

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

**Simran's single Aa Gya Ni is rooted in Punjabi tradition**



NATIONAL | 7

**"All Of Us Waiting": Anurag Thakur Ahead Of Chandrayaan-3's Lunar Landing**

INTERNATIONAL | 8

**Canadian finance minister, who does not own a car, fined for speeding**



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-14 Issue-230 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

## BRIEFLY

### Body of 25-year-old Youth Found in Kotranka Rajouri

SRINAGAR, Aug 23 (Agencies): Body of a 25-year-old youth was found in Kotranka area in Rajouri district, officials said. They said that body of one Shabir Ahmad, son of Shakeel Ahmad, a resident of Samote Budhal was found lying opposite to Jamia Masjid Kotranka. "A police team reached the site soon after and took the body into its possession", they said. Confirming it, SHO Kotranka Shakil Manhas said that they have registered a case under section 174 CRPC to ascertain the cause of death of the youth.

### In a first, Police attaches property of drug peddler in Sopore town

SRINAGAR, Aug 23 (Agencies): Sopore: In a first of its kind, Jammu and Kashmir Police attached the property of a drug peddler in Sopore town of north Kashmir.

A senior police official said that a property belonging to Muzaffer Ahmad Bhat @Tanga, son of Noor Mohammad Bhat of Batorpora Sopore has been attached. The seized property include house on six marla land. Muzaffer is involved in number of NDPS cases at Police Station Sopore and NCB Jammu, a top police officer said, adding that he is currently lodged at Kot Balwal jail in Jammu. Reliable sources said that the whole family of Bhat is involved in drug abuse trade and have multiple FIRs registered against them. The attachment of movable and immovable properties, utilised for illicit drug trafficking, is seen as a crucial step towards eradicating the menace of drugs from the district, believe Jammu and Kashmir.

"Sopore Police is committed to the mission of curbing drug-related crimes and ensuring the safety and well-being of the community," said a senior cop.

## Article 370 | No intention to interfere with other special provisions, centre tells SC

NEW DELHI, Aug 23 (Agencies): During the hearing on pleas pertaining to Article 370, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta on Wednesday submitted before the Constitution Bench that the Union government has absolutely no intention to interfere with the special provisions of the Constitution applicable to north-east states or any other part of the country. "We must understand the difference between temporary provision, which is Article 370, and special provisions with regards to other states, including the north-east.



The Central government has no intention to touch any part (of the Constitution) which gives special provisions to the North East and other regions," he said, in response to an intervention application filed in pleas challenging the stripping

down of the special status granted to Jammu & Kashmir. Advocate Manish Tewari, appearing for an intervenor- a former minister from Arunachal Pradesh, argued that interpretation which will be given by the Constitu-

tion Bench on Article 370 would have impact on other special provisions like Article 371, the six sub-parts which apply to North East under Part XXI of the Constitution and the VI schedule which applies to Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya and Mizoram. "The underlying principle of autonomy under Article 370 and Article 371 is more or less the same. So therefore, what your lordships will hold in this matter, either way, will have implications on Article 371," he contended. He added: "Even a

Turn to page 9

## 17 killed after under-construction railway bridge collapses in Mizoram; PM announces Ex Gratia



AIZAWL, Aug 23 (Agencies): At least 17 workers were killed and several others are feared trapped after an under-construction railway bridge collapsed near Sairang area of

Mizoram on Wednesday, police said. Nearly 35-40 workers were present at the site, about 21 km from Aizawl, when the incident occurred around 10 am, they said.

"Seventeen bodies have been recovered from the debris so far... many others are still missing," a police officer said. Rescue and relief efforts are underway, he said. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the family members of the deceased, and announced an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh each for the next of kin of the victims. "Pained by the bridge mishap in Mizoram. Condolences to those who have lost their

Turn to page 9

## J&K clinches 2nd spot in the country by taking its count of online services to 913

Top News Report JAMMU, Aug 23: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Wednesday announced the on boarding of 913 citizen centric online services on the e-UNNAT portal. With this, Jammu and Kashmir has attained second position in the country amongst States/UTs in the number of online services provided to the citizens.



The Chief Secretary stated that it is an important milestone in

tune with the resolve of the J&K administration to provide ease, con-

venience and accessibility of services to the common man. With 913

online services, J&K has overtaken Kerala which provides 911 services online and is placed at second position in the country after Madhya Pradesh. Under the 'Digital J&K Programme' that was launched in mission mode last year, the number of online services has increased exponentially from 35 services in 2021 to 913 services as on date.

Turn to page 9

## Low-Intensity explosion injures man in Chatha: SSP Jammu



JAMMU, Aug 23 (Agencies): A resident of the Chatha area in Jammu District sustained injuries due to a low-intensity explo-

sion that occurred at his brother's residence. Quoting preliminary investigations, SSP Jammu Chandan Kohli said that the explosion was triggered by the presence of low-intensity explosive material in the house, suspected to have been intended for illegal animal hunting or trapping activities. The injured individual is currently receiving medical treatment, while

Turn to page 9

## Farooq, Omar hopeful of successful moon landing of Chandrayaan-3

SRINAGAR, Aug 23 (Agencies): National Conference leaders Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah on Wednesday expressed hope that Chandrayaan-3 will successfully complete its journey to the moon later in the day. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Wednesday said it is all set to initiate the Automatic Landing Sequence (ALS) for its ambitious third Moon mission Chandray-



aan-3's Lander Module (LM) to touch down on the lunar surface this evening. The LM comprising the lander (Vikram) and the rover (Pragyan) is

scheduled to make a touch down near the south polar region of the Moon at 6.04 pm, a feat not achieved by any country so far. "We are very hope-

ful that the journey of Chandrayaan-3 will be completely successful today. We are eagerly waiting for the pictures and videos from the part of the moon where no country has so far managed a softlanding. "If the Chandrayaan landing is successful, which we are very hopeful of, we will join the elite league of countries that have managed this feat," Omar Abdullah told reporters at the party office here.

Turn to page 9

## 144 dengue cases reported in JK

SRINAGAR, Aug 23 (Agencies): Dengue cases are on the rise in Jammu and Kashmir with health officials stating that around 144 such cases have been reported in the Union Territory. The State Surveillance Officer, Dr Harjeet Rai said that 144 cases of dengue have been reported in J&K. "Dengue cases are projected to surge post-monsoon and people are advised to take "preemptive" measures to combat the painful mosquito-borne disease in the absence of any vaccine."

Dengue caused by viruses carried by infected mosquitoes has always been a health concern and people need to take precautions to protect themselves from falling prey to the virus, he said. Meanwhile, the doctors have advised the people to use mosquito repellents and wear full sleeves shirts so as to save themselves from mosquito bites, which they said choose to breed in stagnant water accumulated by water logging mainly during monsoon. They said the mosqui-

toes that spread dengue are active during the day. "Cover as much of your body as possible and use mosquito nets if sleeping during the day and spray the nets with insect repellents," they said. The most common symptoms, as per doctors, are fever and headache, eye pain (typically behind the eyes), muscle, joint or bone pain, rash, nausea, and vomiting. "If anyone has stomach or belly pain, tenderness, vomiting (at least 3 times in 24 hours),

Turn to page 9

## JPPF demands quashing of FIR against youths of Jammu



Top News Report JAMMU, Aug 23: Jammu Province Peo-

ples Forum (JPPF), an amalgam of social, commercial, and other organizations, a strong

voice of Dogras and a common platform of all civil society members to raise a united voice for

the welfare of the people of Jammu province, in a press conference highlighted the issue of grave concern regarding the presence of an unauthorized and illegal toll plaza operating at Sarore which is creating a sense of unrest among the masses and this activity is causing significant distress and inconvenience to the community.

Turn to page 9

## Enquiry into allegations against former professional of Kulgam employment and counselling centre

SRINAGAR, Aug 23 (Agencies): Government of Jammu and Kashmir has ordered a time-bound enquiry to look into allegations levelled against a former professional of district employment and counselling centre (DE&CC/MC), Kulgam. The inquiry officer Mahesh Kumar Manhas has been given ten day time period to submit a

factual report along with recommendations to the Directorate of Employment. "Sanction is hereby accorded to the appointment of Mr. Manish Kr. Manhas, Deputy Director (P&S) in the Directorate of Employment, J&K as Inquiry Officer to conduct an enquiry into the charges/ allegations levelled by Sh.Nilesh Verma against

Sh. Shahid Hussain, the then young Professional of DE&CC/MCC, Kulgam", read an order. "The Inquiry Officer shall complete the enquiry and submit his factual report along with recommendations to the Directorate within a period of 10 days from the date of issuance of this order", read the order further.



## LG Sinha lays foundation stone of Anti-Corruption Bureau Headquarters at Sidhra



### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 23: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today laid the foundation stone of Anti-Corruption Bureau Headquarters at Sidhra,

Jammu.

The Lt Governor congratulated the officials of the Anti-Corruption Bureau on the occasion. "With this new beginning, the government

reaffirms its commitment to effectively combat corruption to fulfill the resolve of corruption-free J&K," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor called

upon the officials to work with determination and commitment to zero tolerance against corruption.

The infrastructure comprises of B+6 storeys

including parking area, police station central, prosecution staff and other allied offices will provide suitable space for smooth functioning of Bureau.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Sh Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary; Sh Dilbag Singh, DGP; Sh RR Swain, Special DG CID; Sh Anand Jain, Director Anti Corruption Bureau J&K; Sh Mukesh Singh, ADGP Jammu; Sh Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Sh Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; and senior officers were present.

## DPAP protest against illegal Sarore Toll Plaza



### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 23: Gaurav Chopra, District President DPAP and JMC Councillor Ward-28 held a strong protest at Bakshi Nagar, Jammu against the illegal Sarore Toll Plaza and detention of Yuva Rajput Sabha members.

Hundreds of people including Residents and Shopkeepers of the area take part in the protest.

Protesters also block the busy Bakshi Nagar road for hours by burning of tyres.

Gourav Chopra lambasted on LG Government for anti Jammu policies. He said that Sarore toll plaza is illegal as same is announced by Home minister in parliament

and Jammu Pathankot road is also in very bad condition.

He also demand that LG Government should immediately release all the members of Yuva Rajput Sabha.

The others who were present Ashwani handa , Rinku jammu president Rajput Shaba Bakshi Nagar, Adv Akhil Tandon, Manik Uppal, Jatinder Singh, Raman Verma, Gurdev

Singh, Jaideep Singh, Happy Khajuria, Munish Verma, Ashwani Gupta, Bhanu Jamwal, Rimpu Singh, Ajay Chopra, Shammi Singh, Nakhil Choudary, Satya Devi, Sunny Verma, Anmol Kholi, Sonu, Yuvraj Singh, Michael Singh, Bhagwan Singh, Kaushik Gupta, Sharu, Raju Gupta, Vijay Chopra, Sunny Gupta, Ravi, Bittu Gupta, Lakha and Pammy.

## Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav concludes in State Taxes Department

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 23: The State Taxes Department Jammu today celebrated the culmination of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav under the inspiring theme "Meri Maati Mera Desh" with a ceremony held at Excise and Taxation Complex, Jammu.

The event was focused on showcasing the department's commitment to honoring the spirit of freedom and the dedication of its employee.

The highlight of the ceremony was the distribution of appreciation certificates to the deserving employees who have displayed exceptional dedication and exemplary service in their roles.

The certificates



were awarded by the esteemed Commissioner of State Taxes Dr. Rashmi Singh, IAS along with the Additional Commissioner State Taxes Jammu (Adm. and Enforcement) Namrita Dogra in recognition of their outstanding contribu-

tions to department's goals. On The Occasion a launch of photo booklet of the fortnight celebrations was done by Commissioner State Taxes Dept."

The Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is a nationwide celebration commemorating 75 years of

India's Independence. The fortnight celebrations at State Tax Department Jammu witnessed various events including plantation drives, GST awareness drives through various means, kite flying rangoli and poetry competition, exhibition etc.

The Department's participation in this celebration highlights its commitments to upholding the values that India's struggle for independence has taught. The dedication and hard work of its employees have been pivotal in ensuring effective tax administration and fostering economic growth.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners, State Tax Officers and all the employees of the State Taxes Department. As the department looks ahead to its future endeavors, this event serves as a reminder of the significance of collective efforts in shaping a prosperous and inclusive society.

## Saffron regime has lost confidence of masses: Harsh Dev

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 23: J&K National Panthers Party (JKNPP) activists led by Harsh Dev Singh, State President and Former Minister held a vociferous protest outside BJP Headquarters seeking dismissal of its govt in view of loss of peoples' confidence in its rule.

They were addressed by several senior leaders of the Party who described the present BJP regime as the worst ever in the history of the country.

Maintaining that BJP had lost the confidence of the people in view of its multiple betrayals, Singh said that it had no right to continue in office. He said that having dismantled the oldest historical Dogra state of J&K and downgraded it to UT level, the BJP govt had extended several draconian laws



to it without the nod of legislature. Opening of multiple Toll Plazas and limitless Liquor shops and Bars, introduction of Smart meters and Property tax, sky-rocketing prices of essentials, burgeoning employment, patronized all pervasive corruption, settlement of Beharis and UP people in UT and politics of hate seemed to be the only

notable achievements of BJP rule, said Singh. While rising prices had made the lives of people miserable, the BJP govt was resorting to extortion in the form of increased cesses, duties, tolls and taxes. Several Toll Plazas had been installed in the Jammu region to loot the people of their marginal incomes despite the

condition of roads being highly pathetic.

He said that Sarore Toll Plaza and Ban Toll Plazas had been assured to be removed by BJP including its central leaders which however turned out to be mere hyperboles. And contrarily the Toll was enhanced at both the plazas thereby causing massive resentment

amongst the general masses.

Likewise, the opening of several liquor shops despite people's opposition in the city of temples had further created massive resentment amongst the locals particularly the womenfolk. And while the region faced chronic crisis in power and water sectors, the govt came up with the proposal of installation of Smart meters as if to rub salt on the wounds of people, said Mr. Singh.

Harsh Dev said that having failed to redeem its promises, the BJP was now indulging in divisive politics and creating hatred by invoking caste, colour, creed and religion in the affairs of govt thereby denting its own reputation beyond redemption. It needed to be dismissed lock, stock & barrel, said Singh.

## NC strongly condemns Lathi Charge on peaceful protesters seeking removal of Toll Plaza at Sarore

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 23: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference has vehemently condemned the use of lathi charge on people who were peacefully protesting to demand the removal of the Toll Plaza at Sarore.

In a statement issued here today, Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of J&K National Conference, asserted that the demand for

the removable of the Toll Plaza from Sarore is well-founded and reflects the concerns of the people. He emphasized that the citizens' peaceful demonstration for getting justice is a democratic right and should be met with understanding and cooperation.

Gupta pointed out the paradox between the statements of Union Minister for Highways Nitin Jairam Gadkar and the actions of the Regional

Officer of NHAI P Shiva Shankar, who falls under Gadkari's jurisdiction. While Minister Gadkari clearly stated in Parliament that the distance between two toll plazas should not be less than 60 kilometers. However, the NHAI Regional Officer cited different provisions to justify the establishment of two tolls at Sarore and Ban.

"It is crucial that the Union Minister clarifies this ambiguity," Gupta urged. He stressed

that this confusion has resulted in an unjust imposition of tolls and has raised concerns among the public. The people of Jammu have been left grappling with the repercussions of the BJP government's misgovernance, causing widespread unrest in the region.

Gupta criticized the silence of the J&K BJP leadership in the face of this serious issue, noting that the lack of acknowledgment or

action from the ruling party's representatives is contributing to the turmoil. He expressed his concern over the boiling sentiment in the entire Jammu region due to what he termed the BJP government's indifference to the concerns of the citizens.

Gupta demanded that the toll plaza at Sarore should be abolished with immediate effect in view of just and genuine demand of people of Jammu region.

**G20 NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
Tender Notice No. 001/2023-24  
**Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system**  
Assistant Materials Manager, N.Rly. Store Depot, Ludhiana for and on behalf of President of India, invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-

S. No.	Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Due date
1.	48235257	Electrical driven air compressor 500 CFM 10 KG/CM Sq., details as per attached specifications in Annexure A OR COFOMOW Specification: COFOMOW/REDAAC/2019	1 Nos.	25-Sep-2023

NOTE:- Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). The firm who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate from certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act 2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted. 2599/2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (M) GROUND WATER DRILLING DIVISION JAMMU**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
e-NIT No. GWD/99 of 2023-24 DATED:- 19.08.2023

On behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT of J&K, The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (M) Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from reputed and registered firms/contractors with Jal Shakti Department Jammu as a Water Well Drillers who have sufficient experience in the field of drilling and are well equipped with drilling equipments.

Name of the Work	Name of the Division	Cost of Tender Document/Tender Fee (In Rs)	Qty.	Estimated cost (value of work) (in Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Validity of Rates
Deep Drilling, Development and Stabilization of 200 mm dia mini Tube well (on EPC Mode) by ODEX Method at Institute of Govt. Polytechnic College Sathra in District Poonch under Capex Budget 2023-24.	Jal Shakti Mech. Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu	1000/- (Refundable) Deposited in Govt. treasury through e-challan under the receipt head 0215 in favour of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. GWD Div. Jammu payable at Jammu mentioning name of work	01 No.	Rs. 16.05 lacs	@ 2% of the quoted rates in shape of Fresh CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PHE (M) GWD Division	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024

- The complete bidding process shall be online.
- Bid documents can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 19.08.2023 to 29.08.2023.
- The pre bid meeting if desired by the participating firms shall be held in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (M) GWD Division Jammu on 22.08.2023 (1300 hrs).
- The bids shall be submitted/uploaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 23.08.2023 (1400 hrs) to 29.08.2023 (1900 hrs).
- The complete bidding process shall be online and scanned copies of the following documents will have to be uploaded before due date:-
  - Copy of treasury e-Challan/receipt for Rs. 1000.00 against the cost of tender document under the receipt Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (M) Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu indicating name of work to be executed. It may be noted that the receipt of the e-challan should be of the date after the issuance of publication of the e-tender.
  - The tenders shall be accompanied with an earnest money of 2% of quoted rates in the shape of CDR/FDR, from a scheduled Bank payable in JAMMU. The CDR/FDR shall be pledged to Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (M) GWD Division Jammu, valid for a period of 12 months from the last date of submission of bids. The earnest money deposit shall be refunded in favour of unsuccessful tenderer immediately after finalization of the tender, whereas it shall be retained in case of successful tenderer till signing of agreement and furnishing of performance security
  - Copies of tender documents, terms and conditions duly signed and stamped (each page) by bidder.
  - Scanned copy of Experience certificate of having completed one similar work during last five financial years. The experience certificate shall have been issued by an officer of the rank not below an Executive Engineer of any Government Department/Semi Government/PSUs.
  - Scanned copy of Valid Registration of Water Well Drillers issued by Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Jammu for the year 2023-24. In case the bidder is not able to furnish the Registration with the cover 1st of this bid document, he can produce the same before the opening of cover 2nd of this bid document
  - Scanned copy of the latest Income tax return certificate.
  - Scanned copy GST return in FORMGST-3B of the latest quarter.
  - Scanned copy of documentary proof of ownership or on hire basis of requisite machinery like Air compressor, direct/reverse Rotary Drilling Rig. In case of a firm having these machine/s arranged on hire basis the firm shall produce a copy of an agreement with the actual owner (Registered Drilling Firm) of the machine for lease of the machinery and expertise, duly attested by a Magistrate First class valid for a time period of not less than 06 months from the last date of submission of bids.
  - Average Annual financial turnover during any three financial years out of the last 05 years, ending 31st March of previous financial year, issued by a registered Chartered Accountant under his seal and signature shall be Rs 25.00 lacs.
- The Technical Bids of the tender document received shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (M) GWD Division Jammu on 31.08.2023 (1400 hrs). If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids shall be opened on the next working day during the office hours.
- The Financial Bids of the tender document of the qualified bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (M) GWD Division Jammu. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids shall be opened on the next working or as to be decided by tender opening committee.
- Other details can be seen inside the detailed tender document.
- Account Head: Capex Budget 2023-24
- AAA No. 280 of 2023 Dated 14.06.2023.
- Status of Funds: Available
- Technical Sanction No. SEP/PHE/TS/DB/01 of 2023-24 Dated 13.07.2023.

Sd/-  
GWD/2718-20 DATED: 19.08.2023  
DIP/J-7234/23  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti Mech. G.W.D. Division  
Jammu

## EDITORIAL

## FIRST STEP FOR SUCCESS

Every year, more than 15 lakh candidates appear for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) with their dream of becoming a doctor. However, only half of them make it through India's biggest medical entrance exam. So, starting your preparation for NEET from class 9th would be the first step for the candidates to pursue a career in the field of medical science, as this is the right time to choose a career.

Starting NEET preparation from class 9 will help the candidates to understand their fundamentals (basic concepts of subjects). Preparing for NEET from class 9th onwards will help the candidates get a better grip on the future courses they need to study for NEET. The preparation of basic concepts during NEET preparation from class 9 onwards will reduce the extra pressure during class 12 board exams.

Students preparing for NEET 2023 from class 9th get more time to improve their preparation strategy. Doctor aspirants can read this complete article to know about NEET preparation from class 9th in Hindi for better strategy, tips, recommended books, relevant topics and other details.

For NEET preparation from class 9 onwards, candidates need to understand the basic concepts of Physics, Chemistry, and Biology (Botany and Zoology). This will help them in class 11 and 12, as NEET syllabus is based on the topics covered in 11th and 12th, it will also make NEET preparation easier.

After going through the complete syllabus, candidates preparing for NEET from class 9 must prepare a comprehensive study time table. NEET is one of the toughest entrance exam. It requires a lot of attention, disciplined study as well as in-depth analysis of theoretical and practical topics. Creating an effective study plan will help candidates prepare for NEET from class 9 onwards, which will also help them in their board exam preparation.

While preparing for NEET from class 9th onwards, it is really important for students to take help of their NCERT books as it covers all the formulas and theory. The questions in NEET entrance exam are based on the NCERT syllabus of class 11 and 12. Of course, aspirants must understand and read the NCERT Books for Class 9 Science thoroughly. NCERT books explain the basic concepts related to each section.

Once the NCERT syllabus is completed, when students are confident about their preparation, then they should revise from the best NEET books for each section. These books are considered as one of the best study material to crack NEET with 600+ marks.

While preparing for NEET 2023 from class 9, candidates should try to focus on the most relevant and important topics. Higher priority should be given to subjects having more weightage in NEET exam. Preparing for the most important topics from the beginning in class 9 will help NEET aspirants to be more confident about the preparations and finally release the pressure. NEET important topics from each subject are listed below for the candidates.

Class 9th students preparing for NEET must learn to solve Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) within the stipulated time duration. NEET question paper will consist of 180 MCQ questions from Physics, Chemistry and Biology for which only 3 hours will be allotted. Hence, while preparing for NEET from class 9th, it becomes important for the candidates to start solving at least 40-50 MCQs in each subject on a daily basis.

## Adivasis, the first Indians, cheated by Constitution?

By: Mohan Guruswamy

Tribal people, who account for 8.6 per cent of India's population, about 110 million people, can be broadly classified into three groupings. The first grouping consists of populations who predate the Indo-Aryan migrations. These are termed by many anthropologists as the Austro-Asiatic-speaking Australoid people. The Central Indian Adivasis belong to this grouping.

Late Prof. Nihar Ranjan Ray, one of our most distinguished historians, described the Central Indian Adivasis as "the original autochthonous people of India", meaning that their presence in India predated by far the Dravidians, the Aryans and whoever else settled in this country. The anthropologist Verrier Elwin states this more emphatically when he wrote: "These are the real swadeshi products of India, in whose presence all others are foreign. These are ancient people with moral rights and claims thousands of years old. They were here first and should come first in our regard."

The other two much more recent groupings are the Caucasoid, such as the Banjaras, Gujjars, Meenas and other North Indian tribes; and the Sino-Tibetan or Mongoloid tribal people, mostly of the northeastern regions who migrated relatively recently. These two broad tribal groupings have fared much better in the post-Independence period. Clearly, all Scheduled Tribes are not Adivasis. There are some 573 communities recognised by the government as Scheduled Tribes and therefore eligible to receive special benefits and to compete for reserved seats in legislatures, government jobs, universities and schools. Most of these benefits have gone to the non-Adivasi tribals.

Unfortunately, like indigenous people all over the world, India's Adivasis too have been savaged and ravaged by later people claiming to be more "civilised". They are now easily its most deprived and oppressed section. The biggest tribal group, the Gonds, number about 13 million; followed by the Santals, with about seven million. Central India is home to the country's largest tribes, and, taken as a whole, roughly 75 per cent of the total tribal population live there. These are the now troubled Adivasi homelands.

On December 16, 1946, welcoming the Objectives Resolution in the Constituent Assembly, the legendary Adivasi leader Jaipal Singh stated the tribal case and apprehensions explicitly. He said: "The whole history of my people is one of continuous exploitation and dispossession by the non-aboriginals of India, punctuated by rebellions and disorder, and yet I take Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru at his word. I take you all at your word that now we are going to start a new chapter, a new chapter of independent India where there is equality of opportunity, where no one will be neglected." The Adivasis paid dearly for taking Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru at his word. Even if the provisions of the Constitution were implemented in some measure, if not all of its spirit and word, the present situation would not have come to be.

In the early days of our Republic, Jawaharlal Nehru, on the advice of people like Verrier Elwin, sought to insulate the tribal areas from the predations of the new order that was emerging in India. The migration of outsiders into the traditional Adivasi homelands continues unabated. Despite this, there are still 332 tribal majority tehsils in India, of which 110 are in the

Northeast. Thus, there are 222 Adivasi majority tehsils with a population of over 20 million, or about one-third of the Central Indian Adivasi population.

The Fifth and Sixth Schedules under Article 244 of the Indian Constitution in 1950 provided for self-governance in specified tribal majority areas. The Fifth Schedule covers tribal areas in nine states of India -- Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Rajasthan. The Fifth Schedule provides protection to the Adivasi (tribal) people living in scheduled areas from alienation of their lands and natural resources to non-tribals.

This seldom-enforced constitutional safeguard is now under imminent threat of being amended to formally effect transfer of tribal lands to non-tribals and corporate bodies. This move has serious implications for the very survival and culture of the millions of tribal people in India.

In 1999 the Government of India issued a draft National Policy on Tribals to address the development needs of tribal people. Special emphasis was laid on education, forestry, healthcare, languages, resettlement and land rights. The first NDA government even established a ministry of tribal affairs. The draft was meant to be circulated between MPs, MLAs and civil society groups. It never was.

The draft policy is still a draft, which means there is no policy. But it must also be stated that this sudden concern for tribals was mostly motivated by the fears of conversion to Christianity that would have precluded their assimilation into the Hindu Samaj. Thus, even though the states of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand were carved out of Bihar and Madhya Pradesh,

real tribal issues relating to their culture, way of life and aspirations were not addressed. Political power has still, by and large, eluded them. Not to be left behind, the UPA government drafted the Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill in 2005 but did not act upon it due to pressure mounted by self-styled wildlife activists and the wildlife tourism lobby.

Much has happened since Independence and the failed promises of the Constitution. But it is still possible to retrieve some of the original promises. As provided by the Constitution, all tribal majority areas must be consolidated into administrative divisions whose authority must be vested with democratically chosen institutions. This body could be called the Adivasi Maha-panchayat and enabled to function as a largely autonomous institution. All laws passed by the state legislatures must be ratified to the satisfaction of the Maha-panchayat. Instead of the state capital-controlled government, the instruments of public administration dealing with education, health, irrigation, roads and land records must be handed over to local government structures. The police must also be made answerable to local elected officials and not allowed to be a law unto themselves.

Till then the lament of a popular folk song of the Gonds will hold true: "And the Gods were greatly troubled/ In their heavenly courts and councils/ Sat no Gods of Gonds among them./ Gods of other nations sat there/ Eighteen threshing-floors of Brahmins/ Sixteen scores of Telinganas/ But no Gods of Gonds appeared there/ From the Glens of Seven Mountains/ From the twelve hills of the valleys."

## How to improve your writing skills for academic success

By: Vijay GarG

Strong writing skills are crucial for academic success. Whether you're a student, researcher, or professional, effective writing enhances your ability to communicate ideas clearly and persuasively.

## 1. READ WIDELY AND REGULARLY

Expand your reading horizons by exploring diverse genres, subjects, and writing styles.

Reading frequently exposes you to different writing techniques, vocabulary, and sentence structures, which can inspire and inform your own writing.

## 2. MASTER GRAMMAR AND PUNCTUATION

A solid understanding of grammar and punctuation is essential for clear and coherent writing.

Brush up on basic grammar rules, learn proper comma

usage, and familiarise yourself with sentence structure to enhance the quality and clarity of your writing.

## 3. PRACTICE WRITING REGULARLY

Writing is a skill that improves with practice. Dedicate regular time to writing exercises, journaling, or blogging.

Challenge yourself to write on various topics, experiment with different writing styles, and seek feedback to refine your writing abilities.

## 4. STUDY ACADEMIC WRITING GUIDELINES

Familiarise yourself with the specific requirements and conventions of academic writing. Understand the structure of essays, research papers, and reports, including proper citation and referencing techniques.

## 5. DEVELOP STRONG THESIS STATEMENTS

A well-crafted thesis statement sets the tone and direction for your writing. Practice formulating clear and concise thesis statements that effectively convey your main argument or research objective.

Remember to provide evidence and support throughout your writing to strengthen your claims.

6. ORGANISE YOUR IDEAS  
Effective organisation is key to coherent writing. Outline your thoughts and main points before you start writing.

Create a logical structure with clear headings, sub-headings, and paragraphs to guide your reader through your work. A well-organised piece enhances readability and comprehension.

## 7. EDIT AND PROOFREAD THOROUGHLY

Revision is an essential part of the writing process. Review your work for grammar errors, awkward phras-

ing, and inconsistencies.

Pay attention to spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure. Consider seeking feedback from peers or utilising editing tools to enhance the quality of your writing.

## 8. SEEK WRITING SUPPORT

Take advantage of writing centres, workshops, or online resources offered by your educational institution.

These resources can provide guidance on various writing topics, offer personalised feedback, and help you refine your skills.

## 9. LEARN FROM CRITIQUES AND FEEDBACK

Embrace constructive criticism as an opportunity for growth. Actively seek feedback from professors, mentors, or writing groups.

(Vijay GarG Retired  
Principal Educational  
Columnist Malout  
Punjab)

# AAP appeals people of J&K not get mislead, swayed by emotive slogans, imaginary election Jumlas

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU Aug 23: A meeting of AAP volunteers & AAP well-wisher was held at Ward 23, Nai Basti, Parak, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, organized by Amit Langer, Secretary Jammu Province to discuss Party preparations for the forthcoming Municipal & Panchayat elections in J&K-UT.

The Senior AAP leaders present & spoke on the occasion include Farooq Ahmed Bandy, Nirmal Mahana, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, and Amit Langer.

The AAP leaders in the meeting strongly condemned the detention of leaders of Yuva Rajput Sabha, who were peacefully protesting against the illegal toll plaza at Sarore.

They have raised a very genuine public importance issue. The AAP leaders urged all Political Parties and Social Organizations to come on one platform to fight against the dictatorial attitude of the J&K-UT administration and to ensure resolution of all issues being faced by the public of J&K-UT.

The AAP leaders further said that the promise of providing 2 crore



jobs annually to the youths of the country in 2014 and 50,000 jobs to the youths of J&K after abrogation of Art. 370 still haunts the minds of young people here, which never saw the light of the day.

Adding fuel to the fire, several thousands of youths engaged on contractual basis, ad-hoc basis, daily wages or need based arrangements in all departments be it Home guard, Education, PDD, PHE, Health, Food & civil supplies and so on so forth has compounded the miseries of frustrated youths with every passing day as scores of them are crossing age limit or nearing the same without any hope of Achhe Din, they main-

tained and said that previous leaders of successive state governments are squarely responsible for the present mess who, without any planning and application of mind, adjusted the youths simply to create vote banks and appease their kith & kins, has put thousands of youths in great dilemma & worst confusion, They claimed.

They maintained that Educational Institutions were opened with political considerations without proper infrastructure in place, Health Institutions sanctioned without availability of staff.

Reacting to the chest thumping guarantee of PM Modi, at Bhopal & also on Independence day speech, regarding

taking stringent action against corrupt politician in the country, the BJP government at the centre instead, is admitting all the scamsters & fraudsters into his Party and shamelessly claiming to give a guarantee to the countrymen to take strict action, is now fully exposed the countrymen as also the world that whatever BJP leaders assert is a jumlas & nothing short of it, this was stated by the Sr. AAP leaders in the meeting, while referring to the height of hypocrisy in the part of BJP in general & PM Modi in particular where, Modi in his open speech in Bhopal, MP, on 27 June, 2023 & also on Independence day speech, on 15th of August, 2023, he

thumped his own chest and gave a guarantee to the country that will soon take action against the corrupt persons but to the astonishment of one & all.

They appeal the general masses to rise above the politics of religion & region in the larger interest of integration of the country and see through the game of divisive politics as well as Divide & rule policy of ruling dispensation as also the previous Political Parties who ruled the country as well as J&K, who simply boast of "Vikas" from the roof top but in fact, on ground, they are sowing the seeds of hatred, division in the society, leading & dragging the Country to a situation of 1947 which is highly dangerous for the unity & integrity of the Nation. The country has to run on the foot hold of its Constitution which teaches us to give regard to its religious sects on all costs, they maintained, frenzy of casteism, polarization in the name of religion will harm us than doing any good and that people not get mislead and swayed by emotive slogans and imaginary JUMLAS, the AAP leaders said.

# Successful Amarnath Yatra 2023 demonstrates return to normalcy in J&K: Dr. Parneesh

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 23: Dr Parneesh Mahajan, Convener Department of Training Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu and Kashmir has asserted that the successful conducting of Shri Amarnath Yatra 2023 till date goes to prove beyond doubt that things have been fast returning to normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir especially in the Kashmir Valley which witnessed the worst phase of terror onslaught for over three decades.

In a statement issued to media here today, the senior BJP leader said that this year's Amarnath Yatra having achieved a momentous milestone, surpassing all the previous number of Yatris, so far more than 4.40 lakh pilgrims have performed Darshan of the Holy Ice Lingam at the Cave Shrine safely and securely. For this



full credit of two months Yatra goes to the Union Govt led by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union Territory Administration led by the Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha, he added.

With Yatra set to close from Aug 23 onwards, he also lauded the security forces and Langar organizations for making this Yatra an unprecedented success.

Dr Parneesh said that this year's Yatra has had many distinguishing features in terms of seamless arrangements, unwavering services, and meticulous management. This has resulted in garnering widespread

acclaim besides nurturing a sense of harmony among people hailing from diverse backgrounds not only from across the nation but also those visiting from around the world.

The senior BJP leader stated that during this Yatra period every facet of the Yatra right from the provision of Langar services to healthcare facilities, sanitation, transportation and security measures continue to remain par excellence thus ensuring unparalleled convenience for the pilgrims. It is because of this that the seamless execution of these arrangements led to a surge in the influx of devotees embarking on the spiritual journey to Lord Shiva's abode in the Himalayas. He hoped that the degree of excellence in providing seamless services will further continue to be enhanced in the coming years too.

# GDC Kishtwar organizes awareness program under Puneet Sagar Abhiyan-G-20

### TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Aug 23: Government Degree College (GDC) Kishtwar organised an awareness programme under Puneet Sagar Abhiyan-G-20 near Surkoot Dal (small lake), near Gauri Shanker Mandir, Kishtwar.

A total of 21 cadets and one ANO, Lt.(Dr.)

Madhu Bala, Participated in the event.

The programme was executed under the Patronship of Dr. Jyoti Parihar, Principal GDC Kishtwar. The program commenced with a brief introduction highlighting the significance of water in sustaining nature and the pivotal role of NCC in maintaining

the cleanliness of such water bodies.

They also raised slogans "Hum Sab Ne Ye Thana Hai Pani Ko Bachana Hai". Madhu Bala shed light on the current challenges associated with water conservation and emphasized the role and responsibility of NCC in social services.

# DPAP Kashmiri Displaced People Wing highlights problems of displaced people in camps

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 23: In a joint statement issued by the leaders of Kashmiri Displaced People Wing DPAP through its President Sanjay Dhar, Chairman Piaray Lal Pandita, Raj Kumar Tickoo General Secretary, Naveen Gosani Youth President have expressed their grave concern over the pathetic condition of Camps due to non attending of concerned Authorities in respect

of following burning demands.

The water supply to TRT Camp Nagrota is adversely effected.

The water supply to Jagti Camp has gone totally defunct by the highhandedness of Contractors enjoying extensions being white coloured persons giving a loss to the Govt. exchequer as they are providing unhygienic water supply to the camp once in a week,

as the Jal Shakti Department has not taken over the scheme which was ordered by the Govt. during 2021, which is being smelted a connivance between the Jal Shakti Department and existing private contractors.

The sanitation works, repair and maintenance of buildings (being executed on pick and choose basis) clearance of parks, lanes has gone totally defunct, leading

to sufferings by camp people in Jagti.

The so called sanitation drainages are usually blocked due to over flowing causing unhygienic atmosphere in the Camp.

The flour Atta supply stands stopped since last five months leading the relief holders to a suffering especially Diabetic patients on this account.

The Leaders have demanded that regis-

tered migrants of Purkhoo Camp residing in old Quarters be regularised in these quarters as all these persons are not able to live on rent basis being dependent on relief only and after regularisation of these quarters holders can get the facilities at par with other migrants of camps. The Leaders have demanded that all these problems may be attended on priority basis.

# Auto drivers, owners hold protest

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 23: Jammu Kashmir Auto Union and transporters held a strong protest rally at Bus Stand Trikuta complex, BC road, today under the chairmanship of patron of the auto union Sunil Dimple.

Addressing the protesters Sunil Dimple warned and expressed strong resentment against the J&K Govt that even after the repeated requests, to the j&k govt it is complicating the problems and is doing nothing to save the 50 years old black auto industry



and every day coming up with new policies.

Dimple alleged now the govt is launching battery buses, ola, ten seats small battery

autos.

Dimple alleged the auto and taxi stand from railway station is privatized and lifted and contract is given to

the outsider. this is not acceptable and we will go for long agitation.

Dimple announced massive processions will be taken out in

Jammu City on Saturday 26 August. In which five thousands autos, drivers, owners will join the protest march in support of demands.

The prominent leaders present in the protest include Nitin Sain, Sanjay Sethi president, Haneef, senior vice president, Ajiel Singh & Satish Kumar Gen Secy. Amar Jeet Singh, Pawan Kumar, Vikram Sharma V-Presidents. Ran Jiet Singh, S Taran Singh Secretaries. Ramesh Kumar, Madan Lal, Rameshwar Kumar and Ashok Kumar.

# Festival "Teej" celebrated at Aryans Overseas

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 23: The 'Jovial' festival of 'Teej' was today celebrated with fervour and gaiety at Aryans Overseas. Female staff of Aryans participated in various colourful activities on this women oriented occasion.

The staff made Rangoli, recited 'Bolian' and performed 'Giddha'. Women wearing colourful attires broke into dances on the beats of



the Punjabi music.

Director General, Aryans Group, Dr. Parveen Kataria talking about the significance of the Teej festival quotes "by participating in such traditional festivals we stay connected to our rich cultures.

She appreciated the efforts of the girls and said the celebration of festivals is a way of reviving and keeping alive the traditions and customs which are vanishing these days.

**Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir**  
**Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu**

e-mail: xennorth@gmail.com

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
**e-NIT No. 179 of 2023-24**

For and on behalf of Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Jammu, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from the reputed/registered firms/Sole Prop. for the below mentioned work:-

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of document/ tender fee (in Rs.)	Earnest money	Validity of Rates	Bid validity
1.	Replacement of damaged parts of 35000 GPH x 155 meters head HC pump set (unit -4) along with allied works at CPS Muthi Phase-II.	200/-	Rs. 1,450/- in the shape of CDR / FDR	180 days	180 days

**Date of Publishing : 17-08-2023 02.00 pm.**

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 17-08-2023 (02.00 pm).
- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 17-08-2023 (02.00 pm) to 26-08-2023 (02.00 pm).
- The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
- The Technical bids received shall be opened online on 28-08-2023 (02.00 pm) or any other subsequent date in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division North Jammu.
- The Financial bid of the bidders shall be opened online after scrutinizing the technical bid in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The bidder should make payment for cost of bidding document in shape of single window challan of JMC / online payment through the JMC website link <http://www.imcjammu.org/online-payment.html> in the name of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu.
- The original instruments in respect of cost of document, EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR and other relevant document of L1 bidder will be required to be submitted to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu after opening of financial bids on line. No separate intimation about opening of financial bids will be sent by this office / by the tender opening authority. In case the original documents are not submitted by the L1 bidder opening of financial bid, the tender will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.
- The date and time of opening of financial bids will be notified on website <http://jktenders.gov.in> and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.
- The original documents when submitted by L1 bidder for the cost of tender documents, specified in the tender document should be same as uploaded on line (Scanned copies) otherwise allotment will not be issued, the tenders will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.
- Bid security of successful tenderer will have to be in form of CDR/FDR of any scheduled bank and shall have to be valid for 180 days from last date of receipt of Bid. No exemption of any kind shall be allowed on this.
- Only such firms should submit tender, who have requisite infrastructure and workshop facility for carrying out similar type of job which may be inspected by the competent authority before awarding the job contract so as to access the working capacity of the tenderer. The workmanship and material used should be of high quality and as per the specifications of the job order / tender.
- The bid for the execution of work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the earnest money of the firm shall stand forfeited.
- The tenderers are advised to visit the site of work / inspect the parts to be fabricated before uploading their tenders so as to acquaint themselves with exact measurement and site conditions.
- Special conditions as per Finance Department order No. OM A/24 (2017)-651 dated 07-06-2018.**
  - Furnishing of hard copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as L-1 after opening of financial bids.
  - The cost of tenders should be collected by introducing e-challan or simply uploading a copy of necessary challan / receipt.
  - Similarly, instead of insisting on actual call deposit receipt, a copy of same duly pledged to the concerned department should be uploaded by the tenderers. However, before allotting the work or issuing the supply order, the original CDR/FDR should be obtained and kept on record.
- Other details, instructions and terms and conditions can be seen / downloaded from the bidding document.

**JMSMDN/2632-35**          **DIP/J-7259/23**  
**Dated: 16-08-2023**

Sd/  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti Mech. Division North  
Jammu

## Kangana Ranaut is scared because Karan Johar has expressed interest in watching 'Emergency'

Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut, who is busy with the post-production of her upcoming directorial 'Emergency', has reacted to producer-director Karan Johar's statement on his interest in watching the actress's second directorial which is based on the former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Recently, an Internet user shared a video of KJo on micro-blogging site X (erstwhile Twitter) whose recent directorial 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahani' has been getting good response. In the video KJo mentioned that he is looking forward to watching 'Emergency'.

Kangana responded to the video albeit with a dash of allegations. The actress maintained that the last time KJo praised



her movie, her directorial debut 'Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi', the film incurred heavy losses. The actress alleged that almost all the main actors from the film's cast were paid back then to speak ill about her and eventually sabotage the film. However, she didn't speak of who paid the actors of her film



to spread the alleged disinformation.

The actress penned a note on X as she stated, "Ha ha last time when he said he was excited to see Manikarnika, the worse smear campaign of my life was unleashed upon me on its releasing weekend... almost all main actors working in the

film were paid to sling mud on me and sabotage the film and suddenly the most successful weekend of my life was turned in to a living nightmare for me... Ha ha I am scared now very scared... because he is excited again (sic)".

Kangana and KJo are exactly on cordial terms, and it all started when back in 2017 Kangana levelled allegations of nepotism against KJo on his chat show 'Koffee With Karan'. The actress called Karan the "flag bearer of nepotism", and everything about the equation between the two went downhill after that.

Meanwhile, 'Emergency' which also stars Anupam Kher and Shreyas Talpade, is set to land in theatres on November 24.

## Simran's single Aa Gya Ni is rooted in Punjabi tradition



Singer-songwriter and winner of Voice of Punjab Simran Choudhary is poised to take the music world by storm with her latest

hary is poised to take the music world by storm with her latest

single Aa Gya Ni from her upcoming EP, Folkin Rani. This mesmerising fusion of folk and pop is set to redefine musical boundaries.

Simran, who is from Chandigarh, brings her Hindustani classical training to the forefront, infusing each note with her hard-hitting and melodious voice. The song's lyrics, deeply rooted in the Punjabi cultural DNA and penned by lyricist Raja, resonate with listeners.

Simran says, "Aa Gya Ni is a mirror reflecting my passion and love for both traditional folk music and the contemporary vibes of pop."

## Madhuri Dixit adopted the pet Redo after the shoot of 'Hum Aapke Hain Koun', reveals Big B

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan revealed that actress Madhuri Dixit Nene had adopted the dog 'Redo', after the shoot of musical romantic drama Hum Aapke Hain Koun. During the sixth episode of the quiz-based reality show Kaun Banega Crorepati, Big B had asked contestant Kunal Singh Dodia from Ahmedabad, Gujarat, "Which animal acts as an umpire in the film Hum Aapke Hain Koun?" The options were — an elephant, a bird, a cat and a dog.

Kunal gave the right answer, which was the dog. Big B then said: "Redo is an Indian Spitz dog. It had played the role of Tuffy in Sooraj Barjatya's blockbuster film Hum Aapke Hain Koun. In one scene, it was shown as an umpire in a cricket match. And



after the shooting got over, Madhuri Dixit had adopted the dog."

Hum Aapke Hain Koun is a 1994 film written and directed by Sooraj Barjatya, and produced

by Rajshri Productions. The film starred Madhuri Dixit as Nisha and Salman Khan as Prem in the lead roles. Redo played the role of Tuffy, Prem's pet dog.

## Big B and Abhishek Bachchan are like friends: 'We both are very frank with each other'

Host of 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' season 15, megastar Amitabh Bachchan has opened up on his relationship with his son and actor Abhishek Bachchan, saying we are like friends.

The upcoming episode of the quiz based reality show will see a unique aspiration of Kunal Singh Dodia from Ahmedabad, Gujarat, whose sole purpose to come on the show is to prove to his father that he is a responsible son.

Kunal is a young Police Sub Inspector in the Ahmedabad police force, and is currently associated with the Human Rights department in the DG office.

While he is a hard worker, Kunal humorously confessed to Big B that he is a different



person at home, claiming to be a procrastinator who chooses to complete tasks at his own pace.

His father and other family members are not fond of this behaviour. And often, Kunal agrees to disagree with his

father, especially when it comes to the topic that he is not responsible enough.

Kunal said: "I am asking out of curiosity. My father and I keep on fighting at home. He thinks I am not responsible. But how is it at your place? How is your relation with Abhishek Bachchan?"

Listening to their sweet father-son quirks, Big B was reminded of the bond he shares with his son Abhishek, and he elaborated on how he considers his son to be a close confidant and vice versa.

Big B was left speechless and said: "Kya bole sir abhi."

Amitabh then went on to say: "I see Abhishek as my friend. There is an old saying 'When your son wears your shoes,

then he is not your son, but becomes your friend'. So, Abhishek has taken all of my shoes, because they are fit for him".

"Whatever I can talk with Abhishek, I cannot discuss that with anyone in the family. And I believe that same happens with Abhishek too. We both are very freely and frankly with each other. Whatever the situation is, or if any problem arises, we talk to each other. This is our relationship," said the actor.

He then asks Kunal's father what he wants to say to his son. Kunal's father said: "he is perfect in his job, but he is 50 per cent in the household chores and responsibilities."

'Kaun Banega Crorepati' airs on Sony.

## Seerat Kapoor shares her next is 'BhamaKalapam 2'



Actress Seerat Kapoor, who recently announced her collaboration after eight years with Sharwanand for an untitled romantic comedy, will soon be seen in the upcoming streaming film 'BhamaKalapam 2'.

The actress recent-

ly took to her social media and shared the news with her followers as she put up a picture from her trials.

In the picture, she can be seen sporting a shimmering outfit rounded up with her curls. She captioned the picture, "Onto My Next Set #bhamaka-

lapam2".

The actress is a new induction in the franchise.

On Seerat being the part of the series, a source from the sets revealed, "Seerat is set to play a character that is not only glamorous but also witty and mysterious. She is going to be seen in a very glamorous avatar."

The source further mentioned, "Seerat Kapoor's character in 'BhamaKalapam 2' draws inspiration from her own Bollywood debut film 'Maarich', where she played a role that left the audience intrigued and impressed. Seerat is expected to bring a unique depth to her character in this web series."

The actress had also posted a slew of pictures from the sets where she looked glamorous in a mini one-piece with her tresses left open with perfect makeup and posing at a bar in front of the camera. She has already completed the first schedule of her series and now will soon fly to Hyderabad to complete her second schedule.

Meanwhile, Seerat will also be seen playing a very pivotal role in Dil Raju's 'Aakasam Dati Vasthava'. She recently completed her first schedule with her debut co-star Sharwanand for her upcoming rom-com film in London.

## Adah Sharma's favourite superhero is 'Hanuman ji'



Actress Adah Sharma, who will be next seen in an international project playing a female superhero, has talked about her favourite superhero.

When asked Adah about it, she said: "Hanumaji's valour combined with his humility, his strength and one pointed devotion, his focus, knowledge! He was a musician par excellence. He has the power to take up any form... From a tiny fly to a mountain size golden body."

"He is my Superhero!" said the actress, who is reprising the role of Bhavana Reddy in the recently released Commando series.

Adah had recently shared a video doing silambam while reciting the Hanuman chalisa which went viral online. Also her most popular scene in '1920', which marked her debut, had the Hanuman chalisa being recited.

The actress was appreciated for her role in 'The Kerala Story'. The film did very well at the box-office. She is currently riding high on its success.

The film tells the story of a converted Muslim woman Fatima Ba, who narrates her ordeal of how she once wanted to become a nurse but was abducted from her home and manipulated by religious vanguards, turned into an ISIS terrorist and landed in Afghanistan jail.

Directed by Sudipto Sen, the film also stars Yogita Bihani and Sonia Balani.

## Had never thought I would be able to do a film like Akelli, says Nushratt Bharuccha

Actress Nushratt Bharuccha, who will soon be seen in a survival thriller titled Akelli, had never thought that she would be able to do a film like it.

The trailer of Akelli has received a great response from the audience. About the experience of shooting the film, Nushratt said: "To be honest, I had never thought I would be able to do a film like this. But yes I have done it! Sometimes, when I see myself in a certain scene of the film, I am surprised. It is so not relatable. But I am happy I did this film."

She added, "I play the character of Jyoti in the film, who is a very simple girl from Amritsar. She stays with her mother and nephew. She gets a job outside India and to support her family, goes to a country that is not very peaceful. As soon as she reaches Iraq, there is an ISIS attack. The story is about her survival and how she manages to come back to her country."

Nushratt worked with Israeli stars in the film. "It was a wonderful experience. When you work with actors from different countries and cultures, there is a lot to learn from them. They have different shooting techniques, so you learn how they deal differently with the same scene, how they apply



their logic and then perform. It is great fun."

Akelli has been directed by Pranay Meshram

and stars Nushratt in the lead role. The film is all set to release on August 25 in cinemas.

# PM Modi To Witness Chandrayaan-3's Moon Landing Attempt Virtually

**Chandrayaan-3 Updates: Excitement is running high across the country and schools are marshalling students to watch a live telecast of the event.**

NEW DELHI, Aug 23 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is in South Africa to attend the BRICS Summit, will today virtually witness the landing attempt of India's moon mission - Chandrayaan-3.

Chandrayaan-3's lander module, comprising of the lander Vikram and the rover Pragyan, will attempt to land on the south pole of the moon at 6.04 pm today. If successful, India will become the first country to land a spacecraft on the lunar body's south pole.

Excitement is running high across the country, with prayers being held for Chandrayaan's success, schools marshalling students to watch a live telecast of the event and space enthusiasts organising parties to celebrate.



The 600 crore Chandrayaan-3 mission was launched on July 14 onboard Launch Vehicle Mark-III (LVM-3) rocket, for a 41-day voyage to reach near the lunar south pole. The module would undergo

internal checks and await the sunrise at the designated landing site, ISRO has said, adding that the powered descent -- to achieve soft-landing on the Moon's surface -- is expected to be initiated at around 5:45 pm

on Wednesday.

A day before the scheduled touch-down, ISRO on Tuesday confirmed that the Chandrayaan-3 mission is on schedule.

India's second attempt to land on the moon after a failure in 2019 is being seen as a display of the tenacity of its scientific institutions.

During that attempt, PM Modi had flown to Bengaluru to watch the planned touch down of the lander. Even the mission failed, the space agency witnessed a heartfelt moment between the Prime Minister and former ISRO chief K Sivan.

PM Modi hugged and consoled Mr Sivan as he broke down, hours after the space agency announced it lost contact with the lander.

# Minor sexual assault case: Court extends judicial custody of suspended Delhi govt officer Khakha by 14 days



NEW DELHI, Aug 23 (Agencies): A court here on Wednesday extended by 14 days the judicial custody of suspended Delhi government officer Premoday Khakha, who allegedly raped a minor several times and impregnated her.

His wife Seema Rani's judicial custody, who is accused of giving the girl medicine to terminate her pregnancy, was also extended by 14 days.

Both were produced before Additional Sessions Judge (POCSO) Richa Pari-

har.

Counsel for the accused, Umashankar Gautam said both the accused will be now produced in court after completion of their judicial custody on September 6.

Khakha had allegedly raped the girl several times between November 2020 and January 2021. She was staying at the residence of the accused, a family friend, after her father passed away on October 1, 2020, the police had said.

The couple was arrested on Monday after the victim recorded her statement before a magistrate at a hospital.

A case has been registered under provisions of the POCSO Act and Indian Penal Code sections 376(2)(f) (being a relative, guardian or teacher of, or a person in a position of trust or authority towards the woman, commits rape on such woman) and 509 (word, gesture or act intended to outrage the modesty of a woman), police said.

IPC sections 506 (criminal intimidation), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 313 (causing miscarriage without woman's consent) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) have also been invoked in the case, police said.

# Near miss at Delhi airport, Vistara planes get same time landing, take-off clearance

NEW DELHI, Aug 23 (Agencies): A major incident at the Delhi airport was averted on Wednesday after two Vistara planes were given clearance for landing and take-off at the same time.

According to the details, flight UK725 (from Delhi to Bagdogra) was in the process of taking off from the newly inaugurated runway, while another Vistara flight (from Ahmedabad to Delhi), which had landed on a parallel runway, was moving towards the end of the runway.

The takeoff was aborted after instructions were received from the Air Traffic Control (ATC).

Following the incident, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) de-registered the air traffic controller. An official later confirmed the aviation regulator would probe the incident.

Speaking about the incident, an official who was aware of the developments told news agency, "Both were

given permission at the same time but ATC took control immediately. The ATC officer on duty asked the Vistara flight to abort take-off."

The Delhi-Bagdogra flight returned to the parking bay from the active runway immediately after take-off was aborted.

Airport officials said if the take-off was not stopped at the right time, a major accident could have happened.

"Normally, a take-off clearance is not issued to an aircraft on one runway unless the aircraft on the second runway has landed," an official told ANI.

"However, due to a lapse, if the aircraft is permitted to take off from one runway and the aircraft approaching on the second runway decides to abort the landing and carry out a go-around to climb ahead, the flight path of the two aircraft in the air may come in conflict since the runway they were aligned to were closely spaced," he added.

# ED raids 'political vendetta' to tarnish INDIA bloc's image before 2024 Lok Sabha polls: Congress

RANCHI, Aug 23 (Agencies): The Congress, a constituent of the ruling JMM-led coalition in Jharkhand, on Wednesday described ED raids on the premises linked to a state minister's son and some others as a 'political vendetta' at the behest of the BJP government at the Centre to tarnish the image of opposition bloc INDIA before the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Several of the places raided by the ED as part of a money-laundering investigation in connection with an alleged liquor scam in the state were linked to senior Congress leader and Finance Minister Rameshwar Oraoan's son Rohit Oraoan.

"The ED raids are nothing but an action of a political vendetta at the behest of the BJP at the Centre to tarnish the image of the INDIA alliance before the 2024 parliamentary elections,"



Jharkhand Congress president Rajesh Thakur told agency.

He demanded that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) should clarify its stance first.

The Congress leader asked, "Is the ED conducting similar raids in the entire country, or liquor is sold only in Jharkhand, Delhi and Chhattisgarh?"

Hitting out at the Centre, Thakur demanded to know whether there is no scam in BJP-ruled states.

About 34 places in the state capital Ranchi, Dumka, Deoghar and Godda districts are being searched by officials of the Central probe agency.

The premises of the senior Oraoan are being covered as the father and the son live in the same house. Business and residential premises of some liquor businessmen are also being covered, officials said.

The current investigation is being conducted under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), they said.

Rameshwar Oraoan, 76, who holds the portfolios of finance, planning and commercial tax in the Jharkhand cabinet represents the Lohardaga (ST)

assembly seat.

Oraoan, a retired IPS officer of the 1972 batch, has earlier served as a Union cabinet minister under prime minister Manmohan Singh.

Thakur also questioned the timing of the ED summons to Chief Minister Hemant Soren on August 15.

The ED had sent a notice to Soren to depose on August 14 at the agency's office here and record his statement under the PMLA, which he skipped.

"The ED was in such a haste that it chose August 14, the eve of Independence Day, to summon the CM," Thakur said.

Soren had alleged in a letter to the ED that he was being targeted for not being aligned with a political party at the Centre.

Terminating his assets as not illegal, the CM has asked the ED to withdraw the summons.

# "All Of Us Waiting": Anurag Thakur Ahead Of Chandrayaan-3's Lunar Landing

JAIPUR (RAJASTHAN), Aug 23 (Agencies): Union Minister of Youth Affairs Anurag Thakur on Wednesday extended his wishes to the ISRO team ahead of the attempted lunar landing of Chandrayaan-3.

The Union Minister said that all of us are waiting for the moment when Chandrayaan-3 mission becomes successful.

Speaking to reporters, Mr Thakur said, "...India has made a huge leap in the Space sector. All of us are awaiting the moment when Chandrayaan-3 mission becomes successful. This will put India among the very few countries in the world that have made significant contributions to the Space sector..."

Meanwhile, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) on Wednesday said that it is all set to initiate the Automatic Landing Sequence (ALS) ahead of the attempted landing of the country's lunar mission.

A post on ISRO's official handle on X, formerly Twitter, read, "All set to initiate the Automatic Landing Sequence (ALS). Awaiting the arrival of the Lander Module (LM) at the designated point, around 17:44 Hrs. IST. Upon receiving the ALS command, the LM activates the throttleable engines for powered descent."

The attempted soft landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the moon's south pole has been scheduled for around 18:04 IST, with the



powered descent of the Vikram lander expected at 1745 IST.

The live telecast of the landing operations at Mission Operation Complex (MOX) will begin at 1720 IST. Live broadcast of the landing will be available on the ISRO website, its YouTube channel, Facebook, and public broad-

caster DD National TV from 17:27 IST on Aug 23, 2023.

This mission, if it turns out to be fruitful, will make India the only country to have marked its presence on the lunar south pole which is considered to be difficult for its rough and harsh conditions, and fourth - after US, China, and

Russia - to have successfully landed on the moon's surface.

The spacecraft was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Andhra Pradesh's Sriharikota on July 14. A GSLV Mark 3 (LVM 3) heavy-lift launch vehicle was used for the launch of the spacecraft that was placed in the lunar orbit on August 5 and since then it has been through a series of orbital manoeuvres been lowered closer to the moon's surface.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is in South Africa to attend the 15th BRICS Summit, will virtually witness the historic landing attempt on the lunar surface as part of the country's third lunar mission - Chandrayaan-3.

# Pindar river in spate following heavy rain in Uttarakhand's Chamoli; Tharali town faces threat of flood



GOPESHWAR, Aug 23 (Agencies): The water levels of the Pindar river and its tributary Pranmati in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district rose again on Wednesday following heavy rain, threatening to flood places located along their banks.

Both Pindar and Pranmati are in spate once again, following which a flood-like situation has arisen in Tharali town located on the banks of

Pindar, Additional Information Officer Ravindra Negi said.

Intermittent heavy rain has been lashing areas close to the banks of the Pindar and the Pranmati since August 13, he said.

Landslides also continue to block several roads in the hill district.

The Badrinath National Highway is blocked due to landslide debris at Chhinka and Maithana near Chamoli. The road

is also blocked in Nandprayag, Pagalnala and Belakuchi, the official added.

Schools in Dasholi and Nandnagar blocks of the district have been closed in view of heavy rains.

Heavy rains and inclement weather over the past few days in Rudraprayag district of the state has also hit the helicopter services to Kedarnath, nodal officer Rahul Chaubey said.

Trans Bharat Aviation and Himalaya Heli - the two private aviation companies which provide heli services to Kedarnath from Guptkashi and Sirsi - have had to drastically reduce the number of sorties to and from the Himalayan temple due to continuing bad weather, he said.

# 2 workers killed, 1 injured in explosion at Noida factory

NOIDA, Aug 23 (Agencies): Two workers died and another suffered injuries after a pressure pipe exploded at a spare parts-manufacturing company in Noida, police officials said on Wednesday.

The incident took place on Tuesday inside the factory of United Drilling Tools private limited located in Sector 81, under Phase 2 police station area, they said.

"Three workers suffered injuries and were taken to a hospital where two were declared dead by doctors while the third is undergoing treatment," a police spokesperson said.

Those killed in the explosion have been identified as Manoj Kumar Singh, 45, and Ishwar Dutt Sharma, 60, while the injured worker is Rajveer Singh, 45, the official said.

The bodies were sent for post-mortem and other legal proceedings were being carried out in the case, the police said.

# Sachin Tendulkar is Election Commission's national icon; to encourage greater voter participation

NEW DELHI, Aug 23 (Agencies): As the Election Commission battles urban and youth apathy towards voting, cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar was on Wednesday appointed a "national icon" of the poll panel to encourage greater voter participation in elections.

Tendulkar was made the national icon as the EC gears up to hold assembly polls in five states sometime in October-November and Lok Sabha election in 2024.

A memorandum of understanding was signed between Tendulkar and the poll panel. As part of the three-year



agreement, the cricketer will spread voter awareness. Addressing the gathering,

Tendulkar said India is the biggest democracy in the world and it is our prime responsibility

to exercise our voting rights.

He reminded the gathering that he had said that in his second innings, he would continue to bat for India.

Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey said the "pitch" on which EC plays to encourage voters to come out and exercise their franchise is "tough". But he expressed confidence that Tendulkar would come out with flying colours.

Election Commissioner Arun Goel said the voter turnout was the maximum at 67 per cent in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. He said more needs to be achieved in enhancing

voter turnout.

He said in spite of extending the best of facilities at polling stations for voters, some pockets had seen poor voter turnout. The poll panel has recognised urban and youth apathy as one of the prime reasons for poor voter turnout in certain cities.

Last year, the Commission had recognised actor Pankaj Tripathi as a national icon. Earlier, during the 2019 Lok Sabha election, stalwarts such as MS Dhoni, Aamir Khan and Mary Kom had been the EC's national icons.

## 18 bodies found in Greece as firefighters battle wind-driven wildfires across the country

*The discovery near city of Alexandroupolis comes as hundreds of firefighters battle dozens of wildfires across the country amid gale-force winds*

ALEXANDROUPOLIS, Aug 23 (Agencies): Firefighters found the burnt bodies of 18 people believed to have been migrants who had crossed the Turkish border into an area of northeastern Greece where wildfires have raged for days.

The discovery near the city of Alexandroupolis came as hundreds of firefighters battled dozens of wildfires across the country amid gale-force winds. Two people died and two firefighters were injured in separate fires in northern and central Greece.

With their hot, dry summers, southern European countries are particularly prone to wildfires. Another major blaze has been burning across Tenerife in Spain's Canary Islands for a week, although no injuries or damage to homes was reported.

European Union officials have blamed climate change for the increasing frequency and intensity of wildfires in Europe, noting that 2022 was the second-worst year for wildfire damage on record after 2017.

In Greece, police activated the country's Disaster Victim Identification Team to identify the 18 bodies, which were found near a shack in the Avantas area, fire department spokesman Ioannis Artopoulos said.

"Given that there have been no reports of a missing person or missing residents from the surrounding areas, the possibility is being investigated that these are people who had entered the country illegally," Artopoulos said.

Alexandroupolis is near the border with Turkey, along a route often taken by people fleeing poverty and conflict in the Middle East, Asia and Africa and seeking to enter the European Union.

Greek President Katerina Sakellariopoulou expressed sorrow at the deaths in a statement.

"We must urgently take effective initiatives to ensure that this bleak reality does not become the new normality," she added, referring to the recurrent wildfires.

Avantas, like many nearby villages and settlements, had been under evacuation orders, with push alerts in Greek and English sent to all mobile phones in the region.



The fire service said it was investigating the causes of the blazes, in coordination with the police and secret service. In recent days, several people have been arrested or fined for accidentally starting fires.

But the discovery of the 18 bodies triggered a backlash by some who accused migrants of starting fires.

Late Monday, police said they detained three men in Alexandroupolis suspected of kidnapping and illegally holding 13 migrants. One of the suspects was a man seen in video posted on social media shutting a group of migrants in a trailer and accusing them of "intending to burn us," a statement from national police headquarters said.

Government spokesman Pavlos Marinakis issued a statement condemning vigilante acts.

Overnight, a massive wall of flames raced through forests toward Alexandroupolis, prompting authorities to evacuate eight more villages and the city's hospital as flames reddened the sky.

Deputy Health Minister Dimitris Vartzopoulos, speaking on Greece's Skai television, said smoke and ash in the air around the hospital were the main reasons behind the decision to evacuate the facility.

The coast guard said patrol boats and private vessels evacuated an additional 40 people by sea from beaches near Alexandroupolis.

In the northeastern Evros border region, a fire was burning through forest in a protected national park, with satellite imagery showing smoke blanketing much of northern and western Greece.

New fires broke out in several parts of the country on Tuesday, including in woodland northwest of Athens and an industrial area on the capital's western fringes.

Small explosions echoed from the industrial area of Aspopyrgos as flames reached warehouses and factories. Authorities shut down a highway and ordered the evacuation of nearby settlements.

With firefighting forces stretched to the limit, Greece appealed for help from the European Union's civil protection mechanism.

Five water-dropping planes from Croatia, Germany and Sweden, and a helicopter, 58 firefighters and nine water tanks from the Czech Republic flew to Greece Tuesday, while 56 Romanian firefighters and two aircraft from Cyprus arrived Monday. French firefighters helped tackle a blaze on the island of Evia on Monday.

"We are mobilizing actually almost one-third of the aircraft we have in the rescEU fleet," said EU spokesman Balazs Ujvari.

The fire risk level for several regions, including the wider Athens area, was listed as "extreme" for a second day Tuesday. Authorities banned public access to mountains and forests in those regions until at least Wednesday morning and ordered military patrols.

In Spain, firefighters battled to control a wildfire burning for a week on the popular Canary Islands tourist destination of Tenerife. It is estimated that the blaze, which has scorched 150 square kilometers (59 square miles), has already burnt a third of Tenerife's woodlands.

More than 12,000 people were

evacuated during the past week. Authorities said Tuesday that 1,500 have been able to return to their homes. Authorities have described the fire as the worst in decades on the Atlantic archipelago.

Large parts of Spain were under alert for wildfires as temperatures exceeded 38 degrees Celsius (100 degrees Fahrenheit). While Spain's south often has extremely high temperatures, the country's weather agency issued an alert for the northern Basque Country, where temperatures were forecast to reach 42 degrees Celsius (107 degrees Fahrenheit) Wednesday.

Greece's deadliest wildfire killed 104 people in 2018, at a seaside resort near Athens that residents had not been warned to evacuate. Authorities have since erred on the side of caution, issuing swift mass evacuation orders whenever inhabited areas are threatened.

Last month, a wildfire on the island of Rhodes forced the evacuation of some 20,000 tourists. Days later, two air force pilots were killed when their water-dropping plane crashed while diving low to tackle a blaze on Evia.

In Italy, authorities evacuated 700 people from homes and a campsite on the Tuscan island of Elba after a fire broke out late Monday, while in Turkey authorities evacuated nine villages in the northwestern Canakkale province. Turkish media also said that authorities reduced maritime traffic in the Dardanelles Strait in case firefighting vessels need to be deployed to the area.

According to the Italian Society of Environmental Geology, more than 1,100 fires in Europe this summer have consumed 2,842 square kilometers (about 1,100 square miles), well above an average of 724 fires a year recorded from 2006-2022. The fires have removed wooded areas capable of absorbing 2.5 million tons of carbon dioxide a year.

"When we add the fires in Canada, the United States, Africa, Asia and Australia to those in Europe, it seems that the situation is getting worse every year," said SIGEA president Antonello Fiore.

## Sri Lanka 'processing' China's request for research ship docking that may raise security concerns in India



COLOMBO, Aug 23 (Agencies): Sri Lanka is currently processing a request by China to allow a research ship to dock in the country, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Wednesday, a year after a visit by a Chinese spy vessel to the island nation raised security concerns in India.

"The Chinese embassy here has made an application and the ministry is currently looking at it," Priyanga Wickramasingha, the foreign ministry spokesperson, told agency. No dates have been fixed yet for the visit, she said.

The Chinese research vessel 'SHI YAN 6' is expected to arrive in Sri Lanka for marine research activities in October.

Described as a Research/Survey Vessel with a carrying capacity of 1115 DWT, the current draught is reported to be 5.3 metres in length overall

90.6 metres and width 17 metres.

The media here is abuzz that the foreign office here is in an awkward position about the request due to possible concerns being raised by India.

The vessel is expected to undertake research jointly with the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA).

The Chinese despatch their vessels to Sri Lanka on a regular basis. Two weeks ago, the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy warship HAI YANG 24 HAO arrived in the country on a two-day visit.

It was reported that the arrival of the 129-metre-long ship was delayed due to concerns raised by India.

In August last year, a similar visit by the Chinese ballistic missile and satellite tracking ship, 'Yuan Wang 5', which arrived in the southern Sri Lankan

port of Hambantota elicited strong reactions from India.

There were apprehensions in New Delhi about the possibility of the vessel's tracking systems attempting to snoop on Indian defence installations while being on its way to the Sri Lankan port.

However, after a considerable delay, Sri Lanka allowed the ship to dock at the strategic southern port of Hambantota, being built by a Chinese company.

Cash-strapped Sri Lanka considers both India and China equally important partners in its task to restructure its external debt. China is one of the top lenders to Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka owes USD 7.1 billion to bilateral creditors, including USD 3 billion to China.

The negotiations for Sri Lanka's external and domestic debt restructuring must be concluded by September, the time for the International Monetary Fund's review of its USD 2.9 billion bailout extended in March this year.

The island nation was hit by an unprecedented financial crisis in 2022, the worst since its independence from Britain in 1948, due to a severe paucity of foreign exchange reserves.

## 8 killed, 15 injured in bus accident in Nepal

KATHMANDU, Aug 23 (Agencies): A passenger bus skidded off the main highway and plunged into a swollen river in Nepal's Bagmati province on Wednesday, killing at least eight people and leaving at least 15 others injured, according to a media report.

The accident happened when the bus en route to the scenic city of Pokhara from Kathmandu veered off and fell into the Trishuli River at Chalise in the province's Dhading district, myRepublica.com reported.

"In the accident, at least eight people have been killed and 15 more injured. The number of those killed might go up.

Rescue is ongoing," Deputy Superintendent of Police Santulal Prasad Jaiswar at the District Police Office, Dhading, was quoted as saying in the report.

He said that the bus was partly submerged in the Trishuli River after the accident, but rescuers were able to pull out many of the passengers alive from the wreckage.

The river had been swollen by continuous rainfall during the monsoon season.

Highway accidents in Nepal, which are mostly covered by mountains, are mostly blamed on poorly maintained vehicles and roads.

## US says it does not support Ukrainian strikes inside Russia

WASHINGTON, Aug 23 (Agencies): The United States does not encourage or enable attacks inside Russia, a US State Department spokesperson said after Russian authorities said they downed drones that tried to attack Moscow early on Wednesday.

It is up to Ukraine to decide how it chooses to defend itself from the Russian invasion that began in February last year, the State Department spokesperson said, adding Russia

could end the war any time by withdrawing from Ukraine.

Drone strikes deep inside Russia have increased since two unmanned aircraft were destroyed over the Kremlin in early May.

Drone strikes on the Russian capital have become increasingly common in recent months.

The United States, which has supplied Ukraine with massive assistance in the form of weapons and other

military equipment to combat the Russian invasion, has consistently said it does not support attacks inside Russia.

The Russian defence ministry said early on Wednesday that air defence systems downed three drones that tried to attack Moscow.

One drone hit a building under construction in central Moscow early on Wednesday, Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said on his channel on

Telegram, a messaging app.

Moscow airports suspended flights early on Wednesday, Russia's TASS news agency reported. Major airports around the Russian capital have repeatedly closed for departing and arriving flights in recent days due to Ukrainian drone activity.

Russia also shot down two Ukrainian drones over the Moscow region with no casualties and brought down a further two drones over the Bry-

ansk region that borders Ukraine, the Defence Ministry said on Tuesday.

Ukraine typically does not comment on who is behind attacks on Russian territory but it appears to have stepped up such raids since two drones were destroyed over the Kremlin in early May.

Such attacks have briefly disrupted flights and caused mostly minor damage to build-

## Canadian finance minister, who does not own a car, fined for speeding

OTTAWA, Aug 23 (Agencies): Canadian Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, an avid cyclist who says she does not own a car, was fined C\$273 (\$200) for speeding in her home province of Alberta, a spokesperson said.

Freeland was caught driving 132 km/hr between the towns of Grande Prairie and Peace River and has paid the ticket in full, her spokesperson Katherine Cuplinskas said. The news was first



broken by the Counter Signal website.

Cuplinskas did not say when the incident occurred and what the

speed limit had been on that stretch of road. The maximum speed limit on Alberta highways is 110 km/hr.

Freeland is a legislator who represents a parliamentary constituency in central Toronto, Canada's largest city, and is often photographed on her bike.

"A fact that still shocks my dad is that I don't actually own a car," she told reporters last month.

"I walk, I take the subway. My kids walk and ride their bikes and take the subway - it's actually healthier for our family," she said.

## Two tankers collide on road in Egypt's Suez Canal, no casualties

CAIRO, Aug 23 (Agencies): Two tankers, the Singapore-flagged BW Lesmes and Cayman Islands-flagged Burri, briefly collided in Egypt's Suez Canal, ship tracking company MarineTraffic said early on Wednesday, citing eyewitnesses.

The shipping tracker showed the BW Lesmes, which carries LNG, stopped and pointing north, and Burri, an oil products tanker, moored and pointing south about 19 km from the southern



end of the canal at 2:55 a.m. (2355 GMT).

LNG tanker BW Lesmes will be towed away to the Suez anchorage area, shipping sources told agency.

A time lapse shared by MarineTraffic showed

Burri turning sideways and colliding with an already sideways BW Lesmes at 2040 GMT before backing up and pointing straight.

The last port call for both ships had been Port Said to the north.

There was no imme-

diated confirmation from the Suez Canal Authority.

Approximately 12% of the world's trade moves through the canal. During strong winds in 2021, a huge container ship, the Ever Given, became jammed across it, halting traffic in both directions for six days and disrupting global trade.

Since then, there have been minor issues caused by technical problems with individual ships.









# CBC Udhampur organises Outreach program at Panchari

## TOP NEWS REPORT

PANCHARI, Aug 23: The Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Field Office Udhampur on Wednesday organised a one day outreach program at Govt Higher Secondary School, Panchari in Udhampur district.

The program was organised on the theme of 9 Years: Seva, Sushasan and Garib Kalyan by CBC's Field Office, Udhampur to showcase India's matchless achievements in different fields during the last nine years. Information about various public welfare schemes of the government especially those launched for the upliftment of the tribal and other vulnerable sections of population was shared with the people through informative standees, expert lectures and printed awareness material.



Vipin Kumar, Tehsildar Panchari was the chief guest on the occasion.

In his presidential Vipin appreciated the CBC for taking the message of development to remote areas such as Panchari. Addressing the gathering, Vipin presented detailed overview of the various Online Services of the Revenue Department. He said that awareness about these public welfare schemes is of key importance for upliftment of poor and marginalised communities. Vipin appreciated the role of CBC Udhampur

in organizing these outreach programmes especially in far flung areas.

Khursheed Yousuf, Field Publicity Officer, CBC Udhampur in his welcome address gave a detailed overview about the mandate and activities of CBC and briefed the audience about the programme.

He said that mass awareness about various welfare schemes is important to ensure their successful implementation. He thanked the Tehsil administration, Panchari for the support

and coordination in organising the program.

While addressing the gathering, Ankita from Health Department, Panchari presented brief profile of the welfare Schemes of Government aimed for affordable and accessible health for all.

Speaking on the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Sh. Angrez Singh, Lecturer, GHSS Panchari, said that NEP 2020 envisions an education system rooted in Indian ethos that contributes directly to transforming

India sustainably into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society, by providing high-quality education to all, and thereby making India a global knowledge superpower.

Rajinder Kumar, Branch Head, SBI Panchari Spoke on the various social security Schemes and urged the youth to come forward and avail benefits of these welfare Schemes.

Principal GHSS Panchari, Arunesh Kumar presented vote of Thanks at the end of the event.

Earlier a range of activities like Tug of War, Seminar, Patriotic Song and open quiz competition was organised during the event.

The one day programme was also attended by the Naib Tehsildar Panchari, officials, Teachers, local PRIs and students. Gurnam Singh from CBC Udhampur coordinated the day-long event.

# Group Commander inspires and engages with NCC Cadets at GDC Handwara



## TOP NEWS REPORT

HANDWARA, Aug 23: The National Cadet Corps (NCC) unit at GDC Handwara had the privilege of hosting a distinguished guest, Group Commander Brig KS Kalsi, who visited the cadets to address and interact with them.

Brig KS Kalsi brought with him a wealth of experience and insights from his illustrious career, inspiring the NCC cadets with his words of wisdom and encouragement.

The visit served as a unique opportunity for the cadets to learn from a seasoned leader in the NCC and gain valuable guidance on leadership, discipline, and personal development.

During the interactive session, Brig KS Kalsi engaged in candid conversations with the cadets. The cadets were enthralled by the Commander's motivational address, which instilled in them a renewed sense of commitment to their roles as future leaders of the nation.

Principal GDC Handwara, Dr. Mohd

Iqbal Darzi, thanked Brigadier KS Kalsi for the visit and congratulated all NCC cadets of the college for their active participation in all college activities.

The event marked a significant milestone in the journey of the NCC unit at GDC Handwara, providing a platform for the cadets to interact with a high-ranking NCC officer and gain insights that will undoubtedly shape their future endeavors.

The visit of Group Commander Brigadier KS Kalsi underscored the NCC's commitment to nurturing responsible and disciplined citizens, equipping them with the skills necessary to contribute positively to society.

The NCC cadets of Handwara expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to learn from Group Commander Brig KS Kalsi and left the event inspired and motivated to excel in their roles as future leaders. The visit served as a reminder of the transformative power of mentorship and the importance of instilling values that align with the NCC's mission.

# Save people of Jammu from double whammy of toll plazas, smart meters: SSP

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 23: Col S.S Pathania, President Sainik Samaj Party (SSP), J&K UT expressed his anguish and concern on the issues of toll plazas and smart meters, being forced on people of Jammu region.

JPDCL and PDD have failed miserably in addressing the grievances of the people, which includes frequent power cuts, excessive billing, snapping of power and so on, he said adding that smart meters are being forced



on people by using might of the UT.

Pathetic way of installation of meters, amidst the wire entanglement a great fire hazard, being completely ignored, he said.

"It is obvious that we are not yet ready for

smart meters concept as only 5 states and one UT, is working on installation of smart meters in India. Jammu region has been gifted with 5 toll plazas as compared to 1 in Kashmir region which is a clear cut case of appeasement of Kashmir people and discrimination with people of Jammu region. Sarore toll plaza clearly violates the norms of distance of 60 kms between two toll plazas. Gadkari in March 22 had stated that within three months, all such plazas violating distance norms will be closed within

three months. Home Minister Amit Shah too stated few days back that Lakhanpur toll plaza will be closed till the state of road is improved as six lanes construction is on. Huge protests are taking place in Jammu, Samba and Kathua for closing of Sarore Plaza and release of members of Yuva Rajput Sabha, who were arrested and lodged in Police line Samba.

He urged Lt Governor to show restraint, release the detainees and close the Sarore Plaza, till the road conditions are improved.

# BLSKS presents mega musical play Neel Kanth Gangadhar



## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 23: To promote the rich traditional culture of J&K, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan presented two mega cultural performances for Amaranth pilgrims at Yatri Niwas, Bhagwati Nagar Jammu in it's 375th Tuesday Series Musical Play "Neel Kanth Gangadhar" in coordination with Central Bureau of Communication, Govt. of India

, Ministry of Information and Deppt. of Tourism Jammu & Kashmir, J&K Govt and Sangam Tru Art Production.

The programe was inaugurated by Chief Guest Sunil Kumar Sharma, Senior Instrumentalist and Programme Incharge of CBC and Neeraj Verma, Ritu Sharma, Senior Staff Members of the CBC and staff of Yatri Bhawan were present

on the occasion.

The all programme were presented under the overall guidance of Gulam Abbass, Joint Director, Central Bureau of Communication.

The above programme was powered by Central Bureau of Communication.

Earlier in his address of Rajni Gupta, Troupe Leader BLSKS welcome Amarnath Yatries at Jammu & high-

lighted the Story of the Ganga Avatran included in the play, Neelkanth Mahadev Temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva, who is believed to be the most complex Gods of the Hindu pantheon. The establishment of this temple has a legend behind it. According to the mythological stories, Lord Shiva drank the poison that appeared from the 'SagarManthan' (churning of ocean).

The singers, musician and actors who performed were Usha Raina, K.K Joshi, Rajni Gupta, M.C.Kotwal, Deepak Kumar, Sakshi Kumari, Vandna Gupta, Sapna Devi, Deepak Kumar, Chahat Chadha, Bindia Okheda, Sanjeev Kumar presented the enthralled performance at last of the programe, Ram Lal, programme coordinator CBC presented vote of thanks for successful conduction of the programmes.

# DLL organises career counselling workshop on Plan your future

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 23: Employment Information cum Advisory Bureau, Department of Lifelong Learning, University of Jammu organized a career counselling workshop on "Plan your future" for the students of GDC, Kunjwani here on Friday.

The workshop was inaugurated by the principal of the college Dr. Ravender Kumar Tickoo. He in his inaugural address expressed the dire need for career counselling programmes for the students as it

helps to build a strong foundation for students at the college level as jobs are shrinking. He further added that it not only helps students to become independent thinkers but also encourages them to plan for their future as self employed. He also appreciated the efforts of Department of Lifelong Learning to organise such workshop for their students.

The programme was organised under the supervision of Dr. Jeevan Jyoti, Director, Department of Lifelong Learning, University of Jammu.

The special resource persons were Dr. Shalu Sehgal, Sr. Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of Jammu, Dr. Neetu Dhar, Chief Co-ordinator and Master Trainer, JKDCUL and Dr. Rewa Khajuria, Counsellor, EIAB, DLL, JU.

Dr. Shailu Sehgal, in her presentation, apprised the students about Entrepreneurship growth and Competitiveness. She also gave detailed information on start ups and various schemes available.

Dr. Neetu Dhar in her presentation, explained, in detail, to the students

the effective and successful Communication. She also highlighted the effective strategies for Interview with right body language.

Dr. Rewa Khajuria, Counsellor, EIAB, DLL, JU explained the important steps of selecting a career to the students.

Around 79 students attended the workshop. Dr. Arti Gupta, Conveenor, Career Counselling Cell of the college coordinated the workshop. Prof. Aashiq Hussain conducted the proceedings of the programme and formal vote of thanks was given by Prof. Bushra Nizami.

# Conspiracy to divert attention from core issues through Toll Plaza controversy: Shiv Sena

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Aug 23: The stubborn and dictatorial stand of the government on the demand to remove the toll plaza at Sarore on the NH-4 National Highway is visible as a well-planned conspiracy to divert attention from the main issues, said by Shiv Sena (UBT) state chief Manish Sahni.

Addressing a press conference held at Party's Central Office in Jammu, Manish Sahni President Shiv Sena J&K said that it is distressing to witness the helplessness surrounding the removal of a toll plaza, while just a while ago, the same government managed to abrogate Article 370 and Article 35A in one swift motion.

Questioning the silence of the BJP leaders, Sahni said that the BJP government at the Centre, the head of Jammu and Kashmir,



the former BJP leader, where is the problem?

Expressing his concerns, Sahni stated that there seems to be a sinister plot to divert public attention from the core issues such as smart prepaid meters, property tax, rising addition rates, inflation, and unemployment, by focusing on the toll plaza matter.

He further stressed that since the construction of the National Highway-44 Lakhanpur to Jammu road is pending, and public facilities are lacking, toll collec-

tion should be halted.

In line with this demand, the youth leaders of the Yuva Rajput Sabha were peacefully protesting. However, the decision to use police force to suppress the protests and detain the leaders has only fueled the fire, he said.

Sahni highlighted that the administration's arbitrary actions and authoritarianism are escalating. The burden on the public, struggling with economic hardships, is continuously increasing. He mentioned that the public eagerly await-

ing elections in J&K, aiming to teach a lesson to those who betrayed their trust.

Sahni appealed to the public to support the state-wide movement for toll-free Jammu and Kashmir, free electricity and water, and the rollback of property tax. He urged the citizens to unite for this cause.

Among those who were present in the press conference include Vice President Balwant Singh, Sanjeev Kohli, President Kamghar wing Raj Singh were present.