oct 4 (Agencies): Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei led Friday prayers and delivered a rare sermon, his first in five years, after Tehran launched around 200 missiles on Israel amid escalating tensions in the Middle East. But, not many know that Khamenei, then President, had survived a suicide attack while delivering a sermon in 1985 and resumed his speech after pausing for three minutes.

Khamenei, who wields the highest authority as

the Supreme Leader in Iran, led Muslims in prayer at the Imam Khomeini Grand Mosalla mosque in central Tehran on Friday. The rare Friday sermon came three days before the one-year anniversary of the Israel-Hamas war, triggered by the Iran-backed group's attack on Israel on October 7 last year. The war has also given rise to regional conflicts, including the Israel-Hezbollah conflict and the Israel-Iran conflict.

Khamenei last led Friday prayers in Janu-

ary 2020 after Iran fired missiles at a US army base in Iraq, in response to a strike that killed Revolutionary Guards commander Qasem Soleimani at Baghdad International Airport.

Following an Israeli airstrike which killed Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut on September 27, Khamenei was shifted to a secure place. He was not seen in public for a couple of days before he met students and scientists on Wednesday, his first public appearance after he ordered mis-



sile attacks on Israel in retaliation for the Jewish nation's strikes on the Iran-backed Hezbollah, agency reported.

Despite warnings from Israel to attack Iran in response to Tehran's missile barrage, Khamenei appeared at the

Imam Khomeini Grand Mosalla mosque and led the Friday prayers. The suicide bombing which had targeted him 39 years ago had not hurt him.

On March 15, 1985, a suicide bomber with explosives strapped on

his waist exploded at a packed Friday prayer session at Tehran University when Khamenei, then President, was delivering a sermon. The explosion had killed the bomber and several people, but Khamenei did not suffer any injuries. After pausing for three minutes, Khamenei resumed his sermon amid 'Allahu Akbar' (God is great) chants from the crowd. He then blamed Iraq for attempting to assassinate him and warned that Iran would "answer every fist with a harder fist".

"We declare here and now that we are capable of retaliation against every action. If Iraq uses chemical weapons, we will give a firmer reply and be sure that we will do it," Khamenei had said shortly, agency reported.

According to state-run IRNA, anti-aircraft fire was heard in many parts of Tehran minutes before the explosion. The suicide bombing had happened during the height of the Iran-Iraq war that went on for eight years from 1980 to 1988.

Khamenei's assas-

sination attempt coincided with fighting between Iranian and Iraqi forces around the Howaiza marshes east of the Tigris River, with both sides claiming the upper hand in the battles, according to The Los Angeles Times.

Fast-forward to October 4, 2024, Khamenei made a public appearance and delivered a sermon at the Friday prayer in front of thousands of people, apparently unshaken and undeterred about what had happened to him 39 years ago.

Breast cancer now common cancer in Indian women, accounts 25-31% of all cancers: Dr Jatin Sareen

Top News Report

CHANDIGARH / JAMMU, Oct 4: To create awareness on the rising trends of breast cancers in females in India on 'Head & neck cancer awareness month', a team of doctors from LIVASA Hospital, Mohali addressed a press conference here on Friday.

The team includes; Dr. Jatin Sarin director medical oncology, Dr Vijay Bansal director surgical oncology, Dr Priyanshu Chaudhry consultant medical oncology, Dr Hemkant Verma, consultant surgical oncology, Dr Meenakshi Mittal director radiation oncology and Dr Meenakshi Sharma consultant radiation oncology.

LIVASA Hospitals are Punjab's biggest super speciality hospital network with 5 hospitals, 750 beds, 280 ICU beds, 6 cath labs, 20 modular OTs. The healthcare chain is treating over 3 lakh



patients every year.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Jatin Sareen, director medical oncology said, "Breast cancer is on a steady rise and now overtakes cervical cancer as the most common and deadly killer disease of the new era. Breast cancer impacts 2.1 million women each year and India witnesses 1.90 lakh new cases every year.

Dr Priyanshu Chaudhary said, "A few decades back, breast cancer was seen only after fifty years of age. The number of young women suffering from this disease were lesser with 65% to 70% patients above 50 years

and only 30 to 35% women below fifty years of age."

However, at present, breast cancer is becoming more common in the younger age group with almost 50% of all cases in the 25-60 years of age group and more than 60% of the cases in India present in advanced stage accounting for poor survival and high mortality, he pointed out.

Dr. Vijay Bansal, director of onco surgery, said that breast cancer accounts for 27% of all cancers in females in India.

"If we do not work on creating awareness and early detection of cancer,

the figure could be much worse. The breast self-examination and mammography are simple techniques to detect breast cancer cases at early stages but ironically according to a survey 75% Indian women would shy away from breast cancer screening."

The number of cancer cases are expected to rise to 29.80 million by 2025, informed Dr Meenakshi Mittal Singh.

She further said that cancer is still a stigma in Indian society and women going through breast cancer do not speak about it openly fearing being stigmatized by their

own family and friends.

Sharing her views, Dr Minakshi Sharma said that most of the cases in our country are diagnosed very late and according to the statistics of WHO, more than 60% of the women are diagnosed with breast cancer at stage III or IV in India. This drastically affects the survival rate and treatment options for the patients.

Dr Hemkant Varma said that LIVASA Hospital Mohali was 1st hospital in India to start comprehensive cancer care under one roof. The patients from Mohali, Chandigarh Panchkula, Yamounagar, Ambala, Ropar, Nawanshahr, Patiala, Karnal, Kaithal, Solan & Shimla are immensely benefited from this.

He also shared that LIVASA Hospital Mohali is now empaneled with Haryana Govt, Himachal Govt, ECHS, CGHS, all major TPAS & corporates for cancer treatment.

National Essay Writing Competition 2024 conducted

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 4: The Office of Principal Accountant General, Jammu & Kashmir, conducted the National Essay Writing Competition 2024 as part of the All India National Essay Writing Competition organized by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India across all States and UTs on Friday.

In J&K, the event was organized at the Head Office Srinagar and the Branch Office Jammu. A large number of college students participated enthusiastically, showcasing their talent through essay writing. The Participants were allowed to write essay in either Hindi or English. This competition marks the beginning of the upcoming Audit Diwas celebrations on 16th Nov, 2024.

As per scheme of the National Essay Writing Competition 2024, the



participants were given an opportunity to register online.

Those who failed to register before the deadline were accommodated through on the spot registration for which help desk was set up at both the locations, i.e; head office Srinagar and branch office jammu.

The essay will be evaluated separately in English and Hindi and winners of the competition will be awarded cash prizes: First Prize - Rs. 50,000, Second Prize - Rs. 40,000, and Third Prize Rs. 30,000. All students who participated in the competition shall

receive participation certificate in digital format. Result will be declared by 5th November 2024, and the awards will be distributed during Audit Diwas on 16th November 2024.

The week following the Audit Diwas is celebrated as Audit Week in the field offices of Comptroller and Auditor General of India. In UT of J&K Audit week will be celebrated from 18th November 2024 to 23rd November 2024. During the Audit Week, a number of activities and events will be organized, including workshops, blood donation camp, cultural programs other activities.

NILM J&K organizes School Level Painting Competition

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 4: National Incredible Literacy Mission, Jammu organized school level painting competition to aware school children about the importance of our environmental and natural resources. Students of St. Xavier Convent School Jammu, Barnai, Jammu

took part in this painting competition. This competition was organized by NILM NGO to aware the school children about green wealth and need of conservation of forest, water and other need full environment resources.

"This year hundreds of students actively participated in this competition and has evaluated their

approach for environment and water conservation through painting" R S Thakur, Project Director NILM stated.

During the painting competition Mridhu Padha Vice Principal of St. Xavier Convent School Jammu remain present during the event. School teachers including Sonika Jamwal, Ankita Sharma

and Archana Sharma along with Neeraj Bali Field Officer of NILM actively participated in the painting competition.

At end of painting competition certificates were distributed among the participants by the NILM NGO.

Rakeshwar Singh Project Director NILM said, "This type of competitions are specially

designed by our NGO to make a positive attitude among the children to love their surrounding and environment."

He further added that students are passionately participating in the competition. This way they are getting aware with inner talent as well as the students develop environment friendly attitude in them.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of General Public / Govt. Departments/Banks / Financial Institutions that I Rishabh Kesar S/O Ravi Kumar Kesar residing at H.No: 20 Sector 4, Marbles enclave, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, was sole proprietor of M/S Kesar Industries, I.G.C, Samba 184121, registered with DIC Samba Via Entrepreneur's Memorandum No's 070191201330 Dated 31.1.23 for manufacturing of Packaged drinking water only. I have applied with GM, DIC, Samba for Change of Constitution from proprietorship Concern to partnership concern as I have entered into partnership with Sh. Gopal Singh S/O Kalyan Singh regarding residing Gurah Jattan, Ghagwal, Samba and Sh. Ravi Kumar Kesar S/O Sita Ram Kesar residing H.No: 20 Sec-4, Marble enclave, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. And later, I have retire from this partnership now, remaining two partners are new owner of the said unit.

Objection, If any, may please be Communicated to the GM, DIC Samba within 7 days of publication of the Notice. No objection, if any, after the notice period, will be entertained.

FROM PAGE 1

NIA DySP demands Rs 2.5 Cr bribe to spare family from terror charges, arrested by CBI

"Subsequently, it was alleged that the complainant arranged Rs 25 lakh and directed his relative to deliver the money after contacting the mobile number. The money was delivered to the recipient, who arrived in Aurangabad, Bihar," a CBI spokesperson said. The CBI alleged that Singh was in contact with the accused middleman who along with another middleman was present in Aurangabad, Bihar, around 11:30 pm on the day of the incident, corroborating the reported delivery of the bribe.

Singh again summoned Yadav on October 1 where a demand of Rs 70 lakh was made with instructions to deliver half the amount the same day in Patna, the CBI alleged.

"The accused deputy SP again gave Yadav a handwritten note containing a mobile number. Later, the complainant contacted the given phone number and sought some time to arrange the money and assured that the money would be delivered on October 3 in Gaya," the CBI spokesperson said.

The CBI informed senior officers of the NIA about the entire episode.

After verification of the inputs, the CBI laid a trap in coordination with the NIA.

"The CBI today apprehended the accused investigation officer, Deputy Superintendent of Police (Dy SP) Ajay Pratap Singh, and his two agents while accepting an illegal gratification of Rs 20 lakh from the complainant," said a statement issued by the NIA.

The two alleged middlemen, Himanshu and Ritik Kumar Singh, were also arrested by the CBI.

Searches are being conducted at several places in Gaya, Patna and Varanasi during which Rs 20 Lakh bribe money has been seized, it said.

Delhi drug probe finds kingpin's links with political party

kilograms of hydroponic marijuana estimated to be worth around Rs 5,620 crore from a godown in south Delhi's Mahipalpur.

A senior police officer said Tushar Goyal (40), who has arrested on Wednesday, is the mastermind of the syndicate operating in India, adding that investigators have also come across several photos of Goyal from a social media account where he posed

himself with the leaders of the Congress party.

Goyal's purported Facebook account has his profile picture with a tiger and his bio mentions that he is the "chairman of Delhi Pradesh RTI Cell of DYPC, Indian Youth Congress".

The Indian Youth Congress, however, said in a statement that he was expelled from the organisation on October 17, 2022 for indulging in anti-party activities.

Apart from Goyal, the special cell on Wednesday arrested Himanshu Kumar (27) and Aurangzeb Siddiqui (23) of Delhi and Bharat Kumar Jain (48) of Mumbai, and confiscated the consignment weighing over 602 kilograms which were kept in sacks in the godown.

The officer said it also emerged during interrogation that all the four accused were planning to sell a large quantity of drugs in concerts, rave parties and upscale localities in Delhi and other metropolitan cities.

"We have formed several teams to nab the other members of the group," the officer said.

Police officials said around a dozen people from India and abroad were allegedly involved in the international syndicate of smuggling of banned drugs from middle-east countries to India.

Supreme Court forms SIT to probe Tirupati laddu row

CBI Director would supervise the probe, it said.

The Bench, however, clarified that its order was in no way a reflection on the independence or otherwise of the state government-appointed SIT.

"We are appointing an independent SIT just to assuage the feelings of crores of devotees of the deity residing across the world," the Bench said.

As the petitioners and respondents – the Andhra Pradesh government and Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) – indulged in allegations and counter-allegations, the Bench asked them not to make the court a political battleground.

Earlier, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said the Centre did not have any objection to the state SIT but went on to suggest that a senior IPS officer could supervise the probe on behalf of the Centre.

However, the petitioners wanted an independent SIT to be set up by the top court. On behalf of the state government and the TTD, senior counsel Mukul Rohatgi and Siddharth Luthra didn't object to the court's order.

On September 30, the top court had sought Mehta's assistance to decide if an SIT set up by the Andhra Pradesh Government should continue to work or the

probe should be assigned to an independent agency.

The top court had rapped Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu for going public with allegations about use of adulterated ghee for preparing laddus at the Tirumala Tirupati Temple, saying it was inappropriate for him to make such a statement without waiting for outcome of a probe ordered by the state.

"At least, we expect the Gods to be kept away from politics," the Bench had said, as it sought to know if there was a need to make a public statement when a probe into the matter had already been ordered and the report was awaited.

"We are prima facie of the view that when the investigation was under process, it was not appropriate for the high constitutional authority (Naidu) to make a statement which can affect the sentiments of crores of people," the Bench said.

While hearing petitions seeking an independent probe into the alleged use of animal fat for preparing prasadam at the Tirupati temple, the top court sought to know what proof was there to indicate that contaminated ghee was used in making laddus.

The petitioners included senior BJP leader Subramanian Swamy; YV Subba Reddy – a Rajya Sabha MP and former Chairman of Tirupati Tirumala Devasthanams which manages Tirupati Temple; historian Vikram Sampath and spiritual leader Dushyanth Sridhar; and Sudarshan News Editor-in-Chief Suresh Chavhanke.

Mehta had submitted that it was a matter of faith and if contaminated ghee was used in preparing laddus at the Tirupati temple, it was unacceptable.

Naidu had alleged that animal fat was used in preparing Tirupati laddus during the previous YS Jagan Mohan Reddy-led government in Andhra Pradesh, triggering a massive political row even as YSR Congress Party accused Naidu of indulging in "heinous allegations" for political gains.

JKNC denies 'back channel' talks allegations, accuses rivals of 'spreading misinformation'

statement.

"We urge the public, who have placed their trust in us, to disregard these false claims and not be swayed by rumor-mongering," the party said.

The NC clarification came days before October 8, when counting of votes will be held for 90 seats of J&K Assembly.

The NC which had a pre-poll alliance with Congress has been claiming that they will

form the next government in J&K. On the other hand, the BJP too has been claiming of getting a majority for forming the next government

On Thursday, former Mayor of Srinagar Junaid Mattoo accused NC of commencing negotiations with BJP.

"The NC-BJP negotiations have clearly commenced. NC leadership is now speaking to authorised representatives from the BJP and an unofficial mediator is "mediating". Initial groundwork includes the creation of a "larger interest" fig-leaf to justify the betrayal in Kashmir," he said in a post on X.

"Which BJP representative did Dr. Farooq Abdullah meet at Pahalgam not once but twice? What negotiations are being held in Pahalgam? What happened to all the rhetoric of BJP being forbidden and prohibited? The more that things change, the more they remain the same," he added.

Army Commander Northern Command visits Rashtriya Rifles Battalions, lauds troops for 'Successful Operations'

counter-terrorism operations, particularly in Baramulla and Kulgam districts. "These operations have led to significant successes in neutralizing threats in the region, contributing to enhanced security and stability".

Addressing the soldiers, as per news agency KINS, Lt Gen Kumar complimented them for their unwavering commitment and professionalism in dealing with evolving security challenges.

He urged all ranks to maintain a high degree of vigilance, especially in the face of persistent threats.

"The visit was part of a broader effort to boost the morale of the troops and ensure that they remain at the forefront of counter-terrorism efforts in Jammu and Kashmir. Both the Army Commanders reaffirmed the army's focus on ensuring peace and security in the region through sustained operations and strong surveillance mechanisms".

Legends Cricket League: Defending Champion Manipal Tigers register their first win

Pradeep and Isuru Udana managed to

take one wicket each in the innings.

Chasing a target of 145 on the board, Chadwick Walton and George Worker opened the innings for Toyam Hyderabad. At the score of 19, Walton (15) was dismissed by Rahul Shukla. George Worker made 15 from 15 balls. Shaun Marsh played a classic knock of 38 from 35 balls. Skipper Gurkeerat Singh Mann managed to add 37 from 35 balls. Stuart Binny played a quick fire knock and remained unbeaten on 20* from 10 balls. While 2 runs were needed to win in the last ball of the match, Gurkeerat could only manage to score one run and got run out while looking for the second run. At the end of the 20th over, Toyam Hyderabad posted a total of 144/7.

For Manipal Tigers, Rahul Shukla (2/48) managed to take two wickets in the innings. Praveen Gupta (1/21), Asela Gunaratne (1/16) and Obus Pienaar (1/12) picked one wicket each in the innings.

With the score tied, the match went into the super over. Toyam Hyderabad who came to bat first in the super over, could only manage to score 4/2 in 6 balls. Asela Gunaratne bowled brilliantly and took the wicket of Stuart Binny (0), while Shaun Marsh (1) was dismissed by a run out in the last ball of the super over. Chadwick Walton managed to add 3* from 2 balls.

Chasing just 5 runs in the super over, Thisara Perera and Daniel Christian came to bat for Manipal Tigers. The duo chased down the target in just three balls. Perera scored 3 from 2 balls and Christian smashed a six of the first ball he faced to help his team win the match.

Home-Cooked meals become dearer in September as Onion, Potato prices shoot up: Report

cost. "Prices of onion, potato and tomato rose 53 per cent, 50 per cent and 18 per cent on-year, respectively, in September because of lower onion and potato arrivals, while heavy rainfall impacted tomato output in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra," it explained. Prices of pulses jumped 14 per cent on year due a drop in production, while fuel dropped 11 per cent due to a price cut earlier in the year, the report said.

In the case of a non-vegetarian thali, the meal cost dropped by 2 per cent on year to Rs 59.3 on a 13 per cent decline in broiler prices which have a 50 per cent weightage.

A non-veg meal cost, which also includes the payouts on vegetables but dal gets replaced with broiler, was flat compared to the rate in August, the report said.

DPS Kathua hosts "Educational Stride 2024" connecting students with top Indian and Global Universities

Top News Report

KATHUA, Oct 4: Delhi Public School (DPS) Kathua, in collaboration with "Fold Five Services," proudly organized the "Educational Stride 2024," an enriching career guidance event that brought together Class XII students from DPS Kathua and neighboring schools. The primary objective of this event was to bridge the gap between students and higher education institutions, providing them with a clear understanding of future academic and career opportunities.

The event saw participation from a remarkable lineup of 16 elite international institutions, including six prominent international institutions, making it an invaluable platform for students to explore a broad range of academic paths. Among the participating Indian universities were prestigious names like Shoolini University, Manav Rachna University, Chitkara University, Bennett University, Sym-



biosis International University, and O.P. Jindal Global University. These universities presented diverse academic programs ranging from engineering and management to law and media studies, encouraging students to look beyond conventional career paths and aim for a future aligned with their interests.

The event also attracted global attention with participation from six prominent international institutions, including British Columbia Hotel Management, known for its world-class hospitality courses. Specialized institutions like Edko Bake and Culinary Arts, World University of Design, Design Management, and Ecole

Intute Lab were also present, showcasing unique programs in fields such as culinary arts, design, and hospitality. Their presence demonstrated a growing interest among students in niche and creative industries.

In addition to DPS Kathua students, participants from other reputed institutions, including Mount Litera Zee School and Kartar Public School, also attended. This collaboration between schools strengthened the overall impact of the event, as students engaged with representatives from various universities to explore potential career pathways. The students were enthusiastic and eager to gather insights into higher

education, particularly in emerging fields and international opportunities.

Principal of DPS Kathua, Vivek Arora, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all participating institutions and lauded Vishakha from Shoolini University for her pivotal role in collaborating with Fold Five Services to create this elite educational platform.

In his address, Arora emphasized the importance of providing students with comprehensive career guidance and access to institutions that could help shape their academic futures. He stated, "In today's fast-changing world, it is essential to empower students with knowledge

and options. 'Educational Stride 2024' has successfully achieved that by connecting them to leading universities both within India and internationally."

The event was seamlessly coordinated by Chief Coordinator Rimjim Wazir and Senior Coordinator Tejinder Kaur, whose enthusiasm and efforts made the day an unforgettable experience for the attendees. Their meticulous planning and welcoming spirit ensured that the students and faculty were well-guided throughout the event.

"Educational Stride 2024" not only succeeded in bringing students closer to their higher education dreams but also underscored DPS Kathua's commitment to academic excellence and student empowerment. The overwhelming response from the participating students and institutions reinforces the significance of such events in shaping the academic journeys of the next generation.

Omar Abdullah joins Lawrence School Sanawar's founders day celebrations

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 4: The former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Omar Abdullah took time out to ease off from his busy schedule after the state elections and participated in the 177th Founders Day of Lawrence School, Sanawar. Abdullah is an Old Sanwarian of the 1981-89 batch. Apart from being the Head Boy of the school, he was also the captain of Vindhya House. While briefing the journalists Abdullah was surprised with a massive change in the school's infrastructure. "We used to practice football at this ground where I marched past with my batch mates. Our knees used to get bruised during practice. Today the same ground turns into astro turf and central venue of the activities," emotes Abdullah.

On being asked about the recently concluded elections in the state, he said that a candidate contests elections only to win. Every party claimed



victory, but the final result on 8 October will introduce a new picture for all.

The key attraction of the third and last day of Founders Day was the school band and parade followed by OS celebrity march past.

The program was presided over by OS of 1966 batch, Chairperson of Kiran Nadar Museum of Arts and Trustee of Shiv Nadar Foundation - Kiran Tandon Nadar in the presence of school headmaster Himmat Singh Dhillon.

Apart from Omar Abdullah, Olympian Shiva Keshavan, Bollywood director Apoorva Lakhiya, actor Iqbal Khan, director Iqbal

Rizvi, corporate entrepreneur Vivek Mehra, Vipin Sondhi, local MLA Vinod Sultanpuri and others participated in the march past.

During the program, Kiran Tandon Nadar also inaugurated a girls dormitory constructed at the cost of Rs 15 crore. OS Lifetime Achievers Award was given to presenter of DD's Surabhi show Sid-dharth Kak, golf coach Jaskirat Grewal and film critic Aruna Vasudev (posthumously).

Outstanding students of the school were also felicitated during the award distribution ceremony for excellence in academics.

Mata Ki Kahani' shows opens at Spiritual Growth Centre in Navratra Festival 2024



Top News Report

KATRA, Oct 4: The grand spectacle and main highlight of the Navratra Festival 2024, Mata Ki Kahani, premiered here today with two magnificent shows at the Spiritual Growth Centre Auditorium in Katra. Conceptualized, devised, designed, and directed by the illustrious Padma Shri Balwant Thakur, this mega-musical theatre presentation by Natrang Jammu captivated a packed audience, consisting largely of devotees of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi. The enthralling performance left spectators mesmerized, making it a fitting tribute to the sacred occasion.

History has perhaps never witnessed a production of this class at Katra which unfolds the entire legend in a highly spectacular manner. Balwant Thakur who is credited for having created theatrical wonders of world class once again established the fact that his magic spell will continue to mesmerize audiences through his mind-blowing ventures. 'Mata Ki Kahani' - a unique theatrical experience for the audience, beautifully showcased the popular legend of Mata Vaishno Devi. Magically it transported the entire audience to a mesmerising journey unfolding the story of Mata Vaishno Devi which is a classic narrative that echoes

every Hindu household and is a part of every grandma's midnight tale. As per the legend, during the period when the Goddess was busy in annihilating the Asuras, Her three main manifestations viz. Mata Maha Kali, Mata Maha Lakshmi and Mata Maha Saraswati got together one day and pooled their collective Tejas or spiritual strength. Today Mata Vaishno Devi is worshiped by millions and trillions of people across the world. Mata Vaishno Devi has surfaced as an embodiment of will, strength and peace. In the present times, when the atrocities against the mankind is prevailing, the legend of Mata Vaishnodevi gives a guiding light to her followers to help her devotees to uphold inner confidence and faith within themselves and on the strength of her healing and cosmic powers.

The most striking feature of today's performance was the demonstration of perfection in every creative department be it the stage action, design, lighting, scenic imagery and visual poetry which left a life-time impact of a highly vibrant presentation. Pan-India audience on the occasion appreciated the performance and termed this as their lives best memorable presentation which they desired to continue for the entire year so over one Crore pilgrims visiting Katra every year get benefited

by such educative showcasing of artistic presentations. Majority of the audiences admitted that they were not fully aware of the whole story of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi and after having witnessed this mind-blowing presentation they have come to know about various aspects of the story.

The artists who featured in this mega show included Neeraj Kant, Brijesh Avtar Sharma, Palshin Dutta, Kananpreet Kaur, Sana Chouhan, Kushal Bhat, Vishal Sharma, Kavya Sharma, Aradhya Sharma, Pihu Mehra, Aanya Sharma, Ayushi Nagotra, Anvi Thakur, Aayna Thakur, Sonam Thakur, Jeevika Thakur, Vrinda Gujrall-sha Gupta, Mehak Chib, Aradhana Soodan, Divyanshi Sharma, Mehak Singh, Suneha Angural, Sakshi Gupta, Priyal Ashok Gupta, Pratibha Verma, Mahi Verma, Simran Bhagat, Prerna Sharma, Simran Rajput, Ritika, Janvi Biloria, Harmandeep Kour, Arun Dev Verma, Sahil Narwalia, Arun Sharma, Lalita Devi, Shalini Bhagat, Kartik Kumar, Vansh Pandotra, Gopi Sharma, Sanket, Abhinav Sharma, Gourav Khajuria, Manik Sanmotra, Raghuvansh, Bhushan Kumar, Deepak Saini and Sunny Mujoo. The sets of the play were designed by Veerji Sumbli and lights by Shivam Singh. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

Impure drinking water supplied to Kishtwar residents: Ajeet Bhagat

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Oct 4: Ajeet Bhagat, a senior leader and spokesperson for the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference in the Chenab Valley Zone, has raised serious concerns regarding the supply of unhygienic drinking water to the residents of Kishtwar by the Public Health Engineering Department (PHE).

Bhagat criticized the PHE for providing unfiltered water, which is contributing to the spread of waterborne diseases in the area.

He pointed out that the primary sources of drinking water in Kishtwar are the Naigadh and Lahala water supply schemes. Despite the establishment of filtration plants by previous governments, these facilities have remained abandoned for decades, leading to the distribution of unfiltered and impure drinking water.

The situation is compounded by the fact that



water is being supplied through pipes without any filtration.

Additionally, Bhagat highlighted that many pipes have developed leaks while passing through various drains in Kishtwar. This results in contaminated water mixing with the drinking supply, further increasing the risk of waterborne diseases among residents.

In light of these issues, Bhagat has urged the relevant authorities to take immediate action to make the filtration plants operational again.

He emphasized that ensuring access to hygienic drinking water is essential for the health and wellbeing of Kishtwar's residents.

JKPSA expresses concern over delay in fixation and regulation of fee of private schools by FFRC

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 4: To discuss a serious issue pertaining to the delay in fixation and regulation of fee of private schools by the FFRC, a meeting was held here on Friday.

Members present in the meeting which included Deepak Handa (Sr. Vice President), Ajay Singh (Vice President) and Gaurav Charak (Publicity Secretary) respectively discussed with the President of the association Ajay Gupta that since March 26, 2024 to till date committee for the fixation and regulation of fee of private schools has failed to dispose off more than 433 cases of private schools which had applied for the review, enhancement, regulation or fixation of fees. It was also highlighted that private schools had deposited processing fee @3000/-, 6000/- and 10,000/- respectively in the J&K Bank, in current account 0110010200001020 favouring Chairman FFRC for regulation and fixation of fee. Mystery for not approving the fee even after collecting pro-

cessing fee in lakhs has laid a big question mark, they added.

President of the association, Ajay Gupta briefed the members that matter regarding the delay for the disposal of files had been brought in the notice of the officials sitting at the helm. He appealed to the government to fix the upper limit of fee so that schools authorities can charge the fee from the parents in accordance to the paying capacity, topography and geographical conditions of that particular area.

An order in accordance to the sub-section (2) of section 20 (C) of School Education Act 2002 of delegation of powers on the behest of Chairperson FFRC was also demanded so that he can only regulate the fee of all such small schools which will fix the fee of their schools in the primitive limits fixed by the government for the disposal of all pending files quickly and in the time bound manner with a provision to impose penalties to all such officials who follow delay tactics for the disposal of files.

Bus carrying Vaishno Devi pilgrims catches fire, passengers escape safely

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 4: A bus carrying 38 pilgrims returning from the holy shrine of Vaishno Devi caught fire under mysterious circumstances while traveling on the Katra-Jammu road near Bayin Nala.

The incident occurred when flames suddenly erupted from the bus.

The driver immediately stopped the vehicle and ensured that all passengers were able to evacuate before the fire spread further.

Eyewitnesses described the terrifying moment when the flames were first noticed.

"We suddenly saw smoke and flames coming

from the bus. Everyone was panicking, but the driver acted quickly and got us all out safely," said one of the passengers. "We were scared, but thankfully, everyone got out in time."

The emergency services were quickly alerted, and firefighters arrived at the scene to extinguish the flames.

Authorities have launched an investigation to determine the cause of the fire, with initial reports suggesting that a mechanical failure might have been the trigger. However, no official conclusions have been reached yet.

Another passenger, speaking about the inci-

dent, shared their relief. "It was a frightening experience, but we are so grateful to God that no one was hurt."

Despite the fire, no injuries were reported, and the pilgrims were later provided with an alternate bus to continue their journey.

Local authorities have assured the public that steps will be taken to improve safety checks on buses, especially those operating on the heavily traveled Katra-Jammu route. "We will be looking into the safety protocols and ensuring that buses are regularly inspected to prevent such incidents from happening again," said a local official.

Northeast to hold first-ever International Science Festival: Dr Jitendra

Top News Report

NEW DELHI/JAMMU, Oct 4: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh announced here on Friday that Northeast will hold first-ever International Science Festival.

At a press briefing at National Media Centre, Dr Jitendra Singh disclosed that the 10th edition of the India International Science Festival (IISF) will be held at Guwahati, marking a significant milestone in the region's journey towards becoming a hub for scientific and technological innovation. The festival, to be hosted at IIT Guwahati from November 30th to December 3rd, 2024, is a testimony to the Government's commitment to the Northeast and aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's focus on the region as a key player in India's growth story.

Highlighting the unique importance of the venue, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, "IIT Guwahati is not only one of the leading institutes of the country but also a symbol of how the Northeast is emerging as a focal point of India's scientific advancements. Hosting IISF 2024 in the Northeast is not just about celebrating science; it's about placing the region at the heart of India's scientific future."

The decision to host the festival in Guwahati reflects the Government's broader strategy to pro-

mote inclusive development, particularly in regions that have been historically underrepresented. Prime Minister Modi has consistently underscored the importance of bringing the Northeast closer to the rest of India and creating opportunities for it to play a critical role in the country's progress. "The Northeast is rich in natural resources and talent, and this festival is an opportunity for the rest of the nation to recognize and engage with the potential that lies here," Dr. Jitendra Singh added.

The 10th edition of IISF carries the theme "Transforming India into an S&T driven Global Manufacturing Hub" reflecting the government's ambition to merge science and technology with industrial growth, propelling India towards self-reliance and global leadership in manufacturing. The theme aligns closely with national initiatives like 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat,' and will spotlight emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and biotechnology, says the Minister.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also emphasized the role of science in driving India's economic future, stating, "The next wave of India's economic growth will be fueled by advancements in biotechnology, bioeconomy, and space technology. This festival is a chance to highlight how science will shape the future of our economy, environment, and employment."

Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized that IISF-2024 will not only celebrate the country's scientific achievements but

also create opportunities for collaboration and innovation. "This platform will bring together scientists, industry leaders, students, and the public to explore the transformative power of science. IISF-2024 will fuel discussions that will shape India's future as a global leader in science and technology."

In addition to its core emphasis on science-led industrial growth, IISF-2024 will serve as a key platform for engaging young minds nationwide. The festival will provide students with the chance to connect with top scientists, take part in science competitions, and experience groundbreaking innovations up close, the Minister stated.

Reflecting on India's scientific progress under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Dr. Jitendra Singh noted the significant advancements the country has made in areas such as space exploration, biotechnology, and digital technology. He reiterated that IISF-2024 will reaffirm India's commitment to becoming a global manufacturing powerhouse, driven by scientific innovation.

IISF-2024 is being coordinated by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and involves all the major scientific departments and ministries of the Government of India in collaboration with Vijnana Bharati. The event will feature a range of exhibits, panel discussions, and international collaborations aimed at addressing pressing global challenges like climate change, food security, and sustainable development.

Army conducts Medical & Veterinary Camp at Dupriya & Kalsa

Top News Report

POONCH, Oct 4: Indian Army living up to its ethos of providing safety and security to the people, organised a 'Medical & Veterinary Camp' in the remote area of Dupriya & Kalsa, in Poonch District. The camp aimed at providing free medical health check-up and distribution of medicines to the underprivileged and backward classes of the community.

The people residing in these areas usually settle in remote areas inaccessible by roads and face a dearth of proper medical care especially during winters. An outreach program in form of medical & veterinary camp was conducted to extend medical & health care services to these people.

In addition to the free medical check-up, medicines for common ailments and seasonal disease were also provided to the people along with basic medicines for their livestock's. Trained doctors conducted the medical camp to reach out to the needy and aggrieved people in these remote areas.

While attending to their ailments, people were also motivated to avail government health schemes. The gratitude of the populace was visible in eyes of the beneficiaries and blessings of elders.

The people of these communities thanked the Indian Army for their endeavour to support the local populace and expressed their gratitude towards the initiative of the Indian Army unit.

Rishabh Pant turns 27: Yuvraj Singh leads birthday wishes to 'comeback King'

NEW DELHI, Oct 4 (Agencies): Former India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh led the wishes to Rishabh Pant, who turned 27 on Friday, October 4. The World Cup winner, in a heartfelt post on social media, urged the wicketkeeper-batter to continue being fearless and called him the King of comebacks.

Rishabh Pant, who is away from national duty after the recently concluded Test series against Bangladesh, will be celebrating his 27th birthday with his close ones on Friday. Known for his fearless and charismatic approach on the field, Pant has evolved into one of the superstars of Indian cricket.

"Happy birthday to the comeback king @RishabhPant17. Work hard and stay your fearless self! Hope the year ahead is one of fulfilment. God bless always," Yuvraj wrote in his wish for Pant.



Rishabh Pant's Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Delhi Capitals designed a special story book for their captain on the special day. Recalling the landmarks of his storied career, Delhi Capitals gave it a comic book twist, wishing him a 'Pantastic Birthday'.

The 27th will be a special birthday for Rishabh Pant, who completed a sensational comeback to competitive cricket in 2024.

Pant spent nearly two years on the sidelines as he needed time to recover from the multiple injuries he suffered in a life-threatening car accident in December 2022.

Pant returned to competitive cricket in IPL 2024, leading Delhi Capitals in his comeback season. The wicketkeeper-batter found his footing, scoring 446 runs in 13 matches, hitting three fifties in the season.

Pant forced his way into the T20 World Cup squad and made a crucial contribution towards India lifting the Cup in Barbados in June.

The young wicketkeeper-batter proved his naysayers wrong, returning seamlessly to Test cricket -- his favourite format. Pant played a Duleep Trophy match before the two-Test series against Bangladesh. He hit a match-winning hundred in his first comeback Test, flaunting his fearless and aggressive approach.

Pant will be crucial to India's chances in the long Test season. He has been rested for the upcoming T20I series against Bangladesh, starting October 6. Pant is likely to return to the three-Test series against New Zealand, starting October 16. He will also be integral part of India's tour of Australia where the Asian giants will look to win a third successive Test series.

Irani Cup 2024: Abhimanyu Easwaran misses out on heroic double-hundred



LUCKNOW, Oct 4 (Agencies): Abhimanyu Easwaran looked visibly dejected after his stellar knock for Rest of India in the Irani Cup 2024 clash against Mumbai came to an unfortunate end, just 9 runs shy of a well-deserved double century. Easwaran's 191 was a standout effort, especially after Rest of India faced an uphill task chasing Mumbai's mammoth 537. Along with Dhruv Jurel, Easwaran anchored the innings, keeping Rest of India in the game despite an early collapse of the top order.

Rest of India's top four—Ruturaj Gaikwad, Sai Sudharsan, Devdutt Padikal, and Ishan Kishan—were dismissed

early, leaving Easwaran and Jurel to rebuild the innings. Their resilience and determination led to a solid 165-run partnership, which brought the side back into contention. Jurel and Easwaran looked set to achieve their individual milestones, but the fourth day of play brought heartbreak for both.

Dhruv Jurel fell agonizingly short of his century, dismissed for 93, and shortly after, Easwaran's brilliant knock came to an end at 191. Their dismissals were a crucial turning point for Mumbai, with Shams Mulani playing the role of the hero. Mulani, who has been in excellent form since the Duleep Trophy 2024, managed to dislodge both set batters, breaking the momentum that Rest of India had built.

Easwaran and Jurel's contributions were key to Rest of India's fightback, but the loss of their wickets made the task more difficult for the team. Despite missing their individual landmarks, both batsmen were instrumental in keeping the contest alive and ensuring that Rest of India remained competitive in this high-stakes encounter.

Delhi Capitals co-owner hints at 6 players team will retain, no place for Australia great

NEW DELHI, Oct 4 (Agencies): Delhi Capitals co-owner Parth Jindal has given a massive update about the team's retentions. He said that DC captain Rishabh Pant "will definitely be retained". Notably, the Board of Control for Cricket in India recently announced the rules ahead of the auction that is expected to take place in November this year. A franchise could retain a maximum of 6 players with Right-To-Match option included in it. The reported deadline for the franchises to submit their list of retentions is October 31.

"Yes, we definitely have to retain. We have some very good players in our team. The rules have come out now, so

after discussing with GMR and our director of cricket, Sourav Ganguly, decisions will be made. Rishabh Pant will definitely be retained," Jindal said in a video shared by IANS on X, formerly Twitter.

"We also have Axar Patel, who is excellent, Tristan Stubbs, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Kuldeep Yadav, Abhishek Porel, Mukesh Kumar, and Khaleel Ahmed, all very good players in our team. We'll see what happens in the auction. But first, as per the rule, we can retain six players. After discussions, we will proceed with the auction and see what happens," he added.

There was no place for Australia great David Warner in the list of players that Jindal took.

According to the new retention rules, any player who has not played for India in the past five years will be considered 'uncapped' and can be retained for a significantly lower price. That is a good news for Chennai Super Kings who are likely to use this rule to retain former captain MS Dhoni.

An uncapped player could be retained for an amount as low as Rs 4 crore, say reports. This gives CSK a cushion to retain Dhoni that too while saving a capped player option.

Although Dhoni retired from international cricket in 2020, he last played for India in July 2019. His final game was against New Zealand in the 2019 ODI World Cup semi-final that India lost.

India pacers, ft Arshdeep Singh, Hardik Pandya gear up for Bangladesh T20Is

India's pacers, led by Arshdeep Singh and Hardik Pandya, prepared rigorously for their upcoming T20I series against Bangladesh, aiming to carry forward the momentum from their dominant 2-0 Test series victory.

GWALIOR, Oct 4 (Agencies): India's pacers, including Arshdeep Singh, Hardik Pandya, and Harshit Rana, were spotted undergoing intense net practice ahead of the T20I series against Bangladesh, which begins on October 6. After dominating the Test series with a 2-0 win, India aims to replicate their success in the T20 format.

In a video shared by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the fast bowlers were seen sweating it out in Gwalior, the venue for the first of three T20Is. Suryakumar Yadav will lead the young squad, featuring promising talents like Harshit Rana and IPL 2024 breakout star Mayank Yadav, who could make his India debut during the series.

Suryakumar's side, packed with youthful energy, most



recently triumphed in a 3-0 series against Sri Lanka, where India's bowling attack played a crucial role in their success. The team's dynamic lineup includes both experienced players like Hardik Pandya and young players like Riyan Parag, Mayank Yadav and returnee Varun Chakravarthy eager to prove their worth.

Under the coaching of Gautam

Gambhir, India has increasingly relied on part-time bowlers, showcasing depth and variety in their bowling attack. This strategic approach, which paid off against Sri Lanka, will be crucial in the upcoming Bangladesh series.

Full India squad for Bangladesh T20Is
Suryakumar Yadav (C), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju

Samson (wk), Rinku Singh, Hardik Pandya, Riyan Parag, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Shivam Dube, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Varun Chakravarthy, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana, Mayank Yadav

The series presents an exciting opportunity for these pacers to shine on the international stage, with expectations high, especially for players like Arshdeep and Hardik, who have been integral parts of India's T20 setup. The addition of fresh faces like Mayank Yadav adds another layer of excitement as fans await his potential debut.

With momentum from their Test series win and the hunger for T20 success, India's pacers will be crucial to securing another series victory against Bangladesh.

"I feel robbed": Andre Russell drops f-bomb in fiery rant on CPL controversy

GEORGETOWN, Oct 4 (Agencies): West Indies all-rounder Andre Russell took to social media to launch an explicit-filled rant following a controversy during the eliminator match of Caribbean Premier League (CPL) 2024. Russell, who plays for Trinbago Knight Riders, wrote that he felt 'robbed' following his team's loss against Barbados Royals. The encounter was affected by floodlight failure and after a lengthy delay, Royals were given a new target using DLS rule which they achieved thanks to an explosive knock from David Miller.

During the match,

three out of the six floodlights stopped working with five balls to go in the Trinbago Knight Riders innings. They were 168/3 after 19.1 overs when the match was stopped.

The power was restored with 10 minutes to go before the cut-off time for a 5-over match and Royals were given a target of 60. Miller ended up scoring a 17-ball fifty to guide his team to victory.

"Am not the person to come on the internet and voice my opinion but this year CPL I feel robbed," he said. "This light situation was ****ry lights came on just before the cut off time is also ****ry and then 60 off 30 balls



is also a bigger ****ry and yes Andre Russell said it right is right ****ry a ****ry but I guess it's just pure ****ry," Russell said via an Instagram story.

Earlier, Andre Russell opined that most of the Caribbean players are

"just not interested in playing Tests" and it is not related to money.

With the influx of T20 franchise cricket around the world, Russell feels that red-ball cricket has lost its charm to attract youngsters towards it. Last year, senior play-

ers including Jason Holder, Nicholas Pooran and Kyle Mayers turned down West Indies central contracts but made themselves available for T20Is. Although, Holder has played in Tests also.

Russell, who played just one Test in his career, revealed that money is not the concern for turning down the Test opportunity.

"I don't think it's the money, I don't think money is the issue," Press Association quoted Russell as saying. "Based on the amount of T20 and leagues around the world, I think a lot of players are just not interested in playing Tests."

IOA president Usha calls meeting to discuss CEO appointment delay



NEW DELHI, Oct 4 (Agencies): Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president PT Usha has taken her fight for good governance to the general body. Usha has called for a Special General Meeting (SGM) on October 25 to discuss amongst other issues the appointment of a CEO and various charges against fellow executive committee members.

Raghuram Iyer was chosen for the CEO's role by the nomination committee headed by MC Mary Kom but the EC has not yet agreed to his appointment. The rift has ensured that Iyer has not been paid any money since his appointment was announced in January. Usha has penned a

16-point agenda for the SGM. It includes IOA treasurer Sahdev Yadav writing off the Rs 1.75 crore that the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF) owes the Olympics body. Yadav has been part of the IOA Finance Committee since 2017.

Pointing out that the CEO's role was vital and the continued resistance by the EC may derail India's bid for the 2026 Olympics, Usha has made Iyer's appointment issue top of the agenda items.

"Firstly, as per the IOA's Constitution, the appointment of the CEO must be finalised within one month of the position becoming vacant. The entire process was undertaken in accordance with the provi-

sions contained in the IOA's Constitution and in a most transparent manner, with each and every step being documented and record of discussions confirmed by the three members of the Nomination Committee," Usha wrote.

"However, despite the constitutional mandate and the recognition of this appointment by both the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, certain members of the Executive Council (EC) have been refusing to accept the appointment. We are now approaching almost two years since the election, and this continued resistance poses a significant obstacle to the functioning of the IOA and the broader interests of the Indian sports community," she added.

It is not only Yadav who is facing the heat. All India Tennis Association (AITA) caretaker treasurer and EC member Rohit Rajpal and joint secretary Kalyan Chaubey are all in the dock.

"Secondly, regarding corruption, I am committed to address and eliminate all such activities that have previously tainted our sporting community," she wrote.

India trio wins men's team gold in Junior Shooting World Championship, India stay top of medal tally

LIMA, Oct 4 (Agencies): The trio of Mukesh Nelavalli, Raajwardan Patil, and Harsimar Singh Rattha secured victory in the men's 25m rapid-fire pistol team competition, marking India's 11th gold medal at the ongoing ISSF Junior World Championship here. This triumph also brought Mukesh his fourth gold of the championship, including an individual gold in the 25m pistol event. India remained at the top of



the medal tally with a total of 16 medals which included one silver and four bronze. China

are in second place with three gold and one silver. In the individual finals, both

Mukesh and Raajwardan advanced, but Raajwardan finished fourth with 17 hits in the first six series. Mukesh exited earlier, finishing fifth with 10 hits out of 25 targets.

In the junior men's 50m rifle prone event, Parikshit Singh Brar was the best Indian finisher, scoring 623.0 over 60 shots. Shivendra Bahadur Singh placed 14th with 618.4, while Vedant Niiti Waghmare came in 24th with a score of 613.2.

Dispatch essential commodities to remotest regions of Ladakh, says Advisor

Top News Report

LEH, Oct 4: The Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, chaired a crucial meeting to assess the stocking status of essential commodities in Leh and Kargil districts in preparation for the upcoming winter season at the Civil Secretariat Leh.

During the meeting, discussions and deliberations were held on essential commodities, required for the coming winter in both districts of Ladakh. Representatives from various departments, including Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Food Corporation of India (FCI), Cooperatives, Health, Power Development, Forest Division, Animal/ Sheep and Fisheries, as well as Hindustan Petro-



leum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), presented their detailed item-wise stocking reports.

During the meeting, it was informed that both Leh and Kargil districts possess enough stockpiles of essential items, encompassing food grains, petroleum products (petrol, diesel, kerosene), medicines, animal

feed, and fodder, to meet the demands of the winter season.

Keeping in view the remotest areas of Ladakh, Advisor directed the concerned officials to dispatch essential commodities to these regions such as Zaskar, Nubra, Turtuk and other far-flung regions before the winter commenced.

He further said that snow cutting machines should

be ready to deal with hindrances caused by winter road closures.

Additionally, he directed the District Magistrates of Leh and Kargil to craft a comprehensive distribution plan, ensuring equitable distribution across both districts.

To deal with high rates during winters, Advisor Ladakh emphasised on concerned officers to establish inspection

squads for regular market checking, aimed to check rates and the sale of expired or substandard products.

The meeting was attended by Administrative Secretary FCS&CA, Ladakh; Administrative Secretary, GAD, Ladakh; Cooperatives, Ladakh; Chief Conservator of Forest, Ladakh; Deputy Commissioner of Leh and Kargil, SSP Leh; General Manager, FCI, Ladakh; along with heads of various departments from both Leh and Kargil districts. Representatives from IOCL, HPCL, Merchant Association, Leh/Kargil, and Cooperative Consumer Societies, Leh, and other concerned officials. SDM Zaskar, Director RDD, SSP Kargil, Tehsildar Zaskar, Director youth Services and Sports, joined the meeting virtually.

Devotees gather at Syed Janbaz Wali Shrine for 606th Urs

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Oct 4: The revered shrine of Hazrat Syed Janbaz Wali (RA) in Baramulla witnessed a massive gathering of devotees from across the Kashmir Valley on Friday, as thousands arrived to commemorate the 606th annual Urs of the saint.

The event, marked with deep devotion and religious fervor, saw men, women, and children from various regions gather to pay their respects.

Devotees began arriving early in the morning for the Fajr prayers, seeking a glimpse of the holy relics, or "Tubrookhat," of the saint.

The relics will be displayed after each prayer throughout the day, with the faithful offering prayers for the peace, prosperity, and well-being of Kashmir and the wider Muslim world.

Khursheed Ahmad Shah, the Mutwali (caretaker) of the shrine, expressed gratitude for the strong turnout, noting

the significance of the occasion. "The 606th Urs of Hazrat Syed Janbaz Wali (RA) is being observed with immense devotion. Thousands of people from Baramulla and beyond have come to seek Allah's blessings in this sacred space," Shah said.

For centuries, the shrine of Hazrat Syed Janbaz Wali (RA) has stood as a symbol of Islamic culture and spirituality in Kashmir. The Sufi saint is remembered for promoting religious tolerance, justice, and equality, and for spreading the teachings of the Quran and Prophet Muhammad (SAW). A local devotee commented, "The saint's teachings of love, peace, and humanity remain relevant to this day. His message of harmony continues to inspire generations."

The streets surrounding the shrine were adorned with traditional decorations and lit with "Zool," tiny electrical bulbs that gave the area a festive

atmosphere. Islamic scholars delivered sermons on the occasion, emphasizing the teachings of the Holy Quran and the values of peace and compassion that saints like Syed Janbaz Wali (RA) propagated.

Throughout the day, devotees will engage in the recitation of Quranic verses, praying for the prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir. Special arrangements were made by the shrine's administration to ensure smooth proceedings, and they thanked the local authorities for their support in making the event successful.

Hazrat Syed Janbaz Wali (RA), a renowned Sufi scholar, arrived in Kashmir from Iran over six centuries ago. He chose Baramulla as the center of his mission in 1421 AD, spreading the message of Islam and the virtues of love and humanity. His shrine remains a spiritual destination, drawing pilgrims from across Kashmir each year.

Swearing-in ceremony for Junior School solemnised at Jodhamal School

Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 4: The Investiture Ceremony to ceremoniously install the School's Students' Council was held at Jodhamal Public School, Jammu, in all solemnity.

The distinguished Chief Guest for the occasion was Hemant Kumar, a retired IAS officer, Guest of Honour S. M. Sahni, and Special Guest of the day Sanjeev Verma, graced the event. The parents of the newly inducted Prefect Council were esteemed guests who attended the ceremony with immense pride in their hearts.

The ceremony commenced with the lighting of a sacred lamp amidst the resonant chants of the Gayatri Mantra, followed by a motivational song performed by the Junior Choir Group, uplifting the spirits of all present.

As the swearing-in ceremony progressed, the newly elected Prefects ascended the stage with pride in their gait and a glow on their faces.

The compere eloquently read out the citations as the Prefects made their way forward. They were honoured with badges and sashes by the Chief



Guest, acknowledging their new roles.

A total of 44 students were conferred with various portfolios, and Principal Girish Kumar administered the oath of allegiance to the Prefects with all solemnity.

In his welcome speech, the Head Boy (Junior School) expressed heartfelt gratitude to the School for entrusting the newly inducted Prefect Members with the important responsibilities.

He promised, on behalf of all the Prefects, to uphold the values of the school and continue to strive to meet the expectations set before them.

In his welcome address, the Principal of the School congratulated the newly elected Prefect members.

The Chief Guest, Hemant Kumar, in his address, shared invaluable

insights on leadership, emphasizing the significance of integrity and the art of decision-making in life.

He inspired students to embrace their roles with a sense of responsibility and urged parents to foster a supportive environment for their growth. He called upon everyone to contribute positively to the community, reinforcing the importance of active participation in societal development.

The ceremony was also graced by Nandan Kuthiala, Trustee, Arati Kuthiala, Director, Principal Girish Kumar, Vice Principal, Amita Arora, Headmistress Neetu Johri, Academic Coordinators Junior School, Sarojji, Smriti Malhotra, and Junior School CCA Coordinator, Deepali Puri who were all present to

witness this momentous occasion.

Following students from the Junior School were conferred with the Badges and Sashes for the session 2024-25: Maneha Areej Bhat as the Head Girl, Guranish Singh as the Head Boy, Aamyaa Vashishth as the Deputy Head Girl, Rajveer Singh as the Deputy Head Boy, Ciyona Sharma, Gursaadh Gupta, and Akshaj Mehta as the Discipline Prefects, Sarah Gandral, Kiaan Verma, and Ranveer Malhotra as the Eco Leaders, Ahana Gupta and Aahan Sharma as the CCA Prefects, Sanvi Mehta and Manjot Singh as the Academic Prefects, Sharanya Jandial and Atarash Sharma as

Challenge House Captains, Jeyana Gupta and Tanush Anand as Invention House Captains, Ananya Gupta and Eklavya Raina as Discovery House Captains, Sharanya Sangral and Aarush Rajiv Sharma as Enterprise House Captains, Saanvi Gupta and Aarvik Mahajan as the Vice Prefects Discipline, Kiaana Upadhaya and Akshiv Gupta as Eco Vice Leaders, Tara Shan and Aariv Jain as Vice Captains (Sports), Ruvika Sachdev and Riaan Gupta as CCA Vice Prefects, Shubhangi Shekhar and Advay Sharma as Vice Prefects (Academics), Saanvi Gupta and Andrew Raj Anthony as Challenge House Vice Captains, Sara Nawaz and Jivraj Gupta as Invention House Vice Captains, Navda Prashar and Namit Malhotra as Discovery House Vice Captains, and Chitrakshi Kotwal and Divyansh Bir Singh as Enterprise House Vice Captains.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by the newly inducted Head Girl (Junior School) Maneha Areej Bhat. The Ceremony concluded with the National Anthem.

Shiv Sena demands cancellation of cricket tournament, Sheikh Hasina's way out

Condemns vandalism of Hindu religious places in Bangladesh during Navratras



Top News Report

JAMMU, Oct 4: Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders have strongly reacted to the incidents of vandalism and looting of Hindu religious places in Bangladesh during Holy Navratras and have demanded cancellation of the ongoing cricket series with Bangladesh and Sheikh Hasina's way out of India.

Party national organizer Ashok Tiwari and state chief Manish Sahni jointly addressed the media at the party's state central

office. Ashok Tiwari has demanded the Modi government at the center to break its silence on the vandalism of Hindu religious places and atrocities on Hindus in Bangladesh and put an end to all relations with Bangladesh including sports, trade and diplomatic.

At the same time, state chief Manish Sahni has demanded the expulsion of former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from India. Sahni said that due to Sheikh

Hasina's stay in India, the Hindus of Bangladesh are facing the wrath of the fundamentalist leaders of Bangladesh. Sahni said that Bangladesh is also following the footsteps of Pakistan.

He said that the party's National Yuva Sena Chief Aditya Thackeray has also demanded the cancellation of the ongoing cricket tournament with Bangladesh, saddened by the ongoing attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh. State Secretary Rajesh Jandial was also present on this occasion.

NSS Unit GDC Chatroo organises cannabis cleanliness drive



Top News Report

CHATROO, Oct 4: The NSS unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Chatroo organised the cannabis cleanliness drive in and around the college campus.

NSS Volunteers along with Principal Dr Ved Kumar and NSS Program Officer Prof Chander Parkash and other faculty members participated in the drive.

The drive aimed to raise awareness and to ensure that the natural surround-

ings should be kept clean.

Dr Ved Kumar appreciated the efforts of NSS Coordinator Prof Chander Parkash for taking this initiative for conducting such events.

The whole event was organised under able guidance of Dr Ved Kumar Principal of the college and overall supervision of NSS Program Officer Prof Chander Parkash.

At the end of the event refreshments were distributed among the volunteers.

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