

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 01, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Home Minister Amit Shah mourns passing of senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana

JAMMU, Nov 1 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah expressed deep sorrow over the sudden passing of Devender Singh Rana, a senior BJP leader and MLA from Nagrota Assembly in Jammu and Kashmir.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah tweets "I am deeply saddened by the untimely demise of senior Jammu and Kashmir BJP leader and MLA from Nagrota Assembly Devendra Singh Rana. He was always dedicated to the peace and development of Jammu and Kashmir and the interests of the people, made an invaluable contribution to the progress of the region. I express my condolences to his family and supporters."

LG Sinha expresses grief over demise of EAC-PM Chairman Dr Bibek Debroy

JAMMU, Nov 1 (Agencies): Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday expressed grief over the demise of Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) Chairman Dr Bibek Debroy.

In a post on X, LG Sinha wrote, "It was with profound grief that I received the news of the passing away of Dr. Bibek Debroy Ji. He was among the most respected scholars of the country & contributed greatly to the field of economics & spirituality. My sincerest condolences to his family & friends. Om Shanti."

Devender Rana's passing "deep personal loss" to me, says brother Dr Jitendra Singh

SRINAGAR, Nov 1 (Agencies): Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, and Earth Sciences, and senior BJP leader Dr Jitendra Singh today termed the passing of Devender Singh Rana "deep personal loss" for him.

Taking to micro-blogging site X (formerly Twitter), Dr Jitendra Singh said: "Untimely demise of my brother Sh Devender Singh Rana is a deep personal loss, which is not only irreparable and painful, but the void created will continue to haunt me for the rest of my life. I sincerely thank all those standing by me and the family in these testing times".

CM Omar Abdullah condoles demise of BJP MLA Devender Singh Rana

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 1: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday offered his condolences on the demise of BJP MLA Devender Singh Rana.

In a post on X, Omar Abdullah wrote, "The terrible news from late last night isn't really sinking in. I know the last few years have been marked by our differences Devender but I prefer to focus on the fun times we shared together,



the excellent work we did together & the memories." "You have been taken

from us all too soon & will be missed. May your soul rest in peace now DSR. My heart goes out to your

family as I struggle to find the words to convey my condolences to them." he added.

J&K MLA Devender Singh Rana's untimely demise shocking: PM Modi

NEW DELHI, Nov 1 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday expressed shock at the death of BJP MLA and veteran Jammu and Kashmir leader Devender Singh Rana.

PM Modi said on X, "Shri Devender Singh Rana Ji's untimely demise is shocking. He was a veteran leader, who worked diligently towards Jammu and Kashmir's progress. He had just won the Assembly polls and had also played a noteworthy role in making the BJP



stronger in J-K. "In this hour of grief, my thoughts are with his family and supporters.

Om Shanti." Rana (59), Union Minister Jitendra Singh's brother, was

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Farooq Abdullah mourns BJP MLA Devender Singh Rana's death, recalls past ties

JAMMU, Nov 1 (Agencies): National Conference President Farooq Abdullah on Friday expressed condolences over the death of BJP MLA Devender Singh Rana, describing him as a "wise man" and acknowledging their past ties.

"We had good relations with him, but in 2021 he left the National Conference. We never made any statement against him. Death is inevitable and spares no one. Whoever has come has to go," Abdullah said. Offering support, he added, "May God give courage to his family to bear this



shock... We are with them in this grief."

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also offered condolences on Rana's passing, recognizing the BJP leader's commitment to Jammu and Kashmir's develop-

ment. "Shri Devender Singh Rana Ji's untimely demise is shocking. He was a veteran leader who worked diligently towards Jammu and Kashmir's progress. He had just won the Assembly polls

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If goal is to strip itself of last vestiges of neutrality, it is doing remarkable job: Cong slams EC

NEW DELHI, Nov 1 (Agencies): The Congress on Friday hit out at the Election Commission after it rejected allegations over irregularities in the Haryana assembly polls, saying if the poll panel's goal is to "strip itself of the last vestiges of neutrality", then it is doing a "remarkable job" at creating that impres-

sion. The opposition party claimed that the EC's reply was written in a tone that is condescending and warned that if the poll panel persists with such language then it would have no choice but to seek legal recourse to expunge such remarks.

The Congress's response came days after the EC rejected allegations levelled by

it over irregularities in the just-held Assembly polls, saying the party was raising "the smoke of a generic doubt" about the credibility of an entire electoral outcome like it did in the past.

In its letter to the EC signed by nine senior Congress leaders, including general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh, the party

said, "We have carefully studied your response to our complaints. Not surprisingly, the EC has given a clean chit to itself. We would normally have let it be at that. However, the tone and tenor of the EC's response, the language used, and the allegations made against the INC compel us to submit the counter-response."

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Indian troops start patrolling Demchok sector in eastern Ladakh following India-China disengagement

LADAKH, Nov 1 (Agencies): Following disengagement between India and China, Indian troops started patrolling the Demchok sector in eastern Ladakh on Friday.

This development comes after India and China agreed to disengage and start coordinated patrols as per their perception of the Line of Actual Control in the Demchok and Depsang sectors.

Patrolling by Indian troops in the Demchok sector in Eastern Ladakh has started today. Patrolling in the Depsang sector is expected to start soon, Indian Army Sources said. The coordinated patrolling would mean that both sides will know about the schedules of patrols or both sides. Earlier on Thursday, Armies of both the countries exchanged sweets at various border points in the Ladakh sector on the occasion of Diwali.

Indian and Chinese Army exchange of sweets took place at Hot Springs, Karakoram Pass, Daulat Beg Oldi, KongLa and Chushul-Moldo border meeting point in Ladakh.

Ladakh MP Haji Hanifa welcomed the disengagement between the Indian and Chinese armies along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern



Ladakh.

"Those of us who live near the border know what war feels like. We desire peace along the border. We welcome the agreement between the two countries, but we want to see it implemented on the ground. Tensions along the border should be reduced through diplomatic means," said MP Hanifa.

Earlier, Chief of Army Staff, General Uday Kumar Singh stressed that restoring trust along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) would be a gradual process, to return to the April 2020 status quo, highlighting the steps of disengagement, de-escalation, and buffer zone management as crucial for easing tensions between the two nations. He further

explained that the process will take place in phases, with each step aimed at reducing tensions.

Chinese Ambassador to India Xu Feihong said that it was natural for India and China to have differences as neighbouring countries but the important thing is how to handle and solve these differences.

India and China have recently agreed on patrol arrangements along the LAC at the India-China border. The border stand-off between India and China began in eastern Ladakh along the LAC in 2020, triggered by Chinese military actions. This incident led to prolonged tensions between the two nations, significantly straining their relations.

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Bhai Dooj will be celebrated on Nov 3

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 1: This year, the festival of Bhai Dooj will be celebrated on Sunday, November 3, 2024. According to Mahant Rohit Shastri, Jyotishacharya and President of Shri Kailash Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, the auspicious time for the Bhai Dooj Tika ritual lasts throughout the day. The Bhai Dooj festival, also known as Bhau Beej, Yam Dwitiya, and Bhatru Dwitiya, is observed on the second day of the waxing phase (Shukla Paksha) in the Kartik month. This festival is cherished as a day that strengthens the bond between brothers and sisters, with sisters praying for their



brothers' long life and well-being. The tradition involves the brother receiving blessings and protection from his sister, symbolized through rituals, sweets, and a Tika on his forehead.

The Tika ritual begins by seating the brother on a clean seat. The sister applies a tilak of vermilion, rice grains, and flowers to his forehead and ties a thread on his wrist. She then offers him sweets, sugar, and

butter while praying for his happiness and longevity. Afterward, she lights a four-faced lamp dedicated to Yamraj, placing it outside the house to safeguard her brother's life and ward off obstacles. As part of the exchange, the brother then offers gifts to his sister. For those without a biological sister, the Tika ritual can be performed by a maternal aunt, paternal aunt, friend, or spiritual sister. In the evening, a second four-faced lamp dedicated to Yamraj is placed outside, facing south, as a protective gesture for the brother's well-being.

Sweets play a significant role in Bhai Dooj, and offering sweets

based on the brother's zodiac sign is a popular practice. For Aries brothers, Malpua is suggested. Taurus brothers should be offered milk-based sweets, while Gemini brothers would enjoy sweets made from gram flour. Cancer sign brothers can be offered Rabri, and Leo brothers, sweets with syrup. Virgo brothers may appreciate Motichoor ladoos, while Libra brothers might enjoy halwa or homemade sweets. Scorpio brothers are best served with jaggery-based sweets, and Sagittarius brothers, with Rasgulla. Capricorn brothers may like Balushahi, Aquarius brothers green-colored sweets, and Pisces brothers Milk Cake.

JKBS members call on ADGP Garib Dass Kaith



Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 1: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha (JKBS) Members on Friday called on Addition Director General of Police (ADGP) Garib Dass Kaith and wished him a very happy Diwali.

ADGP Kaith warmly welcomed the mem-

bers and thanked them for the wishes.

He said that the occasion teaches us to rededicate ourselves in the service of people, reaffirm our commitment towards brotherhood and selfless service to humanity. He prayed for peace and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir. Prominent among the

JKBS members were Messers JU Assistant Registrar Retired R.L.Kaith, CDA Retired Hans Raj Loria, Sub Inspector Retired Darshan Kumar Bassa, Subedar Retired Baldev Chand Sandhu, Havildar Retired Des Raj Kaith, Master Naresh Kumar Kaith and Jagdish Raj Kaith.

IEI Jammu Centre celebrates Diwali



Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 1: The Diwali Milan celebration took place this evening at the Institution of Engi-

neers India (IEI), Jammu Centre. The gathering was attended by prominent members, including Er. Anil Verma, FIE, the

Chairman, and Er. Avneet Gupta, MIE, the Honorary Secretary, along with other Committee Members. During the event, attendees joined in

prayers for the well-being and future growth of the Jammu Centre, reflecting on the spirit of unity and prosperity associated with Diwali.

Raghunath Trust's Diwali celebration promotes mutual harmony, festivity

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 1: Raghunath Trust hosted a grand Diwali celebration aimed at spreading mutual harmony and embracing the spirit of Diwali. This event highlighted the festival's deeper significance, symbolizing the victory of light over darkness and encouraging unity and peace within society. Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, the State Yoga Commissioner, honored the gathering as the Chief Guest.

The celebration began with a warm welcome to Dr. Jain by B.D. Gupta, Chairman; Tarsem Gupta, President; Pawan Malhotra, Secretary; and Naveen Jain, Finance Secretary. As part of the festivities, Dr. Jain inaugurated the lighting of 511 lamps in front of the statue of Comrade Dhanvantri at Municipal Park, Bahu Plaza, across from the Reserve Bank of India. This symbolic gesture aimed to



evoke hope, prosperity, and harmony. Adding to the occasion, Dr. Jain recited a self-composed poem filled with heartfelt Diwali wishes, capturing the festival's essence and inspiring attendees to embrace its message of love and unity. He praised Raghunath Trust's contri-

butions to social welfare and lauded the dedication of the office bearers, congratulating them on their commitment to the Trust's mission and their impact on community well-being. The event concluded joyfully, with participants sharing in the festive spirit and reaffirming

their dedication to promoting unity and compassion within society. Other dignitaries present included Madan Lal Gupta, Sukhdev Sharma, Vijay Kumar Gupta, Vipin Gupta, Ashok Sharma, Raman Sharma, and PP Singh, all of whom actively participated in the celebration.

JKBS members express deep shock over MLA Devender Rana's untimely demise

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 1: The sad, sudden and untimely demise of MLA Devender Rana, is a great loss to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Known as an icon in politics, business, philanthropy, and social work, Rana's contributions were invaluable, said JKBS' General Secretary R.L.Kaith.



JKBS' Members: Ex Sub. Baldev Chand Sandhu, Ex Hav. Des Raj Kaith, Ex Sub Insp. Darshan Kumar Bassa, Master Naresh Kumar Kaith, Jagdish Raj Kaith and many others expressed deep sorrow and offered prayers for strength to Mr Rana's family, friends and relatives during this difficult time.

Subject: Expression of Interest for Modification of Force Traveler Delivery Van T2 4020 Web Vehicles for SVEEP Activities

The Office of Chief Electoral Officer, Nirvachan Bhawan, Jammu invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputed and experienced agencies/firms for modification of two (02) Force Traveler Delivery Van T2 4020 vehicles to be utilized for various Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) activities.

Objective:

The modified vehicles will be used to promote democratic education and inculcate democratic values among students in universities, colleges, schools, and especially Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs).

1. Scope of Work:

The selected Firm/Agency will be responsible to modify each vehicle into a mobile educational unit, "Democracy on Wheels":

1.1 Design and Modification of each Vehicle:

- 1.1.1 Election Equipment Display: The Bus will be equipped with all necessary election - related/IEC material.
- 1.1.2 There should be proper Ventilation and 01 Exhaust Fan.
- 1.1.3 Historical Overview: A section should be dedicated to the history of Elections in India, particular in Jammu and Kashmir.
- 1.1.4 Constitution Awareness: Displays to educate students about the Indian Constitution.
- 1.1.5 Digital Demonstrations: Interactive digital displays explaining the election process.
- 1.1.6 Students Workshops: On - Board workshops aimed at engaging school students in discussions about elections and Democracy.

1.2 Interior Design and Fit-Out of each vehicle:

The CEO Office, Jammu and Kashmir will only provide 02 vehicles to successful Agency/Firm and the Agency shall be responsible to:

- 1.2.1 The successful Agency/Firm shall install 05 LEDs with built in speakers on each Vehicle.
- 1.2.2 The successful Agency/Firm shall design the interior of the Vehicle to create an educational and engaging environment, including seating arrangements, educational displays, and other necessary modifications.
- 1.2.3 The successful Agency/Firm is required to install a fully functional air conditioning system of 1 Ton and a soundproof genset of around 3KW (3000 watts) within the bus to ensure the comfort and smooth operation of the mobile unit.
- 1.2.4 The successful Agency/Firm is required to install a portable ramp with foldable wheelchairs. A dedicated space should be set up for keeping all the aforementioned and additional material/equipment such as Genset, ACs, Wheelchairs, Ramp, etc.
- 1.2.5 The Agency/Firm is also required to install stairs/steps to be fixed at the rear end.

1.3 Exterior Design of each vehicle:

- 1.3.1 The exterior of the vehicles should be branded with appropriate designs, colours and slogans to reflect the purpose of the initiative. The content and slogans shall be provided by the Department.

Note: For more details, the interested Agency/Firm(s) are advised to visit the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu to take the first-hand look of the to-be-modified vehicles.

2. Eligibility Criteria:

- 1. Experienced agencies/firms with a proven track record in vehicle modification.
- 2. Valid registration and necessary certifications.
- 3. Ability to complete work within stipulated timeframe.
- 3. Submission: Interested agencies/firms should submit their:
 - 1. Expression of Interest (EOI) letter along with quotation amount.
 - 2. Company profile.
 - 3. Portfolio of previous work.
 - 4. Proposed design and plan for modification.

Note: This EOI is not a guarantee for award of work. The decision of the O/o Chief Electoral officer, Nirvachan Bhawan, Jammu, shall be final.

Submission Details:

Interested Agencies fulfilling the eligibility criteria are requested to submit their proposals, along with the relevant documents covering all points mentioned above to ceojk@nic.in by or before 5 Nov. 2024. Proposal in online mode on email, only will be accepted and no proposal in hard form shall be accepted in this office. CEO office reserve right whether to accept proposal or not and decision shall be final.

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EDITORIAL

Advancing Indigenous Defense Technologies

The global defense landscape is characterized by rapid advancements in technology, fueling a new arms race that is both competitive and complex. In this context, developing indigenous defense technologies has emerged as a key strategic priority for nations looking to secure their autonomy, protect their sovereignty, and achieve military self-reliance. For countries like India, this drive is particularly significant due to the geopolitical challenges and security dynamics in the region. A robust indigenous defense technology ecosystem allows for the production of advanced weaponry, resilient communication systems, autonomous systems, cybersecurity measures, and innovations in defense AI, all essential for a modern and responsive military.

Missile technology is a critical component of national defense as it provides a formidable deterrent against potential adversaries. India's development of indigenous missile systems such as the Agni series, Prithvi missiles, and BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles reflects a significant leap in missile technology. The Agni missile series, which includes intermediate-range ballistic missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads, has enabled India to achieve credible nuclear deterrence. The BrahMos missile, a joint venture with Russia, has enhanced India's strike capabilities with its supersonic speed and precision targeting, making it one of the fastest cruise missiles in the world. Advances in hypersonic missile technology, like the Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV), also showcase India's focus on indigenous technology to keep pace with global developments and ensure effective defense posturing.

In an era where cyber warfare poses a constant threat to national security, the development of indigenous cybersecurity frameworks and electronic warfare capabilities is essential. The Indian government's focus on the development of cyber defense strategies aims to secure critical infrastructure and communication networks. Efforts such as the National Cyber Coordination Centre and partnerships with private sector entities specializing in cybersecurity have strengthened India's cyber resilience. Moreover, indigenous research in electronic warfare, particularly with organizations like the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), has led to the creation of systems that can counteract enemy electronic attacks. Indigenous solutions like NETRA, a surveillance and cyber monitoring system, help monitor and neutralize threats, contributing to an autonomous and secure digital defense infrastructure.

Unmanned aerial systems (UAS) and drones have become indispensable in modern warfare for surveillance, reconnaissance, and offensive operations. India has made significant progress in developing indigenous drones such as the Rustom UAV series and the Ghatik Autonomous Combat Air Vehicle (ACAV). The Rustom UAV, designed for long endurance and high-altitude missions, supports surveillance and reconnaissance missions, providing real-time intelligence crucial for operations. The Ghatik ACAV, under development, aims to deliver a stealthy, weaponized drone capable of penetrating enemy defenses with minimal risk to human life. With an increasing focus on swarming technology, India is exploring drone swarm systems capable of overwhelming enemy defenses, reflecting a push towards autonomous and AI-driven drone technology.

AI has transformative potential across defense sectors, from predictive maintenance of equipment to data analysis and autonomous weaponry. Indigenous advancements in AI for defense applications have been prioritized through programs like the Artificial Intelligence Task Force set up by the Ministry of Defence. AI-based surveillance systems can monitor and analyze vast amounts of data, providing actionable intelligence for security agencies. Furthermore, AI-driven decision-support systems enhance battlefield awareness and enable real-time strategic adjustments, which is critical in high-stakes situations. Indigenous projects like the Combat AI system are focused on incorporating machine learning for autonomous responses in combat scenarios, including UAV control and data analysis for threat detection and response.

Armored vehicles and weaponry form the backbone of ground forces, with indigenous development allowing for customization to meet specific operational requirements. India's Arjun Main Battle Tank (MBT) exemplifies advancements in indigenous armored technology, combining firepower, mobility, and protection capabilities tailored to diverse terrains. Light Combat Helicopters (LCH), developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), have added a crucial dimension to India's ability to operate in high-altitude areas, providing ground support and anti-armor capabilities. Further, the Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS), developed in collaboration with Bharat Forge and Tata Power SED, underscores India's capability to create high-caliber artillery indigenously.

Space has become a critical domain in modern defense strategies, and advancements in indigenous space technology have enabled countries like India to secure strategic advantages. India's anti-satellite (ASAT) missile test, Mission Shakti, demonstrated its capacity to defend against potential space-based threats, ensuring the security of its satellites and critical communication networks. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), in collaboration with the DRDO, has been instrumental in developing indigenous satellite systems like the Cartosat series for surveillance, ensuring that India remains vigilant in space. Satellite-based navigation systems such as the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) or NavIC further enhance communication and navigation capabilities for defense forces, making operations more precise and reducing dependency on foreign systems.

Achieving a high degree of self-reliance in defense production is a primary goal for India's "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiative, which encourages collaboration with private enterprises and startups. Policies promoting the production of indigenous defense technology, such as the Defence Production Policy, emphasize reducing dependency on imports. Initiatives like the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) program encourage startups and MSMEs to develop advanced technologies, ranging from robotics to advanced materials for defense applications. This approach has fostered an ecosystem where innovation thrives, with more indigenous startups contributing solutions to the defense sector, ultimately decreasing the need for foreign defense procurements.

Surge and reemergence of terrorism in Jammu Region

By: O.N.Koul

From some time or one can say recently or lately, the terrorists and their masters and handlers of Pakistan have shifted their focus and area of operation to Jammu region. In various terrorist acts at various places in Jammu region, a number of security force personnel / Army men and civilians have lost their precious lives. The terrorists have changed their strategy and modus operandi and they have now shifted their focus and attention to Jammu region and are creating terror, fear and mayhem in and around Jammu to scare the peace loving people of Jammu region. Jammu which has hitherto remained peaceful is now slipping into the clutches and jaws of gun wielding militants who are creating fear psychosis in this region which has remained by and large peaceful in the three decade long terrorism when it was at its peak in Kashmir valley. It seems that terrorism is dying down in its hot bed Kashmir and militants and terrorists are on the run. The residual terrorists are desperate and frustrated and in fact the rank and file of terrorism is frustrated and their mentors across the border are also feeling frustration since Lok Sabha polls for the first time in the over more than three decades of terrorism in Kashmir has witnessed much and unprecedented enthusiasm and significant voter turnout was seen in all the phases of parliamentary elections. So the handlers and sponsors of terrorism have asked the terrorists to shift their attention and focus to peaceful Jammu division. The fact should not be brushed under carpet that a Deepak and its Sut shines brighter when it is about to extinguish and same is the case with terrorism and thus the terrorists have intensified their operations to peaceful Jammu region to disturb peace, normalcy and tranquility of Jammu province. The terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir is on its last leg and is on ventilation but unfortunately it has resurfaced and re-emerged in Jammu division and the sponsors of terrorism are hell bent to destroy the peaceful atmosphere of Jammu division and thus they have lately intensified their nefarious activities and designs in Jammu province and it is a cause of serious concern to the Modi government, LG administration, security forces

and the people at large. The government and security forces should break the nexus of terrorists and some anti social people because without the support and shelter and guidance of some local over ground people, the terrorists cannot be successful in their evil designs. The security forces have seen that some local agents and sympathizers of terrorists are helping terrorists to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere by committing terrorist acts and killing of security force personnel as well as civilians. The terrorists have spread their tentacles to peaceful Jammu division and are inflicting maximum loss to the security forces and civilian lives. A number of terrorist acts have taken place in Jammu division recently and the terrorists seem to have got upper hand over security forces/ army personnel and they are inflicting maximum casualties on security forces and civilians in Jammu division. There is utmost need to break the back of terrorists and contain terrorism in Jammu region and restrict their nefarious plans and not allow their evil designs to succeed. But the terrorists seem to have maintained pressure on security forces. The terrorists have been successful in inflicting maximum casualties on security forces and on common men. All that is required is to contain terrorism with proactive operations against the terrorists in various militant infested areas of Jammu division. It is learnt that Prime Minister Modi has given a free hand to various security agencies to crush terrorism sternly so that these enemies of humanity will not succeed in their nefarious designs. Jammu faces a new wave of terrorism with divergent tactics unseen in the past over three decades of terrorism in Jammu region. Pakistan has shifted its proxy war focus from Kashmir to Jammu, intensifying terrorist activities in strategic areas. Recent months have seen a significant shift in Pakistan's proxy war tactics, moving the focus from Kashmir to a strategically vital zone Jammu. This area, extending from Poonch to Kathua and encompassing the mountainous tracts of the Pir Panchal South to the Kishtwar range, has become a new hotspot for terrorist activities. The Chinab region has also come under the shadow of terrorism. It is in the fitness of things to mention the terrorist acts which took place in Jammu region recently. On 9-12,2024, Reasi Bus attack took place. On the day of PM Nar-

endra Modi's oath-taking, a bus carrying pilgrims in Reasi was targeted, resulting in nine deaths and 33 injuries when bus driver lost control while attempting to evade attackers. A gunfight in a village near the international border in Kathua district claimed the lives of two militants and a CRPF officer, highlighting the volatile border areas. Separate attacks on checkpoints at Gandoh and Chattergala in Doda district injured seven security personnel, underscoring ongoing security challenges. Besides these several other terrorist incidents took place in various parts of Jammu region and all this needs to tackle terrorism with iron hand by using new technology and initiate pro-active anti-terrorist operations. Twelve security personnel, including an army captain, and 10 civilians died in terror attacks while 55 people were injured since January first 2024 in Jammu region which has seen recently a surge in terror incidents, particularly in border districts. On July 15, four army personnel, including an officer were killed with terrorists in Doda District. Before this five army personnel got killed and as many were injured in a terrorist ambush in Kathua district. On July 7, an army personnel was injured on a security post in Rajouri district. Three foreign terrorists killed in a gunfight in Doda district. A policeman was injured in a terrorist attack in Doda district. On June 11/12 two foreign terrorists and a CRPF Jawan killed in a gunfight in Kathua district. Five RR personnel and a SPO injured in a terrorist attack in Doda district. On June 9, nine pilgrims killed and 42 injured in a terrorist attack on a bus in Reasi district. On May 4, one IFA Personnel killed and five injured in a terrorist attack in Poonch district. A village defense guard killed in an encounter with terrorists in Udhampur district. A government employee shot dead by terrorists in Rajouri district on April 22. All these terrorist attacks are an eye opener to the government claims that terrorism is on the last leg. Pakistan's deep state seems intent on reviving terrorism and fomenting antipathy against the Indian state in this region, has seen a chain of attacks over last few months. Pakistan began its proxy war in Kashmir in 1989 and gradually spread militancy to Jammu to thin out Indian forces and incite local Muslims. However sustaining this campaign in Jammu region proved difficult due

to low popular support despite ample resources. The regions rugged terrain, with its heights, rocky terrain and thick jungles, offered hideouts for terrorists. Notably, the 2003 Operation Sarp Vinash in the Hilkaka area above Surnkot, involving seven battalions, neutralized a significant number of terrorists. Today two decades later, the threat landscape has evolved, but the imperative to secure areas like Hilkaka remains. The security establishment must remain proactive, employing calibrated coercive actions to prevent destabilization efforts by external actors and ensure sustainable especially in Jammu region. Jammu has emerged as a "no war, no peace" zone, requiring a new counter-terrorism approach. The stronger Kashmir CI grid and initiatives like Operation All Out have significantly reduced terrorist strength and infrastructure. However, the resurgence of terrorism in Jammu, employing new operational tactics, necessitates a fresh, technology-driven approach to address the evolving dynamics. To counter the evolving terror threat, India needs to -1 Strengthen Intelligence Network, Refurbish intelligence networks and integrate the SOG with RR to leverage their strengths. -2 Enhance Military Operations that is revisit unit drills, sub-tactical operations, and large-scale operations to disrupt terrorist logistics, similar to Operations Sarp Vinash. 3 Foster Community Relations, that is establish and reiterate a sound relationship with local populace to garner support for counter-terrorist efforts. -4 Deploy Adequate Troops that is to ensure additional troops are deployed efficiently to strengthen the security grid and prevent infiltration. With J&K expected to go to polls soon, administratively managing the region without a democratically elected government is impractical. Conducting elections, despite security challenges, can contribute to restoring normalcy. The Modi government needs to confront the true state of affairs and avoid misleading narratives. In short, it is imperative that security agencies, with the support of local population, undertake carefully planned operations to dismantle terrorist networks, restore peace, and reinforce social cohesion in this strategically vital region.

(The author is a columnist, social and KP activist)

One Nation One Education

By: Vijay Garg

Just as there is one tax in the entire country, similarly there should be uniform education in the entire country. Due to reservation, not only in 75 years but even in 7500 years, everyone will not get equal opportunities. If equal opportunities are to be provided to all, then equal education (one country, one education board and one country, one curriculum) will have to be implemented till 12th. If we look, under the pressure of school mafia, One Nation One Education Board was not implemented till class 12th. Under the pressure of coaching mafia, One Nation One Curriculum was not implemented till class 12th. pressure from book mafia One book of Hindi, English, Sanskrit, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Botany is not applicable. Without equal education, it is impossible to establish a society based on equality and harmony, therefore, just as "one country - one tax" was implemented in the entire country, in the same way, it is very important to implement "one country - one syllabus" till class 10th. The medium of instruction may be different but the syllabus should be the same throughout the country and the book should be the same. At present there are five categories of schools and there are five types of books. economically The books and syllabus for vulnerable and below poverty line children are separate, the books and syllabus for low income group children are separate, the books and syllabus for middle income group children are separate, the books and syllabus for high income group children are separate. And the book and syllabus of children of elite class is completely different. The present education system is completely contrary to the basic spirit of the Constitution. Instead of building a society based on equality, equality and harmony, it increases casteism, linguism, regionalism, communalism, classism, fundamentalism and religious fanaticism. The education system created by Macaulay is still in force due to the pressure of book mafias, coaching mafias and school mafias. Read this also: It is necessary to take

action against corruption, but it should not be one-sided. If we look board wise, then CBSE books and syllabus are separate, ICSE books and syllabus are separate likewise IB, IGCSE, Bihar Board books and syllabus are separate, Bengal Board books and syllabus are separate, Assam Board books and syllabus are separate, Karnataka Board books and Syllabus Different, Tamil Nadu Board Books and Syllabus Different, and Gujarat Board books and syllabus are different from all, Books and syllabus are different, and Punjab Board Whereas most of the competitive examinations including Indian Administrative Service, Engineering, Medical, Defense Services, Bank and Teacher Eligibility Test are held at the national level and the paper is also the same, as a result all the students of the country do not get equal opportunity in these competitive examinations. Is. According to Article 14 of the Indian Constitution, all citizens of the country have equal rights, according to Article 15, caste, religion, No Indian citizen can be discriminated against on the basis of language, region, appearance, gender and place of birth and according to Article 16, all the youth of the country should get equal opportunities in jobs. Article 17 prohibits physical and mental untouchability and Article 19 provides every citizen the right to travel, settle and do business anywhere in the country. According to Article 21A, education is the fundamental right of all children up to 14 years of age. According to Article 38(2), it is the responsibility of the Central and State Governments to take steps for the overall, inclusive and holistic development of children. According to Article 46, it is the duty of the Central and State Governments to take special steps for the educational and economic development of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and poor children. According to Article 51 (A), the Center and It is the moral duty of the state government but the present education system has completely failed to achieve the above objec-

tives of the Constitution. At present, 5+3+2+2+3 education system is implemented in the country i.e. 5 years primary, 3 years junior high school, 2 years secondary, 2 years higher secondary and 3 years graduation. This system is completely ineffective and unwanted in the present context, hence 5+5+5 education system should be implemented in its place i.e. 5 years primary, 5 years secondary and 5 years graduation. Even if the medium of teaching is different but the syllabus till 10th should be uniform across the country and education till 10th should be compulsory for all children. According to the spirit of Articles 345 and 351 of the Constitution, study of three languages till 10th standard should be compulsory for all children. Just as "One Country - One Tax" was implemented in the entire country, similarly it is very important to implement "One Country - One Syllabus" till class 10th. The medium of instruction may be different but the syllabus should be the same throughout the country and the book should be the same. To implement "One Nation One Education" ANET (National Education Council) can be formed on the lines of GST Council. The Union Education Minister can be made the Chairman of the NIC and the Education Ministers of all the states can be made the members of the NIC. If one education board cannot be created for the entire country then only one education board should be created at the central level and only one education board at the state level. The "Right to Education Act" made by the Parliament is applicable in the entire country, hence instead of making a new law, it should be amended. The term "similar" in the present law which If passed, it will become "Equal Education Right Law" and currently it is applicable till 14 years, it can be extended till 16 years. By implementing equal education i.e. "One Country - One Education", according to Article 14 of the Constitution, all citizens of India will get equal rights. According to Article 15, discrimination on the basis of caste, religion, language, region, complexion, class and place of birth will end. And according to Article 16, all the youth of the country will get equal opportuni-

ties in competitive examinations and jobs. By implementing the same curriculum, Article 17 According to the spirit, physical and mental untouchability will end and according to Article 19, every citizen will get equal opportunity to settle and get employment anywhere in the country. According to Article 21A, education is the fundamental right of all children up to 14 years of age, hence the language of teaching may be different but the syllabus should be the same for the entire country. The implementation of "One Country One Curriculum" will help in eliminating all forms of inequality in accordance with the spirit of Article 38(2) and ensure holistic, inclusive and fair development of all children in accordance with Article 39. There will be complete development. By implementing common education i.e. common curriculum, there will be educational and economic development of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and poor children as per Article 46 and as per the spirit of Article 51(A), the feeling of discrimination among all the citizens of the country will end, mutual brotherhood will be strengthened. This will happen and will help in developing scientific and common thinking, as a result the unity and integrity of the country will be strengthened. When the syllabus from Ladakh to Lakshadweep and from Kutch to Kamrup will be the same, the book will be the same and the Kendriya Vidyalaya Similarly, if school dress will also be uniform, then book mafias, coaching mafias and school mafias will be controlled and the cost of education will be reduced by 50%. Uniform education has been implemented in many countries of the world including China for a long time, hence the central government should ensure uniform education in the entire country. Necessary steps should be taken to implement education i.e. "One Nation One Education".

(Vijay Garg Retired
Principal Educational
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We find out whether poor posture can 'slowly kill the brain'

NEW DELHI, Nov 1 (Agencies): American entrepreneur and venture capitalist Bryan Johnson recently wrote on X that he discovered that his posture "was slowly killing my brain". "I didn't realise how terrible my posture was until an MRI showed it was slowly killing my brain. A ticking time bomb of a problem that I've now dramatically improved with these five habits," Johnson wrote.

According to the MRI, his posture was "trapping blood in my brain, blocking it from flowing properly to my heart." "Was I going to have a seizure? A stroke? I didn't know." He further discovered that he has "genetically narrow internal jugular veins and my bad posture was dangerously cutting off the flow of blood out of my brain and back to my heart".



"Even with normal jugular veins, you may be doing the same with poor posture," said Johnson. Johnson said he made the necessary changes, from exercises to posture tweaks and moving every 30 minutes, to reduce the pressure on his brain. But is there really a connection?

Dr Pavan Pai, consultant and interventional neurologist at Wockhardt Hospitals, Mira Road, said many people struggle with unpleasant health problems due to improper posture. "Those with poor neck posture can experience strain on the neck muscles, worsening the pain. There can be other

problems such as headaches, stiffness, and difficulty moving your neck when one maintains a wrong posture constantly," said Dr Pai. However, Dr Pai denied it having a direct connection with the brain. "There is no scientific backing. No studies are available to prove the link between poor posture and any brain problem. It is better to consult an expert if you have any issues related to the brain and understand the underlying cause. One should not panic just by reading forward messages or information not validated by experts," stressed Dr Pai.

He also cautioned that nowadays, "much false information is circulated online, which can create a panic-like situation among people".

Moreover, when it comes to improving posture, exercising and stretching daily, using an ergonomic chair while working, not sitting for longer hours, and taking regular breaks can help. "Slouching is a strict no-no. Make sure to stand frequently and sit with an erect spine. Follow these essential tips, and you will surely be able to improve your posture," said Dr Pai.

When diyas meet lanterns: Cultural fusion of Diwali and Halloween festivities

NEW DELHI, Nov 1 (Agencies): This year brings a unique cultural fusion, with Diwali and Halloween falling on the same day, October 31. While the two festivals differ in their spirit and essence, certain elements of their celebratory fervour entail the same spirit, enthusiasm, and form.

In recent years, Halloween, traditionally celebrated in the West, has been embraced in parts of India, where it fosters cultural awareness among children. Similarly, Diwali's warmth has permeated the Western world, especially in regions with large Indian communities. According to Pew Research Centre, the Indian American population reached 4.8 million in 2022. In recognition of Diwali's importance, many states in the United States of America have adopted it as a holiday, and New York City recently announced it as a public school holiday starting in 2023.

With the huge demand and popularity of Indian food and cuisines and the cultural adaptation of 'haldi doodh' to turmeric latte, reimagining 'chai tea,' and the universality of 'samosas,' 'jalebis' and 'gulab jamuns' global Diwali celebrations contribute to a colourful cultural amalgamation and inclusion. The international sections at supermarkets, for instance, in the US, have ever-expanding aisles dedicated to indigenous spices and delicacies from India. One is greeted with decorated aisles of Diwali goodies, rangoli colours, goddess Lakshmi paintings, diyas, Torans, marigold garlands, and Indian sweets at Indian supermarkets and grocery stores.



A walk down the same neighborhood will instead reveal numerous spooky decorations and jack-o'-lanterns carved from pumpkins ready for Halloween. Spooky skeletons, floral decorations, corn stalks, and costumes are just some of the elements of Halloween, as against the colorful rangolis, diyas, and mithais versus packaged candies, chocolates, and cakes for the 'trick-or-treat' door-to-door Halloween ritual.

Brands are capitalising on this fusion too. This year, Mattel partnered with designer Anita Dongre to create a Diwali Barbie, underscoring cultural inclusion and the commercialisation of festivals as a point of connection across diverse communities. But, what is cultural fusion without meaningful similarities and differences? While the two festivals' meanings and connotations differ, their celebration and respective interpretations evoke some sense of similarity. Autumn's glow: Marigolds and chrysanthemums Flowers serve as a

seasonal bridge between Diwali and Halloween. Yellow chrysanthemums and marigolds are quintessential and omnipresent during Diwali. This is the time when marigolds are in full bloom. People in rural India grow marigolds in their compounds. In this very column, we have written about Marigolds and the "Deepwala Bahaar" during Diwali, with farmers growing and harvesting marigolds around this time. City dwellers have their potted marigolds, and nurseries and florists abound in marigolds of different colours around Diwali.

In my time in the US, the last marigolds were picked from September to October. Houses bloom in potted marigolds and chrysanthemums (purple, yellow, white) decorated with bright orange pumpkins on their front porches and outside against the lovely fall colors of orange, yellow, brown, and rust-colored leaves. The last of the Zinnias, with fresh chrysanthemums, marigolds, sunflowers, and hydrangeas, are harvested, too.

Acne to infertility: Hidden impact of PCOS on women's health

NEW DELHI, Nov 1 (Agencies): Polycystic Ovary Syndrome or PCOS is one of the most common endocrine disorders affecting women of reproductive age, with an estimated 5% to 10% of women worldwide experiencing its effects and in India 1 in 5 women suffer from PCOS. From irregular menstrual cycles to infertility, PCOS can significantly impact a woman's ability to conceive but it doesn't make pregnancy impossible. With proper management, including lifestyle changes, medication and fertility treatments, many women with PCOS are able to successfully become pregnant. Regular check-ups and early intervention are key to understanding the condition and managing it effectively can empower women with effective strategies to achieve their reproductive goals.



What is PCOS? In an interview with HT Lifestyle, Dr Monica Kumbhat of Neuberger Diagnostics, answered, "PCOS is a hormonal imbalance that affects ovarian function. Women with PCOS may have an excess of androgens and insulin resistance, leading to the formation of small cysts on the ovaries. This imbalance disrupts the normal menstrual cycle, making ovulation infrequent or

absent in many cases. Because ovulation is critical for conception, this disruption is the primary reason PCOS is closely linked to infertility." Hindustan Times SYMPTOMS OF PCOS: Period irregularities Heavy bleeding Excessive hair growth Acne Headaches Darkening of skin Diagnosing PCOS and Its Impact on Fertility

Dr Monica Kumbhat shared, "PCOS is typically diagnosed through a combination of medical history, blood tests and ultrasound. A common diagnostic blood test to measure the levels of Hormone levels, glucose and insulin level and cholesterol and lipid profile. For women trying to conceive, a doctor may also assess ovulation patterns and ovarian reserve (the quantity and quality of a woman's eggs)." How PCOS Affects Fertility Irregular or Absent Ovulation: In a typical menstrual cycle, a woman releases an egg from her ovaries once a month. In women with PCOS, the hormonal imbalance often prevents the ovaries from releasing an egg. This absence or delay in ovulation makes it difficult to conceive. Hormonal Imbalances: Elevated levels of

androgens (male hormones) like testosterone in women with PCOS can affect ovulation and lead to symptoms such as acne, excessive hair growth, and weight gain. These hormonal changes can disrupt the delicate balance needed for normal ovarian function. Relationships with people and sex life can be impacted by PCOS symptoms like weight increase, extra hair, hair loss, acne and fertility issues.(pexels) Insulin Resistance: Many women with PCOS have insulin resistance, meaning their body's cells don't respond as well to insulin. This can lead to higher levels of insulin in the blood, which may contribute to increased androgen production and further disrupt ovulation. Insulin resistance is also linked to obesity, another factor that can impact fertility.

From Frozen Waffles to Costco Salmon: What to Know About Food Recalls

NEW DELHI, Nov 1 (Agencies): Recalls of multiple food products in recent weeks have alarmed consumers and health officials, as the risk of food-borne bacteria like E. coli, listeria, and salmonella in the broader U.S. food supply chain has increased. Deli meat, frozen waffles, McDonald's hamburgers, and ready-to-eat poultry meals sold at stores like Walmart, Trader Joe's, and Costco have all been recalled after routine testing showed traces of bacteria. The popular Boar's Head company had to pull 7.1 million pounds of deli meat after E. coli was detected at a facility in Virginia responsible for producing ready-to-eat liverwurst; 59 infections were reported in 19 states and at least 10 people died. Trusted Source, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. At least 75 people in 10 states were sickened by E. coli. Trusted Source that has been linked to McDonald's Quarter Pounders. The company's subsequent testing of the beef involved showed no E. coli, but federal investigators suspect that the bacteria was present in the raw sliced onions that were on the burgers. Frozen waffles and pancake products sold at

stores like Target, Dollar General, and Publix were recalled by the company that produces them. Trusted Source after listeria was found through routine testing at a manufacturing factory in Canada. No infections were reported. Green onions, eggs, and ready-to-eat poultry meals have all been recalled this fall due to concerns about potential salmonella outbreaks. Why food recalls are increasing, and how they're identified With so many highly processed foods in the supply chain, there are more chances for contamination and infection and, in the case of the Boar's Head listeria outbreak, sometimes poor oversight at the source of production. However, there are also more backstops in place than there used to be and coordination between federal, state, and local public health officials. Richard Martinello, MD, Yale Medicine infectious diseases doctor and professor of medicine at Yale School of Medicine, told Healthline that the CDC's ability to identify and coordinate has made it possible for us to know about multistate outbreaks like the ones recently identified. In this way, the fact that so many have been publicized is a sign of success, he says.

"We have an increasingly industrialized food industry producing products at a large scale for lower cost. When potential contamination is not prevented, identified, and controlled, it can lead to large-scale, multistate outbreaks of disease," Martinello said. He further explained that foodborne diseases such as Listeria and E. coli O157:H7 are notifiable to public health authorities, and this timely reporting allows a rapid response. "Local and state public health authorities work closely with the CDC to both identify and respond when these events occur. As many foodborne outbreaks involve multiple states, CDC's efforts are critical to identify and respond to these matters in a timely manner," Martinello said. He explained that the CDC has a deep bench of experts in a wide array of communicable diseases, allowing it to supplement state and local public health expertise. The CDC is also a lead agency for FoodNet/Trusted Source. "This collaborative federal effort helps to ensure timely identification of foodborne illnesses and an effective response. Both the Boar's Head and McDonald's issues are great examples of success. The outbreaks and their cause were quickly

identified, communicated to the public, and measures taken to prevent further disease," Martinello said. Melanie Murphy Richter, MS, RDN, a registered dietitian nutritionist and the director of communications for the nutrition company Prolon, told Healthline that the vast network of supply and shipping involved in many products in stores can make them that much more susceptible to such contaminations, but the bad headlines in the news mean that the system's safeguards are working. "Our food now often has a global journey — from different farms, facilities, and countries — which opens up more chances for contamination. One event, like a salmonella issue in a farm's onion supply, for instance, can impact salsa across multiple brands. This interconnected supply chain means a problem at any one point can trigger a far-reaching recall," Richter said. "With advanced DNA testing and data-sharing between agencies, we're catching contamination faster and more precisely than ever. This technology means recalls happen sooner and are often larger because we're better at detecting patterns across states and tracing them back to their source. This

is definitely a good thing, and also, we hear about these outbreaks more, too," Richter added. How consumers can protect themselves from food-borne bacteria Many experts have suggested that eating highly processed foods — which includes processed meats, ready-to-eat meals, and deli meat — should be avoided in general. But with the higher costs of groceries across the country, not everyone has the option of avoiding products that could carry these risks. Richter suggested staying informed, reading labels carefully, and thoroughly washing Trusted Source fresh produce or purchasing frozen or canned produce along with shelf-stable proteins like beans, chickpeas, and canned fish. Dry goods, in particular, are also a good meal option, she said. "Foods like rice, pasta, quinoa, and whole grains are processed with minimal handling, making them generally low risk for contamination. They also store well and can form a safe, healthy base for many meals," Richter said. "Pairing these with canned or frozen veggies, beans, or lentils can help create balanced, filling meals that don't compromise on safety."

Tired of Being A Night Owl? 8 Steps to Stop Staying Up So Late

NEW DELHI, Nov 1 (Agencies): Staying up later than average can be a good thing, especially if you tend to feel more alert, creative, and productive at night. However, if you have to get up early for work or school, it can be hard when you're regularly going to bed late. If that's your situation, you may want to consider shifting your bedtime so that you fall asleep earlier.

Get light early in the day Research Trusted Source suggests that getting light early in the day may be the best thing you can do to shift your sleep cycle. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Trusted Source, getting bright light early in the morning will help shift the time you start getting sleepy to earlier in the evening. Weather can vary day to day, but being outside on a cloudy day may yield a similar amount of light to being indoors. Further, going outside has several other benefits. If you don't have enough access to sunlight, consider investing in an artificial light source like a UV lamp or light box. Avoid screen time before bed As tempting as it may be to watch television or scroll on your phone before bed, the light from these devices may make it harder for you to fall asleep. The ideal time to turn off all screens is at least 30 minutes Trusted Source before your targeted bedtime. Eliminating light, especially blue light from electronic devices, is essential. Complete darkness is optimal for sleep.

Set your alarm to wake you up at the same time every day, not just the days you need to be up early. In other words, consider getting up at the same time on weekends as you do on weekdays, rather than sleeping in. It is important to make these adjustments in small increments. Instead of trying to go to bed several hours earlier than your usual time, adjust your bedtime gradually over several days. Avoid caffeine late in the day Caffeine can have disruptive effects Trusted Source on your bedtime. This is because it can delay sleepiness by blocking the effects of adenosine, a chemical your body produces that helps you fall asleep. Caffeine can be found in drinks such as: coffee energy drinks soda some teas If you're looking for something to sip on in the evening, try caffeine-free herbal teas, such as chamomile tea. These may even promote sleepiness. Avoid screen time before bed As tempting as it may be to watch television or scroll on your phone before bed, the light from these devices may make it harder for you to fall asleep. The ideal time to turn off all screens is at least 30 minutes Trusted Source before your targeted bedtime. Eliminating light, especially blue light from electronic devices, is essential. Complete darkness is optimal for sleep.

Get physical exercise Exercising regularly can improve your sleep- Trusted Source. One study found that resistance exercise may improve all aspects of sleep, particularly sleep quality. However, you do not need to exercise intensely to get these benefits. Just taking a walk can also improve your sleep quality. The timing of your exercise also matters. While exercising in the evening does not negatively affect sleep, research Trusted Source suggests you should avoid working out vigorously less than an hour before your desired bedtime. Try melatonin Your body naturally makes the hormone melatonin when you're exposed to darkness. According to research, melatonin supplements may help you fall asleep faster. While melatonin is generally considered safe for most people, possible side effects include allergic reactions and interactions with medications. Melatonin supplements are not recommended for those who are breastfeeding or pregnant. Before starting melatonin, it is important to consult your healthcare provider about whether it is appropriate for you. Reduce your bedroom temperature Aside from regulating your sleep cycle, your circadian rhythm also affects your body temperature Trusted Source. Your core body temperature tends to rise over the course of the day and drop at night before you fall asleep.

Manisha Koirala on the letter she got from Kate Middleton for her cancer battle

A cancer survivor who battled stage IV ovarian cancer, actor Manisha Koirala recently received a heartfelt letter from the Princess of Wales, Kate Middleton, where the Princess expressed her joy at learning that Koirala is cancer-free after such a serious diagnosis and has been able to continue her professional and charitable work, while inspiring many cancer patients out there.

Ask Manisha about it and she says, "It does give one strength to go on. When I was in the treatment, it meant a lot when other cancer patients reached out to me and gave me hope. I really thank (cricketer) Yuvraj Singh and (actor) Lisa Ray and a few other people who came out of cancer and spoke about it. So, now it's my time to do the same for others."

The actor who works with impact foundation of Tata hospital in Mumbai and Cancer care in Nepal, adds, "To be recognized by such an esteemed person like the Princess itself is a very motivating factor to carry



on the work. It's always great to know that somebody has appreciated one's work." Talking about the work that is required towards cancer care in India and Nepal, Manisha says, "Cancer treatments are very expensive. So, it's important that this treatment is available for everyone and we need healthcare facilities that provide it. We also need more awareness and talk more about healthy options in life, healthy lifestyles and the treatments. Cancer is no longer a death sentence, so a lot more right education is needed."

This year, Manisha starred in filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar and while she is grateful for that, she insists that it was challenging to get back to work after her cancer battle. "It was a huge challenge to be disease free and have confidence in oneself to carry on a normal life. You are unsure, living with a new body and the trauma of the disease. But you take small baby steps forward on the path and slowly you build your life and gain trust of the people around you that you're

normal, that you're fine, that you can work and lead a good quality life," she says, adding, "Cancer has been my biggest teacher. I am grateful for that experience because no matter how painful it was, it taught me the most valuable lessons and I'm grateful for that. It's about being proactive, pro-solution, being in the moment, and figuring out what gives you joy and following that path and whatever path that is."

Is she now looking forward to being more active on screen now? "With age, time and the experiences of life, I feel my phase in 50s is much lighter and better. I'm living on my own terms. I know my mind and with whom I want to work and don't want to work. There's a clarity and you don't feel the need to be churning out work 24x7. I did a good work with a great director and I'm very happy about that. Now, I'll wait for something good to come up as I'm not in a hurry. I just want to enjoy every aspect of life, and really value and cherish all the work I do," she ends.

'Nayanthara: Beyond the Fairy Tale' documenting superstar's life to bow on OTT on her birthday



South superstar Nayanthara has a documentary based on her journey, and it's set to drop on OTT on the occasion of her birthday on November 18, 2024.

The documentary, titled 'Nayanthara: Beyond the Fairy Tale', follows her life from her modest beginnings to the heights of her illustrious career, and gives fans a glimpse into her journey. Nayanthara is a powerhouse performer, who is known for her versatile work in Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Hindi cinema.

With the documentary, Nayanthara

opens her home and heart to inspire young dreamers to reach for their aspirations. Filled with untold stories of her roles as a daughter, sister, partner, mother, friend, and a force to be reckoned with in the industry, the film celebrates the magic that makes her shine.

'Nayanthara: Beyond the Fairy Tale' is set to drop on Netflix on November 18.

Nayanthara, who is one of the highest-paid actresses in India, Nayanthara was born as Diana Mariam Kurian in Bangalore, Karnataka. The actress belongs to a Malayali Syrian Christian family, and hails from Thiruvalla, Kerala and was born to Kurian Kodyattu and Omana Kurian.

She has acted in more than 75 films in a career spanning over two decades and has won numerous awards including one Tamil Nadu State Film Award, a Nandi Award and seven SIIMA Awards.

She made her acting debut with the Malayalam film 'Manassinakkare', and made her debut in Tamil cinema with 'Ayya', in Telugu with 'Lakshmi' and Kannada with 'Super'.

She won the Tamil Nadu State Film Award for Best Actress, for her performances in the romantic comedy 'Raja Rani', the action comedy 'Naanum Rowdy Dhaan' and the political drama 'Aaram'.

Sejal Shah Joins Deepa Shahi and Rajan Shahi's Show 'Anupamaa'

Get ready for a major twist in Deepa Shahi and Rajan Shahi's show Anupamaa. The show is about to welcome a powerhouse performer, Sejal Shah, who is set to shake things up in the Shah household with her entry as Janaki Ben.

Janaki Ben isn't just any character, she's a strong, no-nonsense, traditional Gujarati woman, who will quickly become a key player in Anupamaa's Maa Ki Rasoi. Known for her fierce loyalty and sharp opinions, Janaki Ben's arrival will cause some serious waves. Her bond with Anupamaa is rock-solid, and she's willing to go to the battle for her—no matter who stands in her way! Here's the catch — her unwavering support for Anupamaa is going to spark major conflicts with the Shah family.

Expect high-voltage drama as her traditional values clash with the modern-day issues of the Shah household,



leading to tension-filled showdowns. Sejal Shah, known for her versatile acting and strong screen presence, is the perfect fit for this impactful role. Fans can expect fiery dialogues,

intense confrontations, and emotional depth as Janaki Ben stands firmly by Anupamaa's side. This is the kind of drama that will have viewers talking non-stop!

Pashmina Roshan: Every memory made during Diwali is very close to me

Ask actor Pashmina Roshan what Diwali means for her family, and she says, "Diwali is our New Year, and we celebrate it with a lot of love and happiness." She adds, "Each year, the Diwali plan that remains unchanged is the Ghar Ki Pooja that has to happen. We like to celebrate Diwali together. We have a family home in Khandala (Maharashtra), and we make it a point to go there in the Diwali season to enjoy quality time together."

She adds, "One of our Diwali traditions is to change the clothes of all the murtis in our temple. This tradition adds a personal touch to our celebrations and is a family effort—it's not just mine, but something we all do together."

For Roshan, actor Hrithik Roshan's cousin, the best part of the festive season is the sense of togetherness it brings. "It's a busy life. Everyone has a hectic schedule. But still being able to come together, make



time for each other and celebrate is my favourite part of it," she says.

Reflecting on her childhood, Roshan describes the essence of Diwali rather than specific memories. "I cannot point out one particular memory and say this is the most dear to me. It's

the feeling of Diwali and togetherness that I cherish the most. The sights and sounds of the festival—lights lit up in every corner, the excitement—create a sense of inherent happiness. As such, every memory during Diwali time is very close to me."

When it comes to decorating her home for the festival, Pashmina leans towards a minimalistic approach. "At our house, the decorations are quite simple. We use yellow lights, adorn the space with marigold flowers (genda phool), and create little rangolis around the house and in the temple. We spend hours trying to make it perfect and everyone has their own little corner that they do. It's very simple but because we do it ourselves, it feels lavish. I consider myself a minimalist, but I make sure to do enough to keep our home bright, beautiful, and inviting."

Pashmina further says she enjoys engaging in every aspect of the celebrations, from decorating to outfit planning. "I like to design it, find the fabric and then go to masterji and get it stitched. It's all pre-planned. This year, I want to wear orange or pink saree with gajra."

Ask her about industry Diwali parties and whether she looks for-

ward to them, Roshan replies: "I really do look forward to them because I get a chance to meet my colleagues in a less stressful situation, in a more carefree environment. We're not working, we're enjoying. It's a cool thing that we can come together and enjoy and celebrate and hold up our traditions."

Any personal goal or project that she is excited to start this Diwali? Without revealing details, Roshan says, "As we embrace the new year, there's a natural desire to start fresh. I, too, have a few resolutions in mind that I'm excited to pursue and have been working on," adding, "For me, festivals and prayer are all about gratitude. It's a time to appreciate the abundance around us. My prayers are focused on the health, happiness, and well-being of my loved ones—those who care for me. During these moments, I feel a deeper connection to what truly matters."

Tabu brings goth glamour to Dune Prophecy New York premiere, fans say 'Hollywood has been blessed'

Actor Tabu made a stunning appearance at the New York premiere of her highly anticipated series, Dune: Prophecy, the prequel series to Denis Villeneuve's blockbuster Dune movies. Tabu mesmerised onlookers in a dramatic black ensemble crafted by celebrated designers Abu Jani Sandeep Khosla.

Tabu turns heads in black

Tabu's ensemble at the premiere was a reinvention of the traditional Angrakha, courtesy of Abu Jani Sandeep Khosla. The couture creation spotlighted the revival of the iconic 'Crushed Silk' collection, meticulously crafted from pure Khadi silk.

The design's distinctive crushed texture was achieved through an artisanal technique perfected over nearly four decades. She wore earrings by Amrapali Jewels. As Tabu dazzled on the red carpet, her

appearance left onlookers in awe.

The actor even spoke about her outfit on the red carpet. "It is a custom-made dress. It has taken a month to create...It is by Abu Jani Sandeep Khosla," she said, adding, "The most celebrated designers in India. I love them".

At the premiere, Tabu walked the red carpet alongside her castmates, Emily Watson, Olivia Williams and Travis Fimmel.

The world of Dune: Prophecy

Set 10,000 years before Paul Atreides's ascension, Dune: Prophecy follows two Harkonnen sisters as they combat forces that threaten humankind's future and establish the fabled sect that will become known as the Bene Gesserit. The series will stream exclusively in India on Jio-Cinema Premium. However, the release date is not out yet.



Tabu's Sister Francesca is described as a "strong, intelligent, and alluring" character who

leaves a lasting impression in her wake. As per the logline, "once the great love of the

Emperor, her return to the palace disrupts the delicate balance of power in the capital".

More about the show

Along with Tabu, the cast of Dune: Prophecy includes Emily Watson, Olivia Williams, Travis Fimmel, Johdi May, Mark Strong, Sarah-Sofie Boussnina, Josh Heuston, Chloe Lea, Jade Anouka, Faoleann Cunningham, Edward Davis, Aoife Hinds, Chris Mason, and Shalom Brune-Franklin.

The series is set 10,000 years before the events of Frank Herbert's seminal novel Dune, which Denis recently adapted in two parts.

In the two films, released in 2021 and 2023, Charlotte Rampling played Reverend Mother Mohiam, the Emperor's Bene Gesserit Truthsayer, while Lady Jessica was the Bene Gesserit mother of the protagonist Paul, played by Timothee Chalamet.

Karan Tacker and Kalki Koechlin to star together in a web series



Recently, Karan Tacker shared a series of pictures from his ongoing shoot in Mumbai at the infamous Marine Drive.

The actor had called the experience a dream coming true as he said, "I grew up watching films shot on the marine drive and always felt it's such a big star, big film thing to do and added it to my bucket list of locations, well, yesterday, that dream came true."

Now, we have exclusively learnt that the

project that the actor is shooting for is a web series which will see him team up with actor Kalki Koechlin for the first time.

An insider source reveals to us, "This is the first time Karan and Kalki are working together, and their equation is going to form an integral part of the story."

The shoot for the show is currently going on in Mumbai, and the makers aim to utilise a lot of real locations in the city for it."

While other details about the project are kept under wraps, the duo was seen shooting for the series at Marine Drive recently. Karan was last seen in the 2022 web series Khakee: The Bihar Chapter and will be returning to filmmaker Neeraj Pandey's Special Ops series with the next season.

As for Kalki, she was last seen in the film Kho Gaye Hum Kahan (2023) and web series Made In Heaven 2.

PM Modi greets people of various states on their formation day

In posts on X, Modi highlighted various features of Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Haryana and Chhattisgarh as he extended his wishes to the people living there.

NEW DELHI, Nov 1 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday greeted the people of Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Haryana and Chhattisgarh on their states' formation day.

In posts on X, Modi highlighted various features of these states as he extended his wishes to the people living there.

'Kannada Rajyotsava' is a very special occasion, recognising the exemplary culture and traditions of Karnataka, he said.

"This state is blessed with outstanding people who are powering growth and innova-



tion across sectors. May the people of Karnataka always be blessed with happiness and success," he added.

Modi noted that Madhya Pradesh is blessed with bountiful natural resources and cultural heritage and described

Chhattisgarh as a state known for its impressive folk traditions and tribal culture, wishing the states continued development.

He said in another post, "Kerala is known for its mesmerising landscapes, vibrant traditions and hardworking people. People from Kerala have made their mark all over the world, across different fields. May the people of the state keep progressing in the times to come."

Haryana is known for its rich and historic heritage and has always made important contributions to the country's development, the prime minister added.

Bibek Debroy, Chairman of PM's Economic Advisory Council, dies at 69

PM Modi condoles Debroy's demise, hails his contributions



NEW DELHI, Nov 1 (Agencies): Bibek Debroy, Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, passed away on Friday morning. He was 69 years old.

A Padma Shri awardee, economist Debroy had earlier served as the Chancellor of the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE) in Pune.

Prime Minister condoled Debroy's passing away in a post on X.

"Dr. Bibek Debroy Ji was a towering scholar, well-versed in diverse domains like economics, history, culture, politics, spirituality and more. Through his works, he left an indelible mark on India's intellectual landscape. Beyond his contributions to public policy, he enjoyed working on our ancient texts, making them accessible to the youth," Modi said.

Debroy completed his early education at Ramakrishna Mission School, Narendrapur, and pursued higher studies at Presidency College, Kolkata; Delhi School of Economics; and Trinity College, Cambridge.

He had worked at Presidency College, Kolkata; Gokhale Insti-

tute of Politics and Economics, Pune; Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Delhi; and also as the Director of a Ministry of Finance/UNDP project on legal reforms.

He was also a member of Niti Aayog up to June 5, 2019. Debroy authored and edited several books, papers and popular articles and has also been a consulting and contributing editor with several newspapers.

Known for his far-reaching contributions to economic theory and policy, Dr Debroy was a respected figure in the fields of game theory, law reforms and Indology, as well as an advocate for poverty reduction and social equity.

Debroy was also the Chairperson of Finance Ministry's 'Expert Committee for Infrastructure Classification and Financing Framework for Amrit Kaal', guiding strategic policy frameworks for India's long-term growth.

Congress leader and Rajya Sabha leader Jairam Ramesh also condoled Debroy's death.

"A man of unusually wide-ranging interests, Bibek Debroy was first and foremost a fine the-

oretical and empirical economist who worked and wrote on various aspects of the Indian economy. He also had a special skill for lucid exposition, in a manner that would make laypersons easily understand complex economic issues. Over the years, he has had numerous institutional affiliations and he left his mark everywhere," Ramesh said in a post on X.

"Bibek was also a very prolific, and always thought-provoking, commentator in the media on public issues going well beyond economics," Ramesh added.

The Congress leader further lauded Debroy's love for Sanskrit.

"More than that, he will be remembered as a genuine Sanskritist of great erudition. His translations were many and included the Mahabharata in ten volumes, the Ramayana in three volumes, and the Bhagavata Purana in three volumes. He had also translated the Bhagavad Gita and the Harivamsha. His translations of some important late 19th century essays in Bengali are also noteworthy. Coincidentally, I happened to be reading just a few days back his translation of Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay's striking 1879 essay titled 'Samya' (Equality)," Ramesh added.

"He will be missed for his scholarship as well for his dry sense of humour," remembered Ramesh.

Growing monopolisation linked to shaky economic growth, unemployment in India: Congress

NEW DELHI, Nov 1 (Agencies): The Congress on Friday claimed growing monopolisation by five big conglomerates, including the Adani Group, was linked to India's shaky economic growth, unemployment crisis and high inflation, and asserted that companies must expand but the government had a responsibility to ensure oligopolies or monopolies did not emerge.

The opposition party's remarks came days after the Adani Group said it had agreed to acquire CK Birla Group firm Orient Cement Limited in a deal valued at Rs 8,100 crore.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said on X, "Aap chronology sama-

jihiye: September 2022: Modani acquires Ambuja Cements and ACC to become the country's second largest cement player."

"August 2023: Adani acquires Sanghi Industries, India's largest single-location cement unit.

June 2024: Adani acquires Penna Cements, giving it substantial market share even in the last remaining region of south India.

October 2024: Adani acquires Orient Cement, gaining an additional 2 per cent market share.

Upcoming: Adani exploring the acquisition of Saurashtra Cement, Vadraj Cement, and the cement business of Jaiprakash Associates," he added.

As former RBI deputy governor and noted

financial economist Dr Viral Acharya established, five big conglomerates -- including the Adani Group -- were building monopolies in 40 sectors, including cement, he said.

"This growing monopolisation is linked to India's shaky economic growth, unemployment crisis, and high inflation.

In 2015, when a common man used to spend Rs 100 on goods, Rs 18 would go as profit to the business owner -- in 2021, the owner now gets Rs 36 in profits," Ramesh said in Hindi.

"Firms must grow. Companies must expand.

But at the same time, the government has a responsibility to ensure competition is not stifled, oligopolies or monopo-



lies do not emerge, takeovers are free and fair, and undue advantage arising out of access to political power is not exercised," the Congress general secretary said.

The Congress has been persistently attacking the government since Adani Group stocks took a beating on the bourses in the wake

of US-based short seller Hindenburg Research making a litany of allegations, including of fraudulent transactions and share-price manipulation, on the conglomerate headed by industrialist Gautam Adani.

The Adani Group had dismissed the charges as lies, saying it complied with all laws and disclosure requirements.

2 Children dead in UP's Saharanpur, family suspects "Tantric sacrifice"

SAHARANPUR, Nov 1 (Agencies): Two children were found dead under suspicious circumstances in the Deoband area of this Uttar Pradesh district, police said Friday.

Their family members claimed the children were killed as part of a Tantric ritual, they added.

Superintendent of Police (Rural) Sagar Jain said Dev (11) and his 9-year-old cousin Mahi had gone to a temple outside their village in Bhayal on Thursday.

"When they did not return by late night, the family began a search.



Around midnight, the children's bodies were found on the roadside, prompting villagers to notify the police," Mr Jain said.

The police, who arrived at the scene with a forensic team, noted that both the bodies showed signs of broken bones, indicating possibility of a road accident.

Their bodies have

been sent for a post-mortem, Mr Jain said.

However, the incident has stirred anger among the villagers, who blocked the Deoband-Nanota road, alleging that the cousins were killed as part of a Tantric ritual.

Local authorities assured the villagers of a thorough investigation into the incident.

We need to create system in which people's skills get their due: Rahul Gandhi

NEW DELHI, Nov 1 (Agencies): Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi Friday called for creating a system in which people's skills get their due and everyone's contribution is respected, as he shared a Diwali video in which he interacts with paint job workers and potters.

Posting the over nine-minute video which features him also having a conversation with his nephew Raihan Rajiv Vadra on YouTube, the former Congress chief said, "A memorable Diwali with special people - I celebrated this Diwali working with



some painter brothers and making earthen diyas with a potter family."

"I saw their work closely, tried to learn their skills and understood their difficulties and problems. They don't go home. We celebrate festivals happily and to

Gandhi said Diwali means light that can remove the darkness of poverty and helplessness.

"We have to create such a system—in which people's skills get their due and contribution is respected—makes everyone's Diwali a happy one. I hope this Diwali brings prosperity, progress and love in the lives of all of you," he said.

In the video, Gandhi is seen working with labourers at the 10 Janpath residence and learning to paint walls along with his nephew. In the second part of the video, Gandhi goes

to the house of a woman who makes earthen lamps with her five daughters.

Gandhi tries his hand at pottery and makes 'diyas', which he says he would give to his mother and sister.

Since his Kanyakumari to Kashmir Bharat Jodo Yatra and his Manipur to Mumbai Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, Gandhi has been interacting with a cross-section of people from mechanics and cobblers to labourers and bus drivers.

He often posts videos of his numerous interactions and highlights the plight of various sections of society.

Assam cops drag bodies of father-daughter on road after accident

DARRANG, Nov 1 (Agencies): A disturbing video of the Assam police dragging two bodies of accident victims in a plastic bag in the state's Darrang district has sparked outrage on social media.

According to the police, the victims, a father-daughter duo, were riding a scooter when they collided with a stationary truck on a national highway near the Saktola area and toppled on the road. Immediately after, another truck ran over

them, causing them death.

The father, Mathura Nath Deka, had picked up his daughter, Nandita, from Gauhati University - where she was studying as a first-semester student, officials said. They were on their way home in Sipahjar when the incident took place.

The video shows two police officials dragging their bodies wrapped in blue plastic bags towards a vehicle for post-mortem.



The Assam police received heavy criticism on social media with users calling it an "insensitive" and "inhumane act".

Following this, Assam Director-General of

Police GP Singh has ordered a probe into the police official's act.

"An enquiry has been ordered to ascertain circumstances of the said incident," the DGP wrote in a post on X.

Rajesh Kumar Singh takes over as Defence Secretary

NEW DELHI, Nov 1 (Agencies): Senior bureaucrat Rajesh Kumar Singh took over as Defence Secretary on Friday.

The 1989-batch IAS officer from the Kerala cadre assumed charge at the South Block, where the ministry is housed.

Before taking charge, Singh laid a wreath and paid homage to the fallen heroes at the National War Memorial.

He had assumed charge as officer on special duty (defence secretary-designate) on August 20.

"The nation will remain forever indebted to our brave soldiers who make the supreme sacrifice in the service of the motherland. Their extraordinary bravery and sacrifice is a source of strength and inspiration for us to make India a safe and prosperous nation," he said.



Singh held the post of secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry from April 24, 2023, to August 20, 2024.

Prior to that, he was secretary in the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry

& Dairying.

Singh has held many other important positions in the Union government, including director of works and urban transport in the Ministry of Urban Development; commissioner (lands) in the Delhi Development Authority; joint secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; joint secretary in the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare; and chief vigilance officer in the Food Corporation of India, the ministry said in a statement.

He has also held charge as urban development secretary and finance secretary in the Kerala government.

Singh succeeds Girdhar Aramane, a 1988-batch IAS officer of the Andhra Pradesh cadre, who superannuated on Thursday.

Dimple appeals Omar Abdullah to introduce resolution in upcoming assembly session for start Darbar move

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 1: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, appealed to Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to introduce a resolution in the upcoming assembly session, beginning on November 4, for several key demands.

Dimple urged the state assembly to reinstate the Darbar Move, reinstate Articles 370 and 35A, implement the terms of the Instrument of Accession as signed by Maharaja Hari Singh, and unify Ladakh, Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK),



Gilgit, and Baltistan with Jammu and Kashmir. Dimple also pressed Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to clarify the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) position on restoring

the Dogra state of Jammu and Kashmir and reinitiating the traditional Darbar Move practice. He expressed disappointment in the BJP, accusing 29 BJP MLAs of "betraying the Dogras"

by supporting Jammu and Kashmir's reorganization into a Union Territory (UT) and not advocating for the restoration of statehood and the Dogra legacy.

Criticizing the BJP's celebration of UT Foundation Day on October 31, Dimple accused the party of insincerity regarding the Dogra statehood cause and noted that Mission Statehood and many Dogras had boycotted these celebrations.

He emphasized that the Darbar Move is essential for addressing the challenges of traders and transporters, who are

facing economic hardships.

He also called on Omar Abdullah to reinstate state subject laws, enforce the conditions of the Instrument of Accession, and hold elections for local bodies, panchayats, corporations, and municipal committees to address unemployment and poverty in Jammu and Kashmir.

Dimple reiterated that Mission Statehood will continue to advocate for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, reinstatement of Articles 370 and 35A, and the return of the Darbar Move tradition.

MP Gulam Ali Expresses Shock Over Death of MLA Devinder Singh Rana

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 1: Senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Er. Gulam Ali Khatana expressed deep shock over the untimely demise of senior party colleague and MLA, Devinder Singh Rana.

"Shocked to hear about the sudden demise of Devinder Rana ji. Deepest condolences to his family and loved ones," Khatana said, extending his sympathies during a condolence message on his Kashmir visit on the occasion of UT Day.

Describing Rana as a mass leader, the MP noted his open-door approach. "His doors were open for everyone. His untimely death is an irreparable loss to the entire Jammu and Kashmir," Khatana added.

While returning from Kashmir to Jammu via Mughal Road, Khatana also held a meeting



at Shopian, where he expressed gratitude to the people for their support in favour of party candidate Javed Qadri in the recently held assembly elections.

The MP further visited the family of Mushtaq Ahmad Shah Bukhari, a senior BJP leader and party candidate from

Surankote who passed away on October 2. He also visited the house of MLA Thanamandi, Muzaffar Iqbal Khan to offer condolences over the death of the MLA's mother. With two senior leaders passing away within a month, the BJP leadership mourns a double loss.

Ramesh Babu visits Tirupati Balaji Temple

Top News Report

JAMMU, Nov 1: Ramesh Babu office subordinate, Puja Manhas, Raj Nandan Singh, Ajay Sharma, Adv Sneha High Court, Gowtham, Archaka Pandit ji Amit Sharma Today paid obsequence at Tirupati Balaji temple Jammu and participated in the special abhishek of Tirupati, prayed for the welfare of the country. Every Friday the ceremony of abhishek of Lord Venkateswar is performed.

Ramesh Babu expressed happiness over the temple said that it is a feeling of pleasure and proud that the Tirupati Balaji temple is established here for the people



of Jammu. With this temple we are able to witness the culture of south India and this feeling is

heavenly. He appealed people to visit the temple and pay obsequence here. He said the dedication

of Lord Venkateswara temple would give a boost to spiritual tourism Temple also appealed

transport commissioner to start the bus service for the temple so that devotees can come easily to the temple. He also emphasize to start the Bharat darshan bus service here so that tourists also came to know about the temple.

Other dignitaries present on the occasion were Sai Krishna, Temple Inspector, RC Subramanyam, Superintendent Ramesh Babu, Ved pandit -Amit shukla, Neeraj shukla Archak pandit Ravi Teja Narsimha Parichark pandit - Surya Prakash, Anurag Patu pandit - Gautam Pandey Chandan Prasad distributor pandit - keshwa, Ramgopal Sharma.

Diwali celebration with children and local resident at Chassana

Top News Report

REASI, Nov 1: The Indian Army Celebrated Diwali with local residents and children along the picturesque foothills of the Pir Panjal range which was truly a heartfelt gesture of unity and goodwill. This special event brought festive cheer and a sense of togetherness to the communities living in the challenging terrain of remote villages and

forward areas. The celebration was filled with joyful activities, including traditional music, dance performances, and fun events for children. Soldiers distributed gifts, sweets, and essentials, bringing smiles to the young ones and fostering a spirit of belonging. By celebrating Diwali together, the Indian Army demonstrated its dedication not only to the nation's security but also

to fostering harmony and trust within the regions it serves. The Pir Panjal range, with its lush green meadows, alpine lakes, and snow-capped peaks, is a stunning backdrop for these heart-warming celebrations. The Indian Army's efforts to connect with local communities in these sensitive areas are truly commendable, and events like these help build trust and strengthen relationships.

SMVDU Hosts Students from Govt. Higher Sec. School, Chiryai, for Educational Visit

Top News Report

KATRA, Nov 1: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) welcomed a group of students from the Government Higher Secondary School, Chiryai (Zone Tikri), as part of its ongoing outreach program aimed at promoting higher education among young learners. Approximately 100 students, both boys and girls, along with their teachers, participated in the visit. It aimed to increase awareness and inspire students about opportunities in higher education. National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers accompanied the school delegation, providing



support and guidance throughout their visit. Dr. Rajiv Kumar, NSS Programme Coordinator and Dr. Varun Dutta, NCC Coordinator, welcomed the students and offered an insightful introduction to SMVDU, highlighting its various academic and infrastructural facilities. Workshop Superintendent Er. Deepak Byotra

and central workshop staff gave students a tour of the central workshop, sharing insights on the technical facilities and resources available for practical training. The students also had the opportunity to explore the university's Network Centre, Central Library, and Matrika Auditorium. Each visit showcased

the university's commitment to providing a robust and holistic environment for higher education. Throughout the day, students were encouraged to consider the benefits of pursuing further education following their Class 12 studies. The experience aimed to motivate students by showing them the

value and opportunities that higher educational institutions offer. At the conclusion of the event, teachers from the visiting school expressed their gratitude to the SMVDU authorities for organizing the visit, which they described as an inspiring and enriching experience for the students.

Celebration of Diwali with local resident at Teralla Gujjaran & Peri

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Nov 1: The Indian Army's Diwali celebration in Teralla Gujjaran, Peri, was truly a heart-warming event that brought together the Indian Army personnel and the local com-

munity. By exchanging sweets and warm greetings, the Indian Army strengthened bonds with the local residents, promoting harmony, peace, and national integration. The event aimed to spread joy and positivity among the values of

courage, righteousness and unity. Diwali symbolizes the triumph of lights. We are proud to share this spirit of victory with these bright young minds, inspiring them to become courageous and responsible citizens of our nation.

Celebration of diwali with local resident at DKG Pir Topa Rajouri

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Nov 1: The Indian Army celebrated Diwali, the Festival of Lights, with school children and locals at DKG, Government High School, Maniyal, Rajouri District, and Pir Topa village. The event aimed to strengthen the bond between Indian Army and local residents, promoting love, care, and protection. The celebration was attended by 259 local residents

who participated with zeal and enthusiasm. Representative of the Indian Army addressed the students and locals about the significance of Diwali, highlighting its cultural importance and the triumph of good over evil. Children were also sensitized about the ill-effects of crackers and given guidelines on safe bursting practices. The event was part of the Indian Army's Perception management activities, aimed at fostering

communal harmony, national integration, and pride. By engaging with the local community, the Army demonstrated its commitment to serving the nation and promoting unity in diversity. The Indian Army's efforts in reaching out to the population residing in remote areas were highly appreciated by Awam. This initiative will go a long way in developing and strengthening trust between Indian Army and local communities.

Empowering women through beautician course at Palma Rajouri

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Nov 1: In a significant initiative to enhance employability and economic empowerment of women, the Indian Army inaugurated a three-month Beautician Course at Youth Employment Guidance Node (YEGN), Palma. The comprehensive course, aimed to

provide expert training in makeup application, enhancing the participant's practical skills and employability. Expert instructors will conduct theory and practical classes in a specially established beautician training room with associated equipment infrastructure. Upon successful completion, participants will receive a course completion

certificate from the National Skill Development Council. This initiative is a testament to the Indian Army's commitment to empowering local communities and promoting economic growth. By fostering self-confidence and improving Native women's roles in society, this course contributes to gender equality and socioeconomic

development in the region. Native Women have expressed gratitude to the Indian Army for creating this unique platform for job opportunities. The success of this program will have a lasting impact on the region's socioeconomic landscape, demonstrating the Indian Army's dedication to nation-building and community development.

FROM PAGE 1

J&K MLA Devender Singh Rana's untimely demise shocking: PM Modi

undergoing treatment at a hospital in Haryana's Faridabad, where he passed away. Rana was a stalwart leader of the Jammu region and leading face of the National Conference, especially in the Jammu region, for decades before he joined the BJP in 2021.

He won the recent assembly polls from the Nagrota constituency with the highest margin in Jammu and Kashmir.

If goal is to strip itself of last vestiges of neutrality, it is doing remarkable job: Cong slams EC

"We do not know who is advising or guiding the honorable Commission, but it seems that the Commission has forgotten that it is a body set up under the Constitution and charged with the discharge of certain crucial functions - both administrative and quasijudicial,"

the response by the Congress leaders said. Posting the reply on X, Congress general secretary Ramesh said, "ECI gave a non-reply to Congress' specific complaints in 20 Vidhan Sabha constituencies in Haryana."

The Congress letter said that if the Commission grants a recognised national party a hearing or examines issues raised by them in good faith it is not an 'exception' or 'indulgence' but it is the performance of a duty which it is required to do.

"If the Commission is refusing to grant us a hearing or refusing to engage on certain complaints (which it has done in the past) then the law allows recourse to the higher courts' extraordinary jurisdiction to compel the ECI to discharge this function (as happened in 2019)," the letter said.

The Congress leaders, who had petitioned the EC alleging irregularities in the polls, said every reply from the EC now seems to be laced with ad-hominem attacks on either individual leaders or the party itself.

The leaders said the Congress' communications confine themselves to issues and are written with a regard for the high office

of the CEC and his brother Commissioners. "However, the ECI's reply are written in a tone that is condescending. If the current ECI's goal is to strip itself of the last vestiges of neutrality, then it is doing a remarkable job at creating that impression," the party said in its letter to the EC.

"Judges who write decisions do not attack or demonise the party raising the issues. However, if the ECI persists then we shall have no choice but to seek legal recourse to expunge such remarks (a remedy with which the ECI is familiar since it unsuccessfully sought to do the same with a high court's unflattering but accurate observations after Covid)," said the letter signed by Ramesh, K C Venugopal, Ashok Gehlot, Bhupinder Hooda, Ajay Maken, Abhishek Singhvi, Uday Bhan, Partap Bajwa and Pawan Khara.

In a strongly-worded letter to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, the poll panel had said such "frivolous and unfounded" doubts have the potential of creating "turbulence" when crucial steps like polling and counting are in live play, a time when both

public and political parties' anxiousness is peaking.

The BJP retained power in Haryana winning 48 of the 90 seats in the October 5 assembly elections with the Congress bagging 37 seats, INLD two and Independents three seats.

Farooq Abdullah mourns BJP MLA Devender Singh Rana's death, recalls past ties

and also played a noteworthy role in strengthening the BJP in J-K. In this hour of grief, my thoughts are with his family and supporters. Om Shanti," PM Modi posted on X.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina also mourned the loss, recalling Rana as a hardworking leader. "Devender Singh Rana was a very hardworking leader of the BJP... The entire J-K is mourning the death of BJP leader Devender Singh Rana. He worked for every section of society... He was recently elected as an MLA from the

Nagrota assembly constituency by a very big margin... He will always stay alive in the hearts of the public of J-K," Raina told ANI.

BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh shared his sorrow, posting on X, "Deeply shocked and saddened by the untimely passing of Sh. Devender Singh Rana Ji, MLA, Nagrota, J-K. A dedicated BJP leader and a true representative of the people of J-K.

His invaluable contributions, warmth, and commitment to service will be remembered by all. This is an immense loss to our BJP family and to the people he served so selflessly. My heartfelt condolences to his family during this difficult time. May his soul rest in eternal peace, and may God grant his loved ones strength to bear this profound loss."

Devender Singh Rana, a BJP leader and MLA from Nagrota, Jammu and Kashmir, passed away on Thursday night at the age of 59. He was the brother of Union Minister Jitendra Singh. Rana recently won the Nagrota constituency in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, defeating his opponent Joginder Singh from the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC).

FPIs pull out Rs 61,006 crore from financial services companies in 'sell India, buy China' shift

MUMBAI, Nov 1 (Agencies): Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) sold Rs 61,006 crore worth of shares of financial services companies constituting a major part of their total assets under management (AUM) in the country, so far in the calendar year 2024.

This is based on the National Securities Depository Ltd's (NSDL) data for the January 1 to October 15, 2024 period. In the same period of the last calendar year (2023), foreign investors bought Rs 31,824 crore worth of financial services stocks, the NSDL data showed.

The recent sell-off in shares of financial services companies is driven mainly by the "sell India, buy China" strategy, adopted by FPIs after Chinese authorities announced stimulus measures to boost the economy. Besides, concerns over the weak performance of certain lenders, especially private sector banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFC), have also triggered FPI outflows from the sector, analysts said.

At present, the total AUM of FPIs in India is \$980 billion. Of this, the financial services sector makes up the largest chunk (28 per cent), followed by the information



and technology sector.

"In terms of valuation, the Chinese market is much cheaper whereas the Indian market, even after the current 7 per cent correction, remains expensive. It is very rational for FPIs to sell in 'expensive India' and take the money to the Chinese market where valuations are very attractive," said V K Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist, Geojit Financial Services.

In the last one month, Indian benchmark indices, Sensex and Nifty, have declined by around 7 per cent. This fall in both indices comes after a 36 per cent gain witnessed in the last 16 months.

In the first 15 days of the month, FPIs have sold Rs 23,274 crore of

financial services companies' shares. Between October 1 and October 30, FPIs have pulled out Rs 91,819 crore (\$10.934 billion) worth of Indian equities.

Such a large amount of selling in a short period can only be carried out by offloading shares that are liquid.

"When FPIs have to sell shares worth Rs 4,000-5,000 crore or more in a single month, they can execute it only in liquid stocks such as HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Shriram Finance and Bajaj Finance," Vijayakumar said.

Foreign investors have likely invested in these liquid stocks a few years back. Since then, the share prices of these companies have appreciated, and so FPIs are now choosing to book

profits. The gains are then invested in Chinese stocks, analysts said.

"FPIs are not looking at the future prospects of these companies right now. They are looking at an opportunity to 'sell in India and buy in cheaper markets', where they will be getting higher appreciation in the short-run," said an analyst.

According to Gaurav Dua, SVP, head - Capital Market Strategy at Sharekhan, banking & financial services have a large weight in benchmark indices and consequently tend to see relatively larger outflows during risk aversion phases in the Indian markets.

"Moreover, the macro environment has also not been too favourable lately with pressure on the asset quality side in

the unsecured loan book of NBFCs and some of the private banks," he said.

Comparatively, the non-lending financial services companies in wealth management, asset management and broking services have seen buying interest from domestic and foreign institutions in 2024, Dua said.

After the financial services sector, the second highest amount of outflows was seen in the oil, gas & consumables fuels sector at Rs 23,095 crore from January 1 to October 15, 2024. In the same period of 2023, the sector witnessed outflows to the tune of Rs 21,023 crore. Other major sectors that saw FPIs pulling out money in the current year, were construction (Rs 12,025 crore), fast-moving consumer goods (Rs 11,233 crore) and power (Rs 6,317 crore). All three sectors saw inflows from FPIs from January 1 to October 15, 2023, as per the NSDL data.

Among the sectors that witnessed FPI inflows so far in the current year included telecommunication (Rs 29,538 crore), capital goods (Rs 28,610 crore), consumer services (Rs 21,901 crore), healthcare (Rs 21,788 crore) and realty (Rs 13,868 crore).

The multiple contradictions in Elon Musk's unflinching support for Donald Trump

NEW DELHI, Nov 1 (Agencies): As the US presidential elections grind towards D-day, Elon Musk has turned into the single largest contributor and most vocal proponent of Donald Trump's reelection campaign. Musk, the world's richest man, is now on stage at rallies with Trump, offering cash prizes to potential Republican voters and is turning his social media platform X into a megaphone that amplifies support for the Trump campaign. But there are also multiple contradictions in this developing symbiotic relationship.

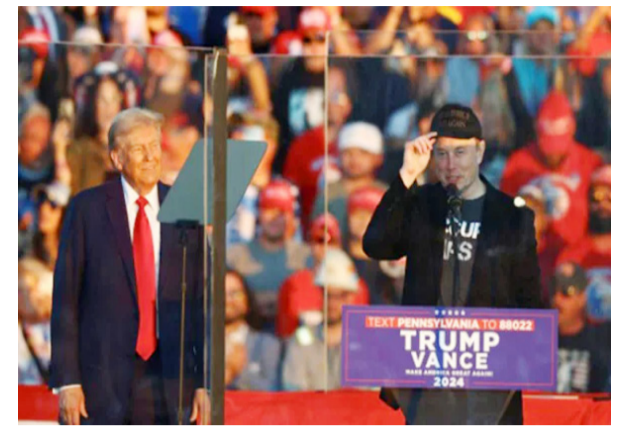
Musk's outlook on Trump's economic plan

Musk may be unflinching in his hardsell of Trump's candidature, but the billionaire has expressed doubts over the basic tenets of the former US President's economic plans, especially over the question of whether those measures would indeed supercharge the American economy. Trump has called for mass deportations of undocumented immigrants, a fresh dose of his 2017 tax cuts and a range of other tax tweaks, alongside higher tariffs on practically all imports.

Musk has raised some doubts about the efficacy of these measures. In one of his multiple responses to a pseudonymous X account on October 29 that alluded to an "initial severe over-reaction in the economy" and the "market tumbling" if Trump were to be elected and then gets to roll out his plan, Musk had a three word response: "Sounds about right". On the issue of tax cuts, Musk has acknowledged earlier at a 'telephone town hall' that cutting government spending, given the tax cut promises, could be painful.

On the other issue of illegal immigration, the Washington Post released a story on October 26 quoting documents stating how "long before he became one of Donald Trump's biggest donors and campaign surrogates, Elon Musk worked illegally in the United States as he launched his entrepreneurial career." South African-born Musk held no legal right to work while building the company that became Zip2, which sold for about \$300 million in 1999 and backrolled most of his other ventures. The Post noted that Musk is "arguably America's most successful immigrant."

Trump's climate change denial, ridiculing of EVs
Trump has spent years ridiculing electric vehicles, saying they suffer from range-related issues, are too expensive and are made in China. In keeping with his climate change denialism, Trump has vociferously supported internal combustion engine car makers, battled for the Detroit Big Three (GM, Ford and Chrysler) and has repeatedly promised to end federal support for EVs. For Musk, all of that does present a challenge. His personal wealth is tied largely in Tesla stock and his EV hardsell is fundamentally rooted in the environmentally-friendly pitch of battery electric cars that his car company makes. The Detroit three are among Tesla's competitors. And any paring down of federal subsidy could be a serious headwind for Tesla going forward, especially at a time when EV sales are seeing a temporary slowdown.



On the EV issues, there is also a larger Republican versus Democrats divide at play. Public opinion research suggests interest in EVs has some partisan roots, with a 2023 Gallup poll finding that 71 per cent of Republicans would not consider buying an EV, compared with 17 per cent of Democrats, while a more recent 2023 Pew Research survey found that 70 per cent of Republican or Republican-leaning Americans were unlikely to consider buying an EV.

The findings of a new Environmental Defense Fund study showed that in states where more than 50 per cent of voters linked to EVs were Democrats, only one (Kentucky) voted for Trump in 2020, while the remainder going to President Joe Biden. Also, in traditionally Democratic-leaning states like California, the average road miles between public chargers is under 10, while in states such as North Dakota or Wyoming, there can be more than 500 miles between chargers. In Musk's support for the Republican candidate, there is this inherent paradox of sorts. But fresh data also shows that some of those sharp divides might be easing off.

The research by the Environmental Defense Fund Action's February 2024 study, which acquired the voter and vehicle data from L2 - a political firm that analyses and sells voter registration and consumer records - suggests that despite common perceptions, some of these trends could be changing and that not all electric vehicle owners are Democrats. In nine of the 31 states that register voters by party, for example, more Republican voters were reported as being linked to records of electric vehicles - including insurance and repair records - than Democrats. Republicans, independents and third-party voters associated with electric vehicles also exceed Democrats in 24 of those states.

Starlink's sales pitch versus the diplomatic tightrope

Musk's Starlink satellite internet service has provided a clear frontline advantage to Ukraine's smaller military since the 2022 Russian invasion, permitting the Ukrainian forces to share real-time drone feeds between battlefield units, and continue communications in areas where cell phone services have been disrupted by the fighting. Given Trump's perceived soft corner for Russian president Vladimir Putin, Starlink's communications support to the Ukraine forces runs somewhat counter to the expectation, even though recent months have seen some recalibrations by Musk's company. Over the last few weeks, multiple Ukrainian units across the front lines were reported in a CNN story as stating that they had experienced speed problems with Starlink.

Earlier in February, Musk had responded to Ukrainian claims the

Russians were "hooked on to" Starlink with a statement that his company "did not do business with the Russian government", and that the system would not work in Russia. But the CNN report noted that Starlink was unclear if the technology might work in Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine. "If SpaceX obtains knowledge that a Starlink terminal is being used by a sanctioned or unauthorised party, we investigate the claim and take actions to deactivate the terminal if confirmed," the company said then in a statement.

When it comes to SpaceX, which operates the Starlink satellite system, there is clearly a lot of business that rides on the US government contracts. The company won a \$1.8 billion contract with US military and intelligence agencies in 2021 and is now the major rocket launcher for NASA and the Pentagon. For that, Musk has to straddle a diplomatic tightrope with regard to the commercial obligations of his ventures, including Starlink's Ukraine operations.

Also, for Starlink and for SpaceX, Musk needs access to terrestrial relay stations across the whole world, including Russia and China and other large swathes of territories. Russia also has the capacity to destroy satellites in space and Musk would be keen to avoid that event at any cost. There is a possibility that Musk's bet on Trump is a deliberate hedge on the potential risks that span from owning a business as large in scope and scale as SpaceX.

Musk's firings versus Trump's employee-friendly pitch

Trump has been championing the cause of American workers, labouring for support from prominent union leaders and has been ostensibly against lay-offs. Musk, on the other hand, is synonymous with firings across all of his companies. In January this year, SpaceX was accused by a US labour agency of illegally firing eight employees for circulating a letter calling Musk a "distraction and embarrassment."

A regional official with the Washington-based National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) had issued a complaint claiming SpaceX violated the workers' rights under federal labour law to band together and advocate for better working conditions. Then in April, Musk fired practically all of Tesla's electric-vehicle charging division as part of much wider lay-offs. Earlier, there was a massive purging at Twitter when Musk took over.

While the Michigan-based United Auto Workers - a key auto sector labour union - has thrown its weight behind Kamala Harris, Trump has been drumming up support among steel worker groups and projecting himself as a protector of American labour jobs. Musk's impulsive firings at all of his companies run counter to the pro-employee image that Trump has been desperately cultivating.

Sellers get upper hand in markets again, Sensex drops 553 points

MUMBAI, Nov 1 (Agencies): Domestic stock markets on Thursday remained under pressure as renewed selling pressure pulled down benchmark indices again. The BSE Sensex fell by 0.69 per cent, or 553 points, to 79,389.06 and the NSE Nifty Index declined by 135 points to 24,205.35 amid the selling pressure.

However, small cap stocks weathered the storm and the small-cap index gained 1.39 per cent. L&T shares gained 6.38 per cent while RIL lost 0.84 per cent at Rs 1332.60.

Global shares mostly declined Thursday as investors grappled with uncertainty ahead of the US elections next Tuesday. "Sentiments soured after Facebook owner



Meta Platforms and Microsoft both warned of accelerating costs for artificial intelligence. Europe's benchmark index fell on Thursday headed for its worst monthly performance in a year," said Deepak Jasani, head of Retail

Research at HDFC Securities.

"Nifty formed a reasonable bear candle on October 31 and just escaped from forming a fifth down week as it closed 0.1% up over the week," Jasani said. However, for the week it has

closed near the weekly low. Nifty could now take support from 23,893 while facing resistance from the 24,492-24,567 band over the near term, he said.

Foreign portfolio investors continued their selling streak, having

crossed the Rs 1 lakh crore mark. "Nifty after four weeks of decline, took support at lower levels in the Diwali week and consolidated in a range. We expect this range-bound move to continue with an increase in volatility as we enter an eventful week. Investor's focus would remain on the ongoing result season as several index heavy-weights are set to announce their quarterly results next week. Globally, US presidential polls to be conducted on November 5, followed by US Fed and BOE interest rate decisions would keep the investors busy," said Siddhartha Khemka, head - Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

BPL founder T P Gopalan Nambiar passes away

MUMBAI, Nov 1 (Agencies): TP Gopalan Nambiar, the visionary founder of BPL Group, passed away at his Bengaluru residence on Thursday. He was 94 years old.

He is the father-in-law of former Union Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Rajeev Chandrasekhar.

Nambiar, a pioneer in the consumer electronics sector in 80s and 90s, founded BPL in 1963, during the 'Licence Raj'. The company initially manufactured hermetically sealed precision panel meters for the Indian defence forces. His vision led to the establishment of BPL's first manufacturing facility in Palakkad, Kerala, but later shifted its base to Bengaluru.

Led by Nambiar, BPL expanded its product line to include colour televisions, fridges, washing machines, video cassettes and other electronic devices, becoming a giant in India's electronic sector by the 1990s.

However, the company



faced increased competition from South Korean companies LG and Samsung following economic liberalisation in India in 1991. Internal disputes within the controlling family further contributed to the company's decline.

Despite challenges, Nambiar's legacy remains unchanged. He built one of India's most trusted consumer brands, which remains popular even today. His son, Ajit Nambiar is currently serves as Chairman and CEO of BPL, which is listed on the

stock exchanges.

In the wake of economic liberalisation in India in 1991, BPL faced increased competition from South Korean companies like LG and Samsung. Adding to the BPL's woes, internal disputes within the controlling family took away attention from external threats, and the company's fortunes declined.

By 2004, BPL and its partner Sanyo were facing serious financial problems due to intense competition in the global electron-

ics market. In 2005, the companies announced a 50:50 joint-venture, and BPL transferred its colour television business, then worth \$ 80 million, to the new venture.

The partners, who had shared a long-standing relationship since 1982, had been off the market for about two years, going through some tough times. In the year 2006, they decided to get back in action together to regain lost market share.

Nambiar took son-in-law Rajeev Chandrasekhar to

the Company Law Board (CLB) in Chennai to assert the ownership of BPL Telecom. The CLB dismissed the appeal and Nambiar and Chandrasekhar later reached an out-of-court settlement.

Chandrasekhar said on X: "It is with great sadness that I inform you all about the passing away of my father-in-law TPG Nambiar, Chairman BPL Group. He was a true visionary and built one of India's most trusted consumer brands that remains popular to this day. I am pausing my election campaign work and returning to Bengaluru to be with my family."

"Sad to learn of the passing of TPG Nambiar, visionary Kerala industrialist who ushered in a new chapter in electronics manufacturing here by setting up a state-of-the-art facility at Palakkad after acquiring British Physical Laboratories in 1961, renamed BPL Limited. A true pioneer who remains an inspiration," said Shashi Tharoor, MP.

India cancel intra-squad match to focus on net practice before Border-Gavaskar Trophy

NEW DELHI, Nov 1 (Agencies): India have decided to cancel a planned three-day intra-squad match with the 'A' side during the upcoming Test tour of Australia as the team management wants to focus on additional net practice to prepare for the marquee five-match showdown starting November 22 in Perth.

India were scheduled to begin their tour of Australia with a closed-door warm-up match against Rituraj Gaikwad-led India A at the WACA in Perth from November 15 to 17. India A are currently in Australia for an unofficial Test series.

However, agency has learned that head coach Gautam Gambhir and some senior players want more time in the nets instead.

Rohit Sharma and his men will head to Australia after a



shocking home series loss to New Zealand. Vying for a third straight Test series victory in Australia, the tourists will face added pressure, as a place in the World Test Championship final is also at stake.

It is understood that since the bounce of the WACA centre strip resembles that of the Perth Stadium track, all top order batters

would prefer more time in the middle.

An intra-squad match might not work in that scenario, as if a batter gets out cheaply, then he might not immediately get a chance to bat again on the centre strip.

This marks a change from India's last two tours of Australia, when the side played practice games ahead of the main series.

In the lead-up to the 2018-19 series, the 'Men in Blue' played a four-day match against Cricket Australia XI. For the 2020-21 tour, they started the red-ball leg with a three-day game against Australia A.

India A and the senior team played an intra-squad match in Johannesburg before the first Test against South Africa in Centurion on Boxing Day last year.

Despite the match, the Indian batting came short in the Test. It's not known whether the outcome of this experiment influenced their decision-making for the Australia series.

The Indian team is scheduled to fly to Australia shortly after the third and final Test against New Zealand concludes in Mumbai on November 5.

IPL Retention: Pant parts way with Delhi Capitals, Klaasen pips Kohli as top retention

NEW DELHI, Nov 1 (Agencies): Flamboyant keeper-batter Rishabh Pant's nine-year association with Delhi Capitals officially ended on Thursday while South African Heinrich Klaasen with Rs 23 crore valuation pipped none other than peerless Virat Kohli (Rs 21 crore) to emerge as the top-most retention for the upcoming IPL season.

KKR's IPL winning captain Shreyas Iyer is also back in the auction pool after his discussions with the management failed while Mumbai Indians retained all their five star players, including skipper Hardik Pandya, national captain Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav, pace ace Jasprit Bumrah and young NT Tilak Varma. They exhausted full retention purse of Rs 75 crore.

Punjab Kings have spent just Rs 9.5 crore, the least amount for retention, on two uncapped players Shashank Singh and Prabhmiran Singh. They would go into the auction with highest purse of Rs 110.5 crore and also four RTM (Right To Match) cards.

Pant and DC's ownership structure is a complicated one with co-owners GMR and JSW getting powers to control management for two years at a time. Hence Pant, who is a JSW recruit, wasn't the top choice for GMR management headed by co-owner Kiran Grandhi.

Moment GMR took charge, they removed earlier coaching management including former Director of Cricket Sourav Ganguly and brought in Venugopal Rao.

If sources are to be believed, Pant wasn't exactly very pleased with appointment of Rao and Hemang Badani, who possibly would have been given powers to overrule the skipper.

Discussions over the last month didn't yield any result and Pant didn't want to work with unfamiliar coaching staff trust on him by the new management.

Retentions: Axar Patel (Rs 16.5 crore), Kuldeep Yadav (Rs 13.25 crore), Tristan Stubbs (Rs 10 crore), Abhishek Porel (Rs 4 crore) -- Rs 43.75 crore. Purse for Auction: Rs 76.25 crore. RTM: 2 Star Studded MI.

Mumbai Indians didn't

have much of a choice save one slot where they could pick fresh blood. They have paid Jasprit Bumrah the top retention price of Rs 18 crore while India T20 captain Suryakumar Yadav (Rs 16.35 crore) and franchise skipper Hardik Pandya (Rs 16.35 crore) were paid equal retention price.

Retentions: Jasprit Bumrah (Rs 18 crore), Suryakumar Yadav (Rs 16.35 crore), Hardik Pandya (Rs 16.35 crore), Rohit Sharma (Rs 16.30 crore), NT Tilak Varma (Rs 8 crore). Retention Price: Rs 75 crore.

Purse for auction: Rs 45 crore. RTM: 1 RCB and Virat Kohli.

Virat Kohli and RCB are inseparable and hence if there would have been one retention, it would be the iconic India batter.

Retention: Virat Kohli (21 cr), Rajat Patidar (Rs11 cr) and Yash Dayal (Rs 5 crore) Rs 37 crore. Auction Purse: Rs 83 crore. RTM: 3 Punjab Kings.

Not getting into the play-offs for 10 straight years means that Punjab Kings never had a settled look. They retained only two uncapped players -- keeper-opener Prabhmiran Singh and finisher Shashank Singh.

Retention: 9.5 crore. Auction Purse: Rs 110.5 crore RTM: 4 KKR retains its core.

Shreyas Iyer must have thought that he is worth way more than his current value of Rs 12.25 crore after leading KKR to IPL title.

However not being an automatic India T20 choice and a poor strike rate of less than 140 meant that KKR was never going to shell out big bucks for him. The franchise has released him and he is DC's No.1 captaincy target. The franchise is believed to have kept Rs 20 crore minimum for him.

Retentions: Rinku Singh (13 crore) Varun Chakravarthy (Rs 12 crore) Sunil Narine (12 crore), Andre Russell (Rs 12 crore), Harshit Rana (Rs 4 crore), Ramandeep (4 crore). Retention: Rs 57 crore. Purse: Rs 63 crore. RTM: 0.

SRH and Hein 'Rich' Klaasen Heinrich Klaasen at Rs 23 crore is value for money as he probably is one of the best hitters

of Indian spinners on slow tracks, a rare USP among foreign batters.

Retention: Pat Cummins (18 crore), Abhishek Sharma (Rs 14 crore) Nitish Reddy (Rs 6 crore), Heinrich Klaasen (Rs 23 crore), Travis Head (14 cr) Retention: Rs 75 crore Auction Purse: Rs 45 crore. RTM: 1.

CSK and prudence CSK didn't have too many surprises except giving same retention amount to both skipper Rituraj Gaikwad and veteran Ravi Jadeja. MS Dhoni, for whom uncapped player rule was created, was retained for Rs 4 crore.

Retention: Rituraj Gaikwad (Rs 18 cr), Matheesha Pathirana (Rs 13 cr), Shivam Dube (Rs 12 crore), Ravindra Jadeja (Rs 18 cr), MS Dhoni (Rs 4 crore). Retention: Rs 65 crore. Auction Purse: Rs 55 cr. RTM 1.

Rajasthan Royals RR had room for all the talent that it groomed over the years with no place for Jos Buttler, R Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal.

Retention: Sanju Samson (Rs 18 crore), Yashasvi Jaiswal (Rs 18 crore), Riyan Parag (Rs 14 crore), Dhruv Jurel (Rs 14 crore), Shimron Hetmyer (Rs 11 crore), Sandeep Sharma (Rs 4 crore) Retention: Rs 79 crore (will be adjusted) Purse: Rs 41 crore RTM: 0 LSG release Rahul.

Keeping Nicholas Pooran at a premium price of Rs 21 crore seem to be a good choice.

Retention: Nicholas Pooran (Rs 21 crore) Ravi Bishnoi (Rs 11 crore), Mayank Yadav (Rs 11 crore), Mohsin Khan (Rs 4 crore), AYush Badoni (Rs 4 cr). Retention: Rs 51 crore AUction Purse: Rs 69 crore For GT, Rashid is safe place.

T20 league's premier bowler Rashid Khan was given top billing at Rs 18 crore while India's white-ball vice captain Shubman Gill was second highest retention for the franchise.

Retention: Rashid Khan (Rs 18 crore), Shubman Gill (Rs 16.5 crore), B Sai Sudharshan (Rs 8.5 cr), Rahul Tewatia (Rs 4 cr), M Shahrukh Khan (Rs 4 cr), Retention: 51 crore Auction Purse: Rs 69 crore. RTM 1.

World Test Championship: South Africa's ascent on table worrying sign for India

NEW DELHI, Nov 1 (Agencies): South Africa have climbed one spot in the World Test Championship (WTC) points table after whitewashing Bangladesh away from home 2-0 on Thursday, October 31 at Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, Chattogram. The Aiden Markram-led side beat the hosts by an innings and 273 runs in the second Test and registered their biggest victory in the history of Test cricket.

Following their win, South Africa have climbed one spot higher to be on the fourth spot on the WTC Points Table. The Proteas are now sitting on the fourth spot with four wins from eight matches having a points percentage of 54.17%. On the other hand, Bangladesh are languishing on the eighth spot on the points table with three wins from ten matches having points percentage of 27.50%.

Following their win, South Africa have a great chance of

making it to their first ever final of the World Test Championship (WTC) as they have two series remaining in the current cycle. They will be taking on Sri Lanka in a two-match Test series beginning from November 27 followed by two Tests against Pakistan beginning from December 26.

The massive advantage for South Africa is that both the series will be played at their home where they will start as firm favourites over both oppositions. If South Africa end up winning all of their four remaining matches, they will finish with points percentage of 69.44 which will prove to be enough to make it to the final.

Australia and India in a neck and neck battle

On the other hand, three wins and a loss will see them finish with 61.11%.

Hence, India will have to compete with Australia to make it to the final. The Rohit Sharma-led



side is currently on the top spot with eight wins from 13 matches having a points percentage of 62.82%.

They're closely followed by Australia who're on the second spot with eight wins from 12 matches having a points percentage of 62.50%. India have six matches remaining in the ongoing cycle including the ongoing third Test vs New Zealand while Australia have seven matches remaining.

India need at least four wins in their remaining six matches to finish with a points percentage of 64.03 while Australia need five wins from seven matches to overtake India and finish with points percentage of 65.78. Hence, India desperately need to beat Australia in the upcoming Border Gavaskar Trophy to keep their third consecutive WTC final qualification chances alive or else they will see themselves being out of contention.

Mukesh Kumar's sensational 6 for 46 helps India A bowl Australia A out for 195

MACKAY, Nov 1 (Agencies): Pacer Mukesh Kumar spearheaded the Indian bowling attack with an impressive 6 for 46, helping India A restrict Australia A to 195 in their first innings in the ongoing unofficial Test. Despite his heroics, Australia A managed to secure an 88-run lead, leaving India A with a challenging task as they moved into their second innings.

After India A's initial score of 107, Australia A ended Day 1 with a slight upper hand at 99 for 4, but Mukesh's skillful spell brought India A back into the game on Day 2. The Bengal pacer tore through the Australian batting lineup, his 18-over spell wreaking havoc among the hosts' ranks. Supported by Prasidh Krishna's incisive 3 for 59, Mukesh

led India A's efforts to keep Australia A from building a substantial lead.

Mukesh's attack began early, dismissing 19-year-old Sam Konstas for a duck in the opening over and then claiming Cameron Bancroft in quick succession. The Australian top order found it difficult to counter Mukesh's precision and pace, with Marcus Harris falling to Prasidh Krishna after a gritty 17. Mukesh struck again to remove Beau Webster for 37, further stalling Australia A's progress.

On Day 2, Australia A resumed with overnight batsmen Nathan McSweeney (39) and Cooper Connolly (37), who held steady for a 51-run fifth-wicket partnership, the only fifty-run stand of the match. However, Mukesh once again broke through, removing Connolly

to end their resistance. Josh Philippe and skipper McSweeney fell soon after, reducing Australia A to 136 for 7.

Todd Murphy provided a late boost with a quick 33 off 47 balls, sharing a 41-run ninth-wicket partnership with Fergus O'Neill, before Prasidh Krishna picked up his third wicket. Mukesh wrapped up the innings by claiming Murphy, leaving Australia A all out for 197, securing a lead of just 90.

India A's batters now face the challenge of overcoming their first-innings collapse and mounting a more competitive score in the second innings. With Mukesh Kumar's standout six-wicket haul offering hope, India A will aim to make the most of this opening created by their bowlers.

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India aims to put on a show in Rajgir during Asian Champions Trophy: Salima Tete

NEW DELHI, Nov 1 (Agencies): With just ten days to go until the Bihar Women's Asian Champions Trophy Rajgir 2024, Indian Women's Hockey Captain Salima Tete and Vice-Captain Navneet Kaur shared their enthusiasm and insights on the team's preparations for the tournament, set for November 11-20 at Rajgir Hockey Stadium.

Building on the success of last year's Women's Asian Champions Trophy in Ranchi, Hockey India is set to create another spectacular event in Rajgir, Bihar, aiming to further grow the sport across India. The tournament will see top Asian teams, including Paris 2024 silver medalist China, alongside Japan, Korea, Malaysia, and Thailand, competing in the historic town.

India's Captain, Salima Tete, expressed her excitement about the upcoming competition and the new venue, stating, "The antici-

tion and excitement for the Women's Asian Champions Trophy is in equal measure as we will be playing at a new venue in a beautiful town Rajgir.

We played an exhibition match here in August and received a great response from the crowd. We're looking forward to returning to Rajgir and playing our best hockey."

Vice-Captain Navneet Kaur echoed this sentiment, adding, "We were in Rajgir in August and received a warm reception from the crowd.

Now, they'll have the opportunity to witness top Asian teams play right in their town. Bihar is also the birthplace of our Chief Coach, Harendra Sir, so this makes even more special occasion. We're looking forward to putting on a great show for the people of Rajgir and Bihar."

As defending champions, the

Indian team is prepared to meet the high expectations set by their fans. Tete reflected on their previous triumph, saying, "Last year, we had a memorable outing in Ranchi, where we clinched the Women's Asian Champions Trophy title. We know our fans have even higher expectations this time, and we're ready to take on the challenge to defend the title."

Regarding their preparations, she shared, "We have gone about some intense training sessions at the SAI Centre in Bengaluru. We are prepared for the tournament and are looking forward to some thrilling days of hockey in Bihar."

Kaur also emphasized the team's focus and their journey in this new Olympic cycle, noting, "Excitement aside, we are focused on our goal. We are in the new Olympic cycle, we start afresh and we have to improve and grow step by step to achieve our ultimate goals."

Pat Cummins a doubt as Australia to tour Sri Lanka for 2 Tests and 1 ODI

SYDNEY, Nov 1 (Agencies): Australia captain Pat Cummins will be a doubt when the Aussies head to Sri Lanka for a 2-Test series and one ODI tour in early 2025. Sri Lanka cricket announced the schedule for the tour on November 1, Friday as Australia will head to the island nation in January 2025.

The 2 Tests will be taking place in Galle and will be part of the World Test Championship 2023-25 cycle. This will be the last series Australia will play ahead of the WTC final and follows the Border-Gavaskar Trophy against India. The venue of the ODI is yet to be decided. The first Test match will take place from January 29 to February 2. The final Test will be played between February 6 to 10.

The one-off ODI will take place on February 13.

"The Australia Men's National Team will tour Sri Lanka during January-February 2025 to take



part in a two-match test series and one ODI game."

"The Test series is part of the ICC World Test Championship Cycle of 2023-25."

"The Australians will arrive in Sri Lanka on 20th January 2025," read the statement from Sri Lanka cricket.

Sri Lanka vs Australia schedule First Test: January 29-February 2, Galle Second Test: February 6-10, Galle Only ODI: February 13, TBC Pat Cummins a doubt for Sri

Lanka tour Cummins could be a doubt for one or both the Sri Lanka Tests as he and his wife are expecting their second child. Australia coach Andrew McDonald would say that they will see things closer to the tour and will respect the decision taken by Cummins in the end.

"We'll see what that looks like closer to the time," coach Andrew McDonald said of Cummins' possible absence. "We've got a couple of players in Mitch Marsh and Travis Head taking paternity leave at the moment (for the Pakistan ODI series)."

"So we respect that if that was to unfold for that particular time and if he wants to miss a Test. If he's got bigger things to take care of than a Test match in Sri Lanka, then that's fine with us."

Australia would split the series 1-1 the last time they visited Sri Lanka.



Crackers and decorative material stalls set up across Jammu on Diwali celebration.

Pic by AMAN SHARMA

Ajeet Bhagat congratulates people on Diwali



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Nov 1: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Senior, Leader, Spokesperson of Chenab Valley Ajeet Bhagat today greeted people on the occasion of Diwali.

In his message, Bhagat appealed to people to use the auspicious day of the festival of lights to brighten up the lives

of others by celebrating togetherness and camaraderie.

Diwali is a time of celebration and joy for everyone. It is an opportunity to share your happiness with those in need. he said. The senior National Conference leader also hoped that this year's Festival of Lights would usher in a new era of hope for everyone.

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