

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 03, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

**Actress, former model Silvana Luna dies at 43 after complications from a botched 2011 surgery**



NATIONAL | 7

**Corruption, casteism and communalism will have no place in our national life by 2047: PM Modi**

INTERNATIONAL | 8

**'Your nation has your back': Biden to Hurricane Idalia victims in Florida**



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## BRIEFLY

### Sonia Gandhi admitted to Ganga Ram Hospital, condition stable

NEW DELHI, Sep 3 (Agencies): Senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi has been admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in New Delhi with mild fever, but her condition is stable, sources said on September 3.

Ms. Gandhi was admitted to the hospital in central Delhi Saturday evening, a senior doctor said.

"She has mild fever, but she is doing fine. Her condition is being monitored by a team of doctors," he said.

Her condition is stable, the sources added.

### Soldier electrocuted to death in Samba

JAMMU, Sep 3 (Agencies): An Army personnel was electrocuted to death when he came in contact with a live wire inside a camp in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Sunday. Deepak Pandey (25) of engineering squadron was electrocuted late Sunday night while working on some product, the officials said.

They said the soldier hailing from Uttarakhand was rushed to the military hospital where he breathed his last.

Police have started inquest proceedings in connection with the death of the soldier, the officials said, adding the body of the deceased would be taken to his hometown for last rites after completion of legal formalities.

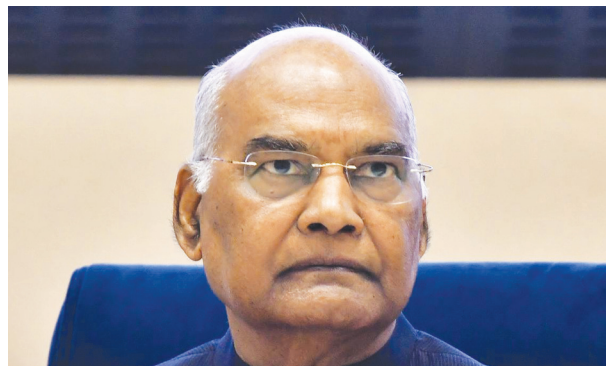
### CRPF Jawan shoots himself dead in Ramban

JAMMU, Sep 3 (Agencies): A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawan allegedly shot himself dead with his service rifle in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Sunday. Bashit Narayan Yadav, a resident of Bihar, was on duty near Banihal-Qazigund Tunnel along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway when he shot himself around 11.45 pm on Saturday.

## Top Law Ministry Officials Brief Panel Chairman Ram Nath Kovind On Simultaneous Polls

NEW DELHI, Sept 3: Top officials of the Union Law Ministry on September 3 held a preparatory briefing for former President Ram Nath Kovind who heads the high-level committee to examine and make recommendations for holding simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha, State Assemblies and local bodies.

The government had



on September 2 notified the eight-member committee.

People aware of the development said, Law Secretary Niten Chan-

dra, Legislative Secretary Reeta Vasistha and others met Mr. Kovind this afternoon to understand how he would like to go about the agenda before the committee.

While Mr. Chandra is also the Secretary to the high-level committee, Ms. Vasistha's Department deals with the issue of elections, the Representation of the People Act and related rules.

## Major tragedy averted with timely detection of IED in Rajouri



RAJOURI/JAMMU, Sep 3 (Agencies): A major tragedy was avert-

ed with timely detection of a powerful Improvised Explosive Device

(IED) in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, officials said. The IED, planted inside a tiffin box, was found lying on the roadside by the army's road opening party at village Sangpur along the Jammu-Poonch National Highway early morning, they said.

They said the traffic on the busy highway was

Turn to page 9

## Timing of 'One Nation, One Election' panel highly suspect: Cong continues attack on Centre



NEW DELHI, Sep 3 (Agencies): The Congress on Sunday said the timing of the high-level committee on 'One nation, One election' is highly suspect and its terms of reference have already determined its recommendations.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the composition of the committee is also a total give away and that is why Leader of Congress in Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury has rightly refused to be a part of it.

"The High-level Committee on what is called 'One Nation One Election' is a ritualistic exercise, the timing of which is highly suspect. Its terms of reference have already determined its recommendations," he said on X, formerly Twitter. "The composition of the Committee is also a total give-away and the Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha @adhirrcinc last night very rightly refused to be part of it," he added.

Chowdhury on Saturday declined to be a part of the panel announced by the Centre to examine the possibility of simultaneous elections

in the country. In a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Chowdhury said he has come to know that he has been appointed a member of the high-level committee on simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabhas.

"I have no hesitation whatsoever in declining to serve on the Committee whose terms of reference have been prepared in a manner to guarantee its conclusions. It is, I am afraid, a total eyewash," he said in his letter.

"Moreover, the sudden attempt to thrust a constitutionally suspect,

Turn to page 9

## Leopard mauls four-year-old girl to death in Udhampur

UDHAMPUR, Sep 3 (Agencies): A four-year-old girl was killed by a leopard after she was taken away from her house in Upper Banjala village of Panchari tehsil in the district, said Rakesh Sharma, Range Officer of Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife Department in Udhampur said.

The locals recovered her mauled body two kilometres away from her house in Upper Banjala village of Panchari tehsil in the district, said Rakesh Sharma, Range Officer of Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife Department in Udhampur said.

After getting information, the Jammu and Kashmir Police along

with senior officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife Department rushed to the spot. Meanwhile, the search is on to capture the leopard, the Range Officer said.

The deceased girl child has been identified as Tanu, he added.

"After getting information about the leopard taking away a small girl, our teams launched a search operation but unfortunately we found her dead," the officer said.

"We launched a

Turn to page 9

## Old Act notification remains legally sound after re-organisation Act: HC

SRINAGAR, Sep 3 (Agencies): The High Court, in a landmark ruling, has affirmed that the land acquisition notification under the Land Acquisition Act of former J&K State will persist in its application for acquiring land for public purposes.

The Division Bench, comprising Chief Justice N Kotiswar Singh and Justice M A Chowdhary, has resolved the matter in an appeal lodged by

Turn to page 9

## Kashmir pandit group questions credentials of petitioner NC Leader Mohd Akbar Lone in SC

NEW DELHI, Sep 3 (Agencies): A 'Kashmiri Pandit' group has questioned in the Supreme Court the credentials of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference leader Mohammad Akbar Lone, one of the petitioners challenging the abrogation of Article 370, claiming he was a supporter of secessionist forces.

An intervention application in the apex court has been filed by 'Roots in Kashmir', which

claims to be a group of Kashmiri Pandit youths, seeking to bring some additional documents and facts on record in the matter.

It alleged that the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference leader Mohammad Akbar Lone is known as "a supporter of secessionist forces operating in J&K, who support Pakistan."

"The petitioner No. 1... (Mohd Akbar Lone), was a member of the legisla-

tive assembly from 2002 to 2018 and has shouted slogans like 'Pakistan Zindabad' on the floor of the J&K Assembly," the intervention application alleged while referring to several media reports in support of their claim.

"The said fact was widely reported by media houses. Thereafter, he not only admitted shouting the slogan but refused to tender an apology when asked by the journalists. Mr. Lone, also while addressing

the media, hesitated to identify himself as an Indian. Similarly in his rallies also he is known for spreading pro-Pakistan sentiments," it said.

The group of Kashmiri Pandits said that two mainstream political parties of Jammu and Kashmir - National Conference represented by Mohd Akbar Lone and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) represented by its President Mehbooba Mufti - are among those who have

Turn to page 9

## Delhi minor slits tutor's throat over repeated sexual abuse, held

NEW DELHI, Sep 3 (Agencies): A juvenile has been apprehended here for allegedly killing his 28-year-old tutor who sexually assaulted him on several occasions, police said on Saturday.

The accused was apprehended on Friday, three days after he allegedly murdered the man using a sharp weapon in an act of revenge, they added.

According to police, they received information around 2.15 pm

on Wednesday that an apartment on the second floor of a building at Jamia Nagar, Batla House, was found open with blood splattered outside it.

On reaching the spot, the police team found the man's body lying on the floor with deep cut injuries on his neck, they said.

The deceased, who worked as a private tutor, used to reside with his family opposite Makka Palace Hotel in

Zakir Nagar, a senior police officer said.

The one-room apartment where the body was found was owned by the deceased's family. The property was on rent and had been vacated by a tenant only a few days ago, the officer said. During the investigation, it was revealed that the deceased was allegedly homosexual and met the juvenile around two months ago.

Turn to page 9

## Congress to hold Yatras at district level to mark first anniversary of Bharat Jodo Yatra: Sources

NEW DELHI, Sep 3 (Agencies): The Congress is set to hold yatras at the district level to commemorate the Kanyakumari-to-Kashmir Bharat Jodo Yatra, which was launched on September 7 last year, sources said on Sunday.

The party is planning to mark in a big way the beginning of the cross-country march that saw Rahul Gandhi, along with several party leaders, traverse over 4,000 kilometres and interact with a cross-section of society.

The sources said yatras will be held at the

district level to mark the one-year anniversary of the beginning of the Bharat Jodo Yatra on September 7 last year.

They said the modalities of how long the yatras will be and other details are being worked out.

Gandhi launched the yatra on September 7, 2022, in Kanyakumari. It ended on January 30 this year as Gandhi capped his ambitious 145-day journey in Srinagar.

"I have not done this (yatra) for myself or for the Congress but for the people of the coun-

try. Our aim is to stand against the ideology that wants to destroy the foundation of this country," Gandhi had said at the Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium in Srinagar at a rally marking the grand finale of the cross-country march.

During the course of the yatra, Gandhi addressed 12 public meetings, over 100 corner meetings and 13 press conferences. He had over 275 planned walking interactions and more than 100 sitting interactions.

Many experts had said a big takeaway from the

yatra for the Congress had been Gandhi's image transformation - from a reluctant and part-time politician to one who is mature and taken seriously by opponents.

Jairam Ramesh, the Congress general secretary, considered the brain behind the yatra along with party colleague Digvijaya Singh, had said back then that the transformation of Gandhi's image was not the cause of the yatra but a consequence of it.

Asserting that the Congress made huge gains

Turn to page 9

## 17 days after 2 brothers jumped into Beas in Jalandhar, Kapurthala police finally lodge FIR against Punjab Police SHO Navdeep Singh

JALANDHAR, Sep 3 (Agencies): Over a fortnight after brothers Manavjit and Jashanbir Dhillion reportedly jumped into Beas river from the Goindwal bridge following alleged harassment by the Jalandhar police, the Kapurthala police have finally registered an FIR in the case.

Jashanbir's body was recovered on Saturday and an FIR has been registered against SHO of police station 1 Navdeep Singh, lady



constable Jagjit Kaur and ASI Balwir Kumar at Talwandi Chaudhrian police station in Kapurthala for abetment to suicide. The trio have been booked under Sec-

tion 306, 506 and 34 of the IPC.

Jashanbir's body, which was found 16 days after the incident, has been sent for

Turn to page 9



**10TH DAY/ KRIYA/ UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Sh. Satpal Gupta S/o Wadwa Mal R/o H.No. 157, Peer Mitha, Jammu.**

**10th Day** shall be performed on 28th August, 2023 at 11.00 AM at Mahajan Sabha, Shalamar Road, Near Shree Ranbireswar Mandir, Jammu **Kriya** on 31st August, 2023 at our residence at 12.00 Noon.

**Uthala** shall be performed at 5.00 PM on 4th September, 2023 at Brahmin Sabha, Parade, Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN****Sons & Daughters-in-law**

Nand Kishore &amp; Rajni Gupta

Rakesh Gupta &amp; Pooja Bala

Ramesh Kr. Gupta &amp; Indu Gupta

**Grand Sons & Grand Daughter**

Mohit, Shubam, Vasu, Kanhaiya, Bhoomi, Ishwary

Contact No.: 9086285956, 9419190661

**Sh. Satpal Gupta****10TH DAY & KRIYA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED FATHER **SH. BODH RAJ SHARMA S/O SH. GIRDHARI LAL R/O WARD NO-4, KATHUA.**

**10TH DAY** WILL BE HELD AT OUR RESIDENCE ON 29-08-2023 (TUESDAY) AT 10:00 AM ONWARDS.

**KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED ON 30-08-2023 (WEDNESDAY) AT 09:00 AM ONWARDS.

**RASAM PAGRI** WILL BE PERFORMED ON 04-09-2023 (MONDAY).

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

SMT. SOMA DEVI - WIFE

SH. SHIV PRASAD SHARMA - BROTHER

SMT. TARA DEVI - SISTER IN LAW

**SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN LAW :-**

ASHWANI KUMAR AND RITU SHARMA

AMIT SHARMA AND AMBIKA KHAJURIA

**DAUGHTER AND SON IN LAW :-**

JYOTI SHARMA AND ASHWANI KUMAR

**NEPHEWS AND DAUGHTER IN LAW :-**

AJAY SHARMA AND MEGHNA SHARMA

AVNISH KUMAR AND GEETIKA SHARMA

**SH. BODH RAJ SHARMA****GRAND SONS AND GRAND DAUGHTERS:-**

SUSHANT, UTKARSH, AARYA, AAYAN, AADYA,

SIONA, AARISH, AAHANA &amp; DIVYAM

**MOBILE NOS:- 9419107794,****9797601475****KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Preeto Devi W/o Late Sh. Bans Lal Gupta of Pustap Enclave, House No. 537, Sector-4 Gangwal Jammu on Sunday 20-08-2023.**

**KRIYA/KARAM** on Friday 01-09-23, at our residence, starting 11:00 am onwards

**UTHALA/RASAM PAGRI** on Monday 04-09-23, at Durga Mandir, Gangyal, 4.00 to 5.00 pm

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Son and Daughter-in-law

Sh. Kusheep Gupta and Anuradha Gupta

Sh. Narinder Gupta and Meena Gupta

Sh. Naresh Gupta and Pooja Gupta

**Daughter and Son-in-law**

Smt. Nirmal Gupta and Sh. Mohinder Gupta

Smt. Shashi Gupta and Late Sh. Rajinder Gupta

Deeply Missed By: Gupta Family

Mrs. Rajeev Mediate

Mrs. Regal Exports

Mrs. Naresh Medicos

Mob: 9419145478, 9419160067, 9797562522

**Smt. Preeto Devi****TENTH DAY KRIYA**

In order to liberate the sacred soul of our departed mother **Late Smt. Indra Koul W/o Prof. S.N. Koul**, her **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 04-09-2023 (Monday).

**Tenth Day Assembly** will also be conducted at the 'Ghat' after the Kriya at 09.00 AM - 9.15 AM.

**In Grief:**

Prof. S.N. Koul - Husband

Mrs. Anuradha &amp; Sh. Mohinder - Daughter-in-law &amp; Son

Mrs. Hemlata &amp; Sh. Surinder Braroo - Daughter &amp; Son-in-law

Mrs. Sunita Koul - Daughter

Mrs. Princy &amp; Pankaj Langoo - Daughter &amp; Son-in-law

Mrs. Akshay, Vatsala, Dipankar and Isha - Grand Children

Mob: 700652065, 8999432275

**Late Smt. Indra Koul****MOURNING FROM MALYUN SIDE**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD AND UNTIMELY DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED SISTER **SMT. CHUNI DEVI (BENGASHI)** DID LATE SH. TARA CHAND BHAT AND LATE SMT. TARA WATI BHAT ORIGINAL RESIDENT OF MURAN DISTT PULWAMA ON 29th AUG. 2023.

**MOURNING FROM MALYUN SIDE** WILL BE HELD AT COMMUNITY HALL LANE NO 4 JAGTI TOWNSHIP JAMMU.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

(BROTHER &amp; SISTER-IN-LAW)

SMT. GIRJA BHAT &amp; SH. R. BHAT

SMT. REETA BHAT &amp; SH. J. L. BHAT

SH. M. K. BHAT

SMT. BABLI BHAT &amp; SH. A. K. BHAT

SMT. SARLA BHAT &amp; SH. B. L. BHAT

(SISTER &amp; BROTHER-IN-LAW)

LATE SMT. SHANTIA &amp; LATE SH. D. N. BHAT

SMT. KISHAN &amp; SH. C. L. KICHLOOR

SMT. BABY &amp; SH. R. K. KUL

SMT. DAIZY &amp; SH. RAJENDER KUL

MOB:- 990623857, 7006486457, 9419112639, 9797665961

**SMT. CHUNI DEVI (BENGASHI)****UTHALA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER **SMT. NEELAM GUPTA JI W/O SH. SHAM LAL GUPTA JI.** THE UTHALA WILL BE PERFORMED ON MONDAY 04-09-2023 AT DURGAMANDIR RAMPURA NAI BASTI JAMMU FROM 3.00PM TO 4.00PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

SON &amp; DAUGHTER-IN-LAW

ASHISH GUPTA &amp; SONIKA GUPTA

PALAV GUPTA &amp; DIVYA GUPTA

ATUL GUPTA &amp; ARTI GUPTA

M: 9419183129, 9906372948

**SHAMSON'S INDUSTRIES GANGYAL JAMMU****Neelam Gupta**

18th February 1963-19th August 2023

**OBITUARY**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THAT OUR KARMYOGI MOTHER **SMT. SOMRANI MANTOO** (FONELY CALLED NANAJI) W/O LT. SH. SOMNATH MANTOO, ERSTWHILE RESIDENT OF SOPORE, KASHMIR NOW AT 135, DEERWOOD CHASE, NIRVANA COUNTRY, GURGAON LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE & ATTAINED NIKSHAI ON 31 AUGUST 2023 NIGHT.

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED AT ROHINI GHAT, NEAR TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, BADLI (ROHINI, DELHI) ON SATURDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2023 FROM 8 - 10 AM & PRAYER MEET SHALL BE HELD AT CHINMAYA GURUDHAM, W BLOCK, WOODSTOCK, NIRVANA COUNTRY, GURGAON SAME DAY AT 1 PM. (PRASAD WILL BE SERVED AFTERWARDS).

**IN GRIEF:**

SON &amp; DAUGHTER-IN-LAW

MAHINDER &amp; SUNITA MANTOO

MOHAN KRISHAN &amp; PHOOLA MANTOO

MOTI LAL &amp; ARCHANA MANTOO

DAUGHTER &amp; SON-IN-LAW

LALITA &amp; PRANATHI GARIB

SHEELA &amp; RAMESH RAYU

NIRMALA &amp; RAJAJI GANJOO

MALUN SIDE: MADAN LAL MANTOO, CHAMAN LAL MANTOO, KRISHANJI SHAH

&amp; ALL GRAND &amp; GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

**SMT. SOMRANI MANTOO**

+919810003308,

+919717791070,

+919810001254

**RASAM PAGRI / UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Shri Vijay Kumar Sethi S/o Late Dr. J.R. Sethi, 43/1 Trikuta Nagar, Jammu on 1st Sept 2023.**

**Rasam Pagri/ Uthala** will be held between 3:00 to 4:00 PM on Monday 4th Sept 2023 at Shiv Mandir, Sector 3, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

**Grief Stricken**

Swaran Sethi (Wife)

Vrinder Sethi &amp; Chand Sethi (Brother &amp; Bhab)

Dr. Suman Chawla (Sister)

Inder Krishan Gandotra (Brother in Law)

Poonam Kohli &amp; Rakesh Kohli (Daughter &amp; Son in Law)

Dr. Nandita Mehta &amp; Dr. Satish Mehta (Daughter &amp; Son in Law)

Vivek Sethi &amp; Jyotsna Sethi (Son &amp; Daughter in Law)

Arvind Sethi &amp; Aman Sethi (Son &amp; Daughter in Law)

Manik, Priyanka, Simriti, Ankush, Nitika, Nikhil, Shikha, Kannav, Vishesh, Vaibhav, Khushi (Grand Children)

MOBILE NO: 94191 98046, 94191 97206, 94191 95424, 97963 82333

**Shri Vijay Kumar Sethi**

23-6-1936 - 1-9-2023

**TENTH DAY & UTHALA**

With profound grief & sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Kasturi Lal Gupta R/o H. No 72 W. No 05 Raja Bazar Akhnour.** He left heavenly abode on 26-08-2023 may his soul attain Moksha

**Tenth Day:** It will be performed on 04-09-2023 (Mon) at 11 AM

**Venue:** Durga Mandir Jia Pota Ghat

**Uthala** on 08th Sept 2023 at 4.00 PM

**Venue:** Durga Mandir Jia Pota Ghat

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Son &amp; Daughter in Law

Smt. Kusum &amp; Sh. Rajesh Gupta

Smt. Sheetal &amp; Sh. Rakesh Gupta

Smt. Isha &amp; Sh. Satish Gupta

Smt. Asha &amp; Sh. Rakesh Gupta - Daughter &amp; Son in Law

Dr. Abhishek, Akhilesh, Simran, Raghav, Sayam, Nayan, Muskan, Rishika (Grand Child)

**Sh. Kasturi Lal Gupta****FIFTH DAY/UTHALA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM SAD DEMISE OF **SH. PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ S/O SH. MANUSUKH RAM OF HARI NAGAR UDHAMPUR** 5TH DAY AND UTHALA WILL BE AT SANSAR PALACE JAKHEMI UDHAMPUR

**SATSANG** 12NOON MONDAY 4TH SEPT 2023

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

AMBO DEVI - WIFE

DAUGHTERS AND SON IN LAW:

SMT. VISHNO DEVI W/O LATE SH. DES RAJ RETD SSI

SMT. SANTOSH DEVI W/O LATE SH. THAKUR DASS

SMT. SUDERSHAN KUMARI W/O SH. MOHAN LAL

SMT. SHASHI KUMARI AND DR. DURGA DASS DOGRA (BY DIRECTOR ARI DEPTT)

SMT. RAMA W/O SH. VIJAY KUMAR S. INSPECTOR

DR. USHA W/O DR. MR. ATRI (PROF &amp; HEAD UNIT SURGERY GMC)

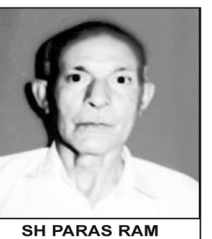
DR. RAJNI BHARDWAJ W/O SH. HARVIND LANGE (EX-GEN FWD)

IN LAWS:

SMT. SURJU DEVI WIFE OF LATE DR. KL. BHARDWAJ (BROTHER IN LAW)

SMT. GODAVARI DEVI &amp; SH. TARA CHAND (BROTHER IN LAW)

DR. SUBHASH BHARDWAJ HOD PATHOLOGY GMC JMU (NEPHEW)

**SH. PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ****DISCLAIMER**

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**LAST RITUALS**

**Smt. Pyari Bhan/ Khemoshri** W/o Lt. Dawrika Nath Bhan P/R/O Manigam Ganderbal our beloved mother had left this world for Vaikunth Dham on early morning of Ravivar Ekadashi 27-08-2023 at her residence A-19, Lane 3, Sher Singh Enclave Karala, Rohini Sec.22, Delhi. The **10th Day Kriya** will be held at Kashmiri Ghat, Rohini Sec - 18, Badali Road, Delhi on 5th September 2023 (Tuesday).

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Bhan Dynasty of Manigam

Raina Dynasty of Chapper Gund

Smt. &amp; Sh. Satish Bhan

Smt. &amp; Sh. Dileep Bhan

Smt. &amp; Sh. Rajinder Bhan

Smt. &amp; Sh. Raj Kumar Bhan

Smt. &amp; Sh. Ram Kishan Raina

Smt. &amp; Sh. Ashok R Raina

Smt. &amp; Sh. Anup Munshi

9682679569, 9310657529

**Smt. Pyari Bhan/ Khemoshri****TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Hira Lal Tickoo (Baisahab)** S/o Late Sh. Domodhar Tickoo R/o Sheiltang, Habbakadal Sgr, presently at Wanowarie Pune on 27th Aug, 2023.

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Sangam Tal, near RTO, Pune on 5th Sept 2023 (Tuesday) at 8 AM.

**Grief Stricken :**

Smt Nancy Tickoo (Razdan) (Wife)

Smt Sheelaji W/o Late Sh M L Tickoo (Sister-in-law)

Smt Jyoti Ji W/o Late Sh J L Tickoo (-do-)

Sh Vivek Tickoo - Son

Ms Ambika Tickoo (Daughter)

Smt Lalita Ji and Sh R L Khosa (Sister and Brother-in-law)

Smt Vijay Ji W/o Late Sh M K Koul (Sister)

Mobile No. 09923456148, 09881150062

**Sh Hira Lal Tickoo (Baisahab)****TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and deep sorrow, we regret to inform about the sad demise of **Sh. Mohinder Singh S/o Sh. Karnail Singh, Rtd.Tehsildar R/o Near Jij Chowk, Railway Road, Katra on 25/8/2023 at New Delhi, around 4:00 AM.**

The **Tenth Day** will be performed on 02-09-2023 at 11AM at Chacha Dham, Panthal Road, Katra. The **13th Day/ Kriya** will be performed at our residence Near Jij Chowk, Railway Road, Katra on 05-09-2023.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

Sh. Karnail Singh Rtd. Tehsildar - Father

Smt. Meenakshi Kumari - Wife

Mr. Pradhman Singh - Son

Mr. Bhuvan Singh - Son

Sister-in-Law &amp; Brothers

Smt. Vijay Rani &amp; Sh. Sudershan Singh

Smt. Dipri Rajput &amp; Sh. Purnam Singh

Sisters &amp; Brother-in-Law

Smt. Anita Kumari &amp; Sh. Daleep Singh

Smt. Kamlesh Kumari &amp; Sh. Sher Singh.

Nieces &amp; Nephews

Mrs. Muneekha Rani &amp; Mr. Aman Dev Singh (Advocate)

Mr. Rahul Dev Singh

Ms. Ridhima Rajput

Mr. Adiraj Singh

**GRANDSON & GRAND DAUGHTER :-**

Mr. Mayan Dev Singh

Ms. Nivanya Singh.

Deeply Missed By:- JIJ FAMILY

Mobile: 9419164202, 9419165610, 9858056057, 9419160906, 7006577681, 7006012781

**SH. MOHINDER SINGH****TENTH DAY KRIYA**

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the sudden and unfortunate passing of our beloved **Smt. Phoola Dhar (Asha Ji)**, wife of Sh. Omkar Nath Dhar, Sr. Lecturer in English (retired). Originally resident of Trichal, Kashmir, presently residing at Jagti when she left us for heavenly abode on August 31, 2023. The mourning is being observed at H.No. 113, Sharika Vihar, Sector 4, Lower Roop Nagar.

The **Tenth Day** memorial service will be held on September 9, 2023 (Saturday) at Muthi Ghat at 8:30 AM.

**IN GRIEF:**

Omkar Nath Dhar (Husband)

Chuni Lal Dhar (Brother-in-law)

Roshan Lal Raina &amp; Jaya Raina (Brother-in-law &amp; Sister-in-law)

Col Vimal Tikoo &amp; Archana (Son-in-law &amp; Daughter)

Ashish &amp; Renu (Son &amp; Daughter-in



# Congress welcomes prominent leaders to Jammu Pradesh Congress Committee

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 3: An impressive function was held by the Pradesh Congress Committee, at PCC HQ Shaheedi Chowk here today, in which PCC President Vikar Rasool Wani along with Working President Shri Raman Bhalla and other Senior leaders of the Congress formally admitted and welcomed the prominent leaders who recently joined Congress party in New Delhi. They along with hundreds of their supporters reached at PCC HQ Jammu amidst raising of slogans in favour of Congress party.

Yogesh Sawhney, Th. Balwan Singh, Th. Manmohan Singh, Shri Vinod Sharma, Smt. Indu Pawar, Pawan Raina, Shashi Sharma, Shiv Kumar Sharma, Sanjeev Sharma, Babal Gupta, Vijay Sharma, Neeraj Gupta, Rajvir Singh, Ajay Lakhotra, Bhavishya Sudan, Naresh Sharma, Jatin K Raina, Ricky Dalotra, Com. Gurmit Singh Charanjit Bhagat and Hundreds of Congress workers and Senior leaders of PCC, District Congress Committee, Frontal organizations Mahila Congress, INTUC, Youth Congress, NSUI and Block Congress Committees assembled at Shaheedi Chowk to welcome the new entrants who along with hundreds of their supporters arrived to Congress headquarters from TRC-Residency Road raising slogans in favour of Congress leadership and Congress party.

Vikar Rasool Wani



President JKPC while welcoming them to the Congress party said that AICC President Shri Mallikarjun Kharge accepted the suggestion of Pradesh Congress Committee in consultation with AICC Incharge J&K Smt. Rajni Patil and AICC General Secretary I/C Organization Shri K.C. Venugopal, to admit those who were desirous of joining the mission of Congress party to serve the people of the state and strengthen the unity and integrity of all regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

PCC Chief said that we extensively dealt with emerging political scenario in the Jammu and Kashmir, where Congress party is fast emerging as the only choice of people because of its progressive policies, democratic and secular values being strengthened by the party. He said that secularism is the strength of Indian Nation and only Congress can lead the JKUT and the entire Nation to the path of peace, progress and prosperity by strength-

ening secular fabric of this country.

He said that there is anger among people against BJP who has played with the sentiments of the people who voted them to power. People are not happy with their policies and the government has proved to be a failure. We have taken to the streets against governance deficit, lack of development and failure of the government to deliver on the promises made to the people of the Jammu and Kashmir.

PCC Working President Shri Raman Bhalla said that Congress has emerged a vibrant force in all regions of the state and the joining of more and more important leaders from political parties that Congress would win with thumping majority in forthcoming ULB elections. Stating that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral and inalienable part of India, He asserted that there is no place for politics of exploitation and negative politics, as people of the JKUT appreciate

and participate in the great democracy of this great Nation.

He said that after abrogation of special status, the lands of poor being snatched, the protection to jobs is gone and there are no jobs in government and private sector. In this situation the BJP government and UT administration is putting additional burden of all sorts of taxes on poor. When the people raise their voice, they are booked on frivolous charges and crushed to suppress the voice of people. The common masses are up in arms now to fight against the authoritarian approach of the BJP government.

Bhalla lamented over the BJP failing in showing least sensitivity towards people's pain due to misgovernance, under-development and joblessness. He said the voice of the people is being choked as the ruling party at the Centre is quite touchy about pointing towards the problems being suffered by the people. To divert the public attention from the failures on all the

fronts, the BJP is trying to divide the people on communal lines. The atmosphere across the country has been vitiated with the patriotic Indians, due to attempt of the BJP to divide the common people on communal lines. He appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to teach lesson to BJP in upcoming ULB elections and Assembly as well as Parliament election as and when held.

The leaders who joined Congress party include Yash Pal Kundal (Ex-MLA), Haji Abdul Rashid (Ex-MLA), DDC Member T. S. Tony, Naresh Gupta (EX-MLC), Sham Lal Bhagat (Ex-MLC), Nirmal Singh Mehta, Santosh Majotra, Hima Bhat, Rajni Sharma, Surinder Dev Goza, Romesh Jee Rtd. SSP, Jyoti Vaid, Lalita Sharma, Madan Lal Chalotra (OBC) Leader) Meheshwar Vishav Karma and others. These leaders expressed gratitude to Congress President Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Shri Rahul Gandhi for admitting them in to the Congress party and assured the PCC leadership to work for strengthen the party and its policies & programmes. They said that they have realized that the mood of the people is to further strengthen the Congress party in Jammu and Kashmir, in order to defeat the communal and divisive forces, whose designs can be defeated by a secular force like Congress. They pledged to fight unitedly against the divisive politics of BJP.

# IGNOU holds induction meeting for learners

## TOP NEWS REPORT

UDHAMPUR, Sep 3: IGNOU, Learners Study Centre 1250 at GDC, Udhampur organized an induction meeting for its newly registered learners in the college conference hall this morning in which a good number of learners, Academic Counselors and all staff of IGNOU LSC-1250 participated.

Prof. Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal of the College was the chief guest, while Dr. Vikram Singh, Assistant Regional Director and Dr. Asha Upadhyay was the Guest of Honour. Shweta Mahajan Assistant Registrar Regional Centre IGNOU was the special guest on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion the Chief guest, Prof. Romesh Kumar Gupta apprised the Assistant Regional Director, Dr. Vikram Singh and all learners of IGNOU about the motif behind organizing such programmes for the awareness of learners of IGNOU. He said that it bridges the gaps between learners, Learner Support Centers and Regional Center Jammu. Dr. Gupta also opined that this is a very important initiative by the IGNOU centre for the learners to know about their courses and the respective counselors as also the modus operandi of IGNOU. He said that in the fast pacing life, where the professionals and the working class, as also the people residing at distant places, who cannot follow

Prior to this Dr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Coordinator of the Center 1250, welcome all the guests and the learners and remarked that the induction meeting has the aim to provide relevant

information to the learners about their academic activities. Dr. Ajay, gave detailed introduction about the IGNOU run courses and its role in taking education to everyone's doorstep through distance mode. He acquainted the learners as to how they have to go ahead with their studies from IGNOU and exhorted upon them to avail the facilities available at the centre to the fullest of their satisfaction and make maximum use of ICT to complete their courses satisfactorily.

Speaking on the occasion Dr. Vikram Singh said that this induction session has been organized by the IGNOU to make the learners aware about the activities of RC Jammu. He advised the students to concentrate fully on their studies to prepare themselves for all future challenges.

On the occasion, the guest of honour Dr. Asha Upadhyay, the Assistant Regional Director IGNOU, deliberated upon all academic information to the learners during the induction session. The session was further facilitated and made relevant with the question and answer session for more clarity to the participating learners and also to get their feedback, addressing the queries and doubts. A majority of the learners posed their questions to Dr. Asha about Study Material, Counseling session of Classes, Scholarship Forms, Commencement of Examination, Submission dates of Assignments, Projects, Examination Forms and so on.

The Program was attended by a number of Learners, counselors and staff of the IGNOU centre at GDC Udhampur.

# Democracy Process & Statehood unlikely to be restored in J&K before LS polls: Shiv Sena



## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 3: There seems to be no possibility of holding Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir before the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, which is mainly due to the diminishing popularity of the BJP leaders in the state. It is certain that the longer the delay in elections, the bigger the defeat will be.

The slogan of 'One Nation, One Election' is also not likely to be effective in Jammu and Kashmir, said Manish Sahni, President Shiv Sena J&K unit.

Addressing a press conference held at Party's state central office today, Sahni said that the central government is not providing any positive indications for the restoration of democratic process and statehood in Jammu and Kashmir, thus indicating that the restoration of democracy in Jammu and Kashmir does not seem feasible in the near future. The main reason for this is

the decreasing popularity of the BJP leaders in the state, he added.

Sahni said that the BJP's "One Nation, One Election" campaign is not working to eliminate the anger of the people towards the state leaders. He mentioned that even the High Court has taken serious note of the delay in the restoration of democratic process in Jammu and Kashmir and had questioned the central government. In response, the Modi government has shifted all responsibility to the Election Commission. While it is no secret who the Election Commission works under, the central government has also not provided any specific timeline for the restoration of full statehood.

Sahni stated the ground reality is that the BJP has lost the trust of the people in Jammu and Kashmir. Since the abrogation of Article 370, there has been no significant improvement in the ground situation, and in such a scenario, the BJP wants to keep

its narrative on Article 370 strong until the Lok Sabha elections.

Sahni mentioned that even the municipal elections in Jammu and Kashmir can be postponed along with the Assembly elections. There have been serious discrepancies found in the voter lists of ward-level bodies and panchayat elections in the state. The Election Commission has revised the schedule for the publication of the voters' list in Jammu and Kashmir on November 25 as the final date.

Sahni said that the BJP is trying out new strategies to postpone the elections, sensing the anger of the people, and the longer the delay in elections, the bigger the defeat will be.

On this occasion, the President of the Women's Wing, Meenakshi Chhibbar, chairman Rakesh Gupta, General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Vice Presidents, Sanjeev Kohli, Mamta Devi, Prabhari Ashwani Prabhakar, Sanjeev Sharma were present.

# Pavneet Kour demands tap water supply in Raipur, Satwari

## TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 3: Apni Party Provincial President Women Wing Jammu, Pavneet Kour today expressed serious concern over non-availability of clean drinking water in Raipur, Satwari.

As per a press release, Pavneet Kour raised the issue during an interaction with the people at Raipur in Satwari's ward number 5.

After hearing issues of the people, the Apni Party leader expressed her concern over the underdeveloped condition of the locality, and growing concern of the people regarding the non-availability of clean

drinking water.

"As the tap water is not available, the people have to fetch the drinking water through private tankers. The drinking water crisis has overburdened the pockets of the people and the authorities have become mute spectators," she said.

She further stated that the Jal Shakti Department should resolve the issue and ensure tap water supply in the ward number 5 of Raipur in Satwari.

"The people are angry, and they would come on the roads if their demand is not accepted," she said.

# Tithwal gets a facelift with Gazebo on Kishanaganga River

## TOP NEWS REPORT

KUPWARA, Sep 3: Tithwal, a beautiful and serene hamlet by the pious Kishanaganga River, has undertaken an incredible transformation over past few years. Today, with the inauguration of the beautiful Gazebo on banks of Kishanaganga river, Tithwal has added another major attraction in its list for tourists. This remarkable project, a result of strong collaboration between the Indian Army and talented local artisans, stands as a shining symbol of beauty and unity is set to make a lasting impact on the region.

Today, as this Domel Gazebo and Bridge were unveiled, they serve not only as impressive architectural achievements but also as meaningful representations of community unity. This rejuvenation brings new life to Tithwal's growing tourism sector, which has experienced a remarkable 384% increase in the past year, thanks in part to the newly adorned Sharda Yatra Temple.

The people of Tithwal thanked Indian Army for this splendid effort which is sure to increase tourism footfall in region.

**JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT, JAMMU**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, JAL SHAKTI/PHC/CITY DIVISION NO-1, JAMMU**

0191-2543654 (Fax) E-Mail: xenphcity1@gmail.com

**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**  
E-NIT No. JS/PHECD-I/ 88 of 2023-24  
Fresh of E-NIT No. JS/PHECD-I/81 & 84 of 2023-24

For and on behalf of The Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Jammu, of J&K Union Territory, E-Tender (Item Rate Based) is invited by the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) City Division No-1, Jammu, from approved and eligible contractor of appropriate class registered with UT of Jammu and Kashmir/ other UT's or State Govt./CPWD/MES registered firms/contractors under two cover system, Cover 1 comprising of technical bid and cover 2 comprising of financial bid for the following work:-

S. No.	Name of work	Cost Tender (In Rs)	Cost of Tender document Fees (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion
1	Providing and laying of pipe line for Improvement of water supply in Lane No.6 Hazuri Bagh opposite Tube Well Station Bhoori in Ward no 41 under UT Capex (Financial Assistance to JMC).	Rs.0.26 lacs	Rs.200	Rs.520/-	A to D	30 days
2	Improvement/upgradation of water supply at various lanes in ward no.28 under UT Capex (financial assistance of JMC).	Rs.2.39 lacs	Rs.200	Rs.4780/-	A to D	60 days

**Position of funds : Partially Available**  
**Position of Ts: Accorded**  
**Position of AAA: Accorded**

- Date of publishing:-01-09-2023 (1800Hrs)
- Bid documents can be seen and downloaded from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from 01-09-2023 (1800Hrs) onwards.
- The bids shall be uploaded on the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from 01-09-2023 (1800Hrs) to 09-09-2023 upto (1200Hrs).
- The complete bidding process shall be online.
- The technical bids received shall be opened online on 09-09-2023 after (1200Hrs), or any other convenient later date in the office of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) City Division No-1, Jammu.
- Furnishing of hard copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders has been dispensed with as per Govt. order no. OM No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dated 07-06-2018. The same shall be obtained only from the bidder, who is declared as L1 after opening of financial bids.
- A copy of CDR/FDR duly pledged to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) City Division No-1 Jammu, against the earnest money deposit, should be uploaded by the bidders. However before allotting the work, the original CDR shall be obtained from the bidder declared as lowest bidder and shall be kept in record till the allotment process is finalized. The earnest money shall be released on receipt of the performance security or CDR/FDR against the EMD can be retained after accepting the balance amount in the shape of CDR/FDR to meet the requirement of the amount of the Performance security. **The CDR / FDR used for one tender shall not be entertained for other tender; which are under the process of tendering and the validity of such CDR / FDR shall remain till the outcome of such tender only. The CDR / FDR used for one tender shall have to be released from the Divisional Office before using for another tender.**
- The Lowest Bidder shall be intimated through e-mail on his registered e-mail ID to deposit the performance Security equivalent to the 5% of the allotted amount.
- Cost of bidding/tender fees receipt in the shape of e-challan/ single window challan of JMC shall have to be paid online, through the M/C link <http://www.jmcjammu.org/online-payment.html> and no cash shall be entertained at any cost. Further, bidders are requested to mention name of the work upon the particular Challan/e-receipt. Under no avoidable circumstances if the work is re-tendered, the contractor need not to deposit the Tender document Cost for rebidding for the same work.
- Any such Challan deposited on back dates or any irrelevant date shall not be accepted.
- The Successful bidder shall be liable to deposit the performance security as envisioned in the GFR 2017.
- The financial bids of the qualifying bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) City Division No-1, Jammu on same date of opening of technical bid or any other convenient date.
- The bid for the work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- The opening authority reserves with him the right to accept/reject/cancel, any or all tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.
- The successful bidder shall be responsible for providing all safety measures at site during execution of work.
- The quoted rates should be inclusive of all taxes. The department will deduct income tax/labour/Cess/GST/ or any other tax applicable during payment prevalent rates.
- The Contractor shall approach the Department for getting the "Nishandehi" of the work within seven days from the date of allotment.
- If the contractor fails to start the work within 07 days of its allotment, work shall be treated as cancelled without serving any notice to the contractor/ firm and the work shall be offered to 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest bidder at the rate offered by 1<sup>st</sup> lowest bidder.
- The delay in completion of the works shall attract penalty aggregating to 10% of the cost of such works and shall be reckoned per month, with recommended percentage of Engineer-in-Charge. If the work remains unattended in the completion period, the contractor shall be recommended for his blacklisting.
- In case the billed amount increases the allotted amount due to increase in the advertised quantity or addition of non-advertised items during execution, the same shall be paid on the allotted rates after reviewing the cost of the work/Scheme and getting revised AAA accorded and technically sanctioned from the competent authority.

Sd/-  
**Executive Engineer**  
**DIP/J-7726/23**  
**Jal Shakti (PHE) City Division No-1**  
**Jammu**

No: PHECD-I/4588-4593



## EDITORIAL

## SOCIAL

## ARRANGEMENTS

In every society some social arrangements are made to determine the role and status of the members and for social control. These systems are found in some form or the other in every society of the world. Indian (especially of Hindu society) caste system is a major institution of that social system. The form of Varna system has become perverted and has become caste system.

When we use the words caste system, casteism or Indian caste system, we mean the caste system prevalent in Hindu society. India is the repository of the caste system. There is hardly any group in India, including Muslims and Christians, who do not believe in or suffer from the caste system.

In very ancient times, the caste system was determined in our country according to merit and deeds and it was considered very useful and necessary for social welfare. What was the meaning of Varna at that time and what was the form of that system? There are differences among scholars in this regard.

It is certain that India's Varnashram system was created to run life systematically both at the level of individual and society. The division of illusion and duty was his main objective. In Manusmriti, the representation of the duties of each varna is available. There is neither a constitution for the rights of the varnas, nor has there been any discussion of their relative importance. The system aimed at division of labor has been supported by many thinkers even in modern times.

With the flow of time the form of varna system changed and it took the form of caste system or caste system. Many castes have become sub-castes on the basis of different occupations. Many defects have also come in this system, it has given shelter to casteism, many evils like small-big, high-low feeling have been included in it.

After independence, casteism has emerged as a curse. Its disgusting form is visible at the time of elections. Every person declares himself against casteism, curses casteism to the fullest, but while getting votes, he definitely calls out the name of the caste community. The selection of the candidate for the election is done keeping in mind that how many votes are there for which caste in the concerned constituency and how many votes can be obtained by appealing to the caste-community?

The person elected in the name of casteism takes with him the bag of casteism. He wants to do good to his men on the basis of casteism, demands their representation etc. The caste system which was there before independence has now become casteism. It gave rise to untouchability at the social level. It has a reputation for individual-level untouchability. Castes are ending, casteism is flourishing. The roots of casteism are getting deeper day by day in the name of reservation.

Under the Indian social system, the caste system (custom) determines the social status of a person and also determines a lot on his occupation. Different definitions of caste have been presented and many explanations have been presented to clarify it.

In conclusion, the nature of this system can be understood as follows – "Caste is a dynamic system of social stratification and segmentation on the basis of birth, which imposes many or some restrictions in relation to food, drink, marriage, profession and social cohabitation. enforces on its members.

## Shringla for Darjeeling MP ticket? It's Shah vs Yogi in Ghosi bypoll

By: Anita Katyal

Retired bureaucrats, especially former diplomats, are clearly a hot favorite with the Narendra Modi government. After the induction of S. Jaishankar, Hardeep Puri, R.K. Singh and Ashwani Vaishnav, there is a strong buzz in the capital that the Bharatiya Janata Party plans to field former foreign secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla in next year's Lok Sabha election from the Darjeeling constituency. The BJP has probably zeroed in on Mr Shringla, currently chief coordinator for India's G-20 presidency, because he hails from the Darjeeling and Sikkim region and speaks Nepali among other languages. His father is a Sikkimese Buddhist. In fact, efforts have been on over the past few months to boost Mr Shringla's profile. Earlier this year, Mr Shringla's biography titled, Not an Accidental Rise, written by Dipmala Roka of Sikkim University, was launched. Interestingly, a special programme was held in his hometown Darjeeling, where a digital translation of the book in Nepali language was released along with the English version. A Bengali translation is also on the cards. Except for sitting MP Raju Bista, the BJP has fielded "outsiders" like Jaswant Singh and S.S. Ahluwalia from Darjeeling in the past who won with the support of the Gorkha National Liberation Front. Mr Shringla is both a local and an

outsider. Though he comes from this region, he has done his schooling at Mayo College, Ajmer, and graduation from Delhi's St Stephen's College.

Though Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's foreign visits have now become a routine affair, his forthcoming trip to Europe is interesting both because of the cities – Brussels, Paris and Oslo – he is slated to visit. Rahul Gandhi's schedule in Brussels includes an interaction with European Union members, which comes weeks after the European Parliament took note of the ongoing ethnic clashes in Manipur and adopted a strongly-worded resolution condemning the violence while coming down heavily on the harassment faced by activists, journalists and minorities in India. The Congress leader will be in Paris shortly after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's successful visit to France. However, Mr Modi's trip was marred by several articles in the local press which critiqued his government for human rights violations and suppression of dissenting voices. Then there is speculation that during his stay in Oslo, Rahul Gandhi could meet members of the Norwegian Nobel Institute and Nobel Committee in addition to other meetings. This comes at a time when there are murmurs in some quarters that Modi makes for an ideal candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Though it is only a by-election, the September 5 Ghosi

Assembly election has far greater implications for the BJP and the Opposition. In Lucknow, it is being dubbed as an indirect battle between Union home minister Amit Shah and Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath. The BJP candidate, Dara Singh Chauhan, who was with the Samajwadi Party till recently, was persuaded to cross over at Shah's behest as the home minister was impressed with his work during his earlier stint with the BJP. But this apparently did not go down well with the chief minister since Mr Chauhan had attacked Yogi Adityanath for not understanding the problems of backward classes when he left the BJP to join the Samajwadi Party. The results will now show who emerges the winner – Mr Shah or Yogi. On the other side, Opposition unity is on test in this election as the Samajwadi Party candidate has got the support of the INDIA bloc.

As the Madhya Pradesh Assembly election draws close, the Congress witnessed the emergence of yet another dynast in the poll-bound state. The Congress recently organised a major event of lawyers from across the state but the 5,000-odd participants went back unhappy as they believed the event was essentially meant to launch Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Tankha's son, Varun Tankha, also an advocate. He was seated on stage along with senior leaders Kamal Nath and Digvijaya

Singh while several important state leaders and members of the Congress legal cell were ignored. They complained that though they were resigned to playing second fiddle to Vivek Tankha, a lateral entrant to the party who owes his position to his proximity to Mr Nath and also because he is the son-in-law of late Capt. Ajay Narain Mushran, Digvijaya Singh's finance minister, they could not accept Varun Tankha who, they said, spends all his time in Delhi and has made no contribution to the Congress in the state.

While infighting in Rajasthan Congress has been in the news, the BJP's state unit also has its share of troubles. For instance, Kailash Meghwal, a senior BJP legislator and former Speaker of the Rajasthan Assembly, embarrassed the party when he publicly attacked Union minister Arjun Ram Meghwal. He accused the Union minister of indulging in corrupt practices and sought his removal from the Cabinet. Party insiders said this outburst could be traced to a recent meeting between Mr Meghwal and BJP national general secretary Arun Singh, who apparently suggested that the senior Rajasthan leader was too old to contest elections and that he suggested the name of a younger candidate. Mr Meghwal is learned to have ticked him off, saying if the party did not give him a ticket, he could always cross over to the Congress.

## Advantages of early education for children

By: Vijay GarG

Psychologists claim that imparting early education to children between the ages of 3 and 5 is highly beneficial for their overall development. Preschools provide toddlers with a positive learning environment so that they can learn the basic life skills required to face the world with confidence. Here are the 13 benefits of imparting early childhood education that gives your toddler a headstart towards a happy and healthy future:

Benefits of pre-primary education

1. Nurtures inquisitiveness  
Toddlers are born with an inherent urge to understand the world around them. They have an active imagination and are always eager to discover new things, make new friends, and explore new environments. Early childhood education nurtures this inquisitiveness and imagination of your child so that they can become effective learners.

2. Improves child's concentration

Toddlers are curious and playful by nature; hence, they have a shorter attention span compared to adults. Early childhood education imparted by pre-primary schools helps boost concentration in children. It also encourages them to be good listeners, so that they can follow directions

or do tasks on their own or participate actively in group activities.

3. Boosts cognitive skills

Preschools play a key role in strengthening the cognitive skills of young minds. Since toddlers get the opportunity to engage in a variety of practical activities, the fun learning environment motivates them to solve problems, observe things closely, and ask questions to satiate their curiosity.

4. Teaches diversity

The multicultural classroom environment in pre-primary schools teaches toddlers to embrace and respect diversity in cultures and opinions so that they become well-rounded individuals. It helps them understand the fact that every individual is unique in his or her own way.

5. Boosts confidence

Early childhood education encourages your child to be confident in social set-ups. Pre-primary schools appreciate her every big and small achievement and enable her to perceive her talents and capabilities in a positive yet realistic way. This instills a sense of competence in her, thus, boosting her self-confidence and self-esteem.

6. Makes a lifelong learner

Pre-primary education provides your toddlers with a fun environment that instills in them an eagerness to learn. This inspires your child to become a lifelong learner.

7. Builds team spirit

In order to develop the social competence of your child, pre-primary classrooms use fun ways to encourage toddlers to work in a team. By inculcating team spirit in young minds, pre-primary teachers teach students how to work collaboratively in a group environment to achieve a shared goal. As a result, the child becomes a good listener and learns to respect the opinion of his team members so that the team can function without any disruption.

8. Builds resilience

Pre-primary education encourages your child to become independent and tough in life so that she can deal with greater challenges in a resilient manner. The teachers provide her with a challenging environment so that she can find suitable solutions to problems and face difficulties without losing heart.

9. Enhances social and emotional skills

Preschools train children to become socially and emotionally aware by regulating their behavior and helping them create a personal identity. At the same time, preschools promote social interactions as your child gets the opportunity to develop friendships with her fellow classmates.

10. Prepares for school

Pre-primary education plays a critical role in preparing your child for kindergarten and beyond. Social readiness and emotional preparedness

combined with pre-reading / writing skills and a basic understanding of mathematical concepts help him succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

11. Develops early math skills  
Early childhood education promotes numeracy and early math skills in toddlers which later help them solve more complicated mathematical problems in high school.

12. Encourages patience

Pre-primary schools provide your child with ample opportunities to learn the art of patience so that he can face challenging situations in life with persistence and fortitude.

13. Teaches cooperation

Preschools teach your child the valuable skills of cooperation through classroom games, which involve sharing, following instructions, and taking turns. Cooperation is an important life skill that helps her build relationships and get along with others in any situation.

In order to ensure the success of future generations, it is the parents' responsibility to optimize the early years of their children's education. It is the most powerful investment they can make towards ensuring a bright future for themselves.

(Vijay GarG Retired  
Principal Educational  
Columnist Malout  
Punjab)



## Bharat on the way to become Vishwa Guru under PM Modi: Vibodh

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 3: BJP J&K General Secretary and former MLC Vibodh Gupta on Sunday urged the youth to embrace five pledges (Panchpran) with the vision for a stronger and more prosperous Bharat. During the 'Amrit Kalash Yatra' today under the 'Meri Mati-Mera Desh' campaign in RS Pura, Miran Sahib Mandal of District Jammu South.

General Secretary BJP J&K Vibodh Gupta, along with District President Rekha Mahajan, District Prabhari Ayodhya Gupta, Seh Prabhari, Sarpanch and Spokesperson BJP J&K Adv Devraj Sharma, DDC Prof. Garu Ram Bhagat, BDC Vidhya Mottan, District General Secretary Akash Chopra, Mandal Prabhari Vikram Sharma, Anil Sharma and prominent persons including large number populace of the area were present on the occasion.

Vibodh said that we must dedicate our lives to the following Panchpran, First, we must move forward with grand resolutions and the determination



for a 'developed' India; second, we should eliminate all remnants of servitude; third, we must take pride in our heritage; fourth, recognize the strength in our unity, and fifth, fulfill our duties as responsible citizens," stated Vibodh during a party workers' meeting. Vibodh Gupta strongly asserted that Bharat, under the leadership of Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi, is on its way to becoming a Vishwa Guru (world leader). He called upon the youth to commit the next 25 years of their lives to the nation's development and the betterment of humanity as a whole.

During the "Meri Mati

Mera Desh" (Amrit Kalash Yatra) campaign all BJP leaders visited the residence of Shaheed Ravi Kumar, a resident of RS Pura, Mira Sahib. BJP leaders honoured the Parents of Martyr Ravi Kumar and collected Soil in Kumbh from their residence. Pertinent to mention, this Soil will be sent to Delhi and it will be used to Construct Amrit Vatika commemorating Martyrs.

Ayodhya Gupta said, that under the governance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the organization of over 2 lakh programs during the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav has once again awakened

the spirit of patriotism in the entire nation.

Adv Devraj Sharma said, that It is not just a program, but a medium to connect oneself with the future of the country. He said that we are in 'Amrit Kaal' (golden phase) under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi and this mega campaign will help us realize our commitment to making India a developed country."

Rekha underlined that under these programs inscriptions have been installed in every village of the country, and crores of citizens of the country have taken the pledge of 'Panch Pran' which will pave the way to make India great.

## NC committed to peace, prosperity & equality in J&K: Babu Rampaul

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 3: National Conference is committed to ensure peace, progress, prosperity, stability and equality among all the sections of the society in Jammu and Kashmir, said former Minister and President Central Zone (Jammu, Samba, Kathua) Babu Rampaul while addressing a meeting at Old City. The meeting was organized by Zonal Secretary and Coordinator Jammu District (Urban) Dr Vikas Sharma.

While speaking on the occasion, Babu Rampaul urged upon the youth to get ready for playing a vital role to bring change. He said that the present scenario of J&K has pushed the youth towards depression and anxiety as they are worried about their future presently looming in darkness.

"Unemployment among youth has also impacted the life of the educated youth who are concerned about their career for which their parents are in a doldrums and deeply worried about their children", he added.

Former Minister criticised the stoppage of 'Darbar Move' practice as immoral by the government because it has adversely affected the business community. "The business community, small traders and commoners are all suffering due to policy



paralysis and deep rooted corruption at all levels.

Referring to serious threat to J&K lands from the outsiders with the active patronage of the double engine government, Rampaul recalled the landmark Land Reforms Act brought in by the National Conference under the towering leadership of Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah, making the poor and landless masters of holdings overnight at the mutation of just rupees two. How can these poor people part with their precious lands, he asked.

Lauding the pro-people work done during the NC rule, he said that his party leadership knew the ground realities and framed the policies in such a way that people of J&K irrespective of region, religion, caste and creed benefited equally.

"NC reads the pulse of

people in the true sense of the term but the present government took all decisions in a hasty manner just to fulfill their political agenda," he added.

"The law and order situation has deteriorated, the business community is incurring losses, unemployment rate is highest in the country, corruption and scams are happening everywhere, administrators & bureaucrats are not being held accountable. This is the state of affairs in J&K," Rampaul said.

Ultimately, He asked the party workers of J&K to remain united and work with zeal and dedication for ensuring the welfare of the common masses of J&K and to strengthen the JKNC party at the grass root levels.

Zonal Secretary JKNC, Dr Vikas Sharma while speaking on the occasion said that it was under NC's rule

that the erstwhile state was among top states of our country. He said that from unemployment to literacy Jammu and Kashmir was and is in a far better position than other states of India. He lambasted those dividing people in the name of religion and region. He said that the time has come to defeat such forces and strengthen the hands of Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Jenab Omar Abdullah for lasting peace in the Union Territory.

He reiterated the resolve of the NC party to put in back-breaking and painstaking efforts to restore statehood keeping the destructive elements at bay. Others who spoke on the occasion were Adv. Rajinder Chamyal, S. Surjit Singh Sassan, Naved Raja, BD Dalotra, HemRaj, Som Raj, Surjit Kumar, Sagar Chand, Manohar Raj, Romesh Kumar, Dr Sushil and others.

## Apni Party reviews grassroots level working in Poonch

### TOP NEWS REPORT

POONCH, Sep 3: Apni Party today reviewed working at grassroots level in Poonch during a meeting that was held at the office premises of the party.

The meeting was organized by District President Poonch, Ex-MLA Shah Mohammed Tantray in which Provincial Secretary Jammu Dr Rohit Gupta also participated. The meeting was attended by large numbers of party district level leaders and workers.

During the meeting, a review of the working of the party was taken by the District President Shah Mohammed Tantray, and Provincial Secretary Dr Rohit Gupta in



a threadbare discussion.

The party leaders emphasized to strengthen the party at grassroots level by expediting membership drive in all the constituencies of district Poonch, the party leaders said.

Following the discus-

sion, all the district, block, and tehsil office bearers assured that they would intensify their public outreach programme across the district and highlight the policy and agenda of Apni Party.

Meanwhile, a membership drive was also

launched at the district party office where large numbers of people joined the Apni Party.

Shah Mohammed Tantray, and Dr Rohit Gupta welcomed the new entrants into the party and hoped that their joining would strengthen the party.

## AAP seeks action on blocked water issue, park construction

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 3: Kuldeep Kumar Rao, a Member of the State Organization Building & Manifesto Drafting Committee of AAP-J&K-UT, has highlighted pressing concerns within Ward No.62 of the Municipal Corporation Jammu.

In a press statement issued today, Rao has brought to attention the issue of a blocked water passage between the residence of Om Parkash Kotwal and the Modern Secular Institute of Education in Laxmipuram Sector-

B-2. This blockage has caused considerable inconvenience to the local residents. He earnestly requests His Excellency the Lt. Governor of J&K UT, Shri Manoj Sinha, to instruct the relevant authorities to conduct an on-site assessment and take immediate remedial actions to alleviate the problems faced by the residents. Additionally, the public has called for the construction of lanes and drains extending from the Residence of Om Parkash Kotwal near Modern Secular

Institute of Education Laxmipuram Sector-B-2 to Ashram. It has come to light that the Department of R&B initiated drain construction from Modern Secular Institute of Education Laxmipuram without proper planning and abandoned the project midway, leaving the reasons undisclosed.

Rao has also made a heartfelt appeal to His Excellency the Lt. Governor of J&K UT for the development of a public park in Laxmipuram, Pattian, Chinore & Keran, specifically at

Laxmipuram-Pattian Talab within Ward No.62 of the Municipal Corporation Jammu. The proposed park would cover an area of approximately 12 Kanals of land. He has emphasized that this land, if left unattended, may be susceptible to illegal occupation by land mafias. It is in the best interest of the public to transform this land into a beneficial public asset, ensuring that the community retains access to recreational spaces and other essential amenities.

## Shri Krishna Janmashtami on Sep 6

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU Sep 3: Lord Shri Krishna's birth, celebrated as Shri Krishna Janmashtami, falls on the Ashtami of Krishna Paksha during the Bhadrapada month. Mahant Rohit Shastri Jyotishacharya, the head of Shri Kailakh Jyotish Avim Vedic Sanathan Trust, explains that Shri Krishna Ji was born in the Rohini Nakshatra on Ashtami Tithi. However, there are instances when Ashtami Tithi and Rohini Nakshatra do not align on the same day. This year, after many years, the date and constellation of Lord Shri Krishna's birth coincide. Ashtami Tithi will begin at 3:38 pm on Wednesday, September 6, and end at 4:15 pm on Thursday, September 7. Rohini Nakshatra will commence at 9:20 am on September 6 and conclude at 10 am the following day, September 7, lasting for 25 minutes.

On the midnight of Wednesday, September 6, both Bhadrapada Ashtami Tithi and Rohini Nakshatra coincide. The Sun will be in Leo, and the Moon will be in Taurus. This year, the significance of Shri Krishna Janmashtami festival and fasting aligns with Rohini Nakshatra, Bhadrapada Ashtami Tithi, moonrise in Taurus, occurring only on Wednesday, September 6, as per the Smarta sect (ordinary householders). However, for the Vaishnav sect (sanyasis), the festival of Shri Krishna Janmashtami will be observed on Thursday, Sep-

tember 7.

Please note that those who have received initiation from Smarta sect gurus should observe their fast on September 6, while those initiated by Vaishnav sect gurus should fast on September 7. Vaishnavs are individuals who have received initiation from Vaishnav sect gurus and wear Kanthi or Tulsi rosaries around their neck, as well as symbols of sandalwood, Gopi Chandan, Shri Khand, Tripundra, Urdhpund, or Vishnucharan, etc., on their head and neck.

Krishna Janmashtami is celebrated by Grihastha sect as well as Vaishnav sect, with the installation of Lord Shri Krishna's idol for worship. On this day, the child form of Lord Shri Krishna is venerated, and names such as Shri Ganesh Ji, Devaki, Vasudev, Baldev, Nand, Yashoda, and Lakshmi Mata are invoked during worship. Balgopal is often depicted on a swing, and Raasleela is organized in many temples.

On this sacred occasion, devotees from across the country and abroad flock to Mathura to witness the splendid tableau of Kanha. Temples remain open until midnight on Janmashtami, and after midnight, when Krishna is believed to be born, devotees break their fast by consuming Charanamrit. Observing a fast on Janmashtami holds great significance and is a cherished tradition on this auspicious day.

## Poonch Campus raises awareness on Menstrual Health & Hygiene

### TOP NEWS REPORT

POONCH, Sep 3 : In a creative and innovative stride towards raising awareness about menstrual health and hygiene, Poonch Campus University of Jammu today organized a captivating painting event titled "Colors of Awareness: Menstrual Health and Hygiene Matters." in the premises of Girls Hostel Poonch Campus.

This event, designed to blend artistry with education, proved to be a resounding success as participants passionately expressed their support for menstrual health and hygiene awareness through their artistic creations.

Director Poonch Campus Prof Rakesh Vaid in his message congratulated the boarders of both Girls and Boys Hostel for this initiative. "The painting event at Girls Hostel Poonch Campus served



as a platform for both artists and the community to celebrate the significance of menstrual health and hygiene, encourage open conversations, and challenge the stigma surrounding menstruation," he added.

Director Poonch Campus also congratulated Warden Hostels Dr Rubia Bukhari and hailed her efforts for organizing such awareness programmes on such important topic.

Boarders of both the hostels showcased their talents by creating unique artworks that encapsulated the

essence of menstrual health and hygiene awareness, breaking down taboos and sparking important conversations.

Dr Rubia Bukhari (Campus Officer/Warden) expressed her delight stating, "Art has the power to transcend barriers and communicate messages that words alone cannot.

She further said that the painting event, brought together students /artists united by a common goal - to destigmatize menstruation and advocate for informed menstrual health choices.

## Baramulla RR Bn organises free medical camp

### TOP NEWS REPORT

BARAMULLA, Sep 3: Baramulla RR Bn, in order to promote the critical factor of Health checkup and disease free life of Awam in backward areas of Fatehgarh, organised a medical camp for Village Fatehgarh on 02 Sep 2023. This mega event was conducted under aegis of Himalayan Brigade assisted in civil-military crafting for progressive Kashmir.

Orthopedic Surgeon, Ophthalmologist, Family Physician, General Physician, Medicine & Female Gynecologist experts of Borderless World Foundation provided collective potential to locals in the event.

Dual Commitment achieved during the medical camp were 'to outreach and alleviate of medical issues in locals' and 'instill a sense of trust and belongingness with Army'. To make the event reach its goal, the information and invitation

for the medical camp was started well in advance through Masjids, Darul-Ulooms, Schools in 17 villages in the radius and on social media.

Staff and Students of school assisted medical experts as interpreters wherever required.

The efforts of Baramulla Battalion enabled medical assistant to a large segment of 630 persons from deprived section of general public in district Baramulla.

The strength included 272 male patients, 235 female patients and 123 children patients. First-aid kits to Higher Senior Secondary School, Fatehgarh were also provided while culmination of camp as token of affinity. Student efforts were appreciated by rewarding by senior Officers of Indian Army.

The continuation of medical check-ups, medical assistance and expert advice by qualified teams was being cherished by locals.



## Upcoming talk show 'Be A Man, Yaar', hosted by Nikhil Taneja, is all about getting Indian men to talk about things they have never done before

There are many talk shows, but only some that initiate a dialogue. If Karan Johar is the master of the former format, he is the guest on the other! We are talking of an upcoming show, Be A Man, Yaar, whose trailer has already created quite a buzz. Hosted by writer-producer and entrepreneur Nikhil Taneja, the show will deal with diverse topics and answer questions that have never been answered before!

Nikhil has been actively involved in addressing issues that youngsters face and provides a platform on social media called Yuva, which produces content to educate, motivate and address millennials. In June, the social media platform as well as their YouTube Channel completed five years. While he has always been vocal about mental health, feminism and LGBTQIA+ community rights, with this show, Nikhil attempts to create a safe space for self-expression, and dismantling stereotypes through fun and engaging episodes. He shares, "We were doing Yuva road show before Covid outbreak in 2019-2020



and visited many colleges. I had observed that while many people came forward to share their experiences and problems, it took an effort to get boys to talk. I started sharing my experiences and it helped them open up. The most common thing that we had found was men don't talk about their problems, they don't have a shoulder to cry upon! Many were never hugged or told that they matter. That's when I thought if I could use my contacts and get men that Indians look up to talk and share their experiences. It would inspire and create a ripple effect of change that we all need."

OTT route

Nikhil plans to tie up with an OTT platform after this season. While he had no qualms in turning host, thanks to his years of experience in journalism, he did feel getting comfortable with the camera comes with time. While the debut episode will be that of actor Vicky Kaushal, he has an interesting line-up of celebs like Karan Johar, Nakuul Mehta, Naseeruddin Shah, Zakir Khan, Naveen Kasturia, Amol Parashar, Vishnu Kaushal, Govind Kaushal and Sushant Divgikar. Nikhil informs, "There would be bonus episode(s) where women will also be the guests, but we will keep it as a surprise till the end. Each one-hour epi-

sode will be power-packed. I was amazed at how each guest was able to showcase their vulnerable side and also open up. All of the guests this time were people I knew personally and there was no breaking the ice moment needed to get candid with them."

Nikhil hopes to put together more than 10 seasons in the coming years and wishes the show creates a benchmark, a legacy for others to follow. He adds, "We aim at a fun, candid, unfiltered, raw and real conversation on modern day masculinity. And, for me personally, I would someday wish to have Shah Rukh Khan on the sets."

The show is supported by Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies, with Amazon Music India as audio partner. It will stream exclusively from September 4 on Yuva's official YouTube channel. One episode will be dropped each week. From Karan Johar pretending to love a girl in school days to Vicky Kaushal being called a biba munda, Nikhil says some answers even left him surprised as a host!

## Miley Cyrus talks of 'undeniable' chemistry with Liam Hemsworth despite split



Singer Miley Cyrus has spoken about "undeniable" chemistry with her former husband Liam Hemsworth.

The 30-year-old pop star met Liam, 33, on the set of the 2010 movie 'The Last Song', and the celebrity couple fell in love on screen and off screen, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"I think one of the elements that made that movie feel so special was watching two very young people fall in love with each other, which was happening in real time and real life," Miley, who was married to Liam between 2018 and 2020, said on TikTok.

Despite their split, Miley still thinks that they shared a strong "chemistry."

She said: "The chemistry was undeniable, and that was the beginning of a long, ten-year relationship."

Miley recently pledged to share "untold stories" about her life via a series of TikTok videos.

She explained on Instagram: "Sometimes it feels like my life started when Hannah Montana was born. But before Hannah there was Miley."

"My fantasy was to light up the world with laughter, music and iconic moments that last beyond my lifetime. Decades later I continue to fulfill my purpose because of the love provided by my fans. This series 'Used to Be Young' is inspired by my new single. Looking back on my life and sharing untold stories from 1992 until now."

And in one of her first TikTok stories, Miley reflected on the differences between herself and her dad, Billy Ray Cyrus. The chart-topping star admitted that she had financial and emotional stability during her younger years, whereas her dad was forced to struggle through the early years of his life.

Miley said: "My dad grew up the opposite of me. I grew up on a soundstage, like in a house with a family who was super close and all lived under the same roof, and I grew up financially stable and emotionally stable. I think, in my relationships also. That's something that my dad didn't have."

## Singer-actress Selena Gomez reveals her 'standards' for boyfriend

Actress-singer Selena Gomez, who has previously romanced Justin Bieber and The Weeknd, said contrary to popular perception, she is 'worth a try'.

"I think I have standards, and I think I live in a world right now where boys confuse standards with high maintenance. It really isn't the same thing," Gomez said.

On her new song, Single Soon, Selena says she's "a little bit high maintenance, but I'm worth a try."

The singer said that she had certain standards and expectations of her partners.

She shared: "The line was really fun because I'm not ashamed to say, 'I actually require X, Y, and Z for you to be with me' So, in a way, it was just meant to be for the attitude of the song.

And that's genuinely how I feel."



Selena wants her next boyfriend to be "cool." She added: "Not cool in the sense that people think you're cool.

You just gotta be nice and, like, please make me laugh and also just be good to my family and people around you."

## Actress, former model Silvina Luna dies at 43 after complications from a botched 2011 surgery

Argentinian actress and former model Silvina Luna died at the age of 43 having spent 79 days in hospital due to kidney complications as a result of a botched Brazilian butt lift procedure performed in 2011.

The 43-year-old Argentine actress Silvina Luna died on Thursday, August 31. She had been hospitalised for 79 days at Hospital Italiano where she was treated for complications as a result of her 2011 surgery, reports mirror.co.uk.

Her brother, Ezequiel Luna, gave doctors the approval to remove her from a ventilator at noon on Thursday, according to local news outlets. Silvina's attorney, Fernando Burlando, said the tragic loss was "an ending that aches, hurts".

He hopes her battle will make authorities "wake up, so that society will take note and there will be no more deaths". The actress had the procedure around June or July 2011 and it was carried out by cosmetic



surgeon Anibal Lotocki. Dr Lotocki is being charged with the 2021 death of a patient he operated on in 2010. He injected Silvina with a liquid that contained polymethylmethacrylate, which is banned

by Argentina's National Administration of Drugs, Food and Medical Technology.

Silvina first required medical attention in 2015 when she was treated for kidney stones. Doctors diagnosed her with

renal insufficiency and hypercalcemia, and she was put on weekly dialysis treatments until a kidney transplant was available.

In 2016, she travelled to Miami where she met with Argentinian doctor Critsitan Perez, who removed the dangerous substance from her buttocks. Speaking to C5N television, he explained: "Silvina developed an autoimmune disease caused by the medications as a consequence of her surgeries. All patients develop severe kidney failure and end up dying."

As she was waiting for a new kidney, Silvina's condition deteriorated and she was hospitalised on June 13. She was put under sedation for almost two weeks, until June 29, when she was removed from the ventilator.

On August 19, the hospital issued a statement that Silvina was "breathing on her own, with kinesiological, nutritional and psychological rehabilitation". But in

recent days she contracted a bacteria and was once again intubated on Wednesday, August 30, before being taken off life support the following day.

The Buenos Aires Attorney General's Office has launched a probe into Silvina's death and ordered her corpse to be sent to a city morgue for an autopsy to be carried out. Her death comes just two weeks after TV host and fashion expert Mariano Caprarola died from complications of a 2010 butt lift surgery also performed by Dr Lotocki.

In February 2022, Dr Lotocki was sentenced to four years in prison for a medical malpractice lawsuit brought forward by Silvina and three other women. In July, a court banned him from practising medicine for five years.

However, the surgeon is not behind bars. He remains free while the National Chamber of Criminal Appeals reviews his punishment.

## Esha Gaur says in the creative field, a strong reputation is vital

There was a time when men used to step outside for work, while women managed the household. That concept has now given way to men and women working to make ends meet, and also lead a better life. Singer Esha Gaur talks about the current scenario.

"As everyone works now, valuable skills and a sense of responsibility are developed. It's essential for each person to contribute. I understand that work holds significant importance, and this understanding should be imparted to our children too. It's crucial for them to stand on their own feet and not rely on others. This is especially true for girls. While boys might often express this sentiment implicitly, girls actively participating is incredibly important."

Work and career is very important not just for financial independence, but even for one's identity in society. "It's crucial for your reputation and especially your identity. In the creative field, a strong reputation is particularly vital. Earning a name for yourself is essential. If you can achieve that, it signifies that you've lived a fulfilling life," she adds.



## Singer Rihanna makes a big donation for disabled, homeless veterans

Singer Rihanna recently contacted a foundation to make a 'huge' donation for the disabled and homeless veterans in Los Angeles. "Rihanna called up the organisation's founder who distributed hundreds of hygiene kits, socks, clothes, sleeping bags, food, 50-plus pairs of shoes, toilet paper, dog food, you name it..." a source said.

The Umbrella hitmaker did something similar in 2022 when she spent 'hours' listening to the concerns of the city's homeless community. An insider said at the time, "She was genuinely interested and concerned." Rihanna also made a positive impression on the homeless population. One of them said: "I met Rihanna! The greatest singer on earth. She



donated clothes, food and she cares about the veterans."

Rihanna has been outspoken about various social and political issues throughout her

career, and the chart-topping star previously spoke about her own experiences of growing up in Barbados, admitting that she took some of her privileges "for granted".

She said: "Growing up in Barbados, I did not always love school. It can feel like a grind, especially when you'd rather be singing, playing sports or doing pretty much anything other than homework. I realise now that I often took it for granted that I was even able to go to school. Education can be stolen from you in a second. As we've seen recently on an unprecedented scale, the Caribbean gets hit by natural disasters that wipe out schools, leaving thousands of children stranded. In other parts of the world, conflict, poverty, deeply ingrained sexism, and bad public policy keep more than a quarter of a billion children and teens away from getting an education."



# Corruption, casteism and communalism will have no place in our national life by 2047: PM Modi

Says India's economic growth 'natural by-product' of 9 years of stability

NEW DELHI, Sep 3 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that India's economic growth is a "natural by-product" of his nine-year-old government's political stability, as he expressed optimism that it will be a developed nation by 2047 with "corruption, casteism and communalism" having no place in our national life.

In an exclusive interview with agency late last week, the Prime Minister also stressed on the need for timely and clear communication of policy stance by central banks, and policy actions by each country in their fight against inflation so that it can prevent negative repercussions on others countries.

While most advanced economies are facing an economic slowdown, chronic shortages, high inflation, and ageing populations, the Indian economy is acknowledged to be the fastest-growing large economy with the largest youth population.

"For a long time in world history, India was one of the top economies of the world. Later, due to the impact of colonisation of various kinds, our global footprint was reduced," he said.

"But now, India is again on the rise. The speed with which we jumped five spots, from the 10th largest economy to the fifth largest in less than a decade has conveyed the fact that India means business," he noted.

Adding a fourth 'D' -- development -- to the 3Ds of democracy, demography and diversity, he said the period till 2047 is one of huge opportunity and "Indians who are living in this era have a great chance to lay a foundation for growth that will be remembered for the next thousand years."

India's USD 3.39 trillion GDP overtook that of the UK in the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022, making it the fifth-largest



economy in the world behind the US, China, Japan and Germany.

In the three decades before 2014, Modi said, the country saw many governments that were unstable and therefore, unable to get much done.

"But in the last few years, the people have given a decisive mandate [to BJP], which has led to a stable government, predictable policies and clarity in the overall direction," he said. "This stability is the reason that over the past nine years, several reforms were brought in."

These reforms, related to the economy, education, financial sector, banks, digitalisation, welfare, inclusion and social sector, have laid a strong foundation, and "growth is a natural by-product," he said. The rapid and sustained progress made by India has evoked interest across the world and many countries have been "watching our growth story very closely."

"They are convinced that this progress is not an accident but is happening as a result of a clear, action-oriented roadmap of 'Reform, Perform, Transform'," he said.

"For a long time, India was perceived as a nation of over one billion hungry stomachs. But now, India is being seen as a nation of over one billion

aspirational minds, more than two billion skilled hands, and hundreds of millions of young people," he said.

He noted that India is home to more than 100 unicorns, is the third-largest start-up hub and its space sector's achievements are being celebrated the world over. India is also breaking all previous records in almost every global sports event and more universities are entering the top rankings of the world year after year, he said.

"With such momentum, I am positive that we will be in the top three economies in the near future," he said. "By 2047, I am sure that our country will be among the developed countries."

Modi said that as a developed nation, the Indian economy will be even more inclusive and innovative, poor people will comprehensively win the battle against poverty, and the nation's health, education and social sector outcomes will be among the best in the world.

"Corruption, casteism and communalism will have no place in our national life," he said.

"The quality of life of our people will be on par with the best countries of the world. Most importantly, we will achieve all of this while caring for both nature

and culture," he said.

EY projects India's GDP to cross USD 5 trillion by 2028 to overtake both Japan and Germany. But the US economy is projected to still be nearly six times as large as the Indian economy.

The prime minister said inflation is a key issue that the world faces.

"Our G-20 Presidency engaged the G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors. It was recognised that timely and clear communication of policy stances by Central Banks is crucial. This can ensure that policies taken by each country to combat inflation do not lead to negative repercussions in other countries," he said.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has been targeting proposals to reduce incentives for tax planning and avoidance by limiting tax competition and changing where companies pay taxes. Pillar 1 of the OECD proposal expands a country's authority to tax profits from companies that make sales into their country but don't have a physical location there.

"This convention will allow countries and jurisdictions to move forward with historic, major reform of the international tax system," Modi said. "As you can see, there is substantial progress across many issues. This is also a result of the confidence that other partner countries have shown in India's Presidency."

In a recent report, Morgan Stanley called the nine years of Modi government transformational and listed bringing corporate tax at par with peers, infrastructure investment picking pace, rising collection of GST and the increasing share of digital transactions as a percentage of GDP as major initiatives.

# Amit Shah accuses INDIA bloc parties of insulting 'Sanatana Dharma'

Tamil Nadu Youth Welfare Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin has alleged that 'Sanatana Dharma' is against equality and social justice



DUNGARPUR (RAJASTHAN), Sep 3 (Agencies): Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday lashed out at opposition INDIA coalition parties over DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin's remarks against 'Sanatana Dharma', accusing them of insulting 'Sanatana Dharma' for vote-bank and appeasement politics.

Alleging that 'Sanatana Dharma' is against equality and social justice, Tamil Nadu Youth Welfare Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin has said it

should be eradicated. Shah said DMK leaders, including the son of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, are saying that 'Sanatana Dharma' should be abolished.

"These people have talked about 'Sanatana Dharma' for vote-bank appeasement. They have insulted ('Sanatana Dharma')," BJP leader Shah said at a public rally in Dungarpur on the launch of the Parivartan Yatra in poll-bound Rajasthan.

Dubbing the INDIA alliance "Ghamandiya

gathbandhan", Shah said the alliance can go to any extent for vote-bank politics but "the more they talk against 'Sanatana Dharma', the less they will be visible".

"They say that if Modi wins, 'Sanatana' rule will come. 'Sanatana' is ruling the hearts of the people. Modi has said the country will run on the basis of the Constitution," Shah said, adding that the Prime Minister has worked to secure the nation.

On the Ram temple, he alleged that the Congress blocked the temple for years but after the Supreme Court order, "Modi did bhumi puja and a grand temple is going to be ready in January on the same land where Ram was born".

"The INDIA alliance cannot stop it," he said.

# Idea of 'one nation, one election' attack on Indian Union and all its states: Rahul Gandhi

NEW DELHI, Sep 3 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday alleged that the idea of "one nation, one election" is an attack on the Indian Union and all its states.

In a post on X, Gandhi said, "INDIA, that is Bharat, is a Union of States."

"The idea of 'one nation, one election' is an attack on the Union and all its States," Gandhi said.

Gandhi's attack comes after the government set up a high-level committee headed by former president Ram Nath Kovind on the possibility of holding simultaneous elections.

Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury has already declined to be part of the committee. He has also lamented the exclusion of Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge from the committee.

The government has



included in the committee Ghulam Nabi Azad, the former leader of the opposition, instead of Kharge.

The government on Saturday notified the eight-member committee to examine and make recommendations at the earliest on the issue of holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha, state assemblies, municipalities and panchayats.

The committee will examine and recommend specific amendments to the Constitution, the Representation of the People Act

and any other laws and rules which would require amendments for the purpose of holding simultaneous elections.

It will also examine and recommend, if the amendments to the Constitution would require ratification by the states.

The committee will also analyse and recommend possible solutions to scenarios such as hung House, adoption of no-confidence motion, or defection or any such other event in case of simultaneous elections.

# G-20: Delhi Metro to sell 'Tourist Smart Cards' through dedicated counters from September 4-13

NEW DELHI, Sep 3 (Agencies): Anticipating increased passenger footfall for the G20 Summit, the Delhi Metro will sell 'Tourist Smart Cards' through dedicated counters at 36 stations from September 4-13, officials said.

These cards will be available in two categories—one-day and three-day validity—offering "unlimited rides" in the metro network.

The Tourist Smart Cards are available on regular days too but, in view of the G20 Summit, dedicated counters have been opened to sell these cards for a period of 10 days from Monday, a senior official said.

The G-20 Leaders' Summit is slated to take place in New Delhi from September 9-10.

The dedicated coun-

ters have been provided to "facilitate G-20 delegates and international visitors who might be interested in exploring the prominent tourist places of the capital city as they arrive in Delhi, owing to the upcoming G20 Summit," the official said.

The one-day card will be available for Rs 200 while the three-day card will cost Rs 500.

This amount also includes a refundable security deposit of Rs 50, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) said.

The 36 stations where these cards will be sold through dedicated counters include Kashmere Gate, Chandni Chowk, Chawri Bazar, New Delhi, Rajiv Chowk, Patel Chowk, Central Secretariat, Udyog Bhawan, Lok Kalyan

Marg, Supreme Court, ITO, Hauz Khas, Nehru Place, Kalkaji Mandir, Akshardham and Terminal 1 IGI Airport.

Besides unlimited rides, these cards are of great benefit to tourists as they can seamlessly travel in the entire network from the first train to the last service available for the day, the officials said.

"There are no penalties or surcharge levied on the use of Tourist Smart Cards on account of instances like entry or exit mismatch, overstay in system, overstepping etc," the DMRC said.

Delhi Metro, India's largest metro network, ranked among one of the largest metro systems in the world is well connected to almost all the prominent tourist destinations in the city such as Red Fort, Jama



Masjid, Akshardham Temple, Kalkaji Temple, Qutub Minar, to name a few.

Tourists can seamlessly reach these tourist places by travelling on various corridors of the Delhi Metro by using these cards.

Tourists can also download the 'Delhi Metro Rail' app for more details on the network to plan their journeys.

The app also includes a dedicated section on

the home page under 'Tour Guide' where they can find the list of all stations and tourist places nearby, the officials said.

Tourist Smart Cards are also available at all metro stations (except Airport Express Line) across the network.

Anyone wanting to explore the city can avail of these cards from the stations at any time during the day, they said.

# ISRO's Sun Mission, Aditya-L1, Performs Its 1st Earth-Bound Manoeuvre

BENGALURU, Sep 3 (Agencies): ISRO on Sunday said it has successfully performed the first earth-bound manoeuvre of the country's maiden solar mission, Aditya L1, from ISTRAC in Bengaluru.

The space agency also said the satellite is healthy and operating nominally.

The next manoeuvre is scheduled for September 5, 2023, around 03:00 Hrs. IST.

"Aditya-L1 Mission: The satellite is healthy



and operating nominally. The first Earth-bound manoeuvre (EBN#1) is

performed successfully from ISTRAC, Bengaluru. The new

orbit attained is 245km x 22459 km. The next manoeuvre (EBN#2) is scheduled for September 5, 2023, around 03:00 Hrs. IST," ISRO said in an update on 'X', formerly Twitter.

Aditya L1 was launched on Saturday from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

The mission aims to study the outer atmosphere of the sun by placing India's first solar observatory at the Sun-Earth L1 point. L1 stands for Lagrange

point 1, where the spacecraft would be stationed.

The satellite started generating power after the solar panels were deployed.

According to ISRO, Aditya-L1 will stay approximately 1.5 million km away from Earth, directed towards the Sun, which is about one per cent of the earth-sun distance.

It will neither land on the Sun nor approach the Sun any closer.

# 65-Year-Old Man Beaten To Death In UP's Deoria, 5 Arrested: Police

Prashuram was returning to Nagrauli village when he had an argument with some people from another community with whom he had past enmity.



DEORIA, Sep 3 (Agencies): A 65-year-old man was allegedly beaten to death and his son injured following an argument in the Rudrapur area of Uttar Pradesh's Deoria district, police said on

Sunday. Mr Prashuram was returning to Nagrauli village when he had an argument with some people from another community with whom he had past enmity. Following the argu-

ment, the group allegedly assaulted Prashuram and his 22-year-old son, Circle Officer Jilajeet Singh said.

While Mr Prashuram died, his son Krishan Chandra was seriously injured, he said.

Mr Prashuram's other son Ravi Shankar and daughters Pinki and Rinki were also injured in the attack, the officer added.

The police have arrested five accused in this connection. Police personnel have been deployed in the village as a precautionary measure, Mr Singh said.



## Pope joins shamans, monks and evangelicals to highlight Mongolia's faith diversity, harmony

ULAANBAATAR (MONGOLIA), Sep 3 (Agencies): With China's crackdown on religious minorities as a backdrop, Pope Francis joined Mongolian shamans, Buddhist monks and a Russian Orthodox priest Sunday to highlight the role that religions can play in forging world peace, as he presided over an interfaith meeting highlighting Mongolia's tradition of religious tolerance.

Francis listened intently as a dozen faith leaders, Jewish, Muslim, Bahai, Hindu, Shinto and evangelical Christian among them, described their beliefs and their relationship with heaven. Several said the traditional Mongolian ger, or round-shaped yurt, was a potent symbol of harmony with the divine, a warm place of family unity, open to the heavens, where strangers are welcome.

"The fact that we are meeting together in one place already sends a message: it shows that the religious traditions, for all their distinctiveness and diversity, have impressive potential for the benefit of society as a whole," Francis said in remarks that cited Buddhist writings, his namesake St. Francis of Assisi and the existential philosopher Soren Kierkegaard.

"If the leaders of nations were to choose the path of encounter and dialogue with others, it would be a decisive contribution to ending the conflicts continuing to afflict so many of the world's peoples," he said.

The interfaith event, held at a theatre in the capital, Ulaanbaatar, came midway through Francis' four-day visit to Mongolia, the first by a pope. He is in Mongolia to minister to one of the world's smallest and newest Catholic communities and highlight Mongolia's tradition of tolerance in a region where the Holy See's relations with neighbouring China and Russia are often strained.

According to statistics by the Catholic nonprofit group Aid to the Church in Need, Mongolia



is 53 per cent Buddhist, 39 per cent atheist, 3 per cent Muslim, 3 per cent Shaman and 2 per cent Christian.

Later Sunday, Francis was to preside over a Mass in the capital's sports stadium that the Vatican had said would also be attended by pilgrims from China. One small group of Chinese faithful from Xinjiang attended his meeting at the city's cathedral Saturday. They held up a Chinese flag and chanted "All Chinese love you" as his car drove by.

"We have always been looking forward to it. We really hope that gradually our government and leaders will accept him and invite him to visit our country," said Yan Zhiyong, a Chinese Catholic businessman in Mongolia who attended the event. "That would be the most joyful thing for us."

The Vatican's difficult relations with China and Beijing's crackdown on religious minorities have been a constant backdrop to the trip, even as the Vatican hopes to focus attention instead on Mongolia and its 1,450 Catholics. No mainland Chinese bishops are believed to have been allowed to travel to Mongolia, whereas at least two dozen bishops from other countries across Asia have accompanied pilgrims for the events.

Hong Kong Cardinal-elect Stephen Chow, who made a historic visit to Beijing earlier this year, was on hand and accompanied 40 pilgrims to Mongolia, saying it was an event highlight-

ing the reach of the universal church. He declined to discuss the absence of his mainland Chinese counterparts, focusing instead on Francis and the importance of his visit to Mongolia for the Asian church.

"I think the Asian church is also a growing church. Not as fast as Africa — Africa is growing fast — but the Asian church also has a very important role to play now in the universal church," he told reporters.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has demanded that Catholicism and all other religions adhere strictly to party directives and undergo "Sinicization." In the vast Xinjiang region, that has led to the demolition of an unknown number of mosques, but in most cases it has meant the removal of domes, minarets and exterior crosses from churches.

The Vatican and China did sign an accord in 2018 over the thorny issue of Catholic bishop nominations, but Beijing has violated it.

Most Mongolians follow the dominant Gelugpa school of Tibetan Buddhism and revere its leader, the Dalai Lama. As a result, many Mongolians are concerned with the Chinese Communist Party's opposition to the exiled Tibetan leader and its heavy-handed control over monastic life and what appears to be a concerted effort to gradually eliminate Tibetan culture.

Yet, given the need to maintain stable relations with Beijing, China is Mongolia's top export partner, the country's

leaders have not spoken out on the matter, just as they have remained largely silent about repressive linguistic and cultural policies toward their ethnic brethren in China's Inner Mongolia region.

Francis also has largely avoided antagonizing Beijing, most significantly by avoiding any criticism of Beijing's religious crackdown or by meeting with the Dalai Lama.

While the Dalai Lama wasn't on hand Sunday, he was mentioned by the head of Mongolia's main Tibetan Buddhist monastery, Khamba Nomun Khan Gabju Chojijams Demberel.

The abbot noted that "His Holiness," as the Dalai Lama is known, had recently recognized the 10th reincarnation of the head lama of Mongolian Buddhists known as the Jebtsundamba Khutughtu.

"This is an extraordinary fortune for us," said the abbot, adding that the young lama was currently engaged in his studies of religion and other subjects.

The Dalai Lama's recognition of the new lama has posed a problem, given that China has required all reincarnated lamas to be born within China and be officially certified by Beijing. The newly recognized Mongolian lama meets neither criterion.

In addition to China, Russia's war in Ukraine also loomed large in the background of Sunday's encounter.

The rector of the only Russian Orthodox Church in Ulaanbaatar, Father Antony Gusev, told the gathering the history of the church in Mongolia, recalling that the current head of the Russian church, Patriarch Kirill, laid the foundation stone for the building in 2001.

Kirill has strongly backed Russia's war in Ukraine, straining relations with the Holy See that had made a breakthrough only a few years ago when Francis and Kirill met in Havana in the first-ever meeting between a pope and Russian patriarch.

## Taiwan suspends work, transport and classes as island braces for arrival of Typhoon Haikui



TAIPEI, Sep 3 (Agencies): Taiwan suspended flights, rail transport and ferry services along with classes, and outdoor events, and officials urged workers to stay home as the island prepared for the arrival of Typhoon Haikui later Sunday.

The storm's approach came as Typhoon Saola continued to weaken while moving along the Chinese coast, where 900,000 people and 80,000 fishing vessels had been moved to safety and most of Hong Kong and parts of the coastal mainland closed down businesses, transport and schools.

Damage appeared to be minimal, however, and restrictions had largely been lifted by Sunday.

Parts of Taiwan were already feeling the effects of Haikui's heavy rain and high winds, and dozens of domestic flights were cancelled, along with air services to Hong Kong and Macao. The storm had maximum sustained winds of 137 kph (85 mph), with gusts up to 173 kph (107 mph), according to the island's meteorological bureau.

Among the events cancelled were a hot

air balloon festival in the central Taichung region, several outdoor concerts, art events and a baseball festival. National parks and treacherous roads in the island's mountainous centre were also closed.

Haikui was expected to continue on toward China after crossing over Taiwan, and authorities in the Chinese city of Shantou in Guangdong province were advising residents to take precautions.

Because of Saola, workers in a number of Chinese cities stayed at home and students saw the start of their school year postponed from Friday to Monday. Trading on Hong Kong's stock market was suspended Friday and hundreds of people were stranded at the airport after about 460 flights were cancelled in the key regional business and travel hub.

The cross-border bridge connecting Hong Kong, the gambling hub of Macao and the manufacturing centre of Zhuhai were closed at one point, with Macao leader Ho Iat Seng ordering a halt to casino operations.

As the storm side-swiped the densely

populated financial centre, the Hong Kong Observatory issued a No. 10 hurricane alert, the highest warning under the city's weather system for the first time since 2018.

However, by Saturday night, the observatory had cancelled all warnings and the hundreds who had taken shelter at prepared facilities were returning home.

In recent months, China has experienced some of its heaviest rains and deadliest flooding in years in various regions. Dozens of people have been killed, including in outlying mountainous parts of the capital, Beijing.

Hong Kong's government said various departments received reports of a total of 1,206 uprooted trees and flooding was reported in 18 areas. It said 75 people visited hospitals with storm-related injuries.

Despite the twin storms, China's military continued to conduct operations meant to intimidate Taiwan, a self-ruled democracy that Beijing seeks to bring under Chinese sovereignty by force if necessary.

Taiwan's Defense Ministry said it was monitoring the movements of Chinese military aircraft and navy ships near the island. However, it said there were no indications any had crossed the median line in the Taiwan Strait or entered Taiwan's air defence identification zone as they frequently do.

## 'Your nation has your back': Biden to Hurricane Idalia victims in Florida

LIVE OAK, Sep 3 (Agencies): US President Joe Biden saw from the sky Hurricane Idalia's impact across a swath of Florida before he set out on a walking tour of a city recovering from the storm. Notably absent was Governor Ron DeSantis, a Republican presidential candidate who declined to join Biden after he suggested that the Democrat's presence could hinder disaster response efforts.

Biden, when asked about his rival's absence, said he was not disappointed by the turn of events, but welcomed the presence of Rick Scott, one of the state's two Republican US senators.

He pledged the federal government's total support for Floridians.

"I'm here today to deliver a clear message to the people of Florida and throughout the Southeast," Biden said after the walking tour. He spoke outdoors near a church that had parts of its sheet metal roof peeled back by Idalia's powerful winds and a home half crushed by a fallen tree.

"As I've told your governor, if there's anything your state needs, I'm ready to mobilize that support," he continued. "Anything they need related to these storms. Your nation has your back and we'll be with you until the job is done."

Earlier, the mayor of Live Oak, which is about 80 miles east of Tallahassee, the state capital, thanked Biden and first lady Jill Biden for coming and "showing us that we're important to you."

"Everybody thinks Florida is rich, but this is not one of the richest counties in the state and there are people who are suffering," said Frank Davis, adding he knew of no loss of life or serious injury.

At Suwannee Pineview Elementary School, where the Bidens were briefed on the storm damage, local officials offered praise for early disaster declarations by the White House and the quick flow of federal aid. "What the federal government is doing ... is a big deal," Scott said.

Helping Floridians and their communities get back on their feet was the emphasis at the briefing on response and recovery efforts, with DeSantis' conspicuous absence seemingly not a concern for residents and officials.



Deanne Criswell, the head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, told reporters as the president flew from Washington that her team and the governor's team had "worked collectively" to determine that Biden would visit Live Oak. She said her teams "have heard no concerns over any impact to the communities that we're going to visit today."

On Friday, hours after Biden said he would be meeting with DeSantis, the governor's office issued a statement saying there were no plans for that. "In these rural communities, and so soon after impact, the security preparations alone that would go into setting up such a meeting would shut down ongoing recovery efforts," DeSantis spokesman Jeremy Redfern said in a statement.

DeSantis' office said his public schedule Saturday included stops in Keaton Beach, about 60 miles southwest of Live Oak, and Horseshoe Beach, about 75 miles away, with the last event beginning at 1.45 pm.

Criswell said aboard the flight that power is being restored and the roads are all open in the area where Biden was going. "Access is not being hindered," she said, adding that her team had been in "close coordination" with the governor's staff.

Idalia made landfall Wednesday morning along Florida's sparsely populated Big Bend region as a Category 3 storm, causing widespread flooding and

damage before moving north to drench Georgia and the Carolinas.

As Biden left Washington on Saturday morning, reporters asked what happened with the meeting. "I don't know. He's not going to be there," the president said of DeSantis.

The political disconnect between both sides is a break from the recent past, since Biden and DeSantis met when the president toured Florida after Hurricane Ian hit the state last year, and following the Surfside condo collapse in Miami Beach in summer 2021. But DeSantis is now running to unseat Biden, and he only left the Republican presidential primary trail with Idalia barreling toward his state.

Putting aside political rivalries following natural disasters can be tricky, meanwhile.

Another 2024 presidential candidate, former Republican New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, has long been widely criticized in GOP circles for embracing then-President Barack Obama during a tour of damage 2012's Hurricane Sandy did to his state. Christie was even asked about the incident last month, during the first Republican presidential debate.

Both Biden and DeSantis at first suggested that helping storm victims would outweigh partisan differences. But the governor began suggesting that a presidential trip would complicate response logistics as the week wore on.

"There's a time and a place to have

political season," the governor said before Idalia made landfall. "But then there's a time and a place to say that this is something that's life threatening, this is something that could potentially cost somebody their life, it could cost them their livelihood."

By Friday, the governor was telling reporters of Biden, "one thing I did mention to him on the phone" was "it would be very disruptive to have the whole security apparatus that goes" with the president "because there are only so many ways to get into" many of the hardest hit areas.

"What we want to do is make sure that the power restoration continues and the relief efforts continue and we don't have any interruption in that," DeSantis said.

The post-Idalia political consequences are high for both men.

As Biden seeks reelection, the White House has asked for an additional \$4 billion to address natural disasters as part of a supplemental funding request to Congress. That would bring the total to \$16 billion and highlight that intensifying extreme weather is imposing ever higher costs on US taxpayers.

DeSantis has built his White House bid around dismantling what he calls Democrats' "woke" policies. The governor also frequently draws applause at GOP rallies by declaring that it's time to send "Joe Biden back to his basement," a reference to the Democrat's Delaware home, where he spent much of his time during the early lockdowns of the coronavirus pandemic.

But four months before the first ballots are to be cast in Iowa's caucuses, DeSantis still lags far behind former President Donald Trump, the Republican primary's dominant early front-runner. And he has cycled through repeated campaign leadership shakeups and reboots of his image in an attempt to refocus his message.

The super PAC supporting DeSantis' candidacy also has halted its door-knocking operations in Nevada, which votes third on the Republican presidential primary calendar, and several states holding Super Tuesday primaries in March — a further sign of trouble.

## Iran sentences two women journalists to jail time



TEHRAN, Sep 3 (Agencies): Two female Iranian journalists will spend around a month behind bars as part of a three-year partly suspended prison sentence for "conspiracy and collusion", local media reported on Sunday.

Under the sentence, Negin Bagheri and Elnaz Mohammadi will serve one-fortieth of the term, or less than a month, in prison, their lawyer Amir Raisian told the reformist Ham Mihan daily newspaper, where Mohammadi works.

"The remaining period is suspended over five years," during which time they will be required to take "professional ethics training" and "prohibited from leaving the country," the lawyer added.

Raisian did not elaborate on whether the verdict could be appealed, and the report did not detail the allegations against the reporters.

Mohammadi's sister, Elahe, who also works for Ham Mihan, has since September 2022 been in prison after reporting on the funeral of Mahsa Amini, 22, who died in police custody.

The death on September 16, 2022, of Amini, an Iranian Kurd, came after her arrest for an alleged breach of the Islamic Republic's dress code, triggering months-long nationwide protests.

Foreign-based rights groups have reported multiple arrests ahead of the anniversary of Amini's death.

Bagheri works for the unaffiliated Haft-e Sobh newspaper. Elnaz Mohammadi was arrested and kept in Evin prison for a week in February. The reason for her detention was not clear.

Last year's demonstrations saw hundreds of people killed, including dozens of security personnel, and thousands arrested in connection with what officials labelled as foreign-instigated "riots".

Seven men have been executed in protest-related cases involving killings and other violence against security forces.

Local media reported last month that authorities in Iran have questioned or arrested more than 90 journalists since the protests.

An Iranian news agency reported that journalist Nazila Maroufian, who defied Iran's strict dress code and was freed on bail earlier in August, has been rearrested for not wearing the headscarf in public.



## Govt miserably failed to provide basic amenities: Rajni Bala

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 3: The lack of basic amenities under the present dispensation resulting in the deprivation of fundamental rights of people of Jammu region.

This was stated by Rajni Bala, Corporator of Ward No 60 after starting the renovation and improvement work of the bathroom at Paloura Talab Ward No 60 for Mohallah Paroch, Moh Panchayat Ghar, Mohallah Sandh, and other areas near Paloura Talab of Ward No 38. The event was attended by prominent individuals, including Dr Chander Mohan Sharma (Vice President DCC), Tarun Vaid (General Secretary DCC), Somnath Sharma, Kanta Devi, Balbir Singh Chib, Ramash Singh, and others.

Expressing her concerns, Rajni Bala highlighted the acute shortage of regular drinking water and electricity faced by the people. She emphasized that the people are subjected to discrimination due to the government's failure to address their basic needs.

Rajni Bala further stressed the belief that



only the Congress party can fulfill the wishes and aspirations of the people. She called upon the people to strengthen the hands of the Congress Party for the equitable development of the Jammu region.

Later, Corporator Rajni Bala also visited Upper

Paloura, accompanied by PHE staff, to assess the leakage points from the water supply pipes. She directed the officials to promptly fix the leakages and ensure the provision of pure drinking water to the residents of the area. Shahbaj Ahmad,

Parveen Akhtar, and local individuals also accompanied the Corporator during this visit. Rajni Bala believed that through the collective efforts of the Congress Party and the support of the community, Jammu's development can be achieved.

## Asha Kesar's 'Bhaakh' 'Dhakki Ballein Ballein Chadeyan' released

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 3: An impressive function took place at the Writers Club, under the aegis of the Art, Culture, and Languages Department in Jammu, where the famous 'Bhaakh' sung by the renowned folk singer Smt. Asha Kesar was officially released. The event was graced by Sh. Gulchain Singh Charak, Former Minister and President of Dogra Sadar Sabha Jammu & Kashmir, who served as the Chief Guest. Smt. Asha Kesar herself was present during the release, alongside numerous prominent personalities from Duggar Pradesh, includ-



ing Padamshri. Jitendra Udhampuri, Padamshri. Mohan Singh, Padamshri. Balwant Thakur, Er. Ashok Singh, President of Delphic Council, Zorawar Singh, Vijay Verma, J.R Jackson, Randhir Singh Raipuria, Seema Anil Sehgal, Bishan Das, and Dr. Sushma Rajput.

During the event, the poster and audio of "Dhakki Ballein Ballein Chadeyan" were also released by Smt. Asha Kesar. Sh. Devinder Singh, responsible for preparing the audio/video, was honored for his contribution to the project. The speakers at the event commended

Smt. Asha Kesar, affectionately known as the queen of Dogri folk, for her remarkable contributions to the field of music and culture.

Dr. Sushma Rajput extended a heartfelt vote of thanks to the audience for their active participation in making the event a success.

## Sadguru Madhu Paramhans Maharaj delivers spiritual discourse

### TOP NEWS REPORT

AKHNOOR, Sep 3: Sadguru of Sahib Bandgi, Madhu Paramhans Ji Maharaj, graced the gathering with his enlightening discourse on Sungal Road, Akhnoor, captivating the Sangat with the nectar-like wisdom he imparted.

In his discourse, Sadguru Madhu Paramhans Ji Maharaj emphasized the significance of worship and the search for

the ultimate truth. He acknowledged the reverence for various elements like water, fire, air, and earth, recognizing their importance in human life. He noted that researchers and scientists also delve into understanding the origins of these elements, seeking the one power that created everything.

Sadguru Madhu Paramhans Ji Maharaj resonated with the teachings of Guru



Nanak Dev, advocating the worship of the supreme power rather than beings that are

born and perish. He commended the efforts of scientists who strive to uncover the mys-

teries of creation and pondered the profound questions about the creator of the universe.

He further delved into the diversions of human devotion, distinguishing between saguna (with form) and nirguna (without form) worship. Madhu Paramhans Ji Maharaj contemplated how saints perceive this ultimate power and the inner world. He expounded on the soul's role in governing human

life and the significance of inner strength.

The discourse touched upon the concept of Surti Yoga, where one can traverse great distances with the power of surti (consciousness). The understanding of the power of the soul and its connection to the physical body was highlighted. Madhu Paramhans Ji Maharaj emphasized that while scientific advancements are commendable in

the physical realm, they may never unveil the mysteries of the soul.

He reiterated that physical life is exclusive to Earth and cannot be replicated elsewhere. Madhu Paramhans Ji Maharaj elucidated Sahib's establishment of Surti Yoga, allowing individuals to see beyond physical boundaries and experience the vastness of the universe through their consciousness.

## FROM PAGE 1

### Major tragedy averted with timely detection of IED in Rajouri

immediately suspended and a bomb disposal squad was summoned which later destroyed the explosive substance in a controlled mechanism without causing any damage.

Police have registered a case and further investigation is on to identify and arrest the suspected terrorists who planted the IED on the highway with the intention to trigger an explosion, the officials added.

### Timing of 'One Nation, One Election' panel highly suspect: Cong continues attack on Centre

pragmatically non-feasible and logistically unimplementable idea on the nation, months before the general elections, raises serious concerns about ulterior motives of the government," he said.

The Congress leader also lamented the exclusion of current Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge from the committee. "This is a deliberate insult to the system of Parliamentary democracy.

"In these circumstances, I have no option but to decline your invitation," said Chowdhury, who is also the chairman of the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament. The Centre on Saturday notified the eight-member committee to examine and make recommendations at the earliest on the issue of holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha, state assemblies, municipalities and panchayats.

The committee, which will be headed by former president Ram Nath Kovind, will have Home Minister Shah, Chowdhury, former leader of the opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad and former finance commission chairman N K Singh as members, according to an official notification.

### Leopard mauls four-year-old girl to death in Udhampur

massive search operation to catch the wild leopard and soon we will capture it. We have prepared the file of compensation for the victim's family. Proper compensation should be given to them as soon as possible," he said.

### Kashmir pandit group questions credentials of petitioner NC Leader Mohd Akbar Lone in SC

challenged the abrogation of the provision which bestowed special status on the erstwhile state.

"Both the referred mainstream parties in J-K have openly supported Article 370 and have vehemently opposed any exercise that merely applies the entire constitution to all the people of J&K," it said.

The group said that Lone, representing the National Conference party, has often openly made pro-Pakistan statements and probably that explains his opposition to challenge any move that brings the people of J-J-K on par with the rest of the country.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal is appearing for Lone in the matter.

The hearing would resume on September 4 and the top court has asked the respondents, who are defending the Centre's August 5, 2019, decision to abrogate Article 370, to conclude their arguments on Monday, itself.

Several petitions challenging the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which split the erstwhile state into two Union territories – Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh – were referred to a Constitution bench in 2019.

### Delhi minor slits tutor's throat over repeated sexual abuse, held

following which he allegedly sexually assaulted him several times, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South East) Rajesh Deo said.

The tutor even recorded a private video of his student and threatened to release it on social media if he did not listen to his demands, the DCP said.

On the day of the incident, after receiving a call from his tutor to meet him at his Jamia Nagar house, the juvenile allegedly reached the apartment with a sharp paper cutter and slit the man's throat before fleeing the spot.

The accused has been apprehended and the mobile phone of the deceased, clothes and shoes worn by the juvenile at the time of the incident have been recovered from him, the police added.

### Old Act notification remains legally sound after re-organisation Act: HC

agrieved landowners who sought compensation for their land acquisition for the construction of the Semi Ring Road under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act (RFCTLARR Act), which was extended to J&K UT through the J&K Re-Organisation Act 2019.

The authorities had refused to grant compensation under the RFCTLARR Act, asserting that the land acquisition notifica-

tion had been issued under the old Land Acquisition Act before the J&K Re-Organization Act came into effect, making it inapplicable for compensation awards.

However, the landowners argued that the notification did not encompass their land and that their land was acquired through a fresh notification under Section 4(1) of the 1990 Act on 17.03.2022. They maintained that this could not be applied to their case, as the J&K Re-Organization Act was already in force at that time, entitling them to compensation under the Central Act (RFCTLARR Act).

On the other hand, the Government counsel informed the court that the land acquisition process had commenced in 2016, and the second notification was a continuation of the ongoing process, thus rendering the provisions of the RFCTLARR Act inapplicable to the current case.

It was argued that the process for acquiring land for the Semi Ring Road around Srinagar City had been initiated on 20.08.2016. The notification under Section 4(1) of the J&K Land Acquisition Act, 1990, was issued on 28.03.2019, and the disputed subsequent notification on 17.03.2022 was issued as a corrigendum to the earlier notification from 28.03.2019. Consequently, the question of compensation under the Central Act did not arise.

The Government counsel contended that compensation had been provided to all affected landowners from 45 villages, except for the appellants, who were challenging the proceedings and awards, obstructing the project's progress, and refusing to surrender their land.

The Division Bench clarified that the second notification from March 17, 2022 was issued as a correction to the earlier notification of March 28, 2019 under Section 4(1) of the J&K Land Acquisition Act, Svt. 1990. They emphasised that this correction did not constitute the initiation of a new land acquisition process. The Bench stated, "We would understand that it was issued by way of a correction of an existing notification by adding or deleting the names of some landowners to the original list."

The court also affirmed that necessary adjustments were made, and a new notification from March 17, 2022 was issued to reflect changes in land allocation based on road alignment and surveys. This new notification did not negate the earlier one but merely incorporated modifications and additions to include lands not covered in the original notification from March 28, 2019.

"It may also be noted that even if the land of the appellants came to be included for the first time, it was clubbed with the land of others which were already included in the earlier notification. The fresh notification is not a stand-alone notification only in respect of the land of the appellants. Thus, the impugned Notification dated 17.03.2022 cannot amount to initiating a fresh land acquisition proceeding," the Division Bench added.

The court also addressed the legal implications of the 17.03.2022 Notification in light of the Jammu and Kashmir Re-organization Act, 2019, which led to the repeal of the Jammu and Kashmir Land Acquisition Act, Svt. 1990, and the enactment of the Central RFCTLARR Act. The Bench explained, "In this regard, it may be observed that Sub-clause (1) of Section 114 of the RFCTLARR Act, 2013, which deals with the saving clause of the Act provides that the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, is repealed and it has been further provided in sub-clause (2) of Section 114 of the RFCTLARR Act that save as otherwise provided in this Act, the repeal under subsection (1) shall not be held to prejudice or affect the general application of Section 6 of the General Clauses Act, 1897, with regard to the effect of repeals."

The court clarified that ongoing investigations and legal proceedings would continue as if the repealing Act (J&K Re-Organisation Act) had never been passed. "Thus, even if the RFCTLARR Act came into operation repealing the Jammu & Kashmir Land Acquisition Act, by virtue of Section 6 of the General Clauses Act, 1897, the proceedings already initiated under the Jammu and Kashmir Land Acquisition Act, 1990, would continue," as per the judgment.

The court rejected the Senior Counsel's argument on behalf of the appellants, asserting that after the enforcement of the Jammu and Kashmir Re-organization Act, 2019, the land acquisition proceedings should proceed under the RFCTLARR Act. Therefore, the court declined to intervene in the challenged second notification from 17.03.2022 and the subsequent award made under the Jammu & Kashmir Land Acquisition Act, 1990, maintaining the continuity of the land acquisition process.

### Congress to hold Yatras at district level to mark first anniversary of Bharat Jodo Yatra: Sources

from the yatra, Ramesh had said the party succeeded in conveying the messages of the march — the threats to the republic from economic inequalities, social polarisation and political dictatorship.

With over 4,000 kilometres under his belt, Gandhi had managed to catch the attention of his supporters as well as detractors and the march saw participation from a cross-section of society, including film and TV celebrities such as Kamal Haasan, Pooja Bhatt, Riya Sen, Sushant Singh, Swara Bhasker, Rashami Desai, Akanksha Puri and Amol Palekar.

Besides participation from tinsel town celebrities, writers, military veterans, including former Army chief Gen (Retd) Deepak Kapoor, ex-Navy chief Admiral (Retd) L Ramdas, and noted people such as former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan

and ex-finance secretary Arvind Mayaram had also participated in the yatra.

### 17 days after 2 brothers jumped into Beas in Jalandhar, Kapurthala police finally lodge FIR against Punjab Police SHO Navdeep Singh

postmortem to the Sultanpur Lodhi Civil Hospital.

While SHO Navdeep Singh had been transferred to police lines from the Jalandhar police station in August-end, the Dhillon family had been demanding the registration of an FIR against him as well as his dismissal ever since the brothers jumped into the Beas.

Jashanbir had placed his turban on the Goindwal bridge before jumping into the river that was in spate. His elder brother Manavjit had jumped after him in a bid to rescue him.

Jashanbir had been upset after Manavjit was allegedly harassed, humiliated and asked to remove his turban at the police station number 1 by Navdeep Singh, among others.

A candlelight march was also taken out in Jalandhar on Saturday to seek justice for the brothers.

Jashanbir's body was identified by his 70-year-old father Jatinder Pal Singh Dhillon.

The body of the elder brother Manavjit Singh Dhillon is yet to be found.

Kapurthala SSP Rajpal Singh Sandhu said, "An FIR has been lodged for abetment to suicide against SHO Navdeep Singh and other two staff members. I have also called for forming of a board for the autopsy of Jashanbir Singh Dhillon."

### CRPF Jawan shoots himself dead in Ramban

they said. They said the body of the deceased was shifted to sub-district hospital Banihal for postmortem and other legal formalities.

The motive behind his taking such an extreme step was not known immediately, the officials said. Meanwhile, a police personnel was injured when his service rifle went off accidentally during an operation in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir late Saturday evening.

"During a routine operation task in Gundha Khawas area, a service weapon of a police personnel went off accidentally due to which the personnel received injury in his foot," a police official said. On hearing the gunshot, some village defence guards fired some aerial rounds, he said, adding the injured jawan has been evacuated to hospital.



## Canada pauses negotiations on trade agreement with India: Official

The development assumes significance as Canadian PM Trudeau will be in New Delhi next week to attend G-20 Summit

NEW DELHI, Sep 3 (Agencies): In an unexpected move, Canada has paused negotiations for a free trade agreement with India and now both countries will mutually decide on resuming the talks in the future, an official said.

"The Canadian side conveyed that they were taking a pause in India-Canada negotiations on the Early Progress Trade Agreement. This will enable us both to take stock of progress and next steps. We will decide by mutual agreement when negotiations will resume," the official told agency.

However, the official did not provide more details about the issue. The development assumes significance as Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will be here next week to attend the G-20 Summit on September 9-10.

Over half a dozen rounds of talks have been held between the countries on the trade pact so far.

In March last year, the two countries re-launched negotiations for an interim agreement, officially dubbed as Early Pro-



gress Trade Agreement (EPTA).

In such agreements, two countries significantly reduce or eliminate customs duties on the maximum number of goods traded between them. They also liberalise norms for promoting trade in services and attract investments.

Indian industry was looking at duty-free access for products like textiles and leather besides easy visa norms for the movement of professionals. Canada has interests in areas like dairy and agricultural products.

The bilateral trade between the countries has increased to USD 8.16 billion in 2022-23 from USD 7 billion in 2021-22.

Think tank Global Research Initiative (GTRI) Co-Founder Ajay Srivastava said that halting of India-Canada free trade agreement negotiations does not harm Indian trade interests as more than half of Indian products already enter Canada duty-free and would not have benefitted from this pact.

Indian services sector firms in hospital or education sectors

are not globalised enough to establish physical business in Canada, he said.

"Stopping the FTA may harm Canadian exports, which would have benefitted from the crumbling of the high tariff wall in India.

"The on-again, off-again FTA negotiations began in 2010, stopped in 2017, restarted in 2021, and have halted again. This is likely due to Canada's reluctance to meet India's service-related requests, especially concerning the movement of professionals (Mode IV)," Srivastava said, adding Canada may have found India's goods offer lacking, with significant exclusions.

Global trade dynamics are shifting rapidly, with major players like the US and European Union (EU) imposing stricter regulations on imports, especially in climate and technology.

"It's advisable for countries to focus on building domestic resilience and delay further trade openings until there's a clear and favourable economic justification," he said.

## Uday Kotak steps down as MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank



NEW DELHI, Sep 3 (Agencies): Uday Kotak, a doyen of the private banking industry, quit as CEO and MD of Kotak Mahindra Bank and, in a hand-written three-page letter to company Chairman Prakash Apte, named the Joint Managing Director Dipak Gupta as his successor till a regular replacement is appointed on January 1, 2024.

The 64-year-old Kotak's resignation took the financial world by surprise and initially, speculation mounted whether it was a hostile takeover or tax troubles with the government hastened his decision to quit. Kotak, along with Apte and Gupta, is due to retire at the year-end.

As Kotak explained in his letter to Apte, over the next few months he would be significantly occupied with personal and family commitments. As his elder son's marriage functions are being planned around the closing months of his tenure, he thought it prudent to pass on the baton now that the formalities relating to the previous fiscal year such as the AGM have been completed.

He will remain a non-executive director for the next five years, while three insiders, including Gupta, are running for his post.

A man who founded Kotak Mahindra Finance with just three employees 38 years back in

a 300 sq feet office in Mumbai and turned it into an institution with market cap of Rs 3.66 lakh-crore, Kotak said an investment of Rs 10,000 when he started out in 1985 would be worth around Rs 300 cr today.

To a wider audience, he explained on "X", formerly Twitter, "Succession at Kotak Mahindra Bank has been foremost on my mind, since our Chairman, myself and Joint MD are all required to step down by year end. I am keen to ensure a smooth transition by sequencing these departures. I initiate this process now and step down voluntarily as CEO."

Kotak was also nostalgic in his resignation letter to Apte. "I stand in a lonely place of being the founder, promoter and largest shareholder. The Bank also carries our family name and carries that as its brand. The institution we have built stands for purpose, trust and integrity. I am committed as a shareholder to see this institution grow," he wrote.

## Red blood cells exposed to oxygen deficiency protect against heart attack

LONDON, Sep 3 (Agencies): Red blood cells exposed to oxygen deficiency protect against myocardial infarction (heart attack), according to a new study, adding that the protective effect is enhanced by a nitrate-rich vegetable diet.

Red blood cells carry oxygen from the lungs to all of the body's cells and carbon dioxide back to the lungs.

A new study, conducted at Karolinska Institutet in Sweden in collaboration with Karolinska University Hospital, now shows that red blood cells have an intrinsic function of protecting against heart injury caused by myocardial infarction.

The effect is enhanced by a diet containing nitrate-rich vegetables, such as arugula and other green leafy vegetables.

"This effect was also shown in a clinical study in patients with high blood pressure who were randomly assigned to eat nitrate-rich vegetables or a diet low in nitrates," said John Pernow, professor of cardiology at the department of medicine, Karolinska Institutet.

Part of the study was conducted through experiments with red blood cells from mice that were added to a myocardial infarction model with hearts from mice.

Before the experiment, the red blood



cells were exposed to low oxygen pressure, while nitrate was added to the drinking water.

In a clinical study published in the Journal of Clinical Investigation, red blood cells were collected from patients with high blood pressure who were randomly assigned a nitrate-rich diet with green leafy vegetables or a diet with nitrate-poor vegetables.

These red blood cells were given to the corresponding myocardial infarction model with hearts from rats.

"The results show both that the red blood cells convey protection against injury in the heart in the event of low oxygen levels, and how that protection can be enhanced through simple dietary advice. This may be of great importance for patients at risk of myocardial infarction," said Jiangning Yang, a researcher at Karolinska Institutet.

## Antibodies found to be more potent during recovery than during acute chikungunya infection, Lancet study finds

NEW DELHI, Sep 3 (Agencies): Potency of antibodies generated against chikungunya infection was higher during patients' recovery phase than that during their acute infection phase, according to a new study published in The Lancet Regional Health-Southeast Asia journal.

The findings are crucial in understanding disease dynamics at a given point in time, the study from Indian institutes, including AIIMS-Bhubaneswar, Manipal Institute of Virology, Karnataka, and International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), New Delhi, said.

Even though the antibodies were produced as a result of the viral infection, serological analysis indicated that the neutralising capacity of blood serum antibodies of chikungunya patients during their recovery phase was higher than that during acute infection, it said.

Chikungunya disease (CHIKD), a mosquito-borne viral disease caused by the chikungunya virus, is charac-



terised by fever and joint pain and is a global public health threat. Patients may also go on to develop headache, muscle pain, joint swelling, or rash.

The present study was conducted as part of two consortia involving thirteen clinical sites across India, that included healthcare centres in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Tripura, Assam and other states.

The researchers collected 196 acute chikungunya patients and 51 paired serum samples (acute and one-month follow-up) from lab-confirmed infections between 2016 and 2021. "Acute samples" were those collected in the first two weeks

following symptom onset and "convalescent samples" were those collected a month after.

Other clinical-epidemiological data such as age, gender, temperature, Clinical Disease Activity Index (CDAI) score for assessing disease severity and progression, along with symptoms, co-morbidities, complete blood count and travel history were also collected via questionnaires.

The serum samples were profiled for cytokines, proteins involved in regulating the body's immune and inflammation response, and neutralisation capacity.

The neutralising capacity of

the blood serum antibodies was significantly higher in convalescent samples compared to acute samples, the researchers found.

The frequently observed clinical features during the first two weeks of the infection included joint pain (91.84 per cent), muscle pain (90.82 per cent), headache (92.35 per cent) and morning stiffness (56.47 per cent), the researchers said in the study.

Other less frequently observed symptoms recorded were eye infections and pain, nausea, abdominal pain rashes, cough, photophobia or fear of light, diarrhoea, vomiting, oedema, they said.

Further, 74 per cent of patients exhibiting severe disease at the time of collection of first sample converted to persistent arthralgia, or joint pain, the researchers found by interviewing these patients.

However, in the remaining patients the symptoms appeared to be resolved, they said.

## Study finds these 6 foods essential to reduce heart diseases

NEW DELHI, Sep 3 (Agencies): Cardiovascular disease is one of the leading causes of death in India. While many studies indicate a strong link between diet and heart problems, a new research suggests six main food groups, when added to your diet daily, and lower risk of cardiovascular disease.

The study, published in the European Heart Journal, combined the results of six different studies: one epidemiological cohort study, three prospective studies, one randomised control trial, and two standardised case-control studies.

The results were collected from data spanning 20 years of over 2,40,000 participants from 80 countries. Researchers received information on their diet habits with food frequency questionnaires (FFQs) and created a healthy diet score through meta-analysis.

The findings suggested that a diet comprised of higher amounts of fruit, vegetables, nuts, legumes, fish, and whole-fat dairy foods is associated with a lower risk of cardiovascular disease and mortality in all world regions.

As per the results of the study:



ings daily

Vegetables: Two to three one-cup servings daily

Legumes: Three to four half-cup servings weekly

Nuts: Seven one-28 gram servings weekly

Fish: Two to three three-85 grams servings weekly

Dairy: 14 servings weekly of either one cup of milk or yoghurt or 42.5 grams of cheese

Fruits

Fruits, when added to your diet, boost immunity, improve the gut and digestive health and provide fibre to reduce cholesterol in the small intestine.

Vegetables

Vegetables contain major electrolytes like phosphorus, sodium, magnesium, potassium, calcium, and chloride that help to maintain healthy heart rhythms. Micronu-

trients in veggies are linked to improvement in specific conditions that contribute to heart disease and reduced blood pressure.

Legumes

Legumes are the perfect source of protein for vegetarians. They help build and maintain healthy tissues, including muscles, organs, and blood cells.

Fish

Fish and seafood are great sources of lean protein, vitamins, minerals, and heart-healthy fats. Fatty fish like salmon, tuna, mackerel, sardines, and anchovies (among others) are especially great sources of omega-3 fatty acids, which maintain normal heart rhythms, and support the elasticity of blood vessels.

Nuts

Nuts as well as seeds have heart-friendly unsaturated fats that improve cholesterol levels. They reduce inflammation that could cause various heart diseases.

Dairy

This study found full-fat dairy to be linked with better heart health when consumed in moderation. Fermented full-fat dairy products, like kefir, yoghurt, certain cottage cheeses, and farmer's cheese, are even better for the heart.

## Breast milk compounds found to enhance children's cognition in long-term

NEW DELHI, Sep 3 (Agencies): Children's cognition enhanced when fed with infant formula, externally mixed with compounds known to be present exclusively in milk produced by lactating women, researchers have found.

The study added to the growing scientific support for the importance of ingredients found in breast milk in early human development, the researchers from the University of Kansas, US, said.

These compounds, milk fat globule membrane (MFGM) and lactoferrin, were added to infants formula and fed to children for 12 months.

The children's IQ raised by 5 points at 5 and a half years of age, the researchers said in their study published in the Journal of Pediatrics.

The effects were most



evident in tests of children's speed of processing information and visual-spatial skills, they said.

Significant differences were also seen in children's performance on tests of executive function, which are complex skills involving rule learning and inhibition, they said.

"This is consistent with the idea that early exposure to these nutritional components contribute to the long-term

structure and function of the brain," said John Colombo, the study's corresponding author.

Breast milk is widely acknowledged as the most beneficial nutrition for infants, but many families face medical or logistical challenges in breastfeeding.

"All forms of mammalian milk contain large fat globules that are surrounded by a membrane composed of a variety of nutrients important to human nutrition and

brain development. When milk-based infant formula is manufactured, the membrane has typically been removed during processing," said Colombo.

"No one thought much about this membrane," Colombo said, "until chemical analyses showed that it's remarkably complex and full of components that potentially contribute to health and brain development."

"The global nutrition research community has been looking at MFGM for about a decade," Colombo said.

"Because the membrane is made up of several different components, it isn't known whether one of the components is responsible for these benefits, or whether the entire package of nutrients act together to improve brain and behavioral development," said Colombo.



## India's ODI World Cup Squad Final. KL Rahul In, Sanju Samson Out: Sources

**Sanju Samson, Tilak Varma and Prasad Krishna were not retained in the Indian squad for the ODI World Cup 2023.**

NEW DELHI, Sep 3 (Agencies): India's ODI World Cup 2023 team is expected to be announced today. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) selection committee chief Ajit Agarkar flew to Sri Lanka to hold a discussion with the team management and finalise the squad, sources have told NDTV. There are no big surprises from the Asia Cup 2023 squad that the BCCI had recently picked. With the ODI World Cup squad to be a 15-member roster, there was no place for wicket-keeper batter Sanju Samson while the fit-again KL Rahul was picked.

When Agarkar announced the Indian squad for the Asia Cup, he suggested that the ODI World Cup roster would be on similar



lines. The Asia Cup squad, however, was a 17-member unit, with Samson being included as a backup for Rahul. Since the World Cup squad is to contain only 15 players, 2 members from the main squad had to be removed.

It has been learned that the two members who would be excluded from the roster are Tilak Varma and Prasad Krishna. While Varma was handed his maiden ODI call-up for the Asia Cup, Krishna was included in the roster after a long injury

layoff. Among the returning players, all three of Jasprit Bumrah, Shreyas Iyer, and KL Rahul have earned a spot in India's squad for the World Cup.

Among the biggest absentees, Yuzvendra Chahal, who wasn't picked in the Indian squad for the Asia Cup too, found no place in the World Cup squad either. Suryakumar Yadav, despite his struggles in the 50-over format, retains his spot in the squad.

India's likely World Cup 2023 Squad: Rohit Sharma (c), Hardik Pandya (vc), Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, KL Rahul (wk), Virat Kohli, Shubman Gill, Axar Patel, Ravindra Jadeja, Ishan Kishan (wk), Shardul Thakur, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammad Shami, Mohammed Siraj, and Jasprit Bumrah.

## Heath Streak, Zimbabwe cricket legend, dies after losing battle to cancer



HARARE, Sep 3 (Agencies): Former Zimbabwean skipper Heath Streak passed away on Sunday, September 3. The 49-year-old was suffering from colon and liver cancer before he breathed his last. Nadine Streak, wife of the late cricketer, shared a post on her Facebook handle to confirm the news.

"In the early hours of this morning, Sunday the 3rd of September 2023, the greatest love of my life and the father of my beautiful children, was carried to be with the Angels from his home where he wished

to spend his last days surrounded by his family and closest loved ones. He was covered in love and peace and did not walk off the Park alone. Our souls are joined for eternity Streaky. Till I hold you again," she wrote.

Just a few days ago, there were rumours that Streak had passed away. A number of former cricketers, including the likes of Adam Gilchrist and Anil Kumble tweeted for him. But later, former Zimbabwean bowler Henry Olonga confirmed that the legendary cricketer was alive.

Back in May, it was learned that Streak was undergoing treatment for cancer under the observation of one of South Africa's finest oncologists.

Streak remains one of the greatest cricketers Zimbabwe has ever produced. In 65 Tests and 189 ODIs, Streak picked up 455 wickets with 23 four-wicket hauls and eight five-wicket hauls to show for his efforts.

Streak was no mug with the bat either, having racked up 1990 and 2943 runs in Tests and ODIs respectively, with one century and 24 half-centuries to his name.

Streak had made his debut back in 1993 and went on to play until 2005. His last and final international appearance for Zimbabwe was back in September 2005 in a Test match against India at the Harare Sports Club. Streak also plied his trade in England, having played county cricket for Hampshire and Warwickshire.

## US Open, Day 6 wrap: Daniil Medvedev fights past Sebastian Baez, Alexander Zverev, Marketa Vondrousova advance

NEW YORK, Sep 3 (Agencies): Daniil Medvedev, on Sunday, September 3, beat Sebastian Baez in the Round 3 match of the men's singles in US Open 2023. He won the match 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (8-6) in two hours and 40 minutes.

Medvedev is now scheduled to face Australia's Alex de Minaur, who knocked Nicholas Jarry out of the competition.

After winning the first two sets, Medvedev was a break down in the third set. But he took the match in the tie-breaker where he held his nerve to win in straight sets.

Alexander Zverev advanced to the fourth round of the US Open for the fourth year in a row. On Sunday, he defeated Grigor Dimitrov 6-7 (2-7), 7-6 (10-8),

6-1, 6-1.

After having to fight out of his skin in the first two sets, Medvedev put forth his A-game in the third set.

It took Zverev three hours and 42 minutes to get the better of Dimitrov. The German star is next set to face Jannik Sinner, who defeated Stan Wawrinka in the third round.

VONDROUSOVA, JABEUR GO THROUGH

Marketa Vondrousova, the current Wimbledon champion, defeated Liudmila Samsonova 6-2, 6-1 at Louis Armstrong Stadium. It took Vondrousova 57 minutes to secure victory and advance to the next round.

Vondrousova will next face Peyton Stearns, who advanced to her maiden Grand Slam



fourth round after beating Katie Boulter in straight sets.

Earlier in the day, Jessica Pegula knocked Elna Svitolina out after a thrilling three-setter at Arthur Ashe Stadium. Ons Jabeur had an almighty scare in her Round 3 match before

she defeated Marie Bouzkova in three sets.

In the men's singles, Andrey Rublev went through to the fourth round after beating France's Arthur Rinderknech 3-6, 6-3, 6-1, 7-5 in two hours and 34 minutes.

## Asia Cup 2023: Bangladesh head coach opens up on 'big challenge' after losing Tamim Iqbal, Litton Das

NEW DELHI, Sep 3 (Agencies): Bangladesh head coach Chandika Hathurusingha admitted that losing two big players, Tamim Iqbal and Litton Das, hasn't helped the Tigers in the Asia Cup 2023 by any stretch of the imagination.

Tamim pulled out of the tournament as he is still recovering from a back injury. Litton failed to travel to Sri Lanka due to illness. In their place, the Tigers included young Tanzid Hasan Tamim and domestic giant Anamul Haque Bijoy in their squad.

"Losing that much experience at the top of the order, it's a big challenge for any team," Hathurusingha was quoted as saying. "We can't do anything when both of them one is sick and



the other is injured. We can't do anything about it. But we back players we have over here. Certainly, they are talented, that's why they are picked," he stated.

Bangladesh lost to Sri Lanka by five wickets in their first game in Pallekele. The pressure is rightly on them as the Tigers

are set to lock horns with Hashmatullah Shahidi's Afghanistan in a do-or-die clash on Sunday, September 5 at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore.

Hathurusingha said that the Afghans have some of the best bowlers in the world and Bangladesh are aware of what's to

come in the crucial clash at the iconic venue in Lahore.

"Afghanistan have one of the best bowling attacks in world cricket, especially in limited over cricket. They have two really world class spinners and decent seamers. So it's definitely a challenge, but we have played them recently and our players had some success. It all depends on how you perform on the day. We are very much aware of the challenge," Hathurusingha added.

If Bangladesh lose their second match, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka will go through to the Super Four. In that case, the last group match between the Lankans and the Afghans will be inconsequential.

## ASIA CUP: Making a point

**Rain helps India escape, earn a point after Pak pacers take all 10**

PALLEKELE, Sep 3 (Agencies): As the Indian and Pakistan players shook hands after their Asia Cup encounter was washed out, the grins on their faces told the tale; both teams seemed relieved that they did not end up the losers, such is the pressure of an India-Pakistan game.

It can be argued, however, that the Indians would be happier because they were in big trouble at one stage, at 66/4. It was a rescue act by Hardik Pandya and Ishan Kishan that took them to a respectable total, the two adding 138 to take the team to 204, when Kishan was dismissed for 82 off 81 balls.

Shaheen Afridi exposed India's top order by clean-bowling India's best batsmen, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli; Rohit was deceived by a ball that came in after two balls had gone away from him, while Kohli played on to his stumps.

The third wicket to fall, that of Shreyas Iyer, was claimed by Haris Rauf



when Iyer pulled straight to the man at midwicket. Rauf's second victim was Shubman Gill, bowled when he was beaten by the movement off the seam.

After the Pandya-Kishan heroics, Pakistan's fast bowlers rattled the lower-order batsmen, too, with the final five wickets falling for 27 runs.

The Pakistan spinners were not effective, but the pacemen returned to rout the tail, with Rauf removing Ishan and Afridi sending back Pandya and Ravindra Jadeja in the same over. Naseem Shah then crushed the tail, with the result that all 10 wickets were taken by the pacemen. Chasing 267 in an

India-Pakistan game can always prove tricky due to the pressure inherent in these games. But at the half-way stage Pakistan — who beat Afghanistan in three games played on Sri Lankan soil in the last 10 days — would have been confident of beating India as well.

It was India's first match in Sri Lanka, with no real opportunity for acclimatisation, but coach Rahul Dravid would be worried about the way his best batsmen were rattled by Pakistan's top-class pace bowlers.

Brief scores: India 266 all out in 48.5 overs (Pandya 87, Kishan 82; Afridi 4/35, Naseem 3/36, Rauf 3/58) vs Pakistan.

## India beat Pakistan in shootout to win Hockey5s World Cup qualifier



SALALAH (OMAN), Sep 3 (Agencies): India emerged champions in the men's Asian Hockey 5s World Cup qualifying tournament after beating arch-rivals Pakistan 2-0 in a shootout here. Both teams were locked at 4-4 in regulation time. India have booked their place in next year's Hockey5s World Cup.

For India, Mohammed Raheel (19th and 26th minutes), Jugraj Singh (7th) and Maninder Singh (10th) were the goal-scorers, while Abdul Rehman (5th), captain Abdul Rana (13th), Zikriya Hayat (14th) and Arshad Liaquat (19th) were on target for Pakistan. In the shootout, Gurjot Singh and Maninder managed to beat the goalkeeper.

## US Open 2023: Ons Jabeur survives huge scare vs Marie Bouzkova, Xinwen Zheng, Peyton Stearns storm into Round 4

NEW YORK, Sep 3 (Agencies): Ons Jabeur showed nerves of steel to survive a huge scare against Marie Bouzkova, who, agonisingly, fell short of advancing to her maiden Grand Slam fourth round.

On Sunday, September 3, Jabeur rallied back from a set down to beat Bouzkova 5-7, 7-6 (7-5), 6-3. When Bouzkova was leading 3-1 in the second set tie-break, Jabeur was on the cusp of facing defeat. But with the score-line reading 5-5, Jabeur held her nerves to take the match into the deciding set.

From there on, there was no stopping Jabeur, who earned an early break to close the match out in two hours and 56 minutes at Arthur Ashe Stadium.



The Tunisian is next set to face China's Xinwen Zheng in the fourth round

Zheng defeated Italy's Lucia Bronzetti 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 in two hours and 40 minutes. Zheng hit 32 winners compared to her opponent's five and made quite

a bit of difference in the match.

Zheng, however, would want to cut down on the 43 unforced errors going into her match against Jabeur. She was also a bit tentative with her second serves, winning 45 percent of points from them (19 out of 42)

and making three double faults.

STEARNS GOES THROUGH America's Peyton Stearns had all the reasons to cheer after she stormed into her maiden Grand Slam Round 4. The 21-year-old prodigy defeated Katie Boulter 6-4, 6-3 in an hour and 37 minutes.

Stearns earned three breaks of serve and made the difference in the match. She was also helped by the fact that Boulter made seven double faults and had a second serve win percentage of 39 (12 out of 31). Boulter made 32 unforced errors and that did not help her either.

Stearns will next be up against the winner of the Round 3 match between Marketa Vondrousova and Ekaterina Alexandrova.



## IIPA JKRB organizes 10th Shri Ram Sahai Memorial Lecture



### TOP NEWS REPORT

**JAMMU, Sep 3:** Indian Institute of Public Administration, JK Regional Branch organized 10th Shri Ram Sahai Memorial Lecture on "Revitalizing Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in J&K" which was delivered by Sh. Vikramjit Singh, IPS, Commissioner/Secretary to Government Industries & Commerce Department J&K. Sh B R Sharma, IAS (R), State Election Commissioner and Chairman, IIPA JKRB presided over the function.

While delivering the lecture, Sh. Vikramjit Singh said that Government of Jammu & Kashmir is committed to revitalize the entrepreneurial ecosystem through various innovative strategic and policy measures, which will enable the flow of finance for all types of industrial units, and create facilitating conditions for large scale units to come to J&K. Substantiating his arguments with various data-points, he was of the view that agriculture, tourism, power, IT and logistics sector should be exploited by encouraging the youth to create start-ups. He also said that Lithium "White Gold" Reserve in J&K will be a game changer and bring in

new opportunities.

B R Sharma in his presidential remarks while paying homage to Sh. Ram Sahai said that he was a visionary and a passionate entrepreneur who had the ability to network and negotiate for a larger common good for J&K. While speaking on the theme, he said that the environment in J&K is conducive for entrepreneurs and it is only through the joint effort of government and other stakeholders that the opportunity can be fully leveraged. He suggested that regular stakeholder consultation workshops should be organized to fine tune the policy.

K B Jandial, IAS (Retd.), Director (Seminars), IIPA JKRB paid glowing tributes to Late Sh. Ram Sahai. He said that as a founding member of the branch, Sh. Sahai has made immense contributions towards bringing the issues of trade and commerce to the forefront and this memorial lecture is organized every year to carry forward his legacy by deliberating on issues of relevance to the industry.

Rahul Sahai in his concluding remarks said that J&K has immense potential for socio economic development through entrepreneurship. He laid emphasis

on entrepreneurial education and skill development. He further said access to capital, supporting infrastructure, networking opportunity and create conducive environment can surely make J&K an attractive hub of entrepreneurship. He acknowledged IIPA for organizing this memorial lecture in memory of his father every year.

Earlier Prof. Alka Sharma, Secretary, IIPA JKRB delivered the formal welcome address and the proceedings were conducted by Dr. Anil Gupta, Joint Secretary. The programme was attended by over 100 eminent citizens, members of IIPA, family members of Late Sh. Ram Sahai including Shri Khalid Jahangir MD JKTPD, Shri Tejwant Singh Reen, Chairman Federation of Industries, Shri Lalit Mahajan, President BBIA, Shri Neeraj Anand, President CTF, Shri Rakesh Gupta, Ex-President CCI Jammu, Shri Manish Gupta, Secretary General CCI Jammu, Shri Rajesh Jain, Shri Parveen Pargal, President Laghu Udyog, Shri Sanjay Bansal, Chairman Federation of All India Vyapar Mandal, Shri Sandeep Jain, General Secretary Jain Sabha, Shri Samar Dev Charak, Co-Chair PHDCCI Jammu.

## Bharat Vikas Parishad organizes 'Bharat Ko Jano' quiz competition

### TOP NEWS REPORT

**KATHUA, Sep 3:** Bharat Vikas Parishad Kathua unit organized the "Bharat Ko Jano Gyan Pratiyogita," a quiz competition, at Tiny Scholars School, Logate Morh, Kathua, on September 2, 2023. The event aimed to foster awareness and knowledge about India's culture, religion, history, geography, arts, constitution, and various other facets among the participants.

Approximately 50 students from 12 different schools participated in the quiz competition, which was divided into two categories: junior category (class 6th-8th) and senior category (class 9th-12th). Each school was represented



by a pair of students in both categories.

The Bharat Quiz program featured three rounds: The Written Round, The Visual Round, and The Current Affairs Round. The evaluation of the written round took place on-site. Notably, the competition incorporated the use of computer technology for the first time, thanks to the efforts of the Tiny

Scholars' computer wing, under the guidance of their Principal, Mrs. Reena Khajuria, and Chairperson, Mrs. Manisha Gupta.

In the senior category, Nav Adarsh School, Kathua secured the 1st position, while Dhawani Priya and Anjal Jasrotia of Tiny Scholars School, Logate Morh, tied for the 2nd position with MSK Hr. Sec.

School. R.S. Golden and Minerva secured the 3rd position. In the junior category, Spring Dales School and R.S. Golden School secured the 1st and 2nd positions, respectively, while Rasanpreet and Rijul Sharma of Tiny Scholars School, Logate Morh, Kathua, secured the 3rd position.

The winners received mementos and certi-

ficates, while all participants were presented with participation certificates. The event was hosted by Mrs. Prerna Khajuria and student Tapasya Gupta from the host institution. The lamp lighting ceremony was inaugurated by members of Bharat Vikas Parishad, Chairperson Mrs. Manisha Gupta, and Principal Mrs. Reena Khajuria.

Ashok Gupta, President of the organization, emphasized the importance of such competitions in developing students' curiosity about their country and building confidence to face future challenges. Professor Dr. Ram Murti Sharma, the chief patron, highlighted the significance of such events.

## JKTJAC monthly meeting highlights teacher's genuine concerns

### TOP NEWS REPORT

**UDHAMPUR, Sep 3:** The Jammu Kashmir Teachers' Joint Action Committee (JKTJAC) convened its monthly meeting today under the leadership of UT President Vinod Sharma and District President Lekh Raj Parihar in Udhampur. Representatives from all eleven zones of the district were present at the meeting.

Vinod Sharma, while addressing the gathering, shed light on the pressing issues faced by the teaching fraternity and called upon the Hon'ble LG administration to address these concerns promptly.

One of the key demands raised by Mr. Vinod Sharma was the need for a comprehensive transfer policy for teachers appointed under the ReT scheme. These teachers have been serving in the same schools for over 20 years, despite



clear directions from the Hon'ble High Court and CAT. The absence of a transfer policy has caused significant hardship to thousands of these teachers, including females. Mr. Sharma also urged the Director of School Education, Jammu, to issue regularization orders for ReTs who have completed their 5-year ReT period, as they have been waiting for regularization for an extended period. Additionally, he called for the conversion of RRETs

to Teachers Grade II/III to ensure the release of their salaries.

Other demands highlighted during the meeting included Conversion of Education Volunteers (EVs) to ReTs, as they are facing significant challenges, Conversion of headteachers' posts into non-plan posts of masters to address salary issues, Raising the grade of teachers to align with their counterparts in other UTs, Filling vacant positions of CEOs, Principals, ZEOs,

and Headmasters and facilitating the DPC promotion of more teachers to the master's level, as only about 500 teachers have been promoted in the last 9 years.

The resolution of GP fund (Refundable and non-refundable) cases of teaching and non-teaching staff of the education department, which have been pending in various treasuries for 4 to 6 months due to cash unavailability.

During the meeting, Lekh Raj Parihar

appealed to the Chief Education Officer, Udhampur, to arrange for the release of Mid-Day Meal (MDM) dues, which teachers have been managing from their own pockets. He also called for post facto/enrollment permissions in favor of teachers whose files are pending in the CEO's office.

The meeting featured additional discussions from Sham Sharma, Sukesh Khajuria, Ashok Seth, Pritam Goswami, Chain Singh, Ravinder Singh Rathore, Shashier Singh, Suresh Sharma, Sandeep Sharma, Balvinder Singh, Manoj Sharma, Vipin Raina, Anil Sharma, Som Raj Sharma, Anuradha Kumari, Amar Dev Singh, Madan Bhardwaj, Gopal Sharma, Sushma Sharma, Deepankar Sharma, Sudesh Kumar, Rajesh Jamwal, Gurdev Singh, Pardeep Kumar, and others.

## Govt neglected Batwal community: JKBS

### TOP NEWS REPORT

**JAMMU, Sep 3:** The general body of the Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha convened a meeting at Shahzadpur Kothi, located 12 kilometers from Jammu, today. The meeting witnessed a significant turnout of members from the Batwal community hailing from various regions.

The gathering deliberated on the current distressing situation of the Batwal community and expressed concern over the government's disregard for this marginalized group. It was highlighted that in 1994, the Central Planning Commission, under the guidance of the then Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, had initiated an ethnographic study of the Jammu and Kashmir Batwal community with the aim of uplifting them from their state of severe deprivation. Regrettably, even after twenty-nine years have elapsed, the government has failed to implement



substantial measures to improve their economic conditions.

Furthermore, the Batwal community's memorandum, dated July 20, 2022, submitted to the secretariat of the Lieutenant Governor of the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, remains unanswered to date.

The meeting, therefore, earnestly called upon the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, to intervene in this matter and direct the government to address the plight of the impoverished and marginalized Batwals. The community seeks the sanctioning of an 'economic-cum-

employment package' to enable them to elevate their standard of living and lead a dignified life, akin to other sections of society.

Additionally, the meeting urged for the reinstatement of the old pension scheme for government employees, an increase in the rates of old-age, disability, and widow pensions from Rs 1000 to Rs 3000 per month, considering the prevailing inflation. The Batwal community also requested access to the same facilities provided by the governments of Delhi and Punjab to the general public. Prominent attendees

at the meeting included Corporator Rashpal Bhardwaj, R L. Kaith, Dilay Ram Kaith, Baldev Chand Motan, Darshan Lal Motan, Rachhpal Kaith, Dr Varinder Pal Lakhotra, Des Raj Kaith, Hans Raj Loria, Baldev Chand Sandhu, Birender Kaith, Ved Parkash Sargotra, Ghari Lal Lakhotra, Sat Pal Sargotra, Ujjagar Singh Bassa, Babu Ram Lakhotra, Gharu Ram Kaith, Dev Raj Nandan, Tarsem Lal Motan, Chaman Lal Tugga, Vijay Kumar Motan, Jagdish Mandi, Dhian Chand Lakhotra, Yash Pal Bassa, Rattan Lal Kaith, Jeet Raj Kaith, and Dev Raj Tugga.

## Natrang stages play 'Commission'

### TOP NEWS REPORT

**JAMMU, Sep 3:** Natrang presented a new hilarious play 'Commission' written by Saadat Hasan Manto and directed by Neeraj Kant in its weekly theatre series, 'Sunday Theatre'. This play showcases the magic of satire, that how a modern emperor, living in the era of social media deals with his people, and how an emperor can easily escape from his responsibilities by forming commissions after commissions.

The play opens in the modern court room of a modern emperor along with his two head butlers. The emperor is a satirical being who brags how he has developed a friendly relationship between the goats and lions in his kingdom to erase their hostilities. The play showcases, the emperor doesn't share a good relationship with his empress and is going through a bad



phase in his love life. The plot twist comes when a 'Fariyadi' comes to seek justice for his workers who have been killed by the sevikas of the empress, who were practicing archery in an open place. The emperor promotes his head butlers to ministers and asks them to go through the matter and come up with a proper report. After a two month long process, the newly appointed ministers comes up with a gigantic report of one

lakh words and presents the whole story before the emperor. The emperor on listening about this massacre satirically boasts that he is a better emperor than Jahangir and his philosophies doesn't make sense in modern era and asks his ministers to behead all the girls who were involved in the massacre, but before the culprits are executed, a commission needs to be formed to deliver justice. The play is full of humor and

satire, and the characters are a caricature of mughal era.

The artists who participated in the play are Palshin Dutta, Chirag Anand, Abhimanyu Choudhary, Chaitanya Shekhar, Sumit Bandaral and Sanket Bhagat. Neeraj Kant executed the lights whereas the music was scored by Mehak Singh. Sushant Singh Charak presented the show before the audience and the show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.