



ISRO chief Somanath reveals details of future goals says, "Solar mission 'Aditya'

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CHESS WORLD CUP 2023 FINAL



India's Rameshbabu Pragnanandhaa vs Magnus Carlsen

Pragnanandhaa became the third youngest player after the legendary Bobby Fischer and Carlsen to qualify for the Candidates tournament. After the first two games of the FIDE World Cup final between India's Pragnanandhaa and World No 1 Magnus Carlsen ended in draws, both players are back to try their luck in the quicker-time control formats today. Game 1 on Tuesday had ended in a draw after 35 moves, but it lasted much longer than Game 2 as Carlsen

tried to chase a win with black pieces. In Game 2 Pragg, playing with white pieces, was ahead on time at the start of the contest, but was unable to press on his advantage and came under time trouble himself by the end.

Two tie-break games shall be played in the rapid format with time control of 25 minutes for each player. Each player got a 10 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1. If that does not provide a winner,

the players will play two more games with a time control of 10 minutes for each player. Each player will get a 10 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1. If that also does not get a result, there will be two more games with time control of 5 minutes for each player + 3 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1.

If the two players are still tied, the blitz portion of the tiebreak will start. This is the equivalent of sudden

death. Previously two games made a set but in the blitz portion, players will play one game with a time control of 3 minutes and a 2-second increment per move, starting from move 1. This format shall be repeated until there's a winner. If the 18-year-old from Chennai defeats Carlsen in the final, he would become the first player in the history of the FIDE World Cup to defeat the top 3 seeds in the same event.

First animals travelled in space to make way for human - I

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

We all were very much proud and excited to see the successful landing of the Lander Module of ISRO's third lunar mission Chandrayaan-3, India became the first country to land near the Moon's south pole. This is a very proud moment for the country and the space researchers. ISRO scientists have told the world that 'Chanda Mama' is no longer far away from us. India has added one golden chapter in the history of space exploration. This mission is successful because many animal species have contributed to space exploration in the past. Before humans actually went into space, one of the prevailing theories of the perils of space flight was that humans might not be able to survive long periods of weightlessness.

For several years, there had been a serious debate among scientists about the effects of prolonged weightlessness. American and Russian scientists utilized animals - mainly monkeys, chimps and dogs - in order to test each country's ability to launch a living organism into space and bring it back alive and unharmed. Scientists were curious to know how the body reacts to microgravity. Many experiments were conducted on humans but due to certain uncertainties the animals were chosen to send on space exploration. Chimpanzees were one of the first mammals to travel into space.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

Editoritis

First animals travelled in space to make way for human - I

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In 1948, a rhesus macaque monkey named Albert flew inside a V2 rocket. In 1957. There the Russians sent a dog named Laika into orbit.

In 1973, however, a Skylab space project studied circadian rhythm. This experiment used several mice. From there, the Space Shuttle program evolved, which included a more suitable environment for animals.

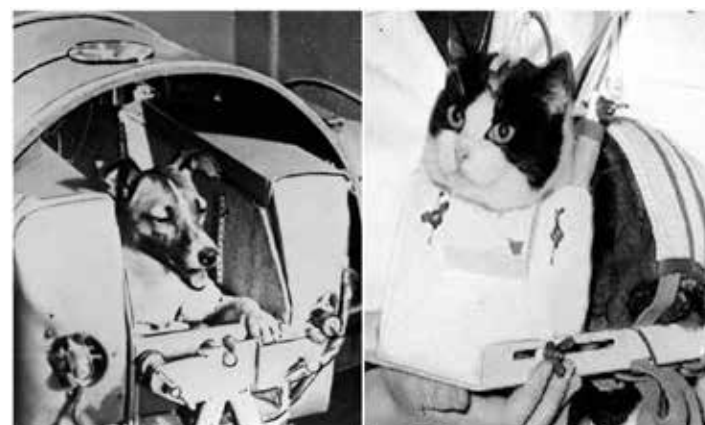
The Soviets kept close tabs on what the U.S. was doing with their V-2 and Aerobee missile projects during the early 1950's.

Those days nobody knew if people could survive a trip away from Earth, so using animals was one of the alternatives to do research and exploration. In 1948, a rhesus macaque monkey named Albert flew inside a V2 rocket. In 1957. There the Russians sent a dog named Laika into orbit. Both of these flights showed that humans could survive weightlessness and the effects of high gravitational forces. gradually the number of animals sent into space was reduced. Most experiments could be conducted in space without involving animals.

In 1973, however, a Skylab space project studied circadian rhythm. This experiment used several mice. From there, the Space Shuttle program evolved, which included a more suitable environment for animals. Due to the housing needs and the feasibility of space travel, the lowest form of life was sent to space travel. The species chosen were snails and fish because these species can be applied to human conditions: inner ear exams can be done in a snail rather than a highly evolved mammal, and genetic studies can be conducted in fish.

On September 20, 1951, a monkey named Yorick and 11 mice were recovered after an Aerobee missile flight of 236,000 feet at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico. Yorick got a fair amount of press as the first monkey to live through a space flight. On May 22, 1952, two Philippine monkeys, Patricia and Mike, were enclosed in an Aerobee nose section at Holloman Air Force Base. Patricia was placed in a seated position and Mike in a prone position to determine differences in the effects of rapid acceleration. Fired 36 miles up at a speed of 2000 mph, these two monkeys were the first primates to reach such a high altitude. Also on this flight were two white mice, Mildred and Albert. They were inside a slowly rotating drum where they could "float" during the period of weightlessness. The section containing the animals was recovered safely from the upper atmosphere by parachute. Patricia died of natural causes about two years later and Mike died in 1967, both at the National Zoological Park in Washington, DC.

The Soviets kept close tabs on what the U.S. was doing with their V-2 and Aerobee missile projects during the early 1950's. Basing their experiments on American biomedical research, Soviet rocket pioneer Sergei Korolev, his biomedical expert



Vladimir Yazdovsky, and a small team used mice, rats and rabbits as one-way passengers for their initial tests. They needed to gather data to design a cabin to carry a human being into space. Eventually they chose small dogs for this phase of testing. Dogs were chosen over monkeys because it was felt that they would be less fidgety in flight. A test with two dogs would allow for more accurate results. They chose females because of the relative ease of controlling waste. Between 1951 and 1952, the Soviet R-1 series rockets carried nine dogs altogether, with three dogs flying twice. Each flight carried a pair of dogs in hermetically sealed containers that were recovered by parachute. Of these early space-bound hounds, a few have been remembered by name.

To be continued

Inputs form various agencies.

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Letters to the Editor

Hit on the root!

The municipal corporation has taken the decision to ban plastic bags. Best decision! Plastic bags harm the environment. The bags get stuck in the drainage, causing waterlogging on the roads during monsoons and disruption of traffic. Decomposed bags and bottles emit foul odors in the air. Apart from this, plastic bags have many other side effects. A legal ban on thin plastic bags is right for this. But, it does not seem fair to penalize common citizens for this. It would be advisable to take action against factories producing plastic bags. Hit the hammer on root, then the problem will be solved forever.

Sudhir Kangutkar

BOB answerable to depositors for putting off Sunny Deol's bungalow auction

It pays to be an Member of Parliament (MP) & Bank of Baroda (BOB) withdrawing auctioning of Sunny Deol's Juhu bungalow for non payment of ₹56 cr loan does not come as a surprise. This is precisely the reason why psu banks have weak Balance Sheets as most of their deposits are misused by politicians, celebrities & other powerful people which turn NPA's & ultimately written off as bad debts. Vijeta Audia if my memory serves me right owned by the Deol family had come out with an IPO some years back with Sunny Villa as their registered address (at the time of ipo) is today not even traded on the exchanges, perhaps company has gone bankrupt.

Celebrities playing with hard earned money of depositors should not be spared. Surprising that most enjoy an elite luxurious lifestyle but do not repay loans they acquire from banks. BOB should come clean & inform depositors & the public of the real reason behind putting off the Bungalow auction which would have cleared their loan which had turned into an NPA.

S.N.Kabra

Leveraging Technology

5G service, which basically means mobile internet at about 10 times the speed of 4G, was launched in India on October 1, 2022, within two months of the spectrum auction, which generated revenues worth 1.5 trillion. India is the fastest in the world to roll out 5G.

Vodafone Idea, which is stuck with high debt, is yet to start a 5G rollout. Against that backdrop, there are only two service providers - Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio - that need to focus on 5G tariffs and monetisation to be able to make good their expenditure on spectrum and capacity creation. At the 5G launch last year, the Prime Minister had unveiled some 5G use cases, among other things, in education, health, worker safety, transport, logistics, and agriculture. But to unlock the tremendous possibilities and compete with the best in the world, industry needs to step up.

Tauqueer Rahmani

Himachal must confront shocking reality

Just when one thought the worst was over for Himachal Pradesh, tragedy has struck the hill state again. The trail of death and devastation is heart-wrenching. The monsoon season this year continues to wreak havoc, leaving indelible scars. The perils of interfering with the fragile Himalayan ecology have manifested themselves in the most brutal of ways. The colossal loss, an outcome of one disaster after the other, is clear proof that the development model being followed obsessively in the state is flawed and ill-conceived.

Perpetual landslides, boulders tumbling down the highways, road cave-ins and buildings falling like a house of cards-how is this normal, even during the monsoon? Change, ideally, should come from within. In Himachal, stringent imposition of rules can be the only way forward. One can only hope that the unending horrors of 2023 jolt the collective psyche and trigger impactful responses. Call an all-party meeting, involve civil society and send bipartisan teams to the affected areas. Confront the shocking reality.

Mohammad Taukir

Navigating Nomophobia and Promoting Healthy Habits in Children



In recent years, the escalating addiction to digital devices, particularly mobile phones, has become a pressing concern. From children to adults, the dependence on electronic gadgets has given rise to "nomophobia" – the fear of being without one's cell phone. While children often shoulder blame for this addiction, it's vital to recognize the role adults play in shaping these behaviors.

Adults must set an example by cutting down on screen time at home, serving as role models for younger generations. Through activities like reading and writing, adults can inspire children to explore diverse forms of enjoyment. Encouraging children to visit libraries during leisure moments is paramount, given that children often imitate adults by reaching for pen and paper to create.

Excessive phone use by parents directly impacts children, fostering secondhand obsession and disrupting parent-child inter-

actions. Often, parents introduce mobile phones to children as mealtime distractions, inadvertently nurturing addictive tendencies. A more substantial concern is the lack of quality time spent with children, leading them to seek solace in digital devices.

Recognizing our contribution to this predicament, rather than solely blaming children, is vital. Despite the World Health Organization's guidelines on limited screen time for various ages, many parents remain unaware. Research indicates that parents often underestimate the negative impacts of excessive smartphone use, praising their children's technological prowess instead.

In today's digital landscape, restraining children's screen usage proves challenging. Despite smartphones and tablets offering educational benefits, their addictive nature can hinder child development. Experts advise strategies like promoting physical activity, prioritizing tasks, and integrating activity-based learn-

ing to counterbalance the pitfalls of excessive screen exposure.

To combat smartphone addiction, parents can adopt strategies such as encouraging physical activity, task prioritization, creating media usage plans, avoiding using phones as rewards, and embracing activity-based learning. These measures enable children to strike a balance between screen time and other activities, fostering healthier digital habits.

Ultimately, parents must proactively address digital device addiction in children. By advocating a well-rounded technological approach, parents can guide their children toward healthier and more rewarding digital experiences in today's age.

- Dr. Krishna Kumar Vepakomma
Columnist

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No postal letters will be entertained
(The views expressed are authors' own.)

BJP president Chandrashekhar Bawankule has all praises for Sharad Pawar

Lok Sabha elections likely in April-May next year, BJP has started reviewing and planning roadmap for all 48 Lok Sabha seats. In the first phase the party will cover 28 constituencies in the next two months. The BJP leader, during a constituency review meet in Nagpur the Maharashtra BJP president Chandrashekhar Bawankule called Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president and founder Sharad Pawar a seasoned and experienced leader who can play an important role in making of 21st century India.

Sharad Pawar's NCP is part of the Opposition in which Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena (UBT) and Congress are the allies. According to Bawankule,



the differences within NCP are short-lived as state NCP chief Jayant Patil recently said that both he and Ajit Pawar are both Sharad Pawar's karyakarta. Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, along with over 40 MLAs, has joined the BJP-led coalition in Maharashtra

on the plot planned by Sharad Pawar. Meanwhile, Sharad Pawar had embarked on rallies in the constituencies of NCP leaders who joined the rival NCP camp led by his nephew and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

Bawankule remarked, made

his point stating that the BJP is a pan-Indian party with a public mandate. "Everyone in the BJP works round the clock for public good. Our party led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis,

works 24x7. To get accepted as a leader one has to lead by example. It requires 18 out of 24 hours of hard work. You don't fight sitting at home," he emphasized.

Taking a dig at Uddhav Thackeray who has vowed to fight and finish BJP, Bawankule said that Thackeray will be left with just four to five leaders to share the dais by 2024. "Even as the chief minister of Maharashtra, he could not prevent a split in his organisation. The majority of his MLAs and MPs walked out of the parent party right under his nose. He failed to stop them. Even those remaining under him will slowly leave,"

During his visit, Bawankule reviewed the pre-poll preparations in Nagpur, Bhandara and Gondia Lok Sabha constituencies.

Building slab collapse in Navi Mumbai leaves 2 killed and 8 injured



Two persons were killed and six others injured when the slab of a 20-year-old residential building collapsed in Nerul area of Navi Mumbai, fire brigade officials said on Thursday.

The third floor ceiling slab of the four-storey Tulsi Bhavan building located at Shirsole in Nerul collapsed at around 8.50 pm on Wednesday, they said.

The slab came crashing down on the second and first floors, killing a labourer and another person, divisional fire officer Purushottam Jadhav said. The building has four wings and the slab collapsed in its 'B' wing, he said.

Some civil work was underway on the third floor when the slab collapsed, said another fire official. The building has a tailoring shop on the ground floor and the shopkeeper closed the outlet and left the place a few minutes before the incident, he said. One of

the deceased has been identified as Babaji Shingade, Jadhav said. The injured persons have been admitted to a local hospital, he said.

The building has been evacuated and the occupants currently lodged at the Ahilyabai Holkar Samaj Mandir hall in Nerul, the official said. After being alerted, fire engines from Nerul and Vashi along with the disaster management team rushed to the spot and carried out rescue operations and later cleared the debris. Navi Mumbai Municipal Commissioner Rajesh Narvekar and other senior officials also reached the spot to supervise the rescue and relief operations. The building was legal and had all the requisite permits, another civic official said.

The bodies have been sent to a government hospital for post-mortem. Local police have as of now registered a case of accidental death, Jadhav said. **PTI**

Police has seized 'gutka' worth Rs 56.9 lakh from eight vehicles in palghar, 3 held

Police have seized banned gutka worth Rs 56.9 lakh from eight vehicles in Maharashtra's Palghar district and arrested three persons who were allegedly transporting it illegally in the state, an official said on Thursday. Acting on a tip-off, the police on Tuesday evening intercepted seven tempos and a truck near Sasoon Navghar at Juchandra on Mumbai-Ahmedabad highway, Naigaon police station's senior police inspector Ramesh Bhambe said. The banned prod-

uct was being shifted from the truck to tempos for distribution in different locations in Mira Bhayander area and neighbouring Mumbai, he said. The police seized banned gutka worth Rs 56,90,496 and also the eight vehicles, the official said. On seeing the police, those operating the vehicles and their associates escaped into a nearby forest. The police managed to nab three of them, he said. Offences were registered under relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Food Safety and

Standards Act, 2006 against the three arrested accused and seven other persons, who are at large, the official said. The police were probing from where the accused procured the banned goods and to whom they were supposed to deliver them. The sale and consumption of gutka, scented and flavoured tobacco has been banned in Maharashtra since 2012. In 2018, the state government made sale of gutka a non-bailable offence and enhanced the punishment for it from six months to three years. **PTI**

Farmers were protesting in Nashik against export duty on onions

More than 500 farmers on Thursday blocked the Mumbai-Agra highway in Nashik in Maharashtra for some time seeking cancellation of the Union government's decision to impose 40 per cent export duty on onions, an official said. The stir took place in Chandwad in the rural part of the district and the arterial road was blocked for almost one-and-a-half hours before police rushed to the site and managed to get the protesters off the stretch, he said.



The stir against the export duty has been underway in the district since Monday, which had also affected the auction of the kitchen staple. The Union government on August 19 imposed 40 per cent duty on the export of onions to in-

crease domestic availability amid signs of increasing prices and in view of the upcoming festival season. The export duty, which is the first time ever on onion, was imposed by the Finance Ministry through a Customs notification and will be in force till December 31. Between April 1 and August 4 this fiscal, 9.75 lakh tonne of onions have been exported from the country. The top three importing countries in value terms are Bangladesh, Malaysia and the UAE. **PTI**

Nation

SC sets aside Rajasthan HC order of bail and asks accused to surrender within two weeks



The Supreme Court has set aside a Rajasthan High Court order which granted bail to a rape accused, who is the son of a sitting MLA, and asked him to surrender within two weeks. The top court noted that the accused Deepak is the son of MLA Johari Lal and could influ-

ence the witnesses.

"The fact that accused Deepak is the son of sitting MLA would disclose the domineering influence he would wield not only in delaying the proceedings but also in pressurizing the witnesses to either resile from their statement given during the course

of investigation, or pose a threat to them from deposing against accused on their failure to act according to his dictates, or induce them to testify as per his dictates or to help the defence of the accused," the Supreme court noted.

The top court was hearing an appeal challenging an order dated April 6 passed by a single judge of the High Court of Rajasthan. The court had given bail to the accused. A 15-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped by three persons in Mandawar in Rajasthan's Dausa district. The FIR was registered in March 2022 alleging gang rape, threat of making video of the crime viral besides extortion. The accused were booked under provisions of the POCSO Act and Section 66D of the Information Technology Act. ANI

SC denied to cancel bail granted to former chief secretary Narain in sexual assault case

The Supreme Court on Thursday declined to cancel the bail granted to former chief secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Jitendra Narain in a rape case filed by a 21-year-old woman. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Ahsanuddin Amanulla directed the trial court to expedite the trial and the parties are to cooperate.



"Further, we have provided that there was some apprehension expressed by the survivor. So we

have directed the Union Territory administration to deal with any complaint made by her. We have also directed the trial court to expedite the trial and all parties to cooperate," the bench stated in its order. The Port Blair circuit bench of the Calcutta High Court had granted bail to suspended AGMUT cadre IAS officer Narain in February. ANI

Health dept earmarked 40 sentinel sites amid rise in dengue cases in Odisha

Amid rising dengue cases in Odisha, the Health Department has earmarked 40 sentinel sites in the state to check the spread of the vector-borne disease, officials informed on Thursday. According to an official release by the Health Department, the state has, to date, reported 2,663 dengue cases and the state and district health authorities concerned have been asked to mobilise necessary steps to contain the spread of the disease.



The department also instructed the authorities con-

cerned to raise public awareness about the vector-borne

ailment in the ongoing monsoon season. ANI

ISRO chief Somanath reveals details of future goals says, "Solar mission 'Aditya' will be ready for launch in September"



As the country rejoiced the successful placement of the ISRO lander — Vikram — on the moon's uncharted South Pole, the agency's chairman S Somanath on Thursday confirmed that its maiden solar mission 'Aditya' is in the works and will be ready for launch in September. In a brief address to the nation after the lander touched down on the moon's dark side on Wednesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi alluded to future missions to the Sun and Venus.

Speaking to ANI a day after

the ISRO put India in an elite club of nations with the successful conduct of its maiden lunar landing mission, the ISRO chief said, "Mission 'Aditya' is in the works and will be ready for launch in the first week of September. We are also planning a mission by the end of September or October to demonstrate our crew module and crew escape capability, which will be followed by many test missions until we launch our first manned mission to space (Gaganyaan), possibly by 2025." ANI

Uttar Pradesh: 9 people killed as tractor falls into drain in Saharanpur

A tractor-trolley fell into a drain near Redhibodki village in the Saharanpur district, leaving nine people dead, four of them children, police on Thursday said. The incident took place Wednesday evening in the Tajpura area when a tractor carrying around 50 devotees was on

its way to Randaul village for a religious event, Superintendent of Police, City, Abhimanyu Manglik told PTI. On Wednesday, police recovered four bodies from the drain. The victims were identified as Sulochana, 58, Manglesh, 50, and Aditi and Arjun, both aged five and 12. PTI

Jadavpur University incident: Vice-chancellor of university meets Bengal governor for emergency review

Newly appointed officiating vice-chancellor of Jadavpur University, where a first-year undergraduate student died earlier this month after allegedly being ragged and sexually harassed, met West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose on Thursday. The governor, who is the ex-officio chancellor of the university, called an emergency review meeting of the premier in-



stitute. Officiating vice-chancellor Buddhadeb Sau met Bose at the Raj Bhavan on Thursday on a call by the governor for a review of the university's workings, an official said. PTI

World

Plane Crash incident: It seems plane crash which killed Russian mercenary chief seen as Kremlin's revenge



Russian mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin and top officers of his private military were presumed dead in a plane crash that was widely seen as an assassination, two months after they staged a mutiny that dented Russian President Vladimir Putin's authority. Russia's

civil aviation agency said that Prigozhin and six top lieutenants were on a business jet that crashed on Wednesday, soon after taking off from Moscow, with a crew of three. Rescuers quickly found all 10 bodies, and Russian media cited sources in Prigozhin's Wagner private mili-

tary company who confirmed his death. US and other Western officials long expected Putin to go after Prigozhin, despite promising to drop charges in a deal that ended the June 23-24 mutiny.

I don't know for a fact what happened but I'm not surprised, US President Joe Biden said. There's not much that happens in Russia that Putin's not behind. Prigozhin supporters claimed on pro-Wagner messaging app channels that the plane was deliberately downed and offered different theories for how.

Police cordoned off the field where the plane crashed as investigators studied the site. Vehicles were seen driving in to take the bodies, reportedly badly charred, for a forensic exam. **PTI**

North Korea attempted to launch spy satellite for second time, fails

North Korea's second attempt to launch a spy satellite, Malligyong-1 into orbit failed on Thursday due to an error in the emergency blasting system in the third stage of the rocket, Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported. North Korea's KCNA reported that the National Aerospace Development Administration launched the second reconnaissance satellite — Malligyong-1 — aboard the new-type carrier rocket Cholima-1 at the Sohae Satellite Launching Ground on Thursday after the first one failed in May.

"The flights of the first and second stages of the rocket were normal, but the launch failed due to an error in the emergency blasting system during the third-stage flight," the KCNA report read. "The NADA said that it would make clear in a short span of time the reason why the emergency blasting system was operated abnormally," it further added.

Explaining that the cause of the relevant accident is not a big problem in the aspect of the reliability of cascade engines and the system, the NADA expressed the stand that it would conduct

the third reconnaissance satellite launch in October after thoroughly probing the reason and taking measures. Earlier, in May, North Korea conducted its first spy satellite but failed to reach the desired place. After the failure, KCNA said that some problems came like "serious defects" appeared, and the rocket carrying the spy satellite experienced an abnormal firing of its second-stage engine and lost propulsion, adding the failure was attributed to the "low reliability and stability of the new-type engine system." **ANI**

Nepal road accident: 6 Indian pilgrims among 7 killed in Bara district

At least 6 Indian pilgrims have died in a road accident in the Bara district of the Southern plains of Nepal, police confirmed. The accident which took place in the early hours of Thursday and left 19 people injured.

According to police, the bus was en route to Janakpur from Kathmandu and was carrying Indian pilgrims when a mishap took place near Churimai in Bara.



"Bus overturned and fell some 50 metres down the road at a river bank south of Churimai Temple at Simara Sub-

Metropolitan City-22 along the East-West Highway at around 2 am," Deputy Superintendent Pradeep Bahadur Chhetri told ANI over the phone. The police have identified the deceased Indian nationals from India's Rajasthan State. A Nepali citizen also died in the accident, the police official added. A total of 27 people including two drivers and a helper were in the bus. **ANI**

China and Taiwan tensions: US approves \$500M arms sale to Taiwan



The Biden administration has approved a \$500 million arms sale to Taiwan as it ramps up military assistance to the island despite fervent objections from China. The State Department said Wednesday it had signed off on the sale of infrared search tracking systems along with related equipment for advanced F-16 fighter jets. The sale includes the infrared systems as well as test support and equipment, computer software and spare parts, it said. Although the deal is modest in comparison to previous weapons sales, the move is likely to draw fierce criticism from Beijing, which regards self-governing Taiwan as

a renegade province and refuses to rule out the use of force to reunify it with the mainland. This proposed sale serves U.S. national, economic, and security interests by supporting the recipient's continuing efforts to modernize its armed forces and to maintain a credible defensive capability, the State Department said in a statement. "The proposed sale will improve the recipient's capability to meet current and future threats by contributing to the recipient's abilities to defend its airspace, provide regional security, and increase interoperability with the United States through its F-16 program," it said. **PTI**

Afghanistan: After Taliban's rule girls are forced for marriages, education denied



Following the two years of Taliban's rule in Afghanistan, the lack of opportunities for girls has led them to fall into arranged marriages and denied enrollment in religious schools, reported Khaama Press. Farzanah, an 11th-grade student said, "I have been living at home for two years, and I have fallen behind in my studies. I dreamed of becoming a successful doctor, but now I can only attend a religious school."

She emphasized that women possess equal rights to pursue

education as well as employment in society, just like men. Moreover, women's rights activists view these practices as hazardous and limiting the progress of women's rights, Khaama Press reported. Julia Parsi, a civil activist in Afghanistan's women's movement highlighted, "Afghan girls suffer from poor mental and emotional well-being due to rampant forced marriages. Tragically, instances of girls taking their own lives are being reported across various provinces." **ANI**

"Celestial Kashmir: Bridging the Gap Between Beauty and Necessity"



Aubaid Ahmad Akhoun

Columnist

John Muir, a renowned naturalist and advocate for wilderness preservation, once said, 'In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks.' This sentiment rings especially true in the breathtaking landscapes of Kashmir.

In the realm of natural beauty and breathtaking landscapes, few places on Earth can rival the splendor that Kashmir offers. This year, the region has witnessed a remarkable surge in tourist footfall, as travelers from across the globe seek to experience its ethereal charm firsthand. However, amidst the burgeoning tourist numbers lies a pressing concern that threatens to overshadow the allure of Kashmir: the lack of basic amenities and infrastructure.

Kashmir's unparalleled beauty, with its snow-capped mountains, serene lakes, and lush valleys, has

long been a magnet for tourists seeking respite from the mundane. This year, the allure has been particularly irresistible, as pandemic-weary travelers set their sights on outdoor escapes. The local economy, largely reliant on tourism, has benefited from this surge, providing livelihoods to countless families and businesses.

Yet, as tourists flock to this paradise on Earth, they are greeted by a glaring paradox. The inadequacy of basic amenities, such as sanitation facilities, clean drinking water, and proper waste disposal, stands as a stark contrast to the breathtaking vistas that Kashmir is famous for. The lack of well-maintained roads and transportation infrastructure further compounds the challenges faced by both visitors and locals alike.

For the allure of Kashmir's beauty to be sustained and truly enjoyed, it is essential to address these pressing concerns. It is no longer sufficient to rely solely on its natural charm; a harmonious balance between aesthetics and essentials

must be achieved.

To begin, local authorities need to prioritize the development and maintenance of vital infrastructure. This includes ensuring access to clean water, proper waste management, and modern sanitation facilities. By doing so, not only will tourists benefit from a more comfortable and hygienic experience, but the local environment will also be preserved for generations to come.

Furthermore, the lack of reliable transportation options hampers visitors' ability to explore the region fully. Enhancing road networks and promoting sustainable transportation alternatives like electric vehicles or shared transport systems can significantly enhance the overall tourism experience.

Collaboration between the government, local businesses, and the community is pivotal in addressing these issues. Investment in the training and development of a skilled workforce to manage tourism-related services can vastly improve the quality of amenities offered.

The paradox of Kashmir's

tourism industry is a reminder that success and challenges are intertwined. To harness the full potential of this awe-inspiring destination, stakeholders must embrace a holistic approach that considers the needs of both visitors and the local population. Only through such concerted efforts can Kashmir truly become a beacon of responsible and sustainable tourism, where every visitor's experience is matched by the availability of basic amenities and the preservation of its natural splendor.

G.K. Chesterton, a prolific British writer and thinker of the early 20th century, observed, 'The traveler sees what he sees. The tourist sees what he has come to see.' As we strive to strike a balance between beauty and basics in Kashmir's burgeoning tourism industry, Chesterton's words serve as a poignant reminder of our responsibility as travelers to not only witness but also preserve the remarkable paradise of Kashmir."



Entertainment

Actor Varun Mitra reveals details of preparing for his character in 'Rakshak: India's Braves'

Actor Varun Mitra, who portrayed the courageous Lieutenant Triveni Singh, a young soldier who sacrificed his life to save the lives of more than 300 civilians, opened up on how he prepared for the role in the movie 'Rakshak: India's Braves'.

He said, "Luckily, I did not have to go through any major physical transformation because Triveni Sir was also quite lean which kind of saved some time. But I believe that the psychological and emotional state of mind of an army member who is entering a war zone, who is in a situation where there is gunfire and bombs are exploding, was a more crucial aspect in addition to the technical stuff like the uniform and the weapon training."

"So, to understand, if you go through fear at that moment? Do you think about your family, do you think about your country, do you think about being patriotic or brave? It was basically just to understand that when I am on set, I am not thinking about what I have to do, and I am just sort of there at the moment," added Varun. **ANI**



Actor Raghav Juyal shares his experience while collaborating with producer Guneet Monga for 'Kill'

Actor Raghav Juyal expressed his excitement about reuniting with the producer Guneet Monga for the action-packed thriller 'Kill'.

Raghav said, "Working with Guneet Ma'am is always a rewarding experience. The script of 'Kill' is incredibly engaging, and I am excited to collaborate with this talented team once again. I'm so so excited to be doing projects in different and varied genres. If you had asked me a few years back that I would be here in this spot, I wouldn't have really imagined."

"But with a project like Kill, I'm so excited that it is certain to bring a new definition of action films to Indian cinema, something we haven't seen before. Guneet is a visionary and Karan sir is the definition of backing films that have become phenomenal successes and to work with this duo is exhilarating," he added. **ANI**



Veteran actor Seema Deo passes away at 81

Veteran actor Seema Deo, remembered for her roles in "Anand" and "Kora Kagaz", died here on Thursday morning due to age-related ailments, her filmmaker son Abhinay Deo said. She was 81. The actor, who acted in over 80 Hindi and Marathi films, passed away at her Bandra home. She had been suffering from Alzheimer's disease for over three years. "She passed away at 8.30-9 am at her residence in Bandra due to old age. She had been withdrawn completely, and eventually it is just old age. Alzheimer's is such a thing that you stop figuring out how to function. She had dementia leading up to Alzheimer's and she was suffering from it for over three years. **PTI**

