

6 WORLD

8 NATION

- Russia: It thwarted attacks on Crimea bridge, briefly closed for a 3rd time
- As Taiwan's govt races to counter China, most people aren't worried about war
- INDIA bloc disunited, none of them can face PM alone: Dilip Ghosh
- Centre working for welfare of 2-3 billionaires: Rahul Gandhi

Public opinion in favour of proposed bill on polygamy: Himanta

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Sept 2: Chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday announced that the state government has received approximately 150 suggestions regarding the proposed bill to prohibit polygamy in the state, with only three of them opposing it. The final drafting of this legislation will begin immediately and is expected to be completed within the next 45 days.

"Update on proposed bill for banning polygamy - We have received a total of 149 suggestions in response to our public notice. Out of these 146 suggestions are in favor of the bill, indicating strong public support. However, three organisations have expressed their opposition to the bill," Sarma wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

The Assam government had issued a notice on August 21 seeking public opinion on the proposed law on the controversial subject.

The notice, shared by Sarma on X, had requested the people to send their opinion by August 30 through email or by post.

The Assam government had formed an expert committee on May 12 this year to study the legislative competence of the assembly to enact a law banning polygamy. The report submitted by it on August 6 stated that the state legislature is competent to enact a law to ban the marital practice. The four-member expert committee was headed by Justice (Retd) Rumi Kumari Phukan and its other members were the state advocate general Devajit Saikia, (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)

Aditya L1 sets off on 125-day journey ISRO successfully launches Sun mission

SRIHARIKOTA (AP), Sept 2: India's maiden solar mission-Aditya L1, on Saturday set off on a 125-day journey to the Sun in its attempt to study various elements relating to Earth's nearest star, after being put into the orbit by a PSLV rocket that touched a new technical milestone in the launch vehicle segment.

Union minister Jitendra Singh, who witnessed the launch from the Mission Control Centre (MCC) here, dubbed it as a "Sunshine moment" for the country.

"Congratulations! The Aditya-L1 spacecraft has been injected into an elliptical orbit of 235/19,500 km which is intended very precisely, by the PSLV, a very unique mission mode here, with the upper stage of the PSLV taking two burn sequences for injecting the primary satellite for the first time," ISRO chairman S. Somanath said from



the MCC. "I want to congratulate PSLV for such a very different mission approach today to do this mission of Aditya L1 to put it into the right orbit. From now, the Aditya L1 will take its journey...after some earth manoeuvres it will start its journey to the

L1 point, a very long journey of almost 125 days. So let us wish all the best to Aditya L1 spacecraft for its long journey to put it into the Halo orbit of L1," he said.

The spacecraft, after traveling about 1.5 million km from the Earth over 125 days, is expected to

be placed in a Halo orbit around the Lagrangian point L1 which is considered closest to the Sun.

Among others, it will send pictures of the sun for scientific experiments.

According to scientists, there are five Lagrangian points (or parking areas) between the Earth and the Sun where a small object tends to stay if put there. The Lagrange Points are named after Italian-French mathematician Joseph-Louis Lagrange for his prize-winning paper -- "Essai sur le Problème des Trois Corps, 1772." The Sun is a giant sphere of gas and Aditya-L1 would study its outer atmosphere. Aditya-L1 will neither land on the Sun nor approach it any closer, ISRO said.

The objectives of the Aditya-L1 mission includes study of the coronal heating, solar wind acceleration, Coronal Mass Ejections

(CME), dynamics of solar atmosphere and temperature anisotropy.

Following Saturday's launch Aditya-L1, weighing about 1,480.7 kg, stays in Earth-bound orbits for 16 days, during which it undergoes five manoeuvres to gain the necessary velocity for its journey towards the Sun.

Nigar Shaji, project director said it was a dream come true for the team Aditya L1.

"I am extremely happy that Aditya L1 has been injected into the precise orbit flawlessly by PSLV as always. And Aditya L1 solar panels are deployed and it is being normal," she said.

Once Aditya L1 is commissioned it will be an asset to heliophysics of the country and even to the global scientific fraternity, Shaji added. Upon arrival at the L1, another manoeuvre binds Aditya-L1 (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)

HT BRIEFS

Power crisis

DIPHU: Diphu is facing an ongoing power crisis, with residents enduring more than 5 hours of power cuts. The Assam Power Distribution Co. Ltd. (APDCL) has attributed the issue to insufficient power supply. The assistant general manager of Diphu Electrical Division, Binoi Langthasa, explained that Diphu requires 12 MW of power, but often only 6 MW or even less is supplied. As a result, residents are enduring long hours without electricity, particularly challenging given the soaring temperatures in the region. This power crisis is affecting the daily lives of the citizens, making it difficult to cope with the adverse effects of extended power outages.

Dengue cases

GUWAHATI: Dengue cases continue to rise in Assam, with 127 new cases reported on Saturday. Among the most affected areas, Karbi Anglong East reported 97 confirmed cases. So far, the state has reported a total of 4,602 positive dengue cases this year, resulting in four fatalities. In a positive development, there has been a significant decrease in Japanese Encephalitis (JE) cases this year. Only two cases of JE were reported on Saturday, bringing the total number of cases in 2023 to 478, with 31 fatalities. This represents a substantial reduction in deaths compared to the previous year when 86 people succumbed to JE. Furthermore, the state has recorded 302 cases of malaria in 2023, with no reported deaths.

Road mishap

DEMOW: A road accident occurred in Demow Raichai on Saturday involving a motorcycle and a scooter, resulting in a woman suffering serious injuries. The injured woman, identified as Wahida Begum from Udaipur Jamuguri near Demow, was severely injured in the incident. According to sources, the accident transpired when a TVS Rider motorcycle, traveling from Nitapukhuri toward Demow, was suddenly struck by a scooter in Demow Raichai on Saturday. The scooter then fled the scene.

State flood situation improves

ONE MORE DEATH TAKES TOLL TO 17

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Sept 2: There is a gradual improvement in the flood situation in the state with the total number of affected persons coming down to 2,42,515 on Saturday from 3,24,938 a day before.

One more person died due to the deluge, taking the toll to 17, an Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) bulletin stated on Saturday.

Although the waters levels of the majority of the rivers are receding across the state, the Brahmaputra continues to flow above the danger level at Dhubri, Goalpara, Guwahati, Tezpur and Neamatighat.

Currently, 18 districts are reeling under the impact of the floods. They are Barpeta, Biswanath, Chirang, Darrang, Dhemaji, Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Goalpara, Golaghat, Jorhat, Kamrup (Metro), Lakhimpur, Morigaon, Nagaon, Nalbari, Sivasagar and Sonitpur. A total of 39 revenue circles and 779 villages are affected by the floods in these districts.

The floods have affected a total of



15,670.85 hectares of cultivable land across the state in the past 24 hours. This has caused untold damage to crops because of which, farmers have incurred huge losses. A total of 1,61,758 animals comprising 96,514 big animals, 45,067 small animals and 20,177 poultry have also been affected.

Meanwhile, a total of 50 camps are operational in the state, in which 2,169 flood affected people are currently residing. In addition, relief materials in the form of food grains, oil, salt, baby food and other essential things are being distributed to the affected in 43 relief camps across (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)

Tea planters for hourly wage rate for garden workers

GUWAHATI, Sept 2: The Tea Association of India (TAI) on Saturday advocated hourly wage rate for garden workers, which is permitted under the Minimum Wages Act.

The planters' body also lauded the Assam government initiative to organise a multi-stakeholder consultation in the presence of representatives of International Labour Organisation (ILO).

The meeting, held earlier in the day, was the first convened by the state government's labour department. The ILO was invited to advise on minimum wages and adequate wages for the plantation workers, TAI said in a release.

The meeting was also attended by representatives of various other producers' associations and labour unions.

ILO representatives maintained that sustainability of the tea industry should be taken into consideration while fixing the wages. PK Bhattacharjee, secretary general of



TAI, and Dipanjol Deka, the secretary of its Assam Branch said.

"TAI strongly advocates hourly rates wages, the provision of which is there in the Minimum Wages Act," they said.

Tea garden workers in the Brahmaputra valley of Assam currently get ₹ 232 as daily wage, while the rate in Barak valley is ₹ 210.

The workers are also provided ration by the garden management as a component in addition to the wages paid in cash, TAI officials said. The last hike of ₹ 27 in the daily wage was implemented in August last year. (PTI)

4 held with heroin worth ₹ 6 crore

SHILLONG, Sept 2: Four people, including a woman, were arrested here and drugs worth over ₹ 6 crore seized from their possession, police said on Saturday.

Acting on a tip off, the anti-narcotics task force from East Khasi Hills district conducted raids at Demthring area of the state capital on Friday night during which 55 boxes of heroin weighing over 638 gm were seized from the accused, SP Sylvester Nongtynger said.

Nongtynger said the value of the drugs is worth over ₹ 6 crore in the international market.

The arrested persons hail from other states, the SP said, without elaborating. Chief minister Conrad K Sangma took to X to congratulate the Meghalaya Police for its efforts. "Huge haul of drugs! In a well synchronised operation, @EKH_Police nabbed (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)

Ruling allies of NDA in Assam meet to discuss LS polls

TINSUKIA, Sept 2: Partners of the ruling BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) of Assam met in Tinsukia on Saturday to discuss next year's Lok Sabha elections as well as issues being faced by people. Ministers, MLAs and top leaders of the BJP and its coalition partners Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) took part in the meeting, dubbed as an "interaction" among the NDA allies.

Chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, BJP state president Bhabesh Kalita, AGP chief and minister Atul Bora, and UPPL chief Pramod Boro, among others, were present.

Union minister Rameswar Teli said discussions were held on the upcoming general elections.

"It is an important meet. The Lok Sabha polls are approaching and we



have 14 seats from Assam. We aim at winning all the seats," he said.

Another BJP MP Dilip Saikia said discussions were also held on some of the issues people are facing, and how those can be resolved.

Later, Sarma wrote on X: "Held a day-long fruitful discussion with Hon'ble MPs & MLAs from the state belonging to the NDA. We are of the collective resolve that to build a Viksit (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)

Indian institutions developed culture of resolving problems through dialogue: CJI

AIZAWL, Sept 2: Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud on Saturday said Indian institutions have developed a culture of resolving problems through dialogue, tolerance and shared values, unlike many other nations where resolution takes place "through arms and weapons". After inaugurating the new building of the Aizawl bench of Gauhati High Court here, the CJI said that the rule of law sustains the nation and judges, lawyers and litigants. "There are so many countries in the world where the resolution of problems takes place through arms and weapons. But the importance of our institution is that we have replaced a culture of violence with a culture of dialogue, a culture of tolerance, a culture of understanding and the realisation that we share the shared values for bringing about human happiness," he said.

The CJI said that the important message that the court of justice sends across society is that "We stand for the rule of law, we stand for the peaceful resolution of disputes." CJI Chandrachud said that the sense of dialogue between communities and different stakeholders has promoted a sense of understanding across the nation.

He urged more women to join the judiciary, and



called for special efforts to ensure that the workplace is more conducive to them. The CJI also said that the new building of the Aizawl bench with modern facilities is a step in the right direction. The Aizawl Bench of the Gauhati High Court was established on July 5, 1990. It used to function from Ainawng Veng, a distance of about 5 km from the heart of the Mizoram capital. The foundation stone of the new building was laid on March 4, 2017, by Mizoram Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla and Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court Ajit Singh. (PTI)

This is a monumental achievement, says urban affairs minister Ashok Singhal

Assam tops in implementing PM SVANidhi scheme

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Sept 2: In a groundbreaking achievement, Assam has emerged as the leader in implementing the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors' AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme, with an exceptional disbursement percentage of 90.84% as of September 1, 2023.

Street vendors in Assam stand to gain immensely from the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors' AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme.

Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 1, 2020, the scheme aims to provide collateral-free working capital loans to street vendors, hawkers, and small traders adversely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and facilitate their transition from the informal to the formal sector.

The scheme not only provides loans in three tranches of ₹ 10,000, ₹ 20,000, and ₹ 50,000, but also digitally onboard vendors to promote digital transactions.

ASSAM RANKED ALL-INDIA #1 IN DISBURSEMENT PERCENTAGE UNDER PM SVANidhi Scheme

Comparative table of performance of different States and UTs under PMSVANidhi (as on 01-09-2023)

Category	State Name	Disbursement Percentage (1st Tranche)	Rank (All India)
Hilly and North Eastern States	Assam	90.84	1
Large State	Uttar Pradesh	90.80	2
Large State	Madhya Pradesh	88.12	3
UTS and Small States	Puducherry	88.04	4
UTS and Small States	Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli	86.6	5

Expressing his delight at the state's accomplishment Assam housing and urban affairs minister Ashok Singhal said, "This is a monumental achievement for Assam and exemplifies our unwavering commitment to bolster the unorganized sector in the state. The success of the PM SVANidhi Scheme is a testament to our vision of ensuring fi-

nancial inclusion and economic empowerment for street vendors and small traders."

"Under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, the Assam government has prioritized the welfare of the state's unorganized sector. This achievement reaffirms our dedication to creating a more prosperous and self-

reliant Assam," Singhal said.

The relentless efforts of all officers and officials of the state housing and urban affairs helped in the successful implementation of the scheme under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission, the minister said.

The state had also achieved its initial target of 52,000 disbursements under the first tranche within the stipulated time, earning the top spot among hilly and Northeastern states. In recognition of the state's exceptional efforts, the Union ministry of housing and urban affairs facilitated the state during the celebrations of completion of three years of the PM SVANidhi scheme in New Delhi in June this year.

Meanwhile, the government has taken several initiatives to ensure the continued successful implementation of the scheme in the state. These include a cabinet decision to waive (CONTD. ON PAGE-9)

Windfall profit tax on crude oil cut; levy on diesel, ATF exports hiked

India first imposed windfall profit taxes on July 1 last year

NEW DELHI, Sept 2: The government has cut the windfall profit tax on crude oil produced in the country while the levy on exports of diesel and ATF has been hiked, an official notification said.

The tax, levied in the form of special additional excise duty or SAED, on domestically produced crude oil was reduced to ₹ 6,700 per tonne from ₹ 7,100 a tonne.

SAED on the export of diesel was increased to ₹ 6 per litre from ₹ 5.50 a litre and on jet fuel or ATF to ₹ 4 per litre from ₹ 2, the notification said.

SAED on export of petrol will continue to be zero.

The new tax rates came into effect from Saturday, the order dated September 1, said.

India first imposed windfall profit taxes on July 1 last year, joining a growing number of nations that tax supernormal profits of energy companies. At that time, export duties of ₹ 6 per litre (USD 12 per barrel) each were levied on



petrol and ATF and ₹ 13 a litre (USD 26 a barrel) on diesel.

A ₹ 23,250 per tonne (USD 40 per barrel) windfall profit tax on crude oil produced by companies such as Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) was also levied.

The tax rates are reviewed every fortnight based on average oil prices in the previous two weeks.

A windfall tax is levied on do-

mestic crude oil if rates of the global benchmark rise above USD 75 per barrel. Export of diesel, ATF and petrol attract the levy if product cracks (or margins) rise above USD 20 per barrel.

Product cracks or margins are the difference between crude oil (raw material) and finished petroleum products.

International crude oil prices av-

eraged USD 86.43 per barrel in August, up from USD 80.37 in the preceding month and USD 74.93 a barrel in June.

The levy on domestic crude oil dropped to nil in the first half of April as international crude oil prices fell but was back in the second half in step with a rise in rates.

Levy on diesel became nil in April but the levy was brought back in August. Levy on ATF became nil in March and was brought back in second half of August.

The export tax on petrol was scrapped in the very first review.

Crude oil pumped out of the ground and from below the seabed is refined and converted into fuels like petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF).

Reliance Industries Ltd, which operates the world's largest single-location oil refinery complex at Jamnagar in Gujarat, and Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy are primary exporters of fuel in the country. (PTI)

Royal Enfield launches 2023 Bullet 350: The iconic legacy continues

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Sept 2: Royal Enfield, the global leader in the mid-size motorcycle segment, has officially unveiled the 2023 Bullet 350. This iconic motorcycle, with a heritage spanning over nine decades, retains its unique blend of classic aesthetics and craftsmanship while featuring modern engineering.

The 2023 Bullet 350 is powered by a 349cc air-oil cooled single-cylinder engine, known for its smooth power delivery. It produces 20.2 bhp at 6100 rpm and 27 Nm of torque at 4000 rpm, ensuring strong low-end grunt. The motorcycle features a rigid chassis for predictable handling and manoeuvrability. It has 41mm front forks and wider section tyres for improved stability. The new Bullet 350 comes in three editions: Military Red, Military Black, and Standard (Black or Maroon). Each edition has distinct features and finishes, such as single or dual-channel ABS, rear drum brake or disc brake, and various tank designs. The motorcycle offers a comfortable riding experience with



a redesigned seat and suspension. It comes with modern touches, including a digi-analog instrument cluster and a USB charging point. Royal Enfield offers a range of Genuine Motorcycle Accessories for the Bullet 350, including touring seats and handlebars.

The 2023 Bullet 350 is aimed at a global audience, and bookings in India have started from September 1, with retail and test rides commencing on September 3, 2023. The ex-showroom prices are as

follows: Military Black and Red - ₹ 1,73,562, Standard - ₹ 1,97,436, and Bullet Black Gold - ₹ 2,15,801. The motorcycle will be available in Europe next quarter, followed by launches in the SAARC, APAC, and Americas regions.

Royal Enfield continues to celebrate the Bullet's legacy, highlighting its timeless style and enduring resilience, appealing to both loyal enthusiasts and a new generation of riders.

Signature Packaged Drinking Water sponsors Ziro Festival for a greener world



HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Sept 2: Signature Packaged Drinking Water proudly presents the 10th edition of the Ziro Festival, India's most eco-friendly music festival. This festival, set in the stunning Ziro Valley of Arunachal Pradesh, celebrates the harmony between living well and doing good.

Scheduled from September 28 to October 1, 2023, the Ziro Festival offers an immersive experience with soulful music amidst lush green valleys, farm-to-table cuisine, and locally inspired beverages. It also provides an opportunity to learn about sustainable living from the local Apatani tribe, known for their recycling and repurposing skills.

As the presenting sponsor, Signature Packaged Drinking Water shares a commitment to environmental conservation and meaningful connections with nature. Together, they aim to promote conscious living through masterclasses, environmental awareness activities like plogging, and a campsite experience that leaves zero waste behind.

The festival lineup includes renowned artists like Lee Ranaldo, Leon Somov, Farhan, Taba Chake, Mohit Chauhan, Kiss Nuka, Pt Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, Guy Buttery, Komorebi, MC Altaf, and more. This year, a dedicated stage for electronic music has been added. The Popi Sarmini Creative Space will host various community engagement initiatives and workshops.

Ruchira Jaitly, Executive VP and Portfolio Head, Marketing, Diageo India, said, "Signature Packaged Drinking Water stands for doing things consciously in our daily lives. As title sponsors of Ziro Festival, we aim to bring together Green Seekers who seek to be One with Nature and propagate the ethos of living consciously."

Anup Kutty, co-founder, Ziro Festival, emphasized the festival's commitment to sustainability, while Bobby Hano, co-founder and festival director, highlighted the boost for responsible tourism in the northeast.

Signature Packaged Drinking Water invites Green Seekers to reconnect with nature and make conscious choices for a better life.

Mindspace Business Parks REIT's net profit up 6.62% in Q1 FY24

NEW DELHI, Sept 2: Mindspace Business Parks REIT (Mindspace REIT) has reported a growth of 6.62 per cent in its net consolidated profit during the quarter ended June 30, 2023. Its profit after tax stood at ₹ 136.90 crore in Q1 FY24 as against ₹128.40 crore it registered in the cent from ₹ 485.20 crore it recorded in the similar quarter last year. Its net operating income (NOI) grew 13.8% year-on-year in Q1 FY24 and stood at ₹ 4,570 million. It recorded gross leasing of c. 0.4 million sq ft while the re-leasing spread stood at 10.1% on c. 0.3 million sq ft of area re-let. In-place rents increased by c. 5.9% year-on-year to ₹ 66.2 per sq ft per month. Average cost of borrowing at the end of Q1 FY24 stood at 7.7%.

"As the committed occupancy of

our portfolio has started getting converted into occupancy, its impact on NOI growth is visible in the 13.8%



year-on-year growth," said Vinod Rohira, CEO, K Raheja Corp Investment Managers.

The board of directors of K Raheja Corp Investment Managers, manager to Mindspace REIT approved distribution of 4.80 per unit aggregating to ₹ 2846 million, which

comprises dividend of ₹ 4.33 per unit aggregating to ₹ 2568 million, interest of ₹ 0.46 unit aggregating to ₹ 272 million and other income of ₹ 0.01 per unit aggregating to ₹ 6 million. The board also approved proposed acquisition of leaseable area admeasuring about 0.24 million sq ft from RPIL Signalling Systems (RPL) at Commerzone Porur Project, situated at Porur Village, Chennai together with the underlying 22% undivided right, title and interest in the land admeasuring approximately 22,425.13 sq metres for a consideration and other terms and conditions to be negotiated and finalised between the parties. Horizonview Properties, asset SPV of Mindspace REIT, is entitled to 78% of the Commerzone Porur Project, it said in the regulatory filing. (PTI)

Dr DY Patil Hospital hosts EMINDIA 2023

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Sept 2: Dr DY Patil Medical College, Hospital, and Research Centre in Pune recently hosted the 19th edition of EMINDIA 2023, a prestigious medical conference focused on emergency medicine. This annual mega-conference aimed to promote development, innovations, and the future of emergency medicine.

The event was organised in partnership with the WHO Collaborating Centre for Emergency and Trauma in South East Asia, The World Academic Council of Emergency Medicine (WACEM), All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Nagpur, and received patronage from the Academic College of Emergency Experts in India (ACEE), Emergency Medicine Association (EMA), and INDUSEM.

The 5-day conference began on August 23, 2023, with interactive workshops and training sessions for aspiring emergency medicine professionals. Distinguished personalities like Dr Sagar Galwankar, CEO of INDUSEM and president of ACEE, Dr Sanjeev Bhoi, assistant professor of Emergency Medicine at AIIMS, New Delhi, and Prof Dr Siddharth P Dubhashi, HoD of Surgery and Dean (Student Welfare) at

AIIMS Nagpur, were among the prominent figures present. The theme for EMINDIA 2023 was "Patient-Centered Education, Research, and Patient Care," highlighting the importance of patient-centric approaches in emergency medicine.

The academic conclave held on August 26 and 27, 2023, was inaugurated by Dr. P.D. Patil, Chancellor of Dr. D.Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, and Dr. Yashraj Patil, Trustee and Treasurer of Dr. D.Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, both from Pimpri, Pune. Eminent guests included Dr. Jonathan Jones, President of the American Academy of Emergency Medicine, and Dr. Liza Moreno-Walton, Immediate Past President of the American Academy of Emergency Medicine.

The two-day conclave featured experienced subject-matter experts who shared insights on the role of emergency medicine in various aspects of life. Prominent healthcare professionals from renowned institutions like AIIMS, ACEE, and the American Academy of Emergency Medicine (AAEM) conducted workshops and discussions on topics like "India, America, and the World of Emergency Medicine" and "Principles of Developing Academic Emergency Medicine in India."

Arzoo revolutionises retail industry aimed at empowering offline retail stores against giants Co-founder Rishi Raj Rathore

NEW DELHI, Sept 2: Long before big online players challenged offline retailers in the market, buying large appliances was a family affair rooted in personal touch and local shop expertise, recalls Rishi Raj Rathore, co-founder of B2B retail tech platform Arzoo.

The start-up, founded by ex-Flipkart alumni Khushnood Khan and Rathore in 2018, is aimed at empowering retailers in their battle against retail giants. With that as the goal, they set out to bridge the gap between tradition and innovation, and bring e-commerce convenience and technology to offline retail stores.

"Arzoo revolutionises the retail industry by offering retailers an unlimited inventory, empowering them with a strong digital presence, and providing them with fintech solutions to overcome financial obstacles," Rathore told PTI.

Arzoo has also successfully ventured into the commerce, fintech and consumer durable space with its newly-launched brand NU. The platform will soon announce an online e-commerce platform, which will be an online marketplace offering a unique shopping experience for electronics enthusiasts, he said. Amazon Web Services (AWS) stands out as the clear choice for its cloud infrastructure needs, Rathore said. Ease of deployment and management tools provided by AWS streamline the development process, empowering Arzoo to focus on innovation rather than grappling with intricate technical complexities, he added.

Excerpts from the interview:

Q: What are the key highlights in the journey of Arzoo as a retail tech start-up?

A: In smaller cities, buying large appliances was a family affair, rooted in personal touch and local shop expertise. Offline retailers faced challenges from big online players in the market. Our start-up Arzoo aimed to empower offline retailers, and revolutionise shopping experiences.

With determination, we embarked on our journey back in 2018 to build a bridge between tradition and innovation, ready to transform retail, one store at a time.

With Arzoo, we have been eliminating the limitations of scale, inventory and capital for the retail value chain, creating a system of profitability for over 50,000 retailers pan India.

Regarding expansion, Arzoo has successfully ventured into the commerce, fintech and consumer durable space with its newly launched brand NU.

Q: What are the major challenges faced by offline retailers today and how is Arzoo addressing these issues?

A: Drawing from their extensive industry experience in the consumer durable space, the founders of Arzoo identified key obstacles hindering the growth of offline retailers in this sector.

These deal breakers include online competition, evolving consumer behaviour, high operating costs for offline retailers, limited reach, inventory management, technological adaptation, omnichannel integration and limited access to financial solutions.

Offline retailers must embrace innovation, enhance customer experiences, optimise operations, and forge strategic partnerships to thrive in the dynamic re-



tail landscape. Arzoo has played a pivotal role by providing solutions for inventory stocking, delivery logistics, and payment options, empowering retailers to overcome these challenges and remain competitive with its holistic solutions.

Q: How has the company utilised the funds raised so far to expand its presence?

A: The funds have been used towards an extensive nationwide presence, robust partner network, strengthened brand-retailer connect, and enhanced retailer efficiency.

Arzoo has established a significant footprint across India, operating in tier-1, tier-2, and tier-3 cities, catering to a diverse range of customers.

It has developed a strong network of partner stores, facilitating seamless access to a vast inventory and ensuring efficient delivery and customer service. Arzoo has fostered strong connec-

tions between leading consumer durable brands and retailers, enabling retailers to expand their brand fleet and inventory, and offering a wide range of choices to consumers. Arzoo's fintech solutions empower retailers to optimise their operations, improve inventory management, and streamline their business processes, ultimately enhancing overall efficiency.

Q: What are the new initiatives planned by the company?

A: The company recently rolled out its financial solution for retailers - Arzoo Pro Finance. The salient features include consumer finance-based checkout solutions for high-value retail, exclusive bank offers from renowned institutions to customers. It facilitates easy access to all and can be downloaded on Google Play and the App Store.

The other product that we will be announcing soon will be an online e-commerce platform. It will be an online

marketplace that offers a unique shopping experience for electronics enthusiasts. The platform will offer a wide range of electronic gadgets and accessories, ranging from smartphones and laptops to headphones and cameras. It will have dedicated customer support to help customers with their queries.

Q: How does Arzoo differentiate itself from direct competitors in serving its clients?

A: Arzoo aims to empower retailers to compete against retail giants. They achieve this by offering retailers a vast range of consumer durables and electronic products at competitive prices.

In addition to providing access to a diverse inventory, Arzoo relieves retailers from the burden of tying up their working capital. Further, Arzoo facilitates retailers with access to credit at competitive rates and ensures speedy delivery through their express delivery services.

Some USPs that work as a win-win for us and the retailers are unlimited inventory, digital presence and financial solutions for retailers. In summary, Arzoo revolutionises the retail industry by offering retailers an unlimited inventory, empowering them with a strong digital presence, and providing them with fintech solutions to overcome financial obstacles.

Q: What is the digital/tech infra that powers your operations?

A: Without a doubt, Amazon Web Services (AWS) stands out as the clear choice for our cloud infrastructure needs. AWS emerges as the pre-eminent cloud provider, particularly when facilitating the transformation of start-ups from their initial stages of development to signifi-

cant growth and expansion. The platform's suite of services is thoughtfully designed with scalability in mind, addressing the demands of a rapidly evolving business landscape.

A key aspect that sets AWS apart is its unparalleled reliability, instilling confidence in our operations and minimising the risk of downtime. Moreover, the extensive and thriving AWS community offers an abundance of resources, fostering a collaborative environment and providing the necessary support for a seamless cloud experience, further solidifying AWS as the optimal solution.

The ease of deployment and management tools provided by AWS streamline our development process, empowering our team to focus on innovation rather than grappling with intricate technical complexities. Simultaneously, the robust security measures deployed by AWS ensure the utmost data protection and compliance, granting us and our customers peace of mind.

Q: How has cloud technology and AWS enabled you in your operations?

A: For any Go-To-Market (GTM) startups the key is if we are successful then scale is the next big thing and all this keeping cost in mind. When we scale, our operations need tech at speed and tech plays a major role in ensuring the right platform is made available.

As a growing company, we will always have new opportunities to explore. For example, it is prudent for Arzoo to build a lending platform to help our retailers compete with muscle players and using AWS services like textract made things easier and build this platform. (PTI)

Minimum wage in tea gardens in scientific manner and in accordance with the International Labour Standards

State level multi stakeholder consultation on adequate wages of tea workers held

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Sept 2: A state level multi stakeholder consultation on setting of adequate wages for the tea plantation workers in the state of Assam was organised jointly by Labour Department, Assam and ILO, New Delhi on Saturday under the chairpersonship of the principal secretary labour & welfare and in the presence of the labour commissioner, at Administrative Staff College, Guwahati.

The meeting was graced by the presence of two eminent resource persons from the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Anoop Satpathy, wage specialist, ILO and Ranjit Prakash, National project coordinator, setting adequate wages (SAW) Project, ILO.

The principal secretary welcomed the representatives from the government, representatives from Tea Garden Management Associations, Tea Garden Unions and other experts. He highlighted the commitment of the government to fix the minimum wage in tea gardens in scientific manner and in accordance with the International Labour Standards.

He welcomed ILO's collaboration and technical support in fixing the adequate wages across the state in timely manner.

ILO officials highlighted the commitment and proactive approach of the Assam Government in ensuring adequate wage to the



workers. Prakash, the national coordinator, emphasised that Assam is the first state in the country to move forward to fix the minimum wage adequately in scientific manner and through social dialogue as per the ILO's labour standard, which will become a model state for many states of the country as well as some parts of the world.

such wages through dialogue as facilitated by ILO. The parties agreed to proceed with the collaboration of government of Assam and ILO as per the blueprint presented by the ILO.

The state level consultation was preceded by the Minimum Wages Advisory Committee, held under the chairpersonship of the Labour commissioner, Assam, on 31/08/2023 at Shram Bhawan, Ulubari, Guwahati, where the representatives from ILO were also present. The roadmap along with methodology of "setting adequate wages" for the scheduled employment was discussed in details by the representatives of the workers, employers and the subject matter experts, as members of the Committee. ILO presented the preparatory activities on moving towards evidence based wage setting in the state and all the members appreciated the progress so far. It was agreed that this subject being highly technical requires several rounds of consultations before announcement of the adequate minimum wage but should be completed in the timely manner as agreed earliest by the committee.

This committee also agreed with the Labour department's proposal to widen the scope of coverage of workers by including domestic workers under the Minimum Wage Board, which was appreciated by all and agreed to proceed with.

Thieves having a field day in Sivasagar

HT Correspondent
SIVASAGAR, Sept 2: Numerous incidents of daring theft have left Sivasagar police in a fix while leaving the residents with an increasing sense of insecurity.

The thieves adopted diverse methods in carrying out their operations during night hours. Thieves entered the apparently secure campus of a multi-story building and carried away all the valuables, three phones, jewelry worth ₹ 2 lakh, and cash ₹ 50 thousand from the rented house of a retired ONGC Officer Pinaky Das Gupta by spraying chemicals and sending the owner, his wife, and their son to sleep late into the morning. The thieves entered through a window and decamped safely through the main door in the wee hours of August 31.

The scooter of a senior reporter Manoj Gogoi was stolen in broad daylight by thieves recently from the Veranda of his residence in Bishnupur, the broken parts of which were recovered from a scrap dealer's dump in the town.

One of the thieves was nabbed by the local people when he tried to enter a campus the next day and was handed over to the police. The main accused Mobin Ali is absconding. Two bullet motorbikes were lifted by the thieves recently, one from near the Peoli Phuman Stadium and another from near the Pohugarh on August 27.

Two minor boys stole the money from a 'dan patra' of a temple in ASTC point on the midnight of August 31 which was clearly visible in the CCTV camera installed nearby. The police are in search of the boys. The gang of minor boys and girls that spend the daytime begging near Sivadol, set out on their nocturnal expeditions in different areas with the help of the elder members of the gangs of thieves.

Motivational speech on secret of success held

HT Correspondent
BISWANATH CHARIALI, Sept 2: The IQAC of Biswanath College organised a motivational speech on 'Secret of Success' in collaboration with Brahmakumari Iswariya Viswabidyalay' Biswanath branch on Saturday.

Rajyogi BK Rupesh from Mount Abu, Rajasthan graced the event as resource person. The event was presided by Dr Chinta Mani Sharma, principal of the college and compered by Dr Naresh Thakur, coordinator of IQAC.

Rajyogi BK Rupesh Bhai kept the gathering of more than 300 students and teachers of the college spell bound by citing examples of successful persons and the steps to be adopted for gaining success in his systematic and valuable speech.

Deopani College welcomes freshers

HT Correspondent
BOKAJAN, Sept 2: Deopani College, Santipur, Karbi Anglong held its 14th Fresher's Social in its college premises. The programme is for the 1st Semester degree students.

On the occasion, the founder of the college late Borsing Rongpi is remembered. College students presented songs and dances.

Attending the function 24 Deopani Member of Autonomous Council, Shraban Kumar Telenga said that the College has educated the youths of Bokajan Sub-Division and in the future, it is going to be better. Head Master of Barpathar High School, Raju Adhikari; Principal of the College, Boson Rongphar; and others.

DIG Hanuman Singh Rawat gets promotion

HT Correspondent
BOKAJAN, Sept 2: The DIG, CRPF Group Centre, Khatkhati, Hanuman Singh Rawat has been promoted to IGP and transferred. IGP Rawat has been transferred to the office of the Directorate General, CRPF, New Delhi and will take charge of the Inspector General (Establishment) Directorate. The new DIG of Group Centre, CRPF, Khatkhati, Karbi Anglong is Anil Bisht.



Asom Jatiyatabadi Yuba Parishad (AJYP) staging sit-in demonstration against unregulated electricity charges, construction of big dams and government job scandal in Lakhimpur. UB Photos

Minor girl raped in Margherita

HT Correspondent
MARGHERITA, Sept 2: On the holy Rakshabandhan day a 6-year old minor girl was raped by her neighbour, located at Agbondha siding Dhubi gaon under 124 number Margherita Constituency of Tinsukia. The instance has created turmoil at this area.

According to the victim family members their minor daughter at 1:00 pm went to play at Maryus Ekka house as both are neighbours and by taking this advantage Maryus Ekka raped her inside his room.

Maryus Ekka aged 28 years is the son of Late Tarish Ekka.

After the incident occurred the victim went to her house and narrated the whole incident to her parents which all the villagers went to Maryus Ekka and beat him black and white by tying at a tree.

Margherita police rushed to the site and apprehended Maryus Ekka from the incident place and brought to Margherita police station.

A case have been registered at Margherita police station with case number 193/23 US 376/A/B, R/W section 6 of POCSO Act.

Erratic power supply irks people in Sivasagar



HT Correspondent
SIVASAGAR, Sept 2: At a time when the temperature is still around 35 degrees celsius, erratic power supply by the APDCL has irked the consumers of Sivasagar. Many social and student organi-

sations have taken to the streets to protest the failure of the APDCL to supply the power regularly. AASU carried out demonstrations in front of the ADCL officers in Sivasagar, Demow, Amguri, etc. places on Thursday.

Sivasagar MLA Akhil Gogoi on Saturday lambasted the BJP government for not respecting their own pre-election commitment of supplying 24-hour power to every household. He said that he, being the chairman of the APDCL Board of the district, has found it difficult to meet the shortage of around 6 MW power supply in Sivasagar Division as the government supply has dropped to 8 MW from the committed amount of 12.5 MW. The BJP government has no money to procure the state's requirement of 2400 MW of power every day from the Central grid.

Hours of load shedding, especially during the night hours have affected the consumers, the students, and the entrepreneurs badly. The electronic gadgets have been damaged due to erratic power supply. The MLA demanded urgent steps by the government to restore the uncut power supply as it is a government responsibility.

AAP opposes Palm tree cultivation in the state

HT Correspondent
SIVASAGAR, Sept 2: The Aam Admi Party has expressed concern over the BJP-led government's decision to extend palm oil tree plantations in the state.

In a release given to this correspondent recently by Satya Pratim Gayan of the media cell, stated that the state coordinator of the party Dr Bhaben Chowdhury has pointed out that the world's largest producer of palm oil Malaysia and some European countries have stopped their cultivation due to environmental affect. It stated that a palm tree requires over 300 liters of water a day and soon the entire area becomes dry. It would be highly detrimental to Assam's environment if the state government patronized palm oil tree cultivation in the state. Signed by Jayanta Kumar Kalita, state media coordinator, the release further alleged that Assam receives step-motherly treatment from the BJP-led Central



government and hence dumps these projects in the NE. The Central government has launched the project in over 17 districts in the

country including Sadia and the state government is still silent over the allegations that it is harmful to our environment.

Aaranyak celebrates International Primates Day

An audio-visual lecture was delivered on primates in NE India with special focus on Hoolock Gibbon

HT Correspondent
GUWAHATI, Sept 2: Biodiversity conservation organisation Aaranyak with objective to highlight importance of primate species in our ecology, facilitated several collaborative awareness programmes in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh on the occasion of International Primates Day.

Aaranyak in collaboration with the Government Upper Primary School, Tafragram in Lohit district Arunachal Pradesh celebrated International Primates Day, thanks to the initiative of the school head teacher. The celebration was marked by screening of short films on primates besides an audio-visual lectures on primates in NE India with special focus on Hoolock Gibbon.

There was also an interaction with students. The programme ended with distribution of educational materials i.e. books, posters on Gibbon conservation. Aaranyak's resource Mridupaban Phukan and Akshay Upadhyaya played a key role in successful conduct of the programme.



department and followed by audio-visual lecture on primates of Northeast. There was also interaction with students on the issues of primate conservation in Assam. The resource person of the events were Dr

Rekha Chetry, associate Professor and Nanda Devi Associate professor of department of Zoology. Western Assam Zone of Aaranyak in collaboration with Aie Valley Forest division, Bongaigaon

district and department of Botany of Abhayapuri College celebrated International Primate Day in Hapachara Madhya & High School of Bongaigaon district.

The programme started with a drawing competition among the students of class six to ten in two categories. An awareness meeting was held where the head teacher of the school Ramen Chandra Barman presided over.

Dharam Ranjan Roy, a member of Aaranyak delivered a brief lecture with reference to the significance of the International Primate Day. Dr Ashoke Kumar Das, the coordinator of Aaranyak West Zone has elaborated about the present day non-human primate family with special reference to the primate species available in Assam.

As the school is located near the Kakoijana Reserve forest, the habitat of the critically endangered Golden langur, he appealed to the students and teachers to play an active role in the conservation of Golden langur and their habitats.

On behalf of the Botany department of Abhayapuri College, Dr Subrata Sarkar spoke about the role of primate and other animals in the forest environment and the need for their conservation.

NAME CHANGE

I, ALIM UDDIN declare that I have changed my name from MOHAMMAD ALIM UDDIN S/O HAMED ALI to ALIM UDDIN before the Magistrate at Morigaon.
 ALIM UDDIN S/O : HAMED ALI VILL:KARSUABORI PO:JHARGAON PS :Jagiroad, Morigaon

Sharp rise in rape cases

By: Farheen Wani

Girls are pearls, ladies are rubies, mothers are moulders, and women are wonderful." - Ifeanyi Enoch Onuoha

The girl kid is a forerunner of today's happiness and success, but she is also delicate and prone to injury like a flower. They need to be properly fostered while being protected from malice and abuse. They are mothers who will raise the future generation, as well as a vital component in the development of tomorrow.

The entire scenario again raises some important issues. Do we not impart societal awareness of good and wrong to our citizens? Do our boys develop into young princes who don't learn to respect women and treat them as equal human beings deserving of respect and consideration rather than as chattel and sex objects?

People need to have a completely new perspective on female children. A girl who experiences sexual exploitation or sexual abuse of a physical or mental kind throughout infancy grows up in terror and eventually develops permanent scars. She endures terrible suffering not just at the hands of the offenders but also as a result of society's uncaring attitude. Until we grasp this and pass it on to the following generation.

Female children's human rights are infringed in practice, even when they are protected on paper. We must put a stop to the damage and offenses linked with immoral trafficking, which has evolved into an organized criminal. Rape cases in India are increasing year after year, and it has recently been determined that rape against children is also on the rise.

During the previous few months, there has been a troubling trend in criminality cases involving children and women. Offenses are being reported on social media, which is increasing public worry. Surprisingly, many child abusers are family members, teachers, or neighbors.

The humbleness that survived back then had a divine glare within that diverged every spirit and originated the elegance. How come we overlook that it is likewise hailed 'Pir Vaer'-a valley of Pirs (or saints)? The vision of Sufism that is currently amused globally retained its

heritage in our valley.

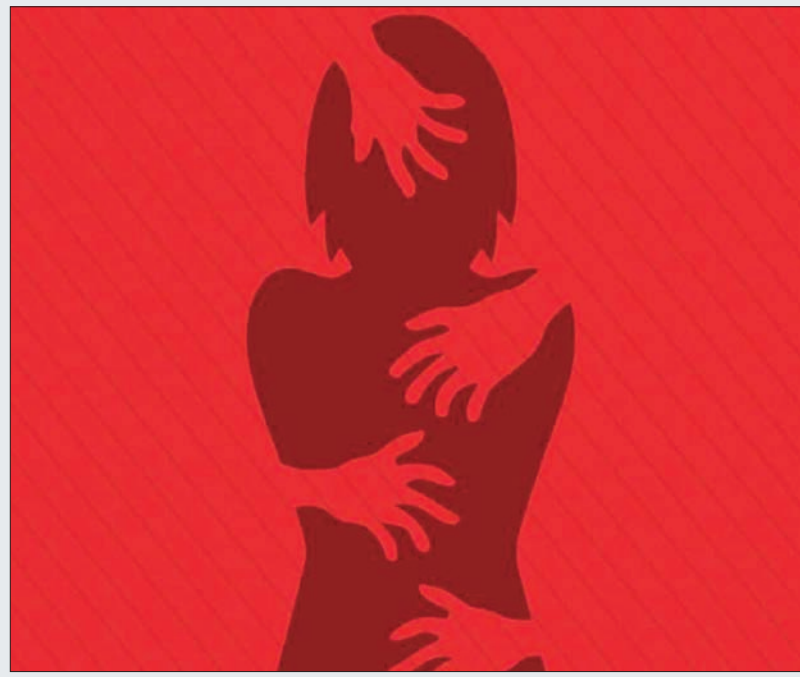
If we look at our current strategy, all we find is drug addiction, scams, corruption, rebellion, robbery, molestations, humility, vulgarity, and so on. We have lost sight of the essence of Kashmiriyat, which is to be natural, sensitive, and compassionate. Marriages no longer endure forever, divorce is widespread, and extravagant weddings are the norm. Drug addiction and molestation, as well as rape, are at the top of the list.

There are many causes to all of this, including unemployment, failures, and abuses, but one can never justify dealing with the harsh side of life with lethal methods. Life isn't supposed to be a comfortable bed, therefore when we hit rock bottom, we should pick ourselves up with practical measures. We are more preoccupied with gathering than with.

Although the literacy rate is improving, significant scams and degeneration are already prevalent. The more familiar the public is, the more likely they are to commit misconduct. Well, I'm not generalizing the fortes, but in many situations, we see damage caused by people in awning positions. We overlook incorrectly used equipment as a result of technology. What was created to make people's life easier is now used to justify why they are trapped in harsh conditions. The mobile phone is an asset, but the overuse of mobile phones by children and teens is having an uncontrollable effect. More appropriately, the right use of mobile phones at the right time in the right proportion is what it was meant to be. Meanwhile, the non-finishing queue of social media is so extensive that children hardly find focus when left without it.

Molestations and rapes have also become more common, and that is a worrisome indicator for where we are heading. Many times, I realize I'm watching a TV serial crime patrol, and I receive a sensation that we are about catching another episode where cases of rape are leading to a new plot.

Crimes that include rape of juveniles, participation by youngsters in stabbings as well as additional crimes, violence against women, harassment, eve teasing, and even murders Kathua Rape Case', that involves an eight-year-old girl was brutally gang-raped by eight different



adults at a Kathua temple. She was allegedly assaulted and held hostage in the temple for days. Rape is a heinous crime, and its effect of ravishment not only physically but also psychologically damages the victim. Ravishment may be committed for an array of intentions, including lust, enmity, anger, revenge, and more.

But what is the psychology of the individual committing rape extremely when he commits rape on minors? A 46-year-old man for allegedly raping his 15-year-old relative in Srinagar. A man raped a minor girl in Srinagar. The accused has been identified as a 22-year-old. The accused is a close relative of the victim.

An Imaan has been arrested for committing unnatural sex offenses with a nine year old child. Rapists commit rape on minor girls, preferably those they know, because they have convenient access to such girls, such minor girls have trust in such people they know, and such family members would not doubt and leave the minor girl alone with such person known to them, minor girls would not resist or would not resist as strongly as a major would, minor girls would not be aware she had been raped, it is easy to threaten or manipulate such minor girls and some-

times the family members would also not prefer filing a complaint of rape of a minor girl by a known person or by a relative due to the fear of losing their social status in the society. The psychology of the criminal in raping a minor girl is that he can show power to her with fewer efforts and the chances of his exposure would be less.

In case of the preventative measures approach, preventive measures such as educating minors about good and bad touch; encouraging minors' confidence to inform them if any incident of sexual assault occurs to them; increasing public awareness about rape on minors and the severity of the punishment for such crimes to create a deterrent effect among people;

The survey should be made as to in which areas, whether rural or urban, the crime of rape on minors is more prominent and to target the awareness programs appropriately towards those areas; to avoid the minors wandering alone in the streets, especially at night and to always accompany the minor girls when they go out; the parents of the minors should always keep a check on the behavior of their neighbors or the relatives towards

their child and if they have any suspicion then they should talk directly to that person regarding it and should also warn their child and such other measures should be taken to prevent the crime of rape on minors.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines child abuse as the involvement of a child in sexual activity that they do not fully comprehend, are unable to give informed consent to, are not developmentally prepared for and cannot consent to, or that violates the laws or social taboos of society CSA is demonstrated by such activity between a child and an adult or another child who, due to age or development, is in a position of responsibility, trust, or control over the child. The conduct is intended to gratify or satisfy the perpetrator's wants.

Child sexual abuse is classified into two types: (a) physical contact and (b) non-physical contact. Touching, grabbing, compelled sexual activity, attempted coercion, and rape are all examples of physical contact. Showing adolescents pornography, encouraging them to pose naked, sharing nude images, online abuse, and making nasty remarks are all examples of non-physical interaction.

Warning Signs

"If a youngster is abused, you will observe changes in emotion and behavior." "The child may appear terrified, anxious, or depressed." They may become quieter or more distant, cry for no apparent reason, or wet the bed despite being previously toilet trained."

Irritability, nightmares, losing interest in playing and avoiding specific places or individuals are further warning signals. There could be an abrupt weight loss or gain, or a drop in academic performance." Nude photographs, online abuse, and making crude remarks are all examples of inappropriate behavior.

Good & bad touch

"Among the many ways to inform a child against sexual abuse and bad touch, the initial phase is to help them get acquainted with their body parts and biological names." They would have acquired greater skills in communicating their experiences with their parents or trusted guardians if they had done so. We need to teach kids that they own their bodies and that no one is authorized to touch them.

This permits them to keep their body parts private. This would teach kids that certain areas of their body should not be seen, handled, or photographed by others.

When you start talking to children about their bodies from an early age, helping them learn the names of their private and non-private parts, they find it easier to have an open and candid conversation regarding anything or anyone that may be trying to cross their physical boundaries. Discussing body anatomies or processes during bath time may be a good way to help children learn.

As a parent or guardian, we must make sure that your child is not keeping any secrets from you. Try and be your child's best friend as a parent, and let them know that you will protect them at any cost and that they can have total confidence in you while discussing their issues. In most cases, children fear that their parents might not believe them in incidents of sexual abuse, which is why they fail to express their problems and become silent victims of years of abuse.

For example, getting treated by a doctor, or being examined by a parent in terms of their health. Teach a child how to react and what to say when a stranger or even a close relative suggests or performs sexually or abusively towards them. They should be taught to scream 'NO' or run away to a safe person immediately in such cases. Children should be able to ask for help and should be listened to in such cases.

Lastly, to save your child and yourself from the pain and woes of child sexual abuse, please observe them around other people or adults. The danger posed by strangers isn't the only thing your child should be alert against. Sometimes, the worst predators can be the ones you trust the most and are in close relation to you and your child. If a child does not want to meet or hug a certain person, don't force them. Let them take control of their personal space and let them trust you in their difficult times.

These are some ways to get you and your child on the right track regarding sexual and physical safety and create a healthier environment for your child to grow up in. (The writer is a journalist and can be reached at farheenwani47@gmail.com)

Global climate crisis demands immediate collaborative action

By: Dipak Kurmi

The planet has recently been sending out distress signals that can no longer be ignored. The term "climate emergency" has evolved from a mere catchphrase into an undeniable and urgent reality. We stand at a critical juncture in the global community, where the decisions we make today will shape the fate of future generations.

In the face of the undeniable climate emergency, a new and troubling adversary has surfaced: climate disinformation. With higher stakes than ever before, the role of climate scientists not only remains pivotal but also serves as a guiding light amidst the overwhelming tide of misinformation.

Collaborative action for a sustainable future

In light of the pressing climate crisis, the escalation of global temperatures presents a concerning issue. Previously rare heatwaves are now occurring with increased frequency and greater intensity. Simultaneously, the melting of glaciers is leading to rising sea levels, posing a threat to coastal communities. The sharp rise in the occurrence and severity of hurricanes, floods, and wildfires serves as poignant reminders of the urgency we must address.

A recent Twitter post from Collin McCarthy highlights the emergence of a notably powerful marine heatwave along the western coast of the United States. Ocean temperatures in this area have spiked significantly, deviating by nearly 5 degrees Celsius from the usual baseline. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has officially categorized this event as a Category 4 marine heatwave, underscoring its classification as an exceptionally severe occurrence within this schema.

The core of this crisis revolves around the undeniable consequences of human actions, particularly the burning of fossil fuels that release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. This harmful process sets off the well-known greenhouse effect, exacerbating global warming. Adding to the challenge is deforestation, which eliminates the crucial carbon dioxide-absorbing role of forests. To address these threats, a fundamental transition toward sustainable energy sources and environmentally friendly practices is no longer optional; it is an absolute necessity.

Beyond the evident environmental consequences, the climate emergency presents an existential menace to biodiversity and ecosys-



tems. Coral reefs, the dynamic underwater ecosystems that support marine life, carry the sorrowful marks of bleaching caused by increasing water temperatures. These repercussions reverberate across ecosystems as vulnerable species struggle to adapt to rapidly changing conditions, unsettling established food chains and disturbing the intricate balance of nature's intricate web.

Amid these challenges, the importance of international cooperation becomes a pivotal factor in addressing the climate emergency. The historic Paris Agreement serves as evidence of global unity in the effort to combat the increasingly severe consequences of global warming. However, the effectiveness of these commitments depends on transforming words into concrete actions. Nations, industries, and individuals must unite to reduce emissions, accelerate efforts in renewable energy initiatives, and pioneer innovative solutions for a sustainable future.

While the call for systemic change is unmistakable, individual contributions are equally crucial. Whether it's rejecting single-use plastics, adopting public transportation, or embracing energy-efficient behaviors, the combined effect of these choices is profound. These deliberate decisions resonate and push industries and policymakers to realign their priorities in support of environmental preservation.

As we grapple with the intricate challenge of the climate crisis, the call for action grows increasingly pressing. It resembles a compelling plea for people from all walks of life to collaborate in forging a collective narrative of resilience and renewal. The present moment holds exceptional significance, and charting a sustainable and enduring path forward hinges not only on influential individuals and large corporations but also on the choices made by each one of us. Our deci-

sions are progressing at a swifter pace than initially anticipated. Perhaps it should occupy headline news, but regrettably, it remains a topic that many are reluctant to engage with.

Climate scientists confront a formidable mission that extends beyond grappling with the scientific complexities of Earth's climate system. They also confront the formidable challenge of combating disinformation. This dual role underscores their unwavering commitment to both the pursuit of knowledge and the obligation to convey their findings accurately to the public. The ability to translate intricate scientific discoveries into easily comprehensible language is a skill that climate scientists are progressively refining. Effective communication serves as a vital link between scientific insights and public comprehension. By actively participating in public discourse and sharing their expertise, scientists can effectively counter misinformation and empower individuals to make informed decisions.

A call to action

The climate emergency is not some distant looming threat—it's a present reality with tangible impacts already affecting us. The window for taking effective action is rapidly closing, and the need for immediate action cannot be overstated. It's a clarion call to reinvent our relationship with the Earth, embracing sustainable practices that protect our environment and secure a viable future for all. Delay is not an option; tomorrow may be too late. In confronting the climate emergency, it's imperative to distinguish fact from fiction. Climate scientists, motivated by a devotion to truth and a dedication to our planet's well-being, illuminate the way forward. By valuing their expertise and collectively rejecting misinformation, we can take substantial steps toward a more sustainable future—one that we owe not only to ourselves but also to future generations and the delicate ecosystems we coexist with.

To protect our planet, we must unite in a determined effort to confront the climate emergency directly. At the core of this endeavor lies the imperative of restoring trust in science and the scientific method. A pivotal step in this direction is offering support and a receptive ear to climate scientists, whose research undergoes meticulous peer review. By doing so, we can dispel misinformation and navigate our way toward practical and effective solutions. (The writer can be reached at dipaknewslive@gmail.com)

Children and the drug menace in Kerala

By: M. R. Lulu

Nivin Pauly starrer "Action Hero Biju" was a born-chilling scene in the movie still gives me nightmarish images of a young drug-addict boy who attacks his mother for money to satiate his demand for drugs and the heartbreaking narration of the mother to the police. The movie outrightly raised concerns about the drug menace that the state of Kerala was reeling under and tried to caution the viewers.

Igniting vigilance was the primary objective of this scene in the movie but the situation in Kerala, in real sense, is more frightening than the depiction in the movie. Heart-wrenching incidents of drug related violence with the involvement of young children would give us goose bumps of horror. Kerala has been facing a surge in drug abuse among students and youngsters recently. Not so long ago a middle aged couple killed their own son for his violence at home under the influence of drugs and alcohol in Thiruvananthapuram. How gruesome the way their son was murdered would tell us the quantum of pain the behavior of their child might have inflicted on them. They threw acid on his face and attacked him with an iron rod. The parents of the deceased were so tired of their son's violence that he used to attack them every day after taking drugs.

Kerala has become a haven for drug peddlers and drug addicts. According to a survey conducted by the Kerala Police, 40 percent of the victims of substance abuse are from children below the age of 18. The frightening aspect of the data is that the majority of them are girls. They, once trapped in the net of substance users, become carriers in the next step. Alarmingly, as the trend was picking up speed in the beginning, most of the cases were reported from colleges. But now more cases are reported from schools with girl children becoming victims. The police admit the fact that women drug carriers are active in every area to lure girl children and in many cases boys are easily putting their girlfriends in the nasty drug circle. The quantum of horror does not stop with one or two incidents.

According to counselors working for Child Protection Units, they have seized drug packets on the desks, benches

and inside school bags on their visit to schools. Cases of sexual exploitation in schools have also been reported. Boyfriends, after introducing girls to drugs, exploit them sexually.

In a gruesome incident, a 9 year old boy had been subjected to torture by his alleged 'drug addict' parents. The child suffered bruises all over his body and was later admitted to a hospital in Idukki. The boy, who initially refused to reveal the brutality of his parents, had later disclosed the truth.

As the narcotics cases swelled across the state, the Left government launched a one-month-long 'No-to-Drugs' awareness campaign with the Chief Minister inaugurating it. But the campaign could not cut back the surge of the menace. The fact is that Malayalis do not get shocked by the surging number of drug cases as the situation has become a terrible reality for the state and part of its normal behaviour. The Chief Minister of the state came up with a startling revelation in the Assembly on 31 August 2022 that 16,128 drug abuse related cases had been registered in Kerala during 2022 until August.

At present, children whose lives are shattered by the drug addiction in the state go for several thousands. The real problem is far more fundamental than planted narratives. Occasional blame games by the political parties and their diplomatic silence reveal their hypocrisy and lack of commitment in curbing the threat.

According to the government sources, the manufacturing hub of synthetic drugs in Kerala remains elusive while ganja is cultivated in its forests. The grim picture of the state is not only shocking but it's appallingly dangerous. The story of the son of a police officer, who became a drug addict and got killed in Thiruvananthapuram revealed the real menace. This should not be seen as an isolated case. There are many such cases in which the children of police officers are trapped and turned into drug addicts.

Indicating the lapses in coastal security during the UPA regimes, the Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the Indian Navy and Coast Guard seized drugs worth ₹12000 crore off the Kerala coast recently in one instance. He was chest-thumping for the efficiency and vigilance of the

forces under the present government along the state's long coastal border. Though Shah's swipe was at the UPA regimes for their lapses that had led to the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack, his entire statement was a senseless pomposity as this achievement of the present government did not deserve any jubilation.

While the government manages to grab a huge cache of drugs, there are elements that smuggle drugs across the state borders in small quantities. Who should be held accountable for this appalling situation? Politicians would often pass the baton of responsibility to their opponents and blame each other. But everybody, from the parents to teachers to society to the people in the administration should be held accountable for this. A constellation of factors is at play behind the alarming surge of drug abuses and related crimes among the children. Teachers are often too busy with academics and parents, if they are service holders, get limited time to spend with their children. Lack of adequate parental counseling from the side of teachers and elders in the society could be another reason. It could also be due to an absence of dependable people at homes.

A large number of parents, especially the male members from the families are working outside the state. In many cases, you will find parents working outside the country as well. Maximum of such families, with their male members outside and the children left with their mothers and grandparents grow under feeble circumstances. This makes such families the most vulnerable as the elders in the families fail to trace and control their children's waywardness.

As per the official data of the state police, there is a huge jump in the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) cases registered in the state along with an increased quantity of synthetic drugs like MDMA, brown sugar, hashish and other materials being seized. As Onam festivities make life in the state more colorful with courtyards being decorated with flowers and festive gatherings, a question frequently heard is too distressing. Has the Kerala society decided to allow evil to flourish and live with it? Undoubtedly, the situation is really complex, ugly and awful. (The author is a freelance journalist)

American Diary: Break the ice, not through ragging

By: Dr. Ratan Bhattacharjee

“Break the ice not through ragging”. I saw no such billboard in the Virginia Commonwealth University where I am doing my assignments as Affiliate Faculty. I met all the top persons in Administration including the Honourable Provost, Dean Humanities, Director Global Education Services or Dean Grad. I met the group of Young new faculty in the Orientation Program. No one is really bothered about the nonsense of ragging here. All are busy with project preparation and the semester syllabus, lectures and talk. Online and offline all are busy in the campus, in the library, in the classroom everywhere. In fact it seems to me that ‘Ragging’ is almost an unknown word in the Campus of this university which is one of the top ranking national universities. Two students one from Pakistan and one from Bangladesh asked me why the Jadavpur student died. I told it was because of ragging. They were surprised, “Sir can a student be killed for ragging? I felt shy and embarrassed.”

What extent can ragging go to in the campus? It is not always physical but mental also. Providing psychological harm or raising the fear of apprehension is always coined as ragging. In India most of the time, ragging is done in the institutions either to show power as superior over the fresher's or just an act of sadistic pleasures. In either way, it is the juniors that suffer. I was disturbed after reading the news of ragging in Jadavpur University and so when the Provost Office

invited me to attend the Grad Fest, my mind was fixed on the issue of ragging. The freshers will start coming to the Library Conference hall from 11 am and the time is fixed. It must round up by 2 pm. Today I woke up early for attending the Grad Fest On reaching there. I saw the wonderful get together for the Freshers Grad students, scholars, researchers all meet and enjoy in the James Branch Cabell Library conference room especially meant for any short gathering. Enough amusement material was there but not the blaring microphone and songs at the loudest scale. No mad dances. Girls and boys were sitting and walking in the hall silently discussing softly and the various stalls organized from different departments of the University were giving free gifts to each participants. Even the Police of VCU gave a stall. Police here is at every moment at your beck and call. Their alertness is noticeable.

Even if you are trapped in a locked room police and fire service people come immediately to rescue the victims. They are friendly to the students and not controlled by the political leaders in the campus. In fact there is no sign of politics, slogan poster or any banner from the political parties. No Political person is invited. All academic minded and renowned persons from Research field are invited to the University events. Food is served free and students can enjoy all in a relaxed mood. Time is fixed for Freshers. This year Grad Fest was from 11 am to 2 pm. After that no one is there. The tables and chairs were all cleaned. All these things are unthinkable in

Indian institutions after any event. Even in Grad Fest the stall were providing good advices and directives for the first semester students as to their well being, health consciousness, and accommodation especially project preparation. Students too were discussing serious issues related to the semester and many came to take good selfies with me. Even the Police VCU invited me to stand in the middle and take a photograph jokingly said, “Hi Sir you are doubly protected.” Grad Fest raised the issue of ragging and I was stunned to hear many don't ever know it happening on the campus. First thing that I noticed is that there is no politics I met Dr. Manu Gupta Dean Grad School in a good mood.

While I was framed in a picture with him, I asked him if there is any ragging in the campus, he simply laughed out and told me that there is no such thing at all to happen and for the last ten years there happened no such thing in the university hall or the campus residency. There is no political leader invited in the Grad Fest. It is all academic that was happening and discussed. Only in the morning I read an article in Times of India recently that discussed the issue of international students being ragged at foreign universities. I was surprised that no such thing happened here in real where I have been doing my assignment for months. Stern action will be taken if any such thing at all happened, said Dr. Jill Blondin the Director of Global Education Services where I got her in a super excited mood. She wanted to know about ragging in Indian Universities.



As I am from Kolkata she asked me what happened in one university in my city. I felt awkward and uncomfortable and evaded the question by saying I am not fully aware as I have been abroad for months in the Virginia Commonwealth University. She did not extend the matter. Ragging is not their cup of tea. Probably this is why the academic milieu is so peaceful in Virginia though many Indian newspapers made a huge cry over gunman in Virginia University campus. This is not related to the student and teacher relations.

The time that I spend here as Affiliate Faculty I have got the opportunity to talk to the learners here who are from all parts of the globe. They work amicably with one another and ragging or political madness are just unknown things for them. Silence is self imposed and courteous behaviour with a smiling face each time uttering a cordial ‘Hi’ makes the relations sweeter.

When I think of the ragging in Jadavpur one of the premier institutions of Bengal nay India or

when I hear that wine bottles and drugs are flooding the academic campus of Presidency or Jadavpur universities I feel sad. For development of academics no ragging no politics are needed. Students in American universities whom I meet everyday here are no less smart than their counterparts in India. Why should ragging be done to make the freshers smart?

Ragging is basically humiliating and it means the uncountable possible ways to humiliate a fresher in the academic institution. It is a craze for satisfaction of the sadistic pleasure by some inhuman mindless seniors. It is illegal everywhere and deserves serious punishment. Some ways of ragging done in the college and universities hostels include the following actions. One is dressing the freshman in embarrassing outfits with makeup like clowns, babies, etc. for whole day or night or even for many days.

A fresher is forced to eat a meal without using their hands, especially one that's considered

“gross” (baby food, edible insects, or mixtures of foods like ketchup and chocolate milk. Another way of torture is to make the freshmen compelled to sing funny songs or read a script in the middle of a busy courtyard. The freshers who never even smoked or took any drug or wine are served strong alcoholic beverages to induce intoxication. Sometimes the seniors go down so low to make the freshers ask to pose for naked photo clicks or take collect signatures from the opposite sex near their private parts. They revel in gay and lesbian sex and the freshers are forced to dance in public. Many freshers come from poorer section and they too are forced to give treats to them and inhuman tortures are meted out if they fail. In the biting cold of December they are forced to stand naked in the bathtub filled with icy water. For comic appearance they put lipstick or makeup on men's face. I know from one incident that happened in our neighborhood that some private institutions in the South India admit students taking huge fees and then after admission the students are ragged fiercely by some local hooligans who are involved in plotting with administration and a section of the seniors. Then the newly admitted is forced to leave the seat in fear. The same seat left vacant is sold to another new student and the vicious circle continues as long as it is possible for them.

Many freshers stop going to classes in fear of being ragged and bunking or skipping classes begins. This is one way to save oneself from humiliation in front of all the new classmate boys and

girls who will be the future friends. Thus the freshers miss a lot by not going to university on the first days. To acquire the help of a friend is difficult for two reasons. First they are scared to go against the vicious nexus of administration, police, Student Union leaders given protection by political parties and a section of the seniors. Secondly, the seniors who earlier suffered in their subconscious mind feel that the juniors should go through the same trauma and the ordeal is allowed to continue. No real help comes from the meek and jealous seniors. So who is there to go and then tell outside all about what happened.

Ragging is unethical for sure but not always illegal in India is illegal and so is in 41 states of United States of America. However, some countries and states still don't have any law on it. It also depends on the university. Some universities have strict rules on ragging and take serious actions against those who do it. Some don't care and in some universities Ragging is not allowed but they don't have any strictness on it and let students enjoy. But from my practical experience in the Virginia Commonwealth University I can say that here students do not have much time for all these nonsense. From the day one in Semester they are all busy preparing their lessons and projects. One student who came from Brazil said the most important thing: “East or West, ragging free zone is the best.” (The author at present is in Virginia Commonwealth University as Affiliate Faculty in English and a senior Columnist. He may be reached at bhattacharj@vcu.edu)

What are we living in this rush of life?

By: Privanka Saurabh

In today's turbulent times, peace is essential. Yesterday's noise of factories, noise of means of transport, and emergency of life are giving rise to external and internal disturbance today. Due to this stress, depression is born. People have started feeling the lack of greenery and serene natural scenes of nature. People away from the cities have started preferring to live in rural quiet environments. This state of mind shows the usefulness of peace. The times we live in today are unique in many ways. If seen, every time is unique. But today's era is especially full of depression, life struggle, bitterness, ideological narrowness, despair, and frustration. In today's fast-paced life, surviving and standing your ground has become more challenging than ever. Our expectations and aspirations and needs keep on troubling us day and night, increasing with time. Whatever is beautiful, when did we think this? The concepts of simplicity have now gone somewhere in the dustbin. We have as much as we need, yet we are not able to live a life of satisfaction and this dissatisfaction only compels us to run continuously. We do not tolerate it at all that someone goes ahead of us and in this race; we forget to live the happiness that God has given us. This is the reason why our stress increases and our blood pressure goes to higher levels. In the rush of life, we did not get time to sit somewhere and think about what is right and what is wrong.

When we start our young life, our mind is eager to have everything. Along with money, we also want to earn a name. This desire is also true to a large extent. But, it is wrong not to give importance to the family and your happiness in its affair. Compromising your responsibilities and your happiness cannot be right under any circumstances. As much as it is important to earn money and fame in life or to become a successful person, it is equally important to feel small happiness. If you forget these moments and are just busy moving forward, then one day you will feel sad that what have you lost in the process of getting a little? Situations that generate tension lead to unrest. It is known from modern research that stress is the cause of almost seventy-five percent of diseases. Today we are just running, running without stopping. And this is the reason why there comes a time in our life when we fall for people who are disappointed and sad. We feel that no one is satisfied with their present situation. What we have got today is insufficient. Will we ever be able to inspect our life running at another angle from the first angle? Now think... Will this phase of gloom and depression continue in our lives like this? Will there never be positivity in our lives? Being positive here does not mean that we needlessly accept what is wrong by wrapping it in the envelope of positivity. Wrong should be called wrong and it should also be opposed. But we should avoid unnecessary negativity. I see in today's society and especially in this era of social media, that we do not hesitate to criticize, condemn and use bad words without knowing things, without reaching the bottom of the matter. Is it correct from your point of view?

Will the world be ruined if we don't answer something immediately? Can't we think for a while, understand the whole incident, and answer anything decently in a good and civilized way? Why such a hurry? Social media must have started to compensate for our declining sociality. Because

today we are not able to see chaupal under banyan and peepal in the village. The reason is that today's world has changed a lot. People's arrangements and engagements have increased. It is becoming difficult to meet. In such a situation, if we do not meet face to face, then social media should step into this era thinking that we can meet virtually, but gradually this social media destroyed our social fabric. Our expectations started increasing day by day and it started getting misused. The result was that instead of relief, social media became a cause of stress for us. Today we are sad when people remove us from our friendship list or block us. We get angry when people disturb us by sending good morning, good evening messages. We feel sad when people don't like our posts according to us or our stress increases when we get friend requests from a locked profile.

Today we are getting entangled with political and religious views on social media itself. Sometimes we get so angry with someone's post that we forget the decency of the language. If we try to stop or explain to someone during this time, then the person in front of us starts saying good or bad things to us. As a result, we are removed from the friend list or asked to leave the group because of our behaviour.

The state of lack of peace is known by stress. Many such things have become the cause of stress for us today. In the changing times, we cannot even ignore these things. Think how big the world considers you so much and if you are not ready to think like this from your point of view, then you quietly close your doors for those who tag you. After all, what is the reason for stress? If someone is sending you good morning in the morning, good evening in the evening, pictures of God and flowers, etc., then observe how much the person in front loves you and remembers you every morning.

You are in his prayers and if you still don't want to understand this, ignore his message. It is in your hands that you can block it at your level. Instead of engaging in a bitter and raucous argument with them, you can quietly remove them from your friend list. By doing this, you will be able to avoid your stress in today's stressful times. In the changing era, today the world is becoming a victim of polarization. Far from accepting the other side, we are not even ready to listen and tolerate it. Our language quickly crosses the line due to which our relationships get spoiled. We can avoid such unpleasant situations when we do not expect that the other person will change his side after listening to us. Neither you will change the side nor the person in front will change, then why even try it? We should be at peace with our thoughts and the person in front with his thoughts, this is happiness. Why do you go to the wall of someone with a different opinion and curse him?

If someone comes to your wall and does this, then consider whether it is in your interest to fight with him or ignore him. You must understand one thing if there is so much delay regarding your thoughts and your thinking that even a slight change in it, its possibilities are completely over, then why argue? It is in the interest of all of us that we live in peace and allow others to live in peace. In the emergency of life, we should know that any moment of ours can be the last, so live every moment with a true heart without any ego, with the feeling of 'Sarve Bhavantu Sukhin.' (The author can be reached at priyankasaurabh94162@gmail.com)

BOOK REVIEW

‘Understanding Psychology: The Human Mind Unravelling’ by Dr. Rohi Jan

By: Aubaid Ahmad Akhoo

“Know thyself.” - Socrates
This timeless wisdom from Socrates underscores the fundamental exploration of the human mind that Dr. Rohi Jan's book embarks upon. It invites readers to delve into the depths of self-discovery and understanding, mirroring the journey you'll undertake within the pages of this enlightening work.

Understanding Psychology: The Human Mind Unravelling stands as a literary masterpiece, brilliantly illuminating the intricate and captivating world of psychology. Authored by the exceptionally talented Dr. Rohi Jan, hailing from the serene landscapes of Anantnag in Jammu & Kashmir, this book is a testament to her profound understanding of the subject matter and her gift for making complex concepts accessible to readers from all walks of life.

Dr. Rohi Jan's academic journey is a testament to her dedication. She pursued her B.A., B.Ed., and M.A. in Psychology in her native region, and for her M.Phil. and Ph.D., she ventured beyond her lush green surroundings to excel further in her field. Her impressive journey culminated with the completion of her Ph.D. in Psychology in August 2022 last year, focusing primarily on clinical psychology. She is also the recipient of numerous awards, including a Gold Medal, Best Woman Researcher Award, Young Woman Researcher Award, and the prestigious Golden Research Award in the field of Psychology.

Beyond her academic achievements, Dr. Rohi Jan's contributions extend far and wide. She is a prolific columnist for both local dailies and national newspapers, and her name graces countless research papers. Dr. Rohi has also selflessly shared her expertise with students, appearing as a guest in numerous sessions to shed light on mental health-related issues. This dedication culminates in her maiden book, a labor of love that she painstakingly compiled to aid undergraduate and graduate students on their educational journeys.

Currently, Dr. Rohi Jan imparts her knowledge as a Psychology teacher at Govt. Degree College, Pulwama, Jammu & Kashmir, inspiring the next generation of psychologists. Dr. Rohi Jan's writing is a breath



of fresh air in the world of psychology literature. Her book offers a comprehensive exploration of psychology, delivering a deep and engaging narrative that is both educational and profoundly thought-provoking. It's evident that the author possesses an unparalleled passion for the subject, which shines through every page, making it an absolute delight for readers.

The title, “Understanding Psychology: The Human Mind Unravelling,” perfectly encapsulates the essence of this book. Dr. Rohi Jan masterfully unravels the mysteries of the human mind, taking readers on an unforgettable journey through the realms of behavior, cognition, and emotions. Her ability to distill complex theories and research into accessible language is nothing short of remarkable.

One of the book's standout qualities is its versatility. Whether you're a student embarking on an academic journey or a curious individual seeking to expand your knowledge of the human psyche, this book caters to your needs. The author's skillful storytelling and comprehensive coverage of fundamental psychological concepts ensure that every reader can find value within these pages.

Dr. Rohi Jan's deep appreciation for the pioneers of

psychology is evident throughout the book. She pays homage to the researchers, professors, and practitioners whose groundbreaking work has paved the way for the knowledge presented within these pages. It's a testament to the author's humility and acknowledgment of the collective effort that drives the field of psychology forward.

Furthermore, the author extends her gratitude to her colleagues and mentors, emphasizing the collaborative spirit that fuels the book's content and spirit. This collective effort enhances the book's quality and ensures that it remains engaging and informative from start to finish.

Ultimately, “Understanding Psychology: The Human Mind Unravelling” celebrates the inquisitive nature of readers who dare to embark on this intellectual journey. It invites us to explore the complexities of human behaviour, cognition, and emotions with open hearts and minds. Beyond being an academic resource, this book serves as a catalyst for personal growth, empathy, self-awareness, and a deeper understanding of the human experience.

In conclusion, “Understanding Psychology: The Human Mind Unravelling” by Dr. Rohi Jan is a literary gem that enriches the field of psychology. Its accessibility, comprehensive coverage, and the author's deep appreciation for the subject matter make it an essential read for students, scholars, and anyone fascinated by the enigmatic workings of the human mind. This book is a remarkable addition to the world of psychology, a tribute to the relentless pursuit of knowledge, and an ode to the intricacies of human nature.

Readers who wish to delve into the fascinating world of psychology can look forward to purchasing this enlightening work on their preferred online book-sellers. Dive into this captivating journey of the mind, and let Dr. Rohi Jan be your knowledgeable guide on this intellectual adventure.

“As an art, the study of psychology pertains more to the philosopher than the physician, though the physician can profit by a knowledge of it.” - Aristotle (The author is a renowned columnist & motivational speaker and an Associate Editor of the Weekly Publication ‘Education Quill.’ He can be reached at akhoo.aubaid@gmail.com)

A Fallen Leaf

By: Bipul Chandra Kalita

Picking up a fallen leaf from the river-bank
I slowed down my journey
(Or, It slowed down me)
And started brooding over its lost dreams...

Babbling issues touched It not
But I felt
Its green past
Its length and breadth
That got yellowing whistles...

A pain led me to an wintry air:
Once snapped
The brown leaf got its separate identity
But I tried to spray vivid colours on it
Though each colour lost its colourful past...

I knew I must continue my journey
Keeping on
Changing my routes
Changing my dresses
Fixing my eyes on yellowing hues...

Memories

By: Mowsam Hazarika

It's been a long time
Not hearing from you!
How are you doing?
I'm curious to know.

I believe so
You must be fine!
I'm fine too, you know
Just like you.

What do you look like?
I want to see you
Maybe in your black hair
It's silvery now!

The same is true of my hair
Just like you.
What do you think of me these days?
Is it exactly as you thought?
I really want to know that.

I'm still these days
I live alone
In that little 'Assam type' house.
Where, I dreamed of the future.

Maybe yours these days
It's your new home!

Where you dream sweet dreams of the future?
But in my old house

I don't dream of any future nowadays.
There are only memories stored.



As Taiwan's government races to counter China, most people aren't worried about war

TAIPEI, Sept 2: As People's Liberation Army fighter jets from China sped toward Taiwan on Friday, life on the self-governing island carried on as normal.

Andy Huang, a restaurateur in Taipei, said he has become desensitized to military threats from the mainland. "I've been hearing about China invading for 30 years," he said.

Taiwan's government is racing to counter China, buying nearly \$19 billion in military equipment from the United States, and extending military conscription for men to a year starting in 2024. But many on the island say they don't feel the threat. That may be partly due to the nuanced views many Taiwanese hold of China. While polls indicate most people on the island reject reunification, many say they are attracted to their much larger neighbor's dynamic economy, and its shared language and culture. Others are simply numb to hearing about the threat in their backyard.

Beijing claims Taiwan as its own territory, and its actions in recent years have led some to fear it is preparing to use force to try to take control of the island. Taiwan has been compared to Ukraine by American lawmakers and Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen.

The island's politicians have not been shy about sounding the alarm. "In order to keep the peace, we need to strengthen ourselves," Tsai said last month at a war memorial commemorating the last time Taiwan and China battled.

Members of the public don't feel that urgency. Coco Wang is one of the many people who feel a connection to China without considering themselves Chinese. Her grandparents came to Taiwan among people fleeing the 1949 Communist victory in the Chinese Civil War, which left rival governments ruling the mainland and Taiwan. Her grandparents kept in touch with relatives in China, and she remembers summers traveling through the country's rural areas with her parents. She considers herself Taiwanese, but



worked in Shanghai for a year before the pandemic and is thinking of going back.

The opportunities in China are so much bigger, she said. "There's this feeling that if you just go in and you really work at it, then you can really achieve something," she said.

China is Taiwan's largest trading partner, receiving 39% of the island's exports in 2022 despite new trade barriers imposed amid rising tensions.

While Wang feels drawn to China, she acknowledged that it is not entirely possible to leave politics at the door when working there. Colleagues in Shanghai occasionally called her a "Taiwanese separatist." She knew they meant it as a joke, but it made her uncomfortable. To herself, she thought: "We are already independent. Taiwan is just Taiwan."

Her viewpoint is widely shared. Since polling began in the 1990s, majorities on Taiwan have said they favor the status quo, rejecting both proposals for unification with the mainland and a formal declaration of independence that could mean war.

But a closely watched poll question that asks people whether they consider themselves Chinese has shown the island's population growing further from the mainland, said Ching-hsin Yu, the head of National Chengchi University's Election Study Center. When polling began in 1992, over two-thirds of respondents said they were both Chinese and

Taiwanese, or just Chinese. Today, close to two-thirds say they are just Taiwanese, while around 30% identify as both.

Those attitudes don't translate directly into views on relations with the mainland, Yu said, but among the majority who identify as Taiwanese there has been a subtle shift toward favoring the status quo for now, but with "eventual independence." Huang, the restaurant owner, said he was taught in school that he was Chinese, but as an adult came to consider himself just Taiwanese. His restaurant in Taipei, which specializes in Taiwanese cuisine, has a "Lennon Wall" dedicated to the now-banned Hong Kong democracy movement, decorated with hundreds of Post-It notes with messages from patrons.

Huang shut down in solidarity with protesters during Taiwan's Sunflower movement in 2014, when tens of thousands demonstrated against a trade deal with China. He says the Chinese population is "brainwashed." Personally, he wants independence now, but he also said

he can wait until more of Taiwan's public is convinced.

Nor does he think much about war, he said. "Whether they attack or not, that's for China's leaders to decide; it's pointless for us to worry," said Huang.

For others, like Chen Shih-wei, cultural and emotional ties to China are very strong. Chen's family immigrated to Taiwan during the Ming dynasty, which ended in 1644, and he considers himself both Chinese and Taiwanese.

"I'm Chinese and I'm Taiwanese. This can't be separated," he said. "We've read the history, including the clan records, and we are clear that we came from the mainland, and came from people who had landed in Taiwan, and grew up here."

Chen, who is from Taichung in central Taiwan, traveled to China many times as a young athlete, starting in 1990. On the mainland, he said, he encountered more similarities than differences. Chen is pro-reunification, but doesn't believe it will happen in his lifetime. (AP)

The bridge connecting Crimea & Russia carries heavy significance for Moscow, both logistically & psychologically

Russia says it thwarted attacks on Crimea bridge, briefly closed for a 3rd time

KYIV, Sept 2: Russia said on Saturday its forces destroyed three Ukrainian naval drones being used in an attempt to attack a key bridge linking Russia to Moscow-annexed Crimea, forcing its temporary closure for a third time in less than a year.

One naval drone was destroyed late Friday and two others early Saturday morning, according to Russia's Defense Ministry. There was no immediate comment from Ukrainian officials.

A key supply route for Kremlin forces in the war with Ukraine, the Kerch bridge has come under repeated attack since Russia launched its full-scale invasion.

An explosion in October, which Russian authorities said was caused by a truck bomb, left three people dead. A further attack on the bridge in July, killing a couple and seriously wounding their daughter, left a span of the roadway hanging perilously.

The bridge connecting Crimea and Russia carries heavy significance for Moscow, both logistically and psychologically, as a key artery for military and civilian supplies and as an assertion of Kremlin control of the peninsula it annexed in 2014.

On Saturday afternoon, one civilian was killed and two wounded during shelling of Russia's Belgorod region bordering



Ukraine, Belgorod Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov said.

Two Ukrainian drones attacked the region's Valysky district, causing minor damage to a private home and car, while another drone was intercepted by Russian air defense in the Grayvoronsky district.

A woman was also wounded Saturday during shelling of a village in the neighboring Kursk region, also bordering Ukraine, regional Gov. Roman Starovoi said. He blamed Ukraine for the shelling.

Ukrainian authorities, which generally avoid commenting on attacks on Russian soil, didn't say whether they launched the attacks. Drone strikes and shelling

on the Russian border regions are a regular occurrence.

Meanwhile, four people were wounded in the Ukrainian shelling of the eastern Ukrainian city of Donetsk, Moscow-installed mayor Aleksei Kulemin said on Saturday. Donetsk is the regional capital of the eastern Ukrainian province of the same name, which was among the four Ukrainian provinces illegally annexed by Russia in September. The city came under the control of Russia-backed separatists in 2014.

The Ukrainian military said in a regular update on Saturday that over the previous 24 hours Russia had launched four missile strikes and 39 airstrikes, in addition to 42

attacks from multiple rocket launchers. Kryvyi Rih Mayor Oleksandr Vilkul said the anti-aircraft defense in the central Ukrainian city, which is President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's hometown, had successfully thwarted a strike, without specifying the nature of the attack.

U.K. military officials said on Saturday that Russia risks splitting its forces in an attempt to prevent a Ukrainian breakthrough in Ukraine's south. According to British intelligence, Ukrainian forces continued to take offensive action on the Orikhiv axis in southern Ukraine, with units reaching the first Russian main defensive line.

Ukraine's Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Maliar said on Friday that Kyiv's troops were advancing in the Zaporizhzhia region. Russian President Vladimir Putin will host Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan for talks next week, the Kremlin announced on Friday, just over six weeks after Moscow broke off a deal brokered by Ankara and the U.N. that allowed Ukrainian grain to reach world markets safely despite the 18-month war.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Putin and Erdogan would meet on Monday in Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi. (AP)

Singapore's President-elect Tharman says, surprised by 'high degree of endorsement'

SINGAPORE, Sept 2: Amid pouring congratulatory messages, Singapore's President-elect Tharman Shanmugaratnam on Saturday said he was surprised by "such a high degree of endorsement," and that he was very serious about wanting to fulfil the mandate given by the people.

Singapore-born Indian-origin candidate in a predominantly Chinese multi-racial Singapore, 66-year-old Tharman won the presidential election with a massive vote share of 70.4 per cent in the early hours of Saturday. This is the first contested presidential election since 2011.

Speaking to journalists at his first doorstep interview since the official result was declared, Tharman said, "I did not expect such a high degree of endorsement, which also means there was a fair number of people who would normally not vote in favour of the ruling party, who decided that this was not a political election, this is not a General Election. And they decided to vote for me, and I think that's also very encouraging."

Describing the result as "remarkable unity" from Singaporeans, the economist-turned-politician said he thinks Singaporeans "have been very sensible in the way they voted."

"I think it's also interesting that Singaporeans, whom I believe want a non-partisan President... They do not think that having been a member of a political party or even being a member of Cabinet should diminish

a person's ability to be non-partisan," Channel News Asia quoted the former deputy prime minister and senior minister as saying.

"It all depends on the individual, the character of the person, the reputation of the person, and the ability to reach across all the boundaries you can think of in Singapore. That's always been my orientation."

"So, I think it's a very interesting lesson that Singaporeans do not think that my political service all these years was a disadvantage." Tharman also said he is looking forward to meeting outgoing President Halimah Yacob and asking her for advice.

"She has served Singapore remarkably well. I admire her equanimity, her poise, the dignity with which she'd held the Presidency," he added. "One of the first things I want to do is sit down with her and get her thoughts and advice coming from the last six years. I'm not going to rush the process, but I'm very serious about wanting to fulfil the mandate that's been given to me by the people." President Halimah completes her six-year term on September 13.

Meanwhile, congratulatory messages have been pouring in from world leaders. In a statement dated September 1, US State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said, "The United States and Singapore share a long-standing and robust partnership built on a foundation of mutual respect, shared values and common interests. (PTI)

18 people have been killed in Iraq after a bus carrying Shiite pilgrims to Karbala overturned

BAGHDAD, Sept 2: A bus carrying pilgrims to the Iraqi city of Karbala overturned north of Baghdad on Saturday, killing 18 people, medical officials said.

Millions of believers converge on the city each year for the Shiite pilgrimage of Arbaeen, regarded as the largest annual public gathering in the world.

Pilgrims come from various parts of Iraq as well as from Iran and the Gulf countries, with many making their way to Karbala on foot.

Two Iraqi medical officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak to the media said that the bus overturned near the town of Balad, about 55 miles (90 kilometers) north of Baghdad.

The victims were 15 men and three women. Among them were 10 Iranians, two Iraqis — the bus driver and his son — and six people of unknown nationality, the officials said.

Arbaeen marks the anniversary of the 40th day of mourning following the seventh-century death of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson Hussein at the hands of the Muslim Umayyad forces in the Battle of Karbala, during the tumultuous first century of Islam's history.

Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani was personally observing the entry of Iranian pilgrims to Iraq via the Shalamchah border crossing on Saturday, where he and Iranian Vice President Mohammad Mokhber also laid the foundation stone for a railway project that will provide rail transportation between the two countries. (AP)

Biden and Modi to have bilateral meeting on Sept 8 on sidelines of G20 summit

WASHINGTON, Sept 2: US President Joe Biden will travel to India next week to participate in the G20 Summit and will have a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 8 on the sidelines of the historic meeting, the White House has announced.

India, President of the G20, will host global leaders for the Summit scheduled to take place on September 9 and 10 in New Delhi.

During the Summit, Biden will commend Modi for his leadership of the G20, the White House said.

"On Thursday (September 7), the President will travel to New Delhi, India to attend the G20 Leaders' Summit. On Friday, the President will participate in a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi," the White House said in its week ahead schedule of the president released Friday night.

On Saturday (September

9) and Sunday (September 10), the President will participate in the G20 summit, where he and G20 partners will discuss a range of joint efforts to tackle global issues, including the clean energy transition and combatting climate change.

They will also mitigate the economic and social impacts of Russian President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine, and increase the capacity of multilateral development banks, including the World Bank, to better fight poverty, including by addressing global challenges, the White House said.

"While in New Delhi, the President will also commend Prime Minister Modi's leadership of the G20 and reaffirm the US commitment to the G20 as the premier forum of economic cooperation, including by hosting it in 2026," it said.

The G20 or Group of 20 is an intergovernmental forum

of the world's major developed and developing economies. The members represent around 85 per cent of the global GDP, over 75 per cent of the global trade and about two-thirds of the world population.

Biden will travel to Hanoi, Vietnam on September 10.

"While in Hanoi, the President will meet with General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong and other key leaders to discuss ways to further deepen cooperation between the United States and Vietnam," it said.

"The leaders will explore opportunities to promote the growth of a technology-focused and innovation-driven Vietnamese economy, expand our people-to-people ties through education exchanges and workforce development programs, combat climate change, and increase peace, prosperity, and stability in the region," said the White House. (PTI)

8,40,000 Afghans who've applied for key US resettlement prog still in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, Sept 2: More than 8,40,000 Afghans who applied for a resettlement programme aimed at people who helped the US war effort in Afghanistan are still there waiting, according to a report that lays out the challenges with a programme intended to help America's allies in the two-decade long conflict.

The report released on Thursday by the State Department's inspector general outlines steps the department took to improve processing of special immigrant visas for Afghans. But two years after the US pullout from Afghanistan and the return of the Taliban to power, challenges remain.

The visa programme was started in 2009 to help Afghans who worked side-by-side with Americans and faced significant risks for doing so. A similar programme exists for Iraqis. Both programmes have been plagued by criticism that cases move much too slowly, leaving applicants in dangerous limbo.

And since the US left Afghanistan the number of people applying for the visas has skyrocketed. According to the report, there were a little less than 30,000 applicants in October 2021, but by December 2022 that number had grown to roughly 1,55,000. (AP)

Pope starts Mongolia visit by praising the country's religious freedom dating back to Genghis Khan

ULAANBAATAR, Sept 2: Pope Francis on Saturday praised Mongolia's tradition of religious freedom dating to the times of its founder, Genghis Khan, as he opened the first-ever papal visit to the Asian nation with a plea for peace and an end to the "insidious threat of corruption."

Francis met with President Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh inside a traditional Mongolian ger, or round yurt, set up inside the state palace, and wrote a message in the guest book that he was visiting Mongolia, "a country young and ancient, modern and rich of tradition," as a pilgrim of peace.

Francis is visiting Mongolia to minister to its tiny Catholic community of 1,450 people and make a diplomatic foray into a region where the Holy See has long had troubled relations, with Russia to the north and China to the south. While Christianity has been present in the region for hundreds of years, the Catholic Church has only had a sanctioned presence in Mongolia since 1992, after the country abandoned its Soviet-allied communist government and enshrined religious freedom in its



constitution.

In his remarks, Francis praised Mongolia's tradition of religious liberty, noting that such tolerance existed even during the period of the Mongol Empire's vast expansion over much of the world. At its height, the empire stretched as far west as Hungary to become the largest contiguous land empire in world history. Nowadays, the landlocked nation sandwiched between Russia and China is overwhelmingly Buddhist, with traditional links to Tibet's leading lamas, including the Dalai Lama.

"The fact that the empire could embrace such distant and varied

lands over the centuries bears witness to the remarkable ability of your ancestors to acknowledge the outstanding qualities of the peoples present in its immense territory and to put those qualities at the service of a common development," Francis told the president, diplomats and cultural leaders in remarks at the state palace.

"This model should be valued and re-proposed in our own day," he said.

Referring to the 13th-century period of relative political stability within the Mongol Empire that allowed trade and travel to flourish, Francis called for such a period of fraternity and peace to take root today.

"May heaven grant that today, on this earth devastated by countless conflicts, there be a renewal, respectful of international laws, of the condition of what was once the pax mongolica, that is the absence of conflicts," he said.

Khurelsukh also referred to the "pax mongolica" in his remarks, saying that same spirit still guides Mongolia's efforts to be a peaceful, multilateral player on the world stage. (AP)

Al Fayed was a key player in the 'cash for questions' scandal that roiled British politics in the 1990s

Former Harrods owner, whose son died in car crash with Princess Diana, dies at 94

LONDON, Sept 2: Mohamed Al Fayed, the flamboyant Egypt-born businessman whose son was killed in a car crash with Princess Diana, died this week, his family said Friday. He was 94.

Al Fayed, the longtime owner of Harrods department store and the Fulham Football Club, was devastated by the death of son Dodi Fayed in the car crash in Paris with Diana 26 years ago. He spent years mourning the loss and fighting the British establishment he blamed for their deaths.

"Mrs Mohamed Al Fayed, her children and grandchildren wish to confirm that her beloved husband, their father and their grandfather, Mohamed, has passed away peacefully of old age on Wednesday Au-

gust 30, 2023," his family said in a statement released by the Fulham club. "He enjoyed a long and fulfilled retirement surrounded by his loved ones."

Al Fayed was convicted Dodi and Diana were killed in a conspiracy masterminded by Prince Philip, the husband of Queen Elizabeth II. He maintained the royal family arranged the accident because they did not like Diana dating an Egyptian. Al Fayed claimed that Diana was pregnant and planning to marry Dodi and that the royal family could not countenance the princess marrying a Muslim.

In 2008, Al Fayed told an inquest the list of alleged conspirators included Philip, two former London police chiefs and the CIA.

The inquest concluded that Diana



and Dodi died because of the reckless actions of their driver — an employee of the Ritz Hotel owned by Al Fayed — and paparazzi chasing the couple. Separate inquiries in the U.K. and France also concluded there was no conspiracy.

Al Fayed's relationship with the royal family was recently depicted in

season five of "The Crown," in which the billionaire, played by Salim Daw, gets to know Diana.

The son of a school inspector, Al Fayed was born on Jan. 27, 1929, in Alexandria, Egypt. After early investments in shipping in Italy and the Middle East, he moved to Britain in the 1960s and started building an empire.

At the height of his wealth, Al Fayed owned the Ritz hotel in Paris and Fulham soccer team in London as well as Harrods, the luxury department store in the capital's tony Knightsbridge neighbourhood.

The Sunday Times Rich List, which documents the fortunes of Britain's wealthiest people, put the family's fortune at 1.7 billion pounds (\$2.1 billion) this year, ranking Al

Fayed as the 104th richest person in the country.

Al Fayed first hit the headlines in the 1980s when he battled with rival tycoon "Tiny" Rowland for control of the House of Fraser group, which included Harrods.

Al Fayed and his brother bought a 30% stake in House of Fraser for 130 million pounds in 1985. They paid an additional 615 million pounds to take full control the following year.

That transaction sparked an investigation by the Department of Trade and Industry, which concluded Al Fayed and his brother had "dishonestly misrepresented their origins, their wealth, their business interests and their resources." Despite those findings, the deal was allowed to go through. (AP)

NKorea fires cruise missiles into the sea after US-SKorean military drills end

SEOUL, Sept 2: North Korea launched several cruise missiles into the sea on Saturday, South Korea's military said, extending its weapons testing activities in response to the United States-South Korea summer military drills.

South Korea's military detected the launches early on Saturday morning off the North's west coast, the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement. The statement said South Korea and U.S. intelligence authorities were analyzing details of the launches. It said South Korea has boosted its surveillance posture and maintains a firm military readiness in close coordination with the United States. The launches came two days after the U.S. and South Korean militaries wrapped up their 11-day training exercises that North Korea regards as a rehearsal for invasion. Washington and Seoul officials maintain their drills are defensive. A day before the U.S.-South Korea training ended, North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles into the sea in a launch it said was meant to simulate "scorched earth" nuclear strikes on South Korea. The North said it was separately holding a command post exercise aimed at rehearsing an occupation of South Korea's territory in the event of conflict.

On Aug. 21, the day when the U.S.-South Korean drills began, North Korea's state media said its leader Kim Jong Un observed cruise missile launches. North Korea's second attempt to place a military spy satellite in orbit failed Aug. 24, but the country said it will make a third attempt in October. (AP)

Business affairs affected due to shutdown in Manipur

IMPHAL, Sept 2: Normal business activities in Khwairamband Keithel, the business hub of Manipur, were severely affected on Saturday owing to a total shutdown observed by the vendors of the Ina Keithel (all-women-run market).

The vendors imposed the shutdown to condemn the "fresh offensive" launched against the settlement areas in Bishnupur-Churachandpur border that claimed at least seven lives on both the conflicting sides in the past few days.

Responding to the shutdown call, almost all the shops and business centres in Khwairamband Keithel remained down their shutters. Shops and other business establishments at Paona and Thangal Bazar also joined the shutdown.

There were reports of suspension of business transactions in other markets in the state capital and its outskirts showing solidarity to the women vendors' call.

Registering a strong condemnation to the "attacks on the settle-



ment areas" at Naranseina and Thamnepokpi in Bishnupur district bordering Churachandpur district in the last few days, the women vendors decided to observe the shutdown.

While giving the shutdown call, Huirem Binodini, a spokesperson

of the four all-women-run markets had said that the women vendors of Khwairamband were shocked and deeply hurt by the recent "unrestrained aggression of Kuki militants who bombarded Meitei settlement areas at Naranseina and Thamnepokpi".

Condemning the "Kuki militants' vicious aggression" and expressing solidarity to the victims, markets and shops of Thangal Keithel, Paona Keithel, Nagamapal and Uripok will remain shut on Sunday, Binodini had said. (NNN)

Arunachal educator selected for National Teacher award

ITANAGAR, Sept 2: Netai Chandra Dey, a dedicated educator of Ramakrishna Mission School at Narottam Nagar in Tirap district of Arunachal Pradesh, has been selected as a recipient of the prestigious National Teacher's Award for 2023.

The recognition highlights his exceptional contribution to the field of education and his significant impact on students' lives.

Dey's journey in education spans over three decades, during which he exhibited unwavering commitment to nurturing young minds. As an innovative and compassionate teacher, he has inspired countless students to achieve their potential and excel academically, an official said.

His teaching methodologies emphasise not only academic excellence but also holistic development. His ability to create engaging and interactive learning environments has earned him respect and admiration from students, colleagues, and parents alike.

Dey's dedication extends beyond the classroom, as he has actively participated in various educational



initiatives and community outreach programs, the official said.

His dedication to fostering a love for learning has resulted in consistently outstanding results. His students consistently achieve top ranks in national and regional examinations, a testament to his effective teaching strategies and mentorship.

This year, Debasish Roy, another

post-graduate teacher of English in the school, has been selected for State Teacher Award.

So far three teachers of the institution received the state award and another three got the national award for best teacher.

In his Independence Day speech this year, chief minister Pema Khandu announced gold medal for Ramakrishna Mission. (PTI)

National Green Tribunal faces backlash from Meghalaya MP



SHILLONG, Sept 2: Rajya Sabha MP and NPP Meghalaya unit president WR Kharlukhi questioned the National Green Tribunal (NGT) for banning coal mining in Meghalaya but failed to take action on the Delhi air pollution.

"We have pollution in Delhi. NGT is in Delhi. I have raised a question: it was not only disease-related, it was death-related. I am not talking about fish or animals, I am talking about human beings why nothing was done. Something should be done there also and NGT is in Delhi," Kharlukhi told reporters.

Kharlukhi said, "I never say they (NGT and Supreme Court) are wrong (in banning coal mining in Meghalaya) but what I say is that yes you are doing here, you should also do it there."

Stating that it really hurt him to see people suffering due to the coal ban, the NPP leader said, "This is not the stand of the gov-

ernment but my stand, coal for us people coming from Jaintia Hills is our livelihood. It is enshrined as a fundamental right and denying coal mining for my people from my district which we have been practising for nearly four decades is like denying food for our people."

"I am always for coal mining. You start whatever coal mining but my people should not starve," he said.

Kharlukhi informed that he tried to raise the issue in the Parliament but he could not get a chance despite the issue being listed two times.

"I was trying to show that if you have done here (coal ban in Meghalaya) why not do it there (Delhi) also. It doesn't mean that we are far away, you can do whatever you like with us," he added.

On the direction to start scientific mining of coal, the Rajya Sabha MP said coal has to be

mined and mining should not stop.

"For 40 years we have been doing this and one fine day you stopped us. Central government should offer us this is how much your people are losing take this money that also was not offered to us. You just stop just because we are far away in the NE. It should not be like that," he said.

On rat hole mining of coal being declared illegal, Kharlukhi however said, "For 40 years they have been doing this. When my people were poor nobody realised that. If you look at uneducated people here they call them coal barons or coal mafia, they don't even know the meaning of coal baron or coal mafia. Did you ever ask why because they could not have an education at that age. Those same people when they were 9-11 years old in those days may not have bonded labourers but they were working to feed their families and only when they were rich then these people started realising."

He further claimed that people started dying due to coal mining after the blanket was imposed. Kharlukhi cited the incident at Sutnga area, where some boys had risked their lives by engaging in rat hole mining of coal because they had no money to feed the people coming for the church presbytery in their area.

He said that coal mining does not only benefit the rich people but it is boosting the economy of the state where all sections of people are benefiting. (NNN)

Meira Paibis conglomerate announces civil disobedience

IMPHAL, Sept 2: Committee on Mass Protest Against Assam Rifles, a conglomerate of various Meira Paibis (women torch bearers) groups on Friday announced launching of 'civil disobedience movement' with effect from Friday.

While announcing the stir, members of the conglomerate alleged that the governments both at the Centre and the state have failed to listen to the voices of the people to end the prevailing crisis in Manipur.

The announcement was made during a congregation of a large number of womenfolk of various Meira Paibis groups from different parts of the state at Uripok in Imphal West today.

Talking to reporters, spokesperson of the Committee on Mass Protest Against Assam Rifles, Sharmila Naosekham said the committee has decided to launch the civil disobedience movement against the government.

She said that since the state government and the Central government have failed to listen to the voices of the people, the committee has no other option but to launch the disobedience movement.

Even after nearly four months of violence, the government did nothing to resolve the crisis. The government has disregarded the Constitution of the country, she alleged.

She also said that Manipur has been in turmoil for the last four months, claiming many precious lives and injuring hundreds apart from displacing thousands of them



after houses were torched.

The convening of the state Assembly session for just 11 minutes was only for the name sake to save the government and not in the interest of the people, she also said.

The people expected the session to come up with a concrete resolution to end the crisis and restore peace and normalcy in the state, Sharmila added.

However, contrary to the people's expectation, the most awaited Assembly session lasted only for only minutes, that too, without deliberating the ongoing crisis in the state, she lamented.

As both the Central and the state governments have failed to protect the sanctity of the Constitution, there is no need for the people to abide by the laws, she said.

Sharmila further said that during the civil disobedience movement, they will boycott the Central security forces distributing relief mate-

rials at the relief camps opened for the people displaced by the ongoing crisis.

She further called upon all the government employees of both state and Central government to abstain from attending their offices with immediate effect while announcing that all government related works will be boycotted during the indefinite stir, Sharmila said.

She, however, added that employees of the essential service categories like media, electricity, water supply, medical, solid waste management, etc. will not be covered by the stir.

Another spokesperson of the committee, Jenifer Devi questioned the purpose of deploying Central forces in the state. Even though they are deployed for the protection of lives and properties of the people, they did nothing to check violence unfolding in the state, she alleged. (NNN)

Testing lab inaugurated in KA

HT Correspondent

BAKALIA, Sept 2: A testing laboratory was inaugurated in 30 Bedded Rural Hospital, Bakalia in Karbi Anglong by the Executive Member (EM) of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), Madhuram Lekhe.

Inaugurating the medical laboratory EM Lekhe said the medical laboratory has fulfilled the long-time need of the rural people of the area. The laboratory can do 48 different tests. The rural people of the area now need not go outside to do medical tests.

Thowra Block Yuba Congress Committee stages protest in Demow

HT Correspondent

DEMOW, Sept 2: Under the instruction of Assam Pradesh Congress Committee, the Sivasagar District Yuba Congress, the Thowra Block Yuba Congress Committee staged protest at Demow Chariali on NH-37 Road on Friday against alleged job related corruption at Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Office.

They also burnt the effigy of chief minister at Demow Chariali on Friday. They shouted various slogans in the programme. They had demanded the state government to have a proper investigation into the allegations.

NE underwent transformation to become competitive investment destination: Chandrasekhar

GUWAHATI, Sept 2: The northeastern region has undergone a "dramatic transformation" to become a competitive destination for investments, Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said here.

The Union minister of state for IT, skill development and entrepreneurship, in an interview with PTI said that connectivity was an issue in the region but that has completely changed. Now, one can quickly reach any state capital in the Northeast from any other part of the country, creating a big transformation in terms of potential opportunities for the region, he said. "Connectivity was holding back the growth of business,

technology and infrastructure in the region but during the last nine years, physical and technological connectivity were addressed and now the next step is to ensure economic expansion and to grow the GSDPs to double digits as the combined GSDPs of all the northeastern states is only about 8 per cent of the country's GDP," he said.

The next stage of economic growth is the creation of jobs and entrepreneurship for which well-planned skilling is very important, he said.

"The question that now arises is how do we get more investments and how do we grow the economy. The answer to both is

that we need more and more talented workforce and skilled entrepreneurs who would be able to deliver products not only to other parts of the country but also to the world," he said. Therefore skilling becomes the most important enabler for the future growth and potential of Northeast India, the Union minister said.

"In the next 10 to 12 months, we want to create 2.5 lakh world-class talented workforce in the Northeast. We hope that this will boost economic growth in the region by encouraging more investments which will change the whole regional economy," he said. (PTI)

Assam DGP felicitates medal winning police officers

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Sept 2: The director general of police, Assam GP Singh felicitated the police personnel of Assam Police who had won various medals declared on the occasion of Independence Day 2023 on Saturday.

It is to be mentioned that 8 personnel won the Police Medal for Gallantry, 13 were declared winners of Police Medal for Meritorious Service, 4 won union home minister's Medal of Excellence in Investigation, 18 and 19 personnel received the Chief Minister's Special Service Medal in crisis situation and Chief Minister's Police Medal for Outstanding Service respectively.

Speaking on the occasion, the DGP congratulated all the medal winners and appealed that they should work with more zeal, dedication and devotion after receiving such prestigious medals. He reiterated that the Assam Police is zero tolerant against corruptions and all the Police personnel must take a note of it. He urged for devoting time and energy in



investigation so that conviction rate of the state reaches the national average.

Senior officers S N Singh, IPS, director, F & ES, Assam & Spl. director general of Police (Comm.), Assam

and Hiren Ch Nath, IPS, addl director general of police, SB, Assam and other senior officers and some family members of Medal winners were present on the occasion.

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (PHE) KARBIANGLONG AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL : DIPHU.

No. Addl. CPHE-DIP/ Estt-95 / 2023-24/496

Dtd. 01/09/2023

In Pursuant to the approval of the authority of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Diphu, the undersigned is please to declare the result of the interview held for contractual position of Lab. Assistant Asstt. Chemist/ IEC District Coordinator and CWC (Nilip Block) under PHED and place of posting against the walk-in-interview held on 29/08/2023 at O/o the Additional Chief Engineer (PHE), Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Diphu.

Sl. No.	Name of Selected Candidates	Designation	Place of posting
1.	Liusheng Chrispus Timung	Community Wash Co-ordinator, (Nilip Block)	Diphu Rural Water Supply Division
2.	Kave Teronpi	IEC District Coordinator	Diphu Rural Water Supply Division
3.	Risim Engleng	Assistant Chemist	DLL, Diphu Rural Water Supply Division
4.	Akaidhon Teron	Lab. Assistant	SDLL, Howraghat (PHE) Division, Howraghat.

Sd/-

Additional Chief Engineer (PHE)
Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Diphu.

Cong hails Aditya-L1 launch, says nations build capacity of science not in few years but decades

NEW DELHI, Sept 2: The Congress on Saturday hailed the launch of Aditya-L1 as a "stupendous achievement" for India, as it shared a timeline of the mission from its conceptualisation and asserted that nations build capacity of science, technology and research not in a few years but decades.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Saturday launched the country's ambitious solar mission Aditya L1, eyeing history again after its successful lunar expedition, Chandrayaan-3, a few days ago.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said, "We are indebted and grateful to our scientists, space engineers, researchers and our hard-working personnel at @ISRO for the successful launch of AdityaL1 - Solar Observation Mission."

"Together, we celebrate their success and honour them with our gratitude," he said and shared a timeline of the mission.

India started the journey to the sun in 2006 when our scientists proposed a solar observatory with a single instrument for the Sun, he said in a post on X.

In July 2013, ISRO selected the seven payloads for the Aditya-1 mission, by now renamed the Aditya-L1 mission. In November 2015, ISRO formally approved Aditya-L1, the Congress president said.

"After the glorious successes of Chandrayaan Missions (First- 2008, Second-



2019 and Third - 2023) and the Mangalyaan Mission (2013), our path towards placing a satellite to study the sun became a bit more secure," Kharge said.

Nations build capacity of science, technology and research not in just a few years, but decades altogether, and India's success in space research and exploration is a shining example of that unflinching courage and commitment, he asserted.

"Despite all obstacles, we have prevailed," he added.

"Our tribute to the vision, ingenuity and the vigorous dedication of our legendary scientists and countless researchers for this historic accomplishment," Kharge said.

Science, as an instrument of development,

welfare and positive change, remains our magna carta, the Congress president said.

"We hope these triumphs would keep inspiring our younger generation and instill a deeper scientific temper in our people," he said.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "Today's launch of Aditya-L1 is another stupendous achievement of ISRO and for India!"

"While saluting ISRO once again, it is worthwhile recalling the recent timeline for Aditya-L1 to understand the continuity in the ISRO saga," he said.

Ramesh also recounted the timeline of the mission and stated that in 2006 scientists with the Astronomical Society of India and the Indian Academy of Sciences proposed the concept of a solar observatory with a single instrument. In March 2008, scientists shared the proposal with ISRO, he said.

"December 2009: ISRO approves Aditya-1 project with single instrument. April 2013: After former Chairman U. R. Rao's major intervention ISRO issues an 'announcement of opportunity', calling on the scientific community for proposals for more scientific instruments (payloads)," Ramesh pointed out.

In June 2013, ISRO reviewed scientific proposals received, he said.

"July 2013: ISRO selects the seven pay-

loads for the Aditya-1 mission by now renamed the Aditya-L1 mission. November 2015: ISRO formally approves Aditya-L1," he said.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also hailed ISRO for the successful launch.

"Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has once again created history. After the historic success of Chandrayaan-3, now ISRO has established India's power in space by successfully launching solar mission Aditya L-1," she said.

"Best wishes to the entire team of @isro and all the people of the country. Jai Hind," she said in a post on X.

The Congress said ISRO has given many opportunities to the country to be proud.

"After Chandrayaan-3, ISRO has again raised the nation's prestige by successfully launching Aditya L-1," the party said in a post in Hindi on X.

The entire Congress family is proud of this unprecedented achievement of the country's scientists, it said. Best wishes to the entire ISRO team, the party added.

As the 23.40-hour countdown concluded, the 44.4 metre tall Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) soared majestically at the pre-fixed time of 11.50 am from Sriharikota, located on the Eastern coast about 135 km from Chennai. (PTI)

INDIA bloc disunited, none of them can face PM Modi alone: Dilip Ghosh

DHUPGURI (WB), Sept 2: Senior BJP leader Dilip Ghosh on Saturday lashed out at the opposition INDIA bloc, claiming that the constituents were disunited and their leaders were issuing contradictory statements. Speaking to reporters at Dhupguri in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district, the Medinipur MP said that efforts to unite anti-BJP parties were failing as many parties "do not have the courage" to come forward and join the opposition bloc.

"Just after a recent meeting of the opposition INDIA bloc, their leaders are issuing contradictory statements. They are making efforts to bring all anti-BJP parties together but many such outfits are not coming forward out of fear. In fact, none can face Prime Minister Narendra Modi alone," he said.

Ghosh was visiting Dhupguri assembly seat, where a by-election is scheduled to be held on September 5, to hold door-to-door campaign and meet a representative body of businessmen. The BJP leader alleged that Congress and CPI(M) leaders were sacrificing their ground-level workers to protect their lawmakers.

In an apparent reference to the TMC government in the state, he claimed, "Political murders are being committed, women are being tortured in the

state but your (CPI(M) and Congress) leaders are sipping tea with their (TMC) leaders."

"Elections are being won in the state through the force of police and use of money. People want to be freed from it. This will be proved in the 2024 general elections," Ghosh said. Barring for 'one nation, one election', the former BJP state president said that the entire administrative machinery in the state is busy with some election or the other throughout the year, because of which common people are deprived of services.

"This is why we want assembly and Lok Sabha polls to be held together," he said. Ghosh said chief minister Mamata Banerjee's promises to make Dhupguri a sub-division and Jaigaon town a municipality has not yet materialised. The by-election to the assembly seat was necessitated due to the death of BJP MLA Bishnu Pada Roy on July 25. Votes will be counted on September 8.

The TMC has fielded college professor Nirmla Chandra Roy, while the BJP has nominated Tapasi Roy, widow of a CRPF jawan killed in a terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir in 2021. The CPI(M) has fielded folk singer Ishwar Chandra Roy and Congress will extend support to him. (PTI)

States under Congress will have govt of the poor: Rahul Gandhi

RAIPUR, Sept 2: Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday accused the BJP-led Centre of working for the welfare of 2-3 billionaires of the country and said states governed by his party will have the "government of the poor" and not the "government of Adani".

Addressing a convention of Rajiv Yuva Mitan Club at Mela Sthal in poll-bound Chhattisgarh's Nava Raipur, Gandhi said the country cannot progress with hatred and violence. It will march ahead by taking everyone together with love, he said.

Rajiv Yuva Mitan is a scheme of the state's sports and youth welfare department.

The Wayanad MP claimed that the BJP calls tribal communities 'vanvasi' instead of 'Adivasi' because it does not want them to come out of the forest and fulfil their dreams in various sectors.

Referring to a few recently published newspaper articles against industrialist Gautam Adani, Gandhi said, "The PM should tell the people of Chhattisgarh and the country why he doesn't want a probe against Adani. I want to make it clear why he does not want a probe as it will cause harm to someone else, not Adani."

He accused the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of working in the interest of 2-3 billionaires.

"Be it in Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh or upcoming governments of our party in Telangana and Madhya Pradesh, our government will be the government of the poor and not the government of Adani," he said.

Further hitting out at the BJP, he accused the opposition party of spreading hatred and violence, asserting that the Congress' work is to open 'mohabbat ki dukaan' (shops of love) in the 'nafrat ke bazaar' (market of hate).

Chief minister Bhupesh Baghel was present on the occasion. (PTI)

13 lakh rural people awaiting homes; Centre ignoring Bihar's plea on PMAY-G: Minister

PATNA, Sept 2: The Centre has not provided Bihar with fresh targets under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) for the last three years, though around 13 lakh families are waiting for houses in the state, rural development minister Sharvan Kumar claimed.

He asserted that several letters were sent to Union Rural Development and panchayat raj minister Giriraj Singh, urging him to allocate fresh target for Bihar, but the state did not get it for 2018-19, 2022-23 and 2023-24.

The opposition BJP, however, accused the Bihar government of playing politics over the issue, and claimed that the state administration is not ready to submit work completion reports or fund utilisation certificates on time.

Eligible beneficiaries get financial assistance from both central and state governments to build pucca houses in rural areas under the PMAY-G scheme. According to the Centre's notification, the PMAY-G aims to construct 2.95 crore houses across rural India to achieve the vision of "Housing for All" by March 2024.

"The state government is completing construction of 500 houses almost every day. Despite this progress, there remains a substantial backlog of families awaiting homes. The BJP-led central government is ignoring our request on PMAY-G," Kumar told PTI.

The payments, in three instalments, are electronically transferred directly to bank accounts or post office accounts of the beneficiaries. (PTI)

Obligation of IRDAI to ensure persons with disability not unduly prejudiced: Delhi HC



NEW DELHI, Sept 2: Taking note of claims of "high" health insurance premium and loading charges for the specially-abled, the Delhi High Court has said it is the obligation of the sector regulator IRDAI to ensure that such people are not "unduly prejudiced".

Justice Prathiba M Singh, dealing with a petition for health insurance coverage by a person suffering from Tetraplegia, said the "principle of reasonable accommodation" mandates that such

persons are provided additional support by the society and the State to enable them to lead a life of equal worth and dignity, and that right to life includes the right to avail healthcare, including medical insurance.

Following several judicial orders, various general and health insurance companies, including four government insurance companies, have launched products for persons with disabilities, the court noted. The launched products, Justice Singh said, "may not be the most ideal" for persons with disabilities, but this would be the "first step in the process of achieving equality" for them, which is the solemn intent of legislations, including the Right of Persons with Disabilities Act. The court further stated that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) unequivocally recognises the rights of persons with disabilities to lead a dignified life and to be treated in a non-discriminatory manner, which is also inherently recognised in the Constitution of India.

"Despite these international conventions and statutes which have been enacted recognising the

rights of PwDs, actual equality on the ground remains elusive - though there is positive effort in the right direction. It is also well established that the Right to Life includes the right to avail healthcare, including medical insurance," the court observed in an order released on August 25. The court said it has not considered the merits and reasonableness of each and every product launched by the insurance providers for persons with disabilities and the same is left open for consideration by any appropriate forum if any grievance is raised there by an aggrieved person.

"The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) being the sector regulator would also have an obligation to ensure that PwDs are not unduly prejudiced and give suitable directions to insurance companies after reviewing the products launched," said the court.

"If any person insured is having a grievance on the amount of premium being charged, remedies in accordance with law are available to them. The petitioner is given liberty to approach the authority concerned if he so desires," the court stated. (PTI)

Union minister's son booked under Arms Act day after man found dead at his Lucknow home

LUCKNOW, Sept 2: Union minister Kaushal Kishore's son has been booked under the Arms Act, a day after a 30-year-old man was shot dead under mysterious circumstances at his home here, police said on Saturday.

Three men were arrested in connection with the case on Friday, police said.

According to the minister, his son Vikas Kishore lives at his Lucknow residence but he was in Delhi when Vinay Srivastava, described as his friend, was murdered at the house.

The pistol used by the accused to shoot Vinay is a licensed weapon owned by Vikas. His arms licence was valid only in Uttar Pradesh, so he did not take the pistol with him, Kaushal claimed.

"On September 1, Vinay was killed at Vikas's residence in which his licensed pistol was used. In this connection, a case has been registered against the license at Thakurganj police station under section 30 (punishment for contravention of licence or rule) of the Arms Act," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Lucknow West) Rahul Raj said.

The victim had a single gunshot wound to his head, Raj said.

The report for cancellation of the licence has been forwarded to officials, he said.

On Friday, three men -- Ajay Rawat, Ankit Verma, and Shamim alias Baba -- were arrested in connection with the murder that took place at the union minister's house in the early hours



of the day, police said.

According to a complaint filed by the victim's brother, the three men had invited Vinay for dinner at the minister's residence, where an altercation took place in the course of gambling. In the initial investigation, it was revealed that before the incident took place, Vinay, Ajay, Ankit, Shamim and two others -- Saurabh Rawat and Arun Pratap Singh alias Bunty -- were playing cards for money and also had alcohol, police said.

After some time, at the instruction of Ajay, Ankit and Shamim, Saurabh and Arun took their win and left, they said, adding that Vinay had lost ₹ 12,000 in gambling.

Vinay got angry at this and confronted the three with accusations of ganging up against him, they said.

"Because of you, I have lost money, if the game was on, I would have won back the amount, Vinay had said," the police said in a

statement.

This led to a fight among them, blows were exchanged, and Vinay lost a button of his shirt in the fight, which enraged him, police said.

As the fight went on, Ankit took out the licensed revolver of the minister's son which was kept under a pillow. The three caught hold of Vinay, and Ankit shot him in the head, killing him immediately. Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime) Akash Kulhary said, adding the incident happened around 4 am.

The CCTV footage showed Saurabh and Arun leaving the house before Vinay was shot, police said.

Police recovered a .32 bore revolver, ammunition, a pack of cards and ₹ 2,000 cash from the spot on Friday.

SHO of Thakurganj police station Vikash Rai told PTI that "the pistol (used in crime) was manufactured in Kolkata".

The land on which the house is built belongs to Kaushal Kishore, the Union minister of state for housing and urban affairs and BJP MP from Lucknow's Mohanlalganj (SC) constituency. But the house is yet to be registered, said Jai Devi, the minister's wife.

Jai Devi is a BJP MLA from Malihabad (SC) assembly constituency. Kaushal is a second-term Lok Sabha MP from Mohanlalganj (SC) parliamentary constituency and was an MLA from 2002 to 2007. He was also a minister in the UP government from 2003 to 2004. (PTI)

Devbhoomi Raksha Abhiyan members demolish two mazzars in Rishikesh

DEHRADUN, Sept 2: A video has gone viral on the social media in which members of a right-wing organisation can be seen demolishing two mazzars using hammers and a JCB in Amit Gram area of Rishikesh.

Two young men can be seen in the video breaking the mazzars with hammers amid cries of "Jai Shri Ram".

The scene is followed by another in which a JCB is seen clearing the debris of the demolished mazzars. A person can also be heard saying that all such illegal mazzars anywhere in the state will be demolished.

"It is Devbhoomi not Mazarbhoomi," he says. An anti-encroachment drive is currently underway in different parts of the state and a number of mazzars have been demolished as part of the exercise.

However, in this case it was done not by the administration but by an aggressive Hindutva outfit - Devbhoomi Raksha Abhiyan.

Devbhoomi Raksha Abhiyan president Swami Darshan Bharti said they had the permission to de-

molish the mazzars from the owners of the land on which they were built.

"The land on which the mazzars were built belong to two Hindus from the hills. They permitted us to demolish them. We did it in the presence of police personnel," he said.

"There are 25-30 such mazzars in Gumaniwala and Shyampur areas of Rishikesh. We will demolish them too. Building mazzars in Devbhoomi is an attack on our religion," he said.

"Do it elsewhere if you want, but spare Devbhoomi," he said. Rishikesh Kotwali SHO Khushi Ram Pandey said a case under section 505 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been lodged against unidentified persons in connection with the incident.

Section 505 of the IPC deals with statements creating or promoting enmity, hatred or ill will between classes and offence committed in place of worship or in any assembly engaged in the performance of religious worship or religious ceremonies. (PTI)

28-foot 'Nataraja' statue being installed at G20 Summit venue made using ancient casting technique

NEW DELHI, Sept 2: A towering statue of 'Nataraja', believed to be the world's tallest, being installed at the venue of the upcoming G20 Summit here, has been made using an ancient casting technique.

This statue, which is 28-foot tall including the pedestal, was made using the ancient lost-wax technique of metal casting that was used for making the famed Chola bronzes, sources said.

The 'Nataraja' statue symbolises Lord Shiva as the 'lord of dance' and his cosmic power of creation and destruction.

"We are installing the tallest-ever statue of Nataraja, in the campus of Bharat Mandapam, the venue of the G20 Summit," a source said.

The G20 Leaders' Summit will take place from September 9-10 at 'Bharat Mandapam', the newly-built international convention and exhibition centre at the Pragati Maidan.

The stretch of Mathura Road facing the Pragati Maidan has been spruced up and decorated with thematic posters,



artistic logos and flags of G20 member nations.

On the opening day of the summit, a 'Culture Corridor' envisioned by the Ministry of Culture will also be unveiled at Bharat Mandapam.

The concept of the 'Culture Corridor'

is about "bringing the best and the most valuable artefacts" from all the 29 countries in one space which will then signify the essence of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam -- the theme of the G20, a senior official said.

Besides, the corridor would also sig-

nify that "culture unites all", he said. "Culture Unites All" was the sub-theme of the Culture Working Group of the G20 under India's presidency.

As part of the 'Culture Corridor - G20 Digital Museum', artefacts in physical and digital formats sourced from all G20 members and invited countries, will be exhibited on the same floor where the leaders' meetings will take place, and they will walk through this "cultural corridor" while moving into and out of the summit room, according to sources.

For this international project, India's submissions in the intangible heritage category are -- yoga, Kumbh Mela, Vedic chanting, lost-wax tradition of bronze casting and double ikkat weaving Patan Patola of Gujarat.

"We are showcasing Panini's 'Ash-tadyayi' in the object of cultural significance category and the lost-wax process is one of our five submissions in the intangible heritage category, and the 'Nataraja' statue has been made

using this technique," another source said.

A time-tested tradition in sculptural making, the lost-wax process has been in use since the era of the Cholas, whose bronze items are prized possessions today. In this metal casting process, molten metal, usually bronze, gold or silver, is poured into a mould made using wax or any resin-like material. Once the metal cools and solidifies, the wax model is melted and drained away.

During the ninth meeting of the G20 coordination committee to review G20 preparations, Prime Minister's Principal Secretary P K Mishra Wednesday took stock of the arrangements and also reviewed the installation progress of the Nataraja statue at the venue.

The exhibition of physical and digital artefacts under the 'Culture Corridor' will be spread over a 10,000 sq ft area in the hallway skirting the summit room, with a huge immersive zone planned in an alcove with a mega screen display, the sources said.

Manuscripts of the Rig Veda from India, a rare copy of the Magna Carta from the UK and an anamorphic digital image of the Mona Lisa from France, certified original copies of the Charters of Freedom from the US, a fahua lidded jar from China will be among the several artefacts to be exhibited at the 'Culture Corridor'.

"Apart from the Culture Corridor, other works entrusted to the culture ministry include making backdrops where the Indian Prime Minister will greet leaders, and the President of India will greet leaders and their spouses. We are also curating a cultural programme for the final dinner of G20 leaders and their spouses and VVIPs," the source said.

The ministry is also setting up an exhibition representing India as the 'Mother of Democracy', which will "talk about our over 5,000 years of history and how we have maintained and strengthened democratic traditions over these years," the official added. (PTI)

This is not Gehlot govt, it is 'Grih-loot' govt: BJP chief Nadda at Rajasthan rally

SAWAI MADHOPUR (RAJASTHAN), Sept 2: Attacking the Congress dispensation in Rajasthan over crime against women, corruption and other issues, BJP national president J P Nadda on Saturday called upon the people to remove the government if they want to change the situation in the state.

He accused the Ashok Gehlot-led government of being a 'Grih-loot sarkar' that loots houses of people, and alleged that the ruling Congress in the state has given a free hand to its MLAs to indulge in corruption and fill the pockets of their party 'bosses' in Delhi.

Targeting the opposition INDIA alliance, the BJP chief said the grouping "does not care for the people". They are only worried about saving their families and therefore, they have joined hands against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he added.

"The Grand Alliance members want to remove Modi ji because they are concerned not about the country but only about their families. The opposition alliance is only concerned about taking the family forward! Lalu is worried about Tejaswi, Sonia is worried about Rahul, Akhilesh is worried about Dimple, Uddhav is worried about Aditya and Mamta Didi is worried about her nephew," Nadda said.

He accused the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government of being involved in scams worth ₹ 12 lakh crore. "2G Scam, Coal Scam, Commonwealth Scam, in this way they committed countless scams".

"Therefore, they have nothing to do with the country, they are only doing it to hide their corruption and save their families," Nadda said.

"This is not Gehlot government, this is a 'Grih-loot' sarkar that loots houses of the people. The Congress means loot, corruption and misgovernance," he claimed, addressing a public meeting in Sawai Madhopur on the launch of the BJP's 'Parivartan Sankalp Yatra'.

"They do not care for the peace



and happiness of Rajasthan. It is their desire to do corruption, give a free hand to MLAs, make provisions for open loot and ensure that this money goes to the bosses in Delhi," Nadda alleged.

He added that the Congress was not bothered about the country but for the "re-launch" of Rahul Gandhi. Nadda also named leaders of other opposition parties and alleged that they were only bothered about saving their families.

"They say remove Modi because they are worried about their families. We say take Modi forward and take the country forward," he said.

The BJP national president said the farmers and the youth of Rajasthan are feeling cheated.

Nadda said Rajasthan used to be called a peace-loving state, but today it is being known as a state of rape and atrocities.

"Therefore, now Rajasthan is not going to tolerate it," he said.

The people of Rajasthan are going to bid farewell to the Congress government, which has broken promises, forever, the BJP leader said.

He said the Gehlot government is today known for its 'red diary'.

"What is there in the red diary? What is the reason that a minister who brings that diary is terminated. The people of Rajasthan should learn a lesson whoseever is protecting this red diary should be dis-

missed in the coming elections," he said.

Sacked Rajasthan minister Rajendra Gudha had claimed that the red diary, which he had secured on Gehlot's direction from the residence of Congress leader Dharmendra Rathore during an IT raid in July 2020 had details of the Gehlot government's financial transactions.

Referring to the Pratapgarh incident where a 21-year-old woman was paraded naked, Nadda said, "The oppression of women that is going on in Rajasthan today, humanity is getting ashamed. Women are being insulted openly, but the government is silent, and remains a mute spectator."

The party president said the BJP always talks about the empowerment of the villages, the poor, the deprived, the afflicted, the exploited, the Dalits, the farmers, the women and the youth, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also done the work of empowering them.

He said the BJP government at the Centre is worried about the poor. Under the Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, 80 crore people are being given 5 kg rice and one kg pulses. On the other hand, 4.5 crore people in Rajasthan are getting these food items.

"Today 13.5 crore people have come out of the poverty line. Today extreme poverty in India is less than 1 per cent," he said.

Nadda said Rajasthan has always given a new direction and a new vision. Taking inspiration from that, the party is starting the 'Parivartan Yatra' with the resolve to move towards success and fulfil the aspirations of the people of Rajasthan.

The BJP chief also congratulated the Indian Space and Research Organisation (ISRO) for the successful launch of the Aditya-L1 solar mission.

The party will launch a total of four yatras from different locations from Saturday to Tuesday and each yatra will be inaugurated by a central leader. The second yatra will start on September 3 from Beneshwar Dham in Dungarpur which will be launched by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

The third yatra will be launched from Ramdevra in Jaisalmer on September 4 by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari will launch the fourth yatra on September 5 from Gogamedi, Hanumangrh.

The four yatras will traverse through all 200 assembly constituencies under which Kisan chaulpal, motorcycle rallies, meeting of women, Dalit chaulpals will be organised to seek votes for the party.

Addressing the rally, former chief minister Vasundhara Raje said the Gehlot government is concerned about its own interests and not the interests of the public.

Raje said to bring the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) on the ground, her BJP government signed an agreement on the sharing of river water with Madhya Pradesh on August 25, 2005.

"But, unfortunately, the Gehlot government came and the ERCP was put on hold. When the BJP government came in power again, we took forward its work by making a detailed project report," she said.

She said the BJP will not let the interests of the people of Rajasthan suffer and will form its government in the upcoming elections. (PTI)

Agriculture department to be set up in University of Ladakh: LG Mishra

LEH, Sept 2: Lieutenant Governor Brigadier (Retd) B D Mishra has decided to set up an agriculture department in the University of Ladakh and transfer various units of SKUAST to it, an official said on Saturday.

Mishra took the decision at a meeting convened at Raj Niwas here to discuss the handing of assets of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), an official spokesperson said. The spokesperson said the Lt Governor decided that the full-fledged agriculture department would be established under the University of Ladakh in affiliation of SKUAST Kashmir.

Mishra also decided that various SKUAST units in Ladakh would be transferred to the agriculture department of the University of Ladakh.

He directed the Vice Chancellor of University of Ladakh, Prof S K Mehta to expedite the process of creating the agriculture department.

Commissioner Secretary, Higher Education, Ladakh, Padma Angmo suggested that SKUAST

should hand over the assets as well as the posts to the administration of Ladakh.

SKUAST Kashmir Vice Chancellor Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai informed the meeting about the university and its existence in the Union Territory.

He said two research institutes, two Krishi Vigyan Kendras and six SKUAST units were established in Ladakh during the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. Ladakh was granted Union Territory status after being carved out from the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019.

Jammu and Kashmir was also turned into a Union Territory with its special status under Article 370 revoked.

Gania said 45 non-technical posts are lying vacant in six units of the university and are reserved for the residents of Ladakh.

The assets of SKUAST-Kashmir will be taken over by the Agriculture Department of the Ladakh University when it becomes fully functional, the spokesperson said. (PTI)

Contd. from Page 1...

Public opinion in favour

senior additional advocate general Nalin Kohli and senior advocate Nekibur Zaman. It was tasked to scrutinize the provisions of the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Act, 1937 along with Article 25 of the Constitution in relation to the Directive Principles of State Policy for a Uniform Civil Code. Sarma in his official address on Independence Day said that a "strict act" will be enacted soon to end polygamy in Assam. On July 13 he said the Assam government had conveyed to the authorities concerned that it was in support of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) and wanted to ban polygamy immediately in the state.

The opposition parties had earlier slammed the government's decision to enact a law on polygamy. It had called the step "diversionary and communal", especially at a time when suggestions on the UCC are being received by the Law Commission. (With inputs from PTI)

ISRO successfully launches

to an orbit around the point, which is a balanced gravitational location between the Earth and the Sun. The spacecraft spends its whole mission life of five years orbiting around L1 in an irregularly shaped orbit in a plane roughly perpendicular to the line joining the Earth and the Sun, ISRO said.

The strategic placement at the L1 Lagrange point ensures the spacecraft can maintain a constant, uninterrupted view of the Sun. This location also allows the satellite to access solar radiation and magnetic storms before they are influenced by Earth's magnetic field and atmosphere, the space agency informed. Additionally, the L1 point's gravitational stability minimises the need for frequent orbital maintenance efforts, optimising the spacecraft's operational efficiency.

Aditya-L1 will stay approximately 1.5 million km away from the Earth, directed towards the Sun, which is about 1 per cent of the Earth-Sun distance. It carries seven scientific payloads to carry out the study.

The Visible Emission Line Coronagraph, which studies the solar corona and dynamics of Coronal Mass Ejections (CME), will be sending 1,440 images per day to the ground station for analysis on reaching the intended orbit.

The Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope payload images the Solar photosphere and Chromosphere in near Ultraviolet and also measures the solar irradiance variations. The Aditya Solar Wind Particle Experiment (ASPEX) and Plasma Analyser Package for Aditya (PAPA) payloads study the solar wind and energetic ions as well as the energy distribution.

The Solar Low Energy X-ray Spectrometer and the High Energy L1 Orbiting X-ray Spectrometer (HEL1OS) study the X-ray flares from the Sun over a wide X-ray energy range.

The Magnetometer payload is capable of measuring interplanetary magnetic fields at the L1 point. The Science payloads of Aditya-L1 are indigenously developed with the close collaboration of various centers of ISRO.

Union minister Singh, who holds the Science and Technology portfolio, said "while the whole world watched this with bated breath, it is indeed a sunshine moment for India." "Thank you Prime Minister Narendra Modi for making this happen by opening up new vistas for India's space sector and telling us sky is not the limit," he said.

He also thanked the PM for giving the confidence, courage and the conviction to reach out to the stars and to discover the mysteries of the universe beyond. The other space agencies that have already launched solar missions are the US' National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Japan's JAXA, the European Space Agency (ESA).

The Advanced Space-based Solar Observatory (ASO-S) was successfully launched by National Space Science Center, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), in 2022. (PTI)

State flood situation improves

the state. Cattle feed consisting of 1210.78 quintals of wheat bran and 574 quintals of rice bran have also been distributed. The State Disaster Management Force (SDRF) has deployed 12 boats to ferry people from flooded areas to safer places. SDRF personnel have evacuated 50 people in affected places in the past 24 hours. Six trained medical teams are also in place to provide basic emergency medical care to the public in these areas.

One embankment has been breached in Udalguri district, while two have been damaged in Darrang. Roads, schools, Anganwadi centres and electric poles among others have been inundated or damaged in the floods. Erosion has also been reported from Dhubri, Kamrup, Kokrajhar, Nalbari, South Salmara and Tinsukia, the ASDMA bulletin added.

4 held with heroin worth

₹ 6 crore and one Maruti car," Sangma said. "Kudos to @Irbishnoips and his team. Ongoing enforcement drive against drugs will continue unabated as saving youth from drugs remains our top priority," he added. (PTI)

Amit Shah, Adhir Ranjan in

which simultaneous elections may be held if they cannot be held in one go..." It will also examine and recommend if the amendments to the Constitution would require ratification by the states. Certain amendments to the Constitution require ratification by at least 50 per cent of the state assemblies. The bill which sought to create a National Judicial Appointments Commission was ratified by over 50 per cent of the states after it was passed by Parliament.

The committee will also analyse and recommend possible solutions to scenarios such as hung House, adoption of no-confidence motion, or defection or any such other event in case of simultaneous elections. The committee has also been asked to recommend "necessary safeguards for ensuring the continuity of the cycle of simultaneous elections and recommend necessary amendments to the Constitution so that the cycle of simultaneous elections is not disturbed".

The issue of logistics is also on the agenda of the panel as the massive exercise would require additional number of EVMs and paper-trail machines, polling and security personnel. It will also examine and recommend the modalities of use of a single electoral roll and electoral identity cards for identification of voters in elections to the Lok Sabha, state legislative assemblies, municipalities and panchayats. A parliamentary committee had recently said that a common electoral roll will help reduce expenses and prevent manpower being deployed for a work on which another agency is already working.

The committee will hear and entertain all persons, representations and communications which in its opinion can facilitate its work and enable it to finalise its recommendations. While the Election Commission is mandated to hold parliamentary and assembly polls, state election commission's hold local body elections. The EC and SECs are separate bodies under the Constitution with a fixed mandate.

According to former chief election commissioner SY Quraishi, the original proposal was for simultaneous elections to all three tiers of democracy -- Lok Sabha (543 MPs), Vidhan Sabha (4120 MLAs) and the Panchayats/Municipalities (30 lakh members).

The Saturday notification pointed out that elections to the Lok Sabha and legislative assemblies were mostly held simultaneously from 1951-52 to 1967 after which this cycle got broken and now, elections are held almost every year and within a year too at different times, which result in massive expenditure by the government and other stakeholders. It also leads to diversion of security forces and other electoral officers engaged in such elections from their primary duties for significantly prolonged periods. Frequent polls, it said, disrupt developmental work on account of prolonged application of Model Code of Conduct. (PTI)

Assam tops in implementing

stamp duty for the scheme, involving elected representatives like MLAs and MPs to reach out to the target population and sensitization of stakeholders such as ULBs and banks regarding the scheme's importance through various meetings. Regular review meetings at the highest levels to monitor the scheme's implementation have also helped.

Moreover, the state government has also undertaken a number of IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) activities to create awareness among the target group and ensure all eligible beneficiaries benefit from the scheme. These activities encompass newspaper advertisements, digital media coverage, leaflet distribution in all ULBs, broadcast of radio jingles, street plays in market areas, and hoardings, among others. Financial literacy camps are also being organized across ULBs to educate street vendors about the benefits of digital transactions and timely loan repayment.

Assam's outstanding performance in implementing the PM SVANidhi Scheme serves as an inspiration for the nation, showcasing the transformative potential of government initiatives when executed with dedication and precision. It reinforces the vision of a more prosperous and self-reliant India, where the grassroots economy thrives.

Ruling allies of NDA in

Bharat in Amrit Kaal, we need to ensure Hon'ble PM's victory in 2024 with a landslide majority." The ruling alliance will be contesting the Lok Sabha polls unitedly, though details of seat sharing are yet to be worked out. (PTI)

Top YSRCP leader in favour of 'One Nation, One Election' proposal

AMARAVATI, Sept 2: YSRCP general secretary V Vijayasai Reddy on Saturday batted for the 'One Nation, One Election' proposal, saying it has many positives and can help save thousands of crores of rupees.

Reddy, who is also a Rajya Sabha member from the ruling party in Andhra Pradesh, expressed his views in the wake of the Union Government constituting a committee under the leadership of former President Ram Nath Kovind to study the feasibility of simultaneous polls to state Assemblies and the Lok Sabha.

"The concept of One Nation, One Election has many positives, most of all it saves thousands of crores (of rupees)," Reddy posted on X, formerly Twitter.

He stressed that this concept is not new for India and said simultaneous general and state elections were already held in 1951-52, 1957, 1962 and 1967.

"India had simultaneous General and State elections in 1951-52, 1957, 1962 & 1967. For us in AP, it does not affect us as the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections coincide," Reddy said in the post. (PTI)

Amid patwaris' agitation, CM Mann announces steps to fill vacant posts of revenue officials

CHANDIGARH, Sept 2: Amid the agitation of 'patwaris', Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday announced to fill all vacant posts by hiring 586 'patwaris' (revenue officials) as well as putting 741 undertraining patwaris on duty in the field. Mann also issued directions for speeding up pending formalities in the recruitment of 710 candidates in order to give them appointment letters.

The chief minister announced to implement biometric attendance for patwaris following complaints received against many revenue officials. The announcement came a day after Punjab patwaris began their agitation, saying they were boycotting "additional" work they are expected to carry out. The officials had stopped work allotted to them in 3,193 "additional" revenue circles but were carrying out the duties including those related to flood relief in their own circles.

The Revenue Patwar Union had called the strike after the registration of a corruption case against a patwari and a kanungo in Sangrur district a week ago. In a video message on Saturday, Mann said there are a total of 3,660 patwari circles and of which, 2,037 posts have been lying vacant for the past many years. "There are 741 candi-

dates who are undergoing training at this moment. Usually their training period is for 18 months and they have completed 15 months. We are deploying them into the field. They will work as full-fledged patwaris," said Mann.

Likewise, there are 710 candidates for patwari posts, who have passed their tests but have not got appointment letters because of some unfinished documentation process like pending police verification. He said he has directed the Home department to finish this process within one week so as to give appointment letters to the 710 candidates.

Mann further said 586 posts of patwaris will also be advertised soon so as to give a chance to the youth of Punjab to serve the state.

With these steps, a total of 2,037 circles where posts of patwari are lying vacant will be filled, Mann said. The chief minister said he will not allow people to be harassed. The CM further said there will be biometric attendance of patwaris, adding that there are complaints that many patwaris have further hired people to carry out their jobs at a very low salary.

They get their jobs done from others and they themselves were engaged in some business or other

activity, Mann said.

This will ensure that patwaris perform their duty efficiently during the office hours without creating any inconvenience to the people, he said. The revenue officials mainly maintain records regarding land ownerships.

Reacting to Mann's statement, Punjab Revenue Patwar Union president Harvir Singh Dhindsa said their agitation will continue.

He asked the chief minister whether undertraining patwaris who will be deputised in the field will get full salary or their "exploitation will continue" by paying just ₹ 5,000 per month. He further sought to know whether 710 patwaris who will be given appointment letters, will undergo training for one year or one-and-half-year.

Dhindsa sought to counter Mann's claims of 3,660 'patwari' posts in the state. He claimed that there are currently 4,716 posts of patwaris in the state at present, adding that Mann was being given wrong information about total posts. On biometric attendance, Dhindsa asked the CM that they should be told who will go to fields for 'girdawari' (survey to assess loss) and where they will get biometric machines for attendance. (PTI)

India should vigorously pursue G20 agenda: Commonwealth Gen-Secy

NEW DELHI, Sept 2: India should pursue with vigour the G20 agenda and make sure that gender parity and gender inclusive approaches are woven into everything, according to Commonwealth General-Secretary Patricia Scotland.

In an interview with PTI, she highlighted the alarming gender disparities in the impacts of climate change, with a special focus on India's efforts to address this pressing issue.

Scotland also shed light on the disproportionate burden borne by women and girls and emphasized the urgent need for action, with a particular spotlight on India.

She acknowledged the rapid increase in climate disasters worldwide, with over 7,000 such events occurring in less than two decades.

"What makes this grim reality even more concerning is that women and girls are often the hardest hit victims of these disasters," she said.

She said the Commonwealth "would strongly encourage India to do its part to pursue with vigour the G20 agenda and make sure that gender parity, gender inclusive approaches is woven in to absolutely everything".

Scotland pointed to a recent series of natural calamities in India as a stark example of this inequality. "It's scary to see the number of landslides and the droughts and all of it happening in rapid succession," she said.

She noted it is "wholly unacceptable" that they should suffer disproportionately.

India, a country grappling with a series of climate-induced calamities including landslides, droughts, and extreme weather events, exemplifies this issue, Scotland said.

"India really is reflective of all of it because India has the island states, the large states, and one of the states in India is the same size as Nigeria, and you've got the coastal states," she said.



Scotland commended India's unique position within the Commonwealth, which mirrors its diverse culture and vast geographical representation.

India's proactive efforts to address gender disparities in the context of climate change serve as a model for other nations grappling with similar challenges, she said.

"India has the Commonwealth window in the UN fund, and we've used that Commonwealth's window for Barbados and for the Bahamas."

Furthermore, India leads the Commonwealth Finance Minister's working group, advocating for gender considerations in international financial institutions, she added.

Scotland elaborated upon the steps that the Commonwealth have taken to ensure gender considerations are embedded in its initiatives, fostering a comprehensive approach to addressing gender disparities.

These efforts encompass addressing violence against women, eliminating discriminatory laws, and promoting gender equality within climate commitments. Practical tools, such as the Climate Finance Access Hub and the Commonwealth Universal Vulnerability Index, aim to address gender disparities effectively.

"We've embedded in all of these tools the issue of gender parity, gender equality, so it's not talk, it's actually giving our countries the mechanisms that they can use, the tools they can use to make sure that the unfairness, that the lack of parity that we have now is addressed," Scotland said.

As the world prepares for critical climate discussions, including the upcoming COP28, she urged India to maintain its leadership in championing gender parity and inclusive climate approaches.

She also emphasised the integration of gender considerations into all facets of climate discussions and policies. (PTI)

Rajinikanth's 'Jailer' to start streaming on Prime Video from September 7

MUMBAI, Sept 2: Prime Video has set September 7 as the digital premiere date of superstar Rajinikanth's latest movie "Jailer".

Produced by Sun Pictures and directed by Nelson Dilipkumar, "Jailer" stars Rajinikanth in the lead role. Ramya Krishnan, Yogi Babu, Vinayakan, Tamannaah Bhatia and Master Ritvik round out the cast.

The film also features special cameos from Malayalam superstar Mohanlal, Kannada superstar Shiva Rajkumar, and Bollywood star Jackie Shroff.

The story centres on a retired jailer Tiger Muthuvel Pandiyan (Rajinikanth), who goes on a manhunt to find his son's killers. As he navigates the shadows of his son's world, Muthuvel's determination is put to the test, leading him through a complex and familiar path, the official synopsis reads.

"Jailer" is extremely special to me; I had Rajinikanth sir to elevate the story with his signature acting style, and had superstars from the Indian film industry — Mohanlal sir, Shiva Rajkumar sir, and Jackie Shroff sir — to add their magical



touch to this mass entertainer. We are excited for audiences across the globe to now enjoy this action drama, anytime and anywhere, from their homes," director Nelson said in a statement.

"Jailer" released in theatres on August

10. Following its digital debut, Prime members in India and over 240 countries and territories worldwide will be able to stream the action entertainer in Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada and Hindi.

C. Sembian Sivakumar, COO, Sun Pictures, said they are excited to show the film to the global audience. "The film's overwhelming success across theatres is a testament of Nelson's vision and the entire team's hard work and dedication. We are now excited to take this emotionally rich entertainer to audiences across the globe in multiple languages through Prime Video," he said. (PTI)

We're divided by languages but art unites us: Rana Daggubati on bringing Amar Chitra Katha to celluloid

MUMBAI, Sept 2: He has lived with stories from the Amar Chitra Katha since he started reading and now comes the time to deepen his relationship with the comic book publisher, says actor-producer Rana Daggubati whose next film is on demon king "Hiranyakashyap".

The pan-India film, inspired by an Amar Chitra Katha (ACK) comic, will see him play the king from Hindu mythology. It is backed by his VFX and production company Spirit Media.

"My association with Amar Chitra Katha personally has been from the time I first started reading properly as a kid. I was pretty young when these comics came to me from my mom. I've lived with those stories. All of these stories have somehow inspired me to be an actor and a filmmaker," Daggubati told PTI in an interview. The actor-producer's professional association with the ACK started in 2019 when he opened a learning centre, ACK Alive, in Hyderabad. His production company Spirit Media holds a stake in the comic book publishing company, which was founded by the late Anant Pai and his wife Lalitha Pai.

Daggubati, who hopes to present timeless stories from the Amar Chitra Katha stable as big screen spectacles, unveiled the concept teaser of the ambitious "Hiranyakashyap" at the San Diego Comic-Con (SDCC 2023) in July.

The 38-year-old actor said the interest non-Indian audiences showed in ACK comics at the SDCC came as a good surprise.

"I was fascinated with the number of non-Indian people who knew about these stories and knew about Amar Chitra Katha... I feel stories will always keep uniting people. It doesn't matter which culture or language you come from. We are divided by states and languages, but art unites us," he said. "Hiranyakashyap" will revolve around the titular mythological demon king and his relentless quest to annihilate beliefs and faith of the followers of Lord Vishnu. His son, Prahlada, however, was a Vishnu devotee.

As per mythological stories, the demon king obtained a boon from the Lord Brahma that he could not be killed by human or animal, inside or outside, in day or night, and that no weapon could harm him. Vishnu takes the Narasimha avatar to finally slay him.

The idea of adapting mythological and historical stories published by ACK on film had always intrigued him, the actor said. But it was SS Rajamouli's two-part action epic "Baahubali", where he played the antagonist Bhallaladev, that gave him the confidence to finally greenlight "Hiranyakashyap".

"Post 'Baahubali', we under-

stood what it takes to make spectacle cinema. ACK became my natural choice because this is all I knew as a kid. All these spectacle stories need a nice way to come back to the younger world," he added.

Citing the example of the 1967 Telugu film "Bhakta



Prahlada", which narrated the tale of Prahlada and demon king Hiranyakashyap, Daggubati said the film was popular across south India. With this new version, he intends to take the story to a wider audience, he said.

"It is one of the few stories that cuts across the universe. It is a father and son story, and we felt that's the right first one to pick." According to Daggubati, mythological stories and folktales were revered in the black-and-white era but makers later shied away from exploring the genre as it demanded a certain

scale. "Today's generation is different from the black-and-white era that watched that film. So how do you tell those stories, connect these stories? Comic books became the first reference," he said.

"Hiranyakashyap" is currently in the writing stage and pre-production will begin next year in March.

Trivikram Srinivas is attached as a writer on the project. Daggubati said they intend to turn more stories from ACK comics into movies, but will focus on only one project at a time. "Hiranyakashyap" is the first one and there are a lot more stories. We will go forward and announce them in future. These are big films and demand extreme preparation," he added.

Preeti Vyas, president and CEO of Amar Chitra Katha Pvt Ltd, termed Daggubati "the smartest" because he managed to invest in Amar Chitra Katha and has got a 500 title catalogue, which people love and admire. (PTI)

Wanted to take a break from villain roles, but couldn't say no to 'Guns & Gulaabs': Gulshan Devaiah

NEW DELHI, Sept 2: Gulshan Devaiah says he was at a stage in his career where he had decided not to take up negative roles but "Guns & Gulaabs", with its spaghetti western-like setting and an interesting mix of characters, was too delicious an opportunity to let go.

In the 1990s-set series from director duo Raj Nidimoru and Krishna DK, Devaiah plays '4-Cut Atmaram', a hired assassin in a Sanjay Dutt-style get-up, who has an almost mythical reputation for the way he uses his Rampuri knife to kill people.

"Raj sir called me. Usually, he does the calling and he asked me to have a look at this. I didn't want to do a villain's role, I wanted to take a break and there was some conflict with the schedule also, but he insisted."

"This one was such a fun and quirky character in Raj & DK's world. It was like a spaghetti western, and I really imagined being in one. I am

so glad that I made the right decision," Devaiah told PTI in an interview.

The series follows the story of a lovestruck mechanic Paana Tipu (Rajkumar), a reluctant heir to a ruling gang Chhota Gancho (Adarsh Gourav), an honest officer-turned-agent-of-chaos Arjun Verma (Dulquer), and Devaiah's 4-Cut Atmaram.

The series, which comes after his turn as cop Devi Singh in Prime Video series "Dahaad", offered Devaiah a chance to play an interesting role and the actor said he was so intrigued by it that he immediately started building the character in his mind.

"I'm not so interested in playing just villain roles. If I want diversity, then I have to take responsibility for that. But sometimes there are roles like 'Guns & Gulaabs'. It would be rather stupid if I refuse it because they are such fantastic parts. They are parts that will really be highlights in my career, like it

was with Jimmy," he said, referring to his role in Vasanth Bala's critical hit "Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota".

Atmaram's look was partially inspired by the hairstyles that Dutt and Mithun Chkharborty sported in the 90s, but the idea to use a 'Rampuri' knife instead of a switchblade was his own, the actor said. "I didn't know what it was initially and what they were considering, but I remembered that in movies from '50s and '60s, the villains used to have 'Rampuri Chakoo'. I said, 'Can I have a Rampuri Chakoo, which is not a switchblade? I did not want it to open with a button. I wanted it to make the 'kat kat' sound when opened by hand so that people know that it's Atmaram even when I am not in the frame."

Asked whether he would be up for a second season if the show is renewed by Netflix, Devaiah said he had asked a similar question to Nidimoru. (PTI)



SALMAN KHAN UNVEILS FIRST POSTER OF 'TIGER 3', CONFIRMS DIWALI RELEASE

MUMBAI, Sept 2: Superstar Salman Khan on Saturday shared the first poster of "Tiger 3", the fifth chapter of Yash Raj Film's spy universe.

Directed by Maneesh Sharma, "Tiger 3" will see Khan and Katrina Kaif return as spy agents — Tiger and Zoya. The movie, which follows "Ek Tha Tiger" (2012) and "Tiger Zinda Hai" (2017), will make its debut in theatres on Diwali in November in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

"Aa raha hoon! #Tiger3 on Diwali 2023. Celebrate #Tiger3 with #YRF50 only at a big screen near you. Releasing in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu. #KatrinaKaif | #ManeeshSharma | @yrf," Salman posted on X, formerly known as Twitter, along with the official poster.

The 'YRF Spy Universe', conceptualised by Chopra, brings three franchises headlined by leading stars — Salman's "Tiger" movies, Shah Rukh's "Pathaan" and Hrithik Roshan's "War" — under one umbrella. The studio's recent blockbuster "Pathaan" marked the beginning of the cinematic universe with a cameo by Salman as Avinash Singh Rathore aka Tiger. It also had plenty of references to Hrithik's "War" character, Kabir Dhaliwal.

In a press release, Aditya Chopra-led YRF said the film will be set the events of "Tiger Zinda Hai", "War" and "Pathaan". Shah Rukh will be making a cameo appearance as Pathaan in "Tiger 3", which also stars Emraan Hashmi in a pivotal role. (PTI)

'Tracing the Tracks' documentary sheds light on the lives of sanitation workers

HT Bureau GUWAHATI, Sept 2: Dasra, a strategic philanthropy organisation, has launched a groundbreaking documentary titled 'Tracing the Tracks' to spotlight real, uncensored stories on the lives and journeys of sanitation workers.

As part of the documentary, ten sanitation workers have been featured, across Odisha and Tamil Nadu, as they recount their experiences and journeys in their own words. While these sanitation workers play a crucial and unmissable role in ensuring the safe management of human waste, which benefits all citizens, their journeys and voices remain absent from public consciousness.

Dasra is the Secretariat of the Na-

tional Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (NFSSM) Alliance: a collaborative body driving discourse on faecal sludge and septage management (FSSM) forward in India with a key emphasis upon the need to ensure safe and dignified livelihoods for sanitation workers.

The thought-provoking documentary 'Tracing the Tracks' has been produced by Teepoi, a film production company based out of Bengaluru, Karnataka. Dasra partnered with the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) and the Urban Management Centre (UMC), whose crucial work in direct engagement with sanitation workers to ensure their safety and wellbeing has helped in documenting sanitation workers

across the sanitation value chain. India has more than 5 million sanitation workers who play a crucial role in managing human waste across the entire sanitation value chain.

They face the brunt of deep social stigma associated with handling human waste and often have to work in hazardous, unsafe conditions. Due to the informal nature of the sanitation sector, workers are not properly recognised for their work, lack access to safety equipment, adequate and timely remuneration and coverage under social protection schemes.

"Tracing the Tracks" seeks to build awareness and recognition of sanitation work. The documentary showcases the lives of these unsung champions and presents a solution-

oriented approach, showcasing solutions and best practices for the implementation of safe and dignified livelihoods for sanitation workers.

Meghna Malhotra, Deputy Director, Urban Management Centre (UMC) says, Over time, India's expanding urban population has exerted considerable pressure on sanitation services in urban areas.

Consequently, State and national schemes have prioritized enhancing sanitation infrastructure.

Improving the working conditions of India's 5 million-strong sanitation workforce is also now becoming a focus area. States like Odisha have taken the lead by implementing GARIMA, a state-wide scheme that promotes safe and dignified liveli-

hoods for sanitation workers.

The GARIMA initiative, implemented by the Govt. of Odisha in collaboration with the Urban Management Centre, has made significant progress in furthering occupational health and safety while also making efforts towards breaking the intergenerational cycle of labor in sanitation. Previously unrecognized, sanitation workers are now acknowledged as skilled professionals under GARIMA, granting them the recognition and dignity they deserve. Witnessing the positive transformation in the lives of sanitation workers in Odisha, the state of Tamil Nadu too has implemented the Sanitation Worker's Development Scheme and nationally—the NAMASTE scheme is

being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to ensure safety and wellbeing of sanitation workers.

Another sanitation worker featured in the documentary, Muthulakshmi, School Sanitation Worker from Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, said, "I have been employed as a sanitation worker through a self-help group. I am the bread winner for my family and have been doing this for seven years. Cleanliness has been a major change after the COVID-19 pandemic. I have received proper training and safety equipment like PPE kit, masks etc. I teach students how to use the incinerator, and how to put used pads in it during menstruation. I feel proud to do my job."

ASIA CUP: INDIA VS PAKISTAN

ISHAN KISHAN, HARDIK PANDYA GUIDE INDIA TO 266

PALLEKELE (SRI LANKA), Sept 2: The wonderful rescue act of Hardik Pandya and Ishan Kishan helped India overcome a fiery opening spell from Shaheen Shah Afridi to post a healthy 266 against Pakistan in their Asia Cup match here on Saturday.

Kishan (82 off 81 balls) and Pandya (87 off 90 balls) kept Pakistan bowlers at bay with a 138-run fifth wicket stand off 141 balls to give their side a fine chance to make a winning start to the tournament.

They joined forces after Pakistan pacers Afridi, who accounted for Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli early, and Haris Rauf combined to reduce India to 66 for 4 in 14.1 overs.

In a sense, it was a rather unfamiliar job for both Pandya and Kishan, who generally love to give a wallop to the bowlers.

But the conditions at Pallekele, which always had a lick of drizzle, and a high-octane bowling attack meant that the Indian pair would have to curb their shot-making instincts.

They had to be precise in the selection of each shot, and needed to be extra patient.

Afridi (4 for 35) tailed the ball



in, Naseem Shah tested their awareness outside the off-stump and Rauf (3 for 58) pounded in those heavy balls, but the Indian duo soaked in all those tough moments.

The boundaries and big shots were not easy to come by but Pandya and Kishan pushed the board ahead with singles and their 50-run partnership came in just 52 balls.

Pandya was happy to play the sidekick role to Kishan during their fifth wicket alliance that was worth 138 runs. This was the first time the left-hander was batting below the No.4 slot in his career,

and he didn't show any signs of nerves.

That Pakistan captain opted to give a longer spell to his spinners – Shadab Khan, Mohammad Nawaz and Salman Agha – also played its part in Kishan getting settled in the middle.

Kishan brought his 50 in a mere 54 balls and he could have easily converted it into a three-figure score.

But his attempt to play a big pull off Rauf ended in the hands of Babar inside the circle. However, his innings might have eased some worries in the Indian camp about a wobbly middle-order in the absence of KL Rahul.

Once Kishan departed, Pandya took charge of the Indian innings and slammed spinner Nawaz for a massive six over mid-wicket.

However, Afridi returned to snap his stay. The left-arm pacer rolled his fingers to deliver a slower ball and Pandya just prodded it into the hands of Salman at extra cover.

From thereon, a few beefy blows by Jasprit Bumrah carried the side past the 250-run mark. Just after the end of the Indian innings, another spell of steady downpour started. (PTI)

Djokovic comes back after dropping the first 2 sets to beat Laslo Djere at the US Open



NEW YORK, Sept 2: Everyone should know by now to never count out Novak Djokovic. No matter how big a deficit he faces. No matter how poorly he might be playing. And so it made sense that Djokovic would manage to come all the way back from a two-set deficit to beat Laslo Djere 4-6, 4-6, 6-1, 6-1, 6-3 in the third round of the U.S. Open, avoiding what would have been his earliest exit there since 2006.

"The message is sent to the rest of the field, obviously, that I'm still able to play five sets, deep (into the) night. Coming from two sets down always sends a strong message to future opponents," said Djokovic, who next faces Borna Gojo, a 25-year-old qualifier from Croatia making his U.S. Open debut. "But I'm not really wanting to be in this position, to be honest," Djokovic said. "I prefer a straight-set win. So hopefully I can get back on that track in the next match."

This one began under the lights in Arthur Ashe Stadium on Friday night and did not wrap up until more than 3 1/2 hours later, concluding just after 1:30 a.m.

It was Djokovic's eighth career victory after dropping the opening two sets of a match. He also improved to 38-11 in five-setters.

Once he seized control, he held on tight and never let Djere recover. In the crucible of a fifth set, Djokovic was cool as can be, collecting 12 of the initial 14 points to leave no doubt how this would go.

He's won three of his men's-record 23 Grand Slam titles at Flushing Meadows and been the runner-up a half-dozen times, including in 2021. The 36-year-old from Serbia did not compete in the U.S. Open last year be-

cause he couldn't travel to the United States as a foreigner who is not vaccinated against COVID-19; that rule was lifted this May.

Djokovic is seeded No. 2 in New York behind Carlos Alcaraz, and pretty much everyone has been expecting the two of them to meet for the championship on Sept. 10. That appeared as if it might be derailed by Djere, a 28-year-old who is also from Serbia and was seeded 32nd.

"Trust me," Djokovic said, "it was nerve-racking all the way until the last shot."

This would have been by far the biggest victory of Djere's career: He was trying to reach the fourth round at a Grand Slam tournament for the first time and came into Friday with an 0-6 record at majors against opponents ranked in the Top 10. Perhaps the intimidation factor that favors Djokovic in most matchups simply wasn't there. They have known each other for years, practicing together, spending time as Davis Cup teammates and competing on tour as a doubles pairing.

When it ended, they met at the net for a hug, and Djokovic applauded as Djere walked off the court. With the temperature down around 65 degrees Fahrenheit (18 Celsius), Djere came out strong. He was outlasting Djokovic on the lengthiest baseline exchanges.

"Everything was kind of in his striking zone," Djokovic said. "It was very hard for me to find a solution." Across the first two sets, Djere claimed 28 of 44 points that lasted five or more strokes. Djokovic's footwork seemed a bit off. His control of the ball did, too. He would throw up his arms after some misses or grimace after others. (AP)

40th Abhiruchi Sports Day to be celebrated in Demow

HT Correspondent

DEMOW, Sept 2: Like every year, this year too, the 40th edition of Abhiruchi Sports Day (on the birthday of first Arjun Award winner of Assam Bhogeswar Barua) will be celebrated in Demow Public Playground with a day long programme on Sunday. The programme will be organised under the patronage of Demow Handball Club and in Association with Demow Sports Association. As per the schedule, the programme will begin with a mass run on Sunday morning. After that the Abhiruchi Day flag and Demow Handball Club flag will be hoisted. The players as well as the sports organizers will be felicitated during the programme on Sunday. The boys and girls handball competition will be organised and in the afternoon prize distribution ceremony will be held.

India beat Malaysia 10-4

SALALAH (OMAN), Sept 2: India thrashed Malaysia 10-4 in the semifinals to set up a clash with arch-rivals Pakistan in the inaugural men's Hockey 5s Asia Cup hereon Saturday. Pakistan reached the final after defeating Oman 7-3 in the first semi-final. India's previous meeting against the opposition in the tournament in the elite pool stage match had ended with Pakistan winning 5-4. Mohammed Raheel (9th, 16th, 24th, 28th minutes), Maninder Singh (2nd), Pawan Rajbhar (13th), Sukhvinder (21st), Dipsan Tirkey (22nd), Jugraj Singh (23rd), and Gurjot Singh (29th) scored for India, while captain Ismail Asia Abu (4th), Akhimullah Anuar (7th, 19th), Muhamad Din (19th) were on target for Malaysia. (PTI)

B'desh eye improved batting effort in crucial match against Afghanistan

LAHORE, Sept 2: Bangladesh would look for inspiration from skipper Shakib Al Hasan to produce a much-improved batting effort when they take on Afghanistan in their must-win second Group B match of the Asia Cup here on Sunday.

It was a below-par batting performance that let Bangladesh down in their tournament opener against Sri Lanka in Pallekele as they could only manage 164 after opting to bat.

Barring Najmul Hossain Shanto, who was the lone warrior with a 122-ball 89, no other Bangladeshi batter could come up with substantial runs and support him. Much was expected from the experienced Shakib but he failed to deliver.

But come Sunday, Shakib has



to shoulder the responsibility and be the anchor man in the middle-order for Bangladesh.

Having said that, Bangladesh would need a strong start from

young openers Mohammad Naim and Tanzid Hasan. Veteran wicketkeeper batter Mushfiqur Rahim has to share the responsibility with Shakib.

On the bowling front, Taskin Ahmed looked impressive but Shoriful Islam lacked the sting.

Shakib, however, was right on the money with the ball, picking up two wickets for 29 runs from his 10 overs and he would like to continue the momentum.

With such a low score to defend, it was a Herculean task for Bangladesh bowlers and Mustafizur Rahman, Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Mahedi Hasan could not produce the fire against the Lankans.

Afghanistan, on the other hand, head into the tournament on the back of a 0-3 ODI series loss to Pakistan. But they would take heart from the fact that they had won a three-match ODI series against Bangladesh 2-1 in June-July this year. (PTI)

India women's football has better chance of progressing globally: AIFF chief

NEW DELHI, Sept 2: All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Kalyan Chaubey feels the women's game in the country has a "better chance" to progress in international football and backs the senior team to qualify for the FIFA World Cup with some more effort.

Chaubey, a former India player, completed one year as president of the AIFF and since he took charge, the federation has been making an effort to improve the standard of women's football.

"I want to make sure that women's football gets all the facilities that men's football

enjoys in India and truly believe we have a better chance of progressing internationally in women's football," Chaubey told the AIFF website.

"Our women's football team is ahead of our men's team in terms of qualifying for the FIFA World Cup because the women's team is ranked 11th in Asia. If we do just a little bit better we can qualify for the FIFA Women's World Cup.

"People who have been following Indian Football for decades will say we performed very well internationally in the 1960s-80s and we are not at that level

anymore." India have hosted the U-17 Women's World Cup and the senior Asian Cup in recent years to give a boost to women's football in the country.

Chaubey acknowledged there is a gap India will need to cover to become a strong footballing nation.

"There is definitely a gap. In 1950 we got the opportunity to play in the FIFA World Cup in Brazil but for certain reasons, we decided against participating. After that from 1950 till 1986, there was no communication between FIFA and India. (PTI)



Cricket Fatigue: Near-empty stands, lack of buzz for Indo-Pak game raises eyebrows

PALLEKELE (SRI LANKA), Sept 2: A cricket match involving India and Pakistan is not just about top-quality cricket, but it is also about roaring fans giving the stadium the atmosphere of a Roman colosseum.

But the Pallekele Stadium was cocooned in a rather serene ambience on Saturday, as India and Pakistan faced each other in their Asia Cup 2023 Group A match.

There were fans – the flag-waving, cheering, applauding kind. But not in numbers that often electrify the venue, despite India batting first.

There were several empty spaces in the stands and on the grass banks here, something one will not see during an Indo-Pak

cricket clash.

"The tickets are not fully sold, as you can see. In fact, the sale of tickets was on even yesterday evening at Kandy and Colombo. There were not many takers for the top-end tickets in the Grand Stand," an SLC official told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

The lowest denomination of tickets was USD 20 (Approximately LKR 6400) in the beginning but it was later slashed to LKR 1500, and LKR 2560 if purchased for both the India matches involving Pakistan and Nepal.

But still there was no real rush for the tickets, and some fans were quite chuffed about it.

"Tickets were readily available. In fact, I got the ticket yesterday in Colombo. We thought



tickets will not be available because it is an India vs Pakistan match. But we are not complaining. After all, we can watch an India vs Pakistan match without the frenzy that we often have to go through in India," said Varun Ghosh, who runs his business in Colombo.

The officials too have been left a trifle disappointed

"It is a bit surprising. I can understand that people may find the Grand Stand tickets costly (around LKR 64,000) but the Embankment tickets are priced at a good deal for them. It is the weekend too. It could also be be-

cause of the prediction for the rain during the match," the official said.

While the officials were left a bit disappointed, the less than anticipated fan rush has dismayed the hotel owners and tour operators.

The rooms were available in all hotels and there was no rush for booking unlike India's World Cup game in Ahmedabad where hotel tariff has shot through the roof.

"We were getting ready for some big rush by the fans. We have seen the fans' response to the India vs Pakistan match. But we still have rooms left in our property, and it is the case with many other places too," said the owner of a prominent chain of hotels here. (PTI)



75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav



G20
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ONE EARTH - ONE FAMILY
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Our journey towards fulfilling the promise of **1 Lakh** jobs



Chief Guest

Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma

Chief Minister, Assam

Ceremonial Distribution of appointment letters to

514 successful candidates in various departments of Government of Assam who secured same cut-off marks as those candidates recommended earlier by SLRCs for Grade III & Grade IV posts in addition to successful appointment of **86,888** candidates

Earlier appointment : 86,888

Appointment on September 3, 2023: 514

Total appointment: 87,402

Department-wise appointment of candidates on 3 September 2023

Department	Number of Appointees	Department	Number of Appointees	Department	Number of Appointees
Administrative Reforms & Training and Pension & Public Grievances	01	Home & Political	06	Power	01
Animal Husbandry & Veterinary	07	Information, Public Relations, Printing & Stationary	06	Personnel	01
Co-operation	02	Indigenous & Tribal Faith and Culture	02	Revenue & Disaster Management	07
Cultural Affairs	04	Industries, Commerce & Public Enterprise	04	School Education	140
Environment & Forest	06	Irrigation	11	Skill Employment and Entrepreneurship	02
Election	02	Labour Welfare	03	Sports & Youth Welfare	01
Finance	03	Mines & Minerals	03	Transformation & Development	01
Fishery	01	Panchayat & Rural Development	90	Transport	13
Food, Public Distribution & Consumer Affairs	03	Public Health Engineering	04	Tribal Affairs	06
General Administration	06	Public Works (Buildings & National Highway)	24	Tourism	13
Handloom & Textile	05	Public Works (Roads)	77	Water Resources	41
Higher Education	12			Women & Child Development	06

All successful candidates are requested to attend the ceremony and be seated by 1 PM

Srimanta Sankaradeva International Auditorium
Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra, Guwahati

3 September 2023

3 PM

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