

SNM holds voluntarily blood donation camp at Kathua

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
KATHUA, SEP 20

With the blessings of Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj, a voluntary Blood Donation Camp was organized by Sant Nirankari Mission, Branch Kathua, where a large number of devotees enthusiastically came forward to donate blood and contribute towards the noble cause of saving precious human lives.

A total of 147 units of Blood donated by Donors. The camp was inaugurated by Shri Ajit Singh, Zonal Incharge, Jammu, who appreciated the spirit of voluntary service displayed by the devotees. While speaking on the occasion, he highlighted the humanitarian message of Sant Nirankari Mission and emphasized the importance of blood donation in saving lives during medical emergencies. He said that under the benevolence blessing of Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj Sant Nirankari



Mission continues to inspire society with the message of love, unity and selfless service, reminding us that a single act of blood donation can become a lifeline for someone in need. The event reflected the Mission's continued commitment towards "Nar Sewa, Narayan Pooja" and

serving society beyond barriers of caste, color, creed and religion. Sh. Babu Ram Sanyojak Kathua expressed gratitude to all the blood donors, medical staff, volunteers and supporters whose collective efforts contributed to the successful conduct of the camp.

The camp was organized in collaboration with the Department of Transfusion Medicine & Blood Bank, Government Medical College, Jammu, under the supervision of Dr. Rashmi and Dr. Rajat, along with the support of Government Medical College, Kathua and JKSAACS.

Fast food from US, China catches on in both countries

NEW YORK, SEPT 20: China and the United States are divided on many issues, from tariffs and technology to Taiwan. But there is one thing tying them together: fast food. American restaurant and beverage chains are expanding rapidly in China, drawn by the potential customer pool in a country with four times the US population.

China's languishing economy and cutthroat industry competition, meanwhile, have Chinese chains trying their luck in the US, turning crumbs and straws into a two-way cultural bridge between the two superpowers. The bilateral trade in burgers and bubble tea is business- and consumer-led gastrodiploamcy in action, said Yaling Jiang, the founder of ApertureChina, a market research company with headquarters in Shanghai and London.

In China, recent American arrivals like Popeyes and Five Guys are seen as a guilty pleasure, she said, while the increasingly international palates of Americans have created space for Chinese brands to serve as their nation's unofficial ambassadors. "Consumerism builds a safe, introductory channel for contemporary Chinese culture and can be a great way to elevate China's soft power," Jiang said. The White House has not revealed the menu for the state dinner that US President Donald Trump is hosting for Chinese Presi-



dent Xi Jinping on Thursday. But a taste for a cheap, crowd-pleasing meal may be something the two leaders share. In 2013, Xi made a rare public visit to a steamed-bun restaurant in Beijing. He waited in line and ordered a 21-yuan (USD 3) meal featuring six pork-and-scallion buns, vegetables, and a bowl of stewed pork liver and intestines. Trump's love of fast food is legendary; he even manned a fry station at a Pennsylvania McDonald's during his 2024 campaign. Last month, Chinese customers lined up in the rain for the opening of the first Church's Texas Chicken in Shanghai. Church's plans at least 600 more across China. Wendy's says it anticipates opening 1,000 restaurants there over the next decade. Established players are deepening their reach as well. McDonald's plans 1,000 new Chinese restaurants this year and 10,000 total by 2028. Burger King, which arrived in China in 2005, says it expects to triple its store count to 4,000 by 2035.

"Despite political tensions between the US and China, Chinese actually still go crazy for American brands," said Shaun Rein, founder and managing director of the Shanghai-based China Market Research Group. KFC became the first major American fast-food chain to enter mainland China when it opened a Beijing restaurant in 1987. At the time, it was viewed as a premium destination worth taking a date to, Rein said. McDonald's and Pizza Hut arrived in 1990. "McDonald's and KFC were a beacon of health and hygiene compared to what you had in the rest of the market," Rein said. China is now KFC's largest market by far. The Kentucky-born fried chicken chain counts about 13,000 restaurants in China, compared with around 3,750 in the US. American brands see room for further growth. Much of China's population lives in the smaller, inland cities where brands like McDonald's and Starbucks are rolling out stores, said Sory Park, a project

manager at China-focused market research and strategy firm Daxue Consulting. That doesn't make China a cakewalk for foreign restaurant companies. Most American chains now rely on Chinese partners to find locations and share the financial risk. Earlier this year, a Chinese investment firm acquired a 60 per cent stake in Starbucks' China operation after several years of falling store traffic. American chains trade on their brand names and signature products, but many tailor their menus to appeal to Chinese customers. KFC restaurants in China, for example, serve french fries and Original Recipe chicken alongside custardy egg tarts and congee, a savory rice porridge. "They need to operate like a Chinese company but deliver American menus that incorporate Chinese values, eating habits, and tastes," Park said. Mixue, one of the world's largest fast-food chains with more than 53,000 locations, opened its first three US stores in December. Mirroring the Shanghai crowd outside Church's Texas Chicken, New York customers waited in the cold to sample soft-serve ice cream, fruit teas and milk tea with toppings like coconut jelly and taro balls at a store in Herald Square. Mixue has announced at least two dozen more planned locations across four states. At least nine other mainland Chinese chains have made their US debuts since 202.

Incredible to watch capability ISRO is developing in science missions: Indian-American NASA senior official

NEW YORK, SEPT 20: NASA has an "incredible" partnership with ISRO and is looking forward to more collaboration, the US agency's Indian-American senior official Amit Kshatriya has said.

"We already have incredible collaboration with ISRO," Kshatriya, NASA's Associate Administrator and Chief Engineer, told PTI in an exclusive conversation at the iconic Intrepid Museum. "The capability that ISRO is developing, both in science missions as well as in human spaceflight, is incredible to watch, and we are looking forward to a lot more collaboration," Kshatriya, who is the highest-ranking civil servant at NASA and chief operating officer, said.

He referred to NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar), the partnership between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Indian Space Research Organisation on the Earth-sensing orbiter launched in July 2025 with the objective of measuring and understanding changes in Earth's land, ice, water, and vegetation.

"That benefitted from joint endeavour," he said of the NISAR initiative. Kshatriya added that NASA partners a lot on endeavours such as the human space programme and shares lessons learned with ISRO, underlining the value of international cooperation in space exploration and missions. "It's important...for America to be the leader there, but we want to lead with our values. It's not just about who has the most



machines there. It's about our norms and standards for exploration," he said. Noting that India signed the Artemis Accords, the set of non-legally binding principles to guide civil space exploration, along with over 70 other nations, Kshatriya said, "That's a commitment that we're going to explore in a way that respects each other's integrity and our values as democracies. That's fundamental too. ISRO has been an incredible partner."

Kshatriya was in the city to address a panel discussion hosted at the Intrepid Museum, named after the World War II aircraft carrier, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the public rollout of 'Enterprise', NASA's prototype orbiter that paved the way for the space shuttle programme. Kshatriya was joined by former NASA Administrator and astronaut Charles F. Bolden Jr and record-breaking astronaut and Axiom Space Director of Human Spaceflight Peggy Whitson. Whitson spoke about her collaboration with Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla who was the pilot for Axiom Mission 4, which she had commanded.

"I was actually very pleased to have Shubhanshu Shukla on my mission for AX4. From everything he's told me, I think the country is very excited about the future and the potential of space in general, but human spaceflight also. I'm very proud of him," she said. Lucknow-born Shukla, a decorated pilot in the Indian Air Force (IAF) and Ashoka Chakra awardee, served as the pilot for the Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4) to the International Space Station. He became the first Indian to visit the research station orbiting about 250 miles above the Earth and only the second Indian astronaut to go to space in over 40 years, after Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma flew aboard Soyuz T-11 in April 1984 as part of the Soviet Interkosmos programme. Launched in June 2025, the Axiom Mission 4 included Whitson as commander, Shukla as pilot and mission specialists SÅ,awosz Uznanski-Wisniewski of Poland and Tibor Kapu of Hungary. The crew had docked with the International Space Station for 18 days of research activities.

Whitson, America's most experienced astronaut, has accumulated 695 days in space after the Ax-4 mission, more than any other American astronaut or woman astronaut in the world. She holds the distinction of being the first female commander of the International Space Station. Highlighting India's contribution to the global space program, Bolden said, "All you need to do is look at who was the first nation to reach Mars on their first attempt. And the answer to that is the Indians."

India's first interplanetary mission to planet Mars, Mangalyaan or the Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), was launched on board PSLV-C25 in November 2013. ISRO became only the fourth space agency to successfully send a spacecraft to Mars orbit. While the designed mission life was six months, MOM completed seven years in its orbit in September 2021. Highlighting the close cooperation with NASA during the Mars mission, he said, "We provide the Deep Space Network, which enables us to work with all of our partners to help every once in a while and make recommendations on navigation. Both India and the UAE became the only nations in the world to ever get there on their first attempt," he said. The Orbiter was being tracked by the Indian Deep Space Network (IDSN), located outside Bangalore, whose antennas were complemented by NASA - Jet Propulsion Laboratory Deep Space Network. (PTI)

Actors Deepika Padukone, Ranveer Singh welcome second daughter

NEW DELHI, SEP 20: Actors Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh have announced the birth of their second child, a baby girl. Singh and Padukone, who have co-starred in films such as "Ram-Leela", "Bajirao Mastani" and "83", shared the news with a post on Instagram on Saturday, which featured the poster with "Welcome Baby Girl. 19.9.2026. Dua, Deepika and Ranveer" written on it. Several celebrities went on to congratulate the couple in the comments. "Awww!! Congratulations, you guys!!! Dua has a baby sister," Kriti Sanon wrote. "Congratulations," said Kriti Kharbanda. The couple tied the knot in November 2018 and welcomed their first daughter Dua on September 8, 2024. They announced the second pregnancy with a social media



post which featured Dua holding a positive pregnancy test. Singh recently appeared in "Dhurandhar 2", which went on to earn over Rs 1000 crore at the global

box office. He will next feature in "Pralay". The film is directed by Jay Mehta and is said to be a zombie and a survival thriller.

Padukone will appear alongside Shah Rukh Khan in "King". The film is directed by Siddharth Anand and also features Suhana Khan, among others. (PTI)

Pak minister Naqvi to visit Tehran; Iran says talks to focus on bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD, SEPT 20: Pakistan Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi will visit Tehran on Sunday for talks with Iranian leaders and officials amid escalated tension in West Asia, which involve the US-Iran conflict and fighting between Saudi Arabia and Yemen's Houthis, according to media reports. Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said Naqvi's visit would focus on bilateral relations and follow-up to previous understandings between the two countries, with no specific mediation message planned, Iranian state broadcaster IRIB reported on Saturday. "The visit of Pakistan's interior minister is entirely within the framework of bilateral discussions," Baghaei was quoted as

saying by IRIB, adding that one of Pakistan's economic ministers might also accompany the interior minister. The visit, however, comes at a crucial time. Fighting between Saudi Arabia and the Iran-aligned Houthis have intensified, with the former carrying out airstrikes against Houthi positions and the group launching drone and missile attacks against Saudi territory. It has raised concerns over the security of Saudi energy infrastructure and shipping routes around the Red Sea and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. Roughly 10 to 15 per cent of global maritime trade normally passes through them. Pakistan has also been playing the role of a key mediator between Iran and the US to revive stalled negotiations.



The two parties had signed an interim peace agreement in June, which Islamabad has signed as a guarantor, but the process was disrupted in July after military escalation by both sides. The Strait of Hormuz,

which effectively remained blocked, remains the key sticking point. Roughly a fifth of the world's energy supplies passed through this waterway in peacetime. Baghei said Pakistan could use Naqvi's visit to raise regional

issues, but there had been no discussion so far of the minister carrying any specific US message or proposal, The Express Tribune reported. According to Baghaei, the main purpose of the visit was to follow up on previous understandings between Islamabad and Tehran, particularly decisions reached at the leadership level, The Nation reported. Naqvi is expected to hold meetings with senior Iranian officials during Sunday's visit, with bilateral relations and other matters of mutual interest on the agenda. The visit comes a day after Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar spoke by telephone with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, during which Dar highlighted the importance of

uninterrupted energy supplies and the safe and expeditious passage of ships, particularly because of their implications for developing countries and global supply chains. Naqvi has made multiple official visits to Tehran in the last three months. During his last visit in August, Naqvi met Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Foreign Minister Araghchi to discuss bilateral ties and efforts to revive the US-Iran dialogue. Pakistan's diplomatic efforts have gained added significance after it signed a joint defence agreement with Saudi Arabia and Türkiye on August 7, under which an attack on any one of the three countries would effectively be considered an attack on all. (PTI)