

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

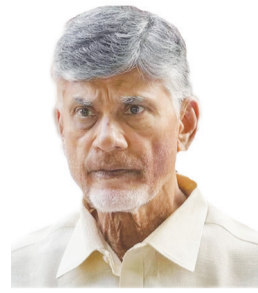
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Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

### BSF Jawan reported missing near LoC in Poonch

MENDHAR/JAMMU, Sep 9 (Agencies): A BSF jawan was reported missing from his post near the Line of Control in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Saturday.

The constable, hailing from Bihar, was on general duty at the Bharani forward post in Balakote sector when he went missing on Friday, they said.

They said BSF troops carried out a search operation for the jawan who could not be traced following which a missing report was lodged with the police station concerned.

### Lecturers to teach 9th, 10th classes besides their assigned duty: SED

SRINAGAR, Sept 9: School Education Department directed the lecturers to teach 9th and 10th standard students besides their routine duty of teaching senior secondary students.

The department said that the move was aimed to improve the academic standard.

Deputy Secretary to government said, "It is impressed upon lecturers of School Education Department to exuberantly involve themselves in teaching at 9th and 10th level besides at the plus-2 level."

The officer said that the directives were issued in order to improve the academic standard in School Education Department and chisel the talented students of Jammu and Kashmir by way of tapping the professional talent of the able lecturers available in the department.

"This way the students shall be exposed to qualified and experienced staff for competing at the national level in various competitive exams," the officer said.

The government said, "The Head of institutions and lecturers shall comply these instructions in letter and spirit and report in this regard shall be submitted by concerned Chief Education Officers on monthly basis."

## G20 Summit: US, India, Saudi Arabia, UAE, EU set to unveil railway, ports connectivity deal

NEW DELHI, Sep 9 (Agencies): A shipping and rail transportation corridor linking countries across the Middle East, South Asia and Europe is likely to be announced on the sidelines of the ongoing G20 Summit in New Delhi, a White House official has said.

The United States, India, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the European Union and other G20 partners are set to explore the shipping and rail transportation corridor, which is aimed at aiding in the flow of commerce, energy and data from India across the Middle East up to Europe.



A memorandum of understanding (MoU) is expected to be announced at a meeting focused on global infrastructure on the sidelines of the G20 today according to White House Deputy National Security Advisor Jon Finer.

The leaders are meeting to discuss the global economy and supply chain challenges, among other issues facing the global community.

This agreement after it is inked could be seen as an alternate supply chain in a completely

evolved post-pandemic world order.

Finer added that President Biden and Prime Minister Modi will meet with other leaders for an event focused on global infrastructure later today.

"The deal will benefit low and middle-income countries in the region, and enable a critical role for the Middle East in global commerce. We see this as having a high appeal to the countries involved, and also globally, because it is transparent because it is a high standard because it is not coercive," Finer told mediapersons here.

Delving more on the

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## Powerful quake in Morocco kills more than 600 people and damages historic buildings in Marrakech



RABAT (Morocco), Sep 9 (Agencies): A rare, powerful earthquake struck Morocco on Friday night, killing over 600 people and damaging buildings from villages in the Atlas Mountains to the historic city of Marrakech.

Morocco's Interior Ministry said on Saturday morning that at least 632 people had died, mostly in Marrakech and five provinces near the quake's epicentre. Another 329 people were injured. Casualty figures were expected to

rise more as the search continues and as rescuers reach remote areas. Moroccan television showed scenes from the aftermath, as many stayed outside fearing aftershocks.

Anxious families stood in streets or huddled on the pavement, some carrying children, blankets or other belongings.

Emergency workers looked for survivors in the rubble of buildings, their reflective yellow vests illuminating the nighttime landscape. The quake ripped a gaping hole in a home, and a car was nearly

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## Govt will take every measure to provide platform to artists: Secretary Tourism

SRINAGAR, Sep 9 (Agencies) : Secretary Tourism, Syed Abid Rasheed Shah on Saturday said that the government will take every possible step to ensure platforms to the budding artists in Jammu and Kashmir.

After inaugurating two-day art exhibition 'Reflections' here at City Mall, Secretary Tourism said that organizing such events is a wonderful opportunity for budding artists.

"There is a lot of history in Kashmir. Srinagar is the second oldest city in the country after Kashi, our recorded history is somewhere on 4000 years and there has



been an important role of art here," he said. Secretary Tourism further stated that such events are providing platform to the artists and are recognizing the bright minds.

"The government will do whatever is required for these budding artists to provide them platform and recognize their talent," he said, adding that ultimately an artist does this for his self recognition in the society.

During the meeting, Director, JKEDI, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat emphasised on the crucial role that startups play in strengthening economic growth, creating employment opportunities, and advancing technological innovations. He reiterated the Government's unwavering commitment to create an enabling and sustainable environment for startups to flourish in J&K, thereby making significant con-

## JKEDI invites startups to register under JK Startup Policy, Check details

SRINAGAR, Sep 9 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) has invited applications from startups to register under JK Startup Policy.

In this regard, the Director, JKEDI on Friday convened a meeting of senior Faculty members of the Institute to accelerate the registration of Startups under the Jammu and Kashmir Startup Policy.

During the meeting, Director, JKEDI, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat emphasised on the crucial role that startups play in strengthening economic growth, creating employment opportunities, and advancing technological innovations. He reiterated the Government's unwavering commitment to create an enabling and sustainable environment for startups to flourish in J&K, thereby making significant con-

tributions to the Union Territory's socio-economic development.

"It is imperative that startups and business owners in Jammu and Kashmir take full advantage of the benefits offered under the Government's Startup Policy. These benefits can serve as catalysts for the success of their ventures. We must ensure that startups register themselves on 'www.startupjk.com'

portal to avail these benefits," he said.

"All faculty members and district officers of the Institute should actively work towards increasing the number of registered startups under this initiative. It is crucial to ensure a broad representation from all corners of the Union Territory, including remote, border, and tribal areas", he maintained.

We must provide

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## Two 'self-styled' journalists held for extortion in Ganderbal: Police

SRINAGAR, Sep 9 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police arrested two men posing as journalists for extorting money in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, officials said.

The police identified the duo as Sohail Maqbool of Bamiluna Kangan and Kaiser Farooq of Cheerwan Kangan.

Police said a written complaint was received by Police Station Gund on Friday from Gulzar Ahmed Kasana of Surfraw Gund Ganderbal,



stating therein that two unknown persons posing as journalists arrived at his residence and demanded a bribe of Rs 5000 from him. Kasana was construct-

ing a residential house, and the two self-styled fake journalists took Rs 500 cash from him and asked him to pay the remaining amount of Rs 4500 after two days.

"Further, the duo asked the victim that if he failed to pay the said amount, then they would dismantle his house," the complainant told the police.

A team of Ganderbal police later arrested them for blackmailing and extortion, police said.

A case under relevant sections of the law was registered at Police Station Gund, and further investigation was taken up.

Police said for many days there were complaints that some

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## Teacher suspended in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, Sep 9 (Agencies): A school teacher accused of having sent lewd text messages to his female students has been suspended in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district.

The Chief Education Officer, Baramulla Balbeer Singh, suspended teacher Owais Nanda, working at Government Higher Secondary

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## High Court upholds power of JKBOSE to prescribe textbooks for Schools in UT

SRINAGAR, Sep 9 (Agencies): High Court of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh has upheld the power of the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) to prescribe textbooks for schools in the Union Territory.

Justice Sanjay Dhar while dismissing the petition filed by a J&K Private Schools United Front observed that it is within power of JKBOSE to make it mandatory for

the affiliated schools to use only those books that have been prescribed and published by them.

The Court observed that neither the private schools nor other publishers have any right to compel the Board to prescribe text books published by private publishers.

J&K Private Schools United Front had challenged a government notification issued on

August 26, 2022 where by all the private schools were asked to ensure that in the first phase, the text books published by the JKBOSE are prescribed by all the private schools across UT for classes 6th to 8th from the ensuing academic session.

The petitioner argued that while the Board is vested with power to prescribe textbooks, the provision does not

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## REMEMBRANCE



LATE SH. MANOHAR LAL MAHAJAN  
1-4-1938 to 9-9-2006

About 17 years has passed since you left us for heavenly abode, but the fragrance of your love, affection and memories will always remain alive in our hearts and minds.

We miss you very much and do feel your presence around us every moment of our life with your loving memories. We missed you every day and prayed to Almighty to rest your soul in peace.

### DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY

SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW  
Sunil Mahajan and Neena  
Rajiv Mahajan and Anita  
GRAND CHILDREN  
Dr. Sushant Mahajan (JKAS)  
Vaneeka Gupta (Asst. Prof.)  
Er. Sukant Mahajan  
Capt. Ayoosh Gupta





## EDITORIAL

## EXPLORE DOMESTIC INDUSTRIES

**D**omestic industries can be started from home at very low cost and the production from such industries brings huge profits to our country. Today in this article we are going to share an essay on domestic industry with you. This essay will prove helpful for all classes in the examination.

Home industry is a process in which we produce various types of things sitting at home and then take them to the market and sell them. This type of process involves very little cost. But the country gets much more profit from such use.

For this type of industry, you will not see big factories, but to start it, some people from the house or some boys from the locality come together and start it at a small place and gradually try to make this business bigger. Is. This type of business starts from home, hence it is known as cottage industry or home industry.

Today unemployment has spread on a large scale and due to the advent of the digital world, people are getting attracted towards robots and machines so fast that the risk of people losing their jobs is also increasing. In such a situation, cottage industry can be a very good business, which you can start from your home at a very low cost.

Let us tell you that countries get good profits from domestic industry. For this reason, the government is spreading awareness to promote this type of industry. People should also understand that you cannot rely on the government for long and hope for employment.

For this reason, you should do some work which will benefit the country and you and in this situation, domestic industry can be a very good solution.

The government is making new schemes for all the poor people and is trying to help everyone in this situation. But we cannot come out of poverty or unemployment till then. Unless we become producers ourselves, as long as we keep thinking about working under someone, we will remain surrounded by poverty and unemployment.

The government understands the importance of domestic industry, hence it has announced various types of policies to spread awareness in this sector and to make the lives of people running domestic industries easier. We should also understand the importance of this industry and know this if we want to take our country forward. So, we should make more and more goods in our country in which the domestic industry is actively contributing.

## India vs Bharat: Mahayudh is on, mere pyare Bharatwasis

By: Shobhaa De

**P**ranaam! Let's talk about the biggest haathi in the room: Polls 2024. The brouhaha over the supposed "name change" of our great nation has nothing to do with history, geography, mythology; it's rooted in psychology. Mass psychology. It adds up to just one thing: who wins next year. Those who choose "Bharat", or those've already staked a claim to "INDIA". All the noise over the identity and ownership of the country is nothing more than a political stunt to polarise people and force citizens to choose: If you pick Bharat, you are a proud, culturally-rooted person, steeped in history and tradition. If you prefer "India", you belong to the irrelevant, elitist minority still stuck in a colonial time-warp, a slave of former masters.

I prefer "Prem Nagari". Love over hate.

It really isn't about what the Constitution says or doesn't. If it was only about constitutional correctness, why did the learned netas wait decades to introduce the two-name theory? Did they suddenly wake up and discover what was stated unambiguously on September 18, 1949, when B.R. Ambedkar moved to amend Article 1, which states: "India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States". The original wording stayed. With all its implications and connotations. So, why this meaningless debate over President Droupadi Murmu's invitation to a G-20 dinner? Table settings be damned... chamchas, chamchis and knives came out in a flash, as heated debates led to Mahabharat-level yudhs across India/Bharat. Memes galore flew across the world, as loyalists went to absurd extremes to justify the change. Declared a BJP MP sanctimoniously: "Republic of

Bharat: happy and proud our civilisation is marching ahead boldly towards Amrit Kaal." Sure, buddy. Hope the people of Manipur feel the same way and are rejoicing, as they wait for representatives of "Bharat" to come to their rescue.

Per se, there's nothing objectionable or illegal about using "Bharat". That's understood. You can take India out of Indians, but you can't take Indians out of India. You can rename India Gate to Bharat Gate, or Gateway of India to Gateway of Bharat, and nothing will alter the history of these two monuments. It's also a little jejune to talk about Calcutta/Kolkata, Bombay/Mumbai, Madras/Chennai in the same breath. Cities across the world reclaim their historical names. The Bharat /India narrative is significantly different. Historians themselves are struggling to find convincing/clinging/irrefutable evidence that supports the current shift. Constitutional experts rightly interpreted the various articles and said what they have to on the subject. That leaves us. Citizens. Bewildered and powerless. We are neither experts on this complex matter, nor do we have the authority to assert what we feel. Agreed, the chattering classes and their "anglicized" views count for nothing in the present environment. But that doesn't deny them the right to have opinions.

The biggest concern for citizens is about the obvious manipulation of their sentiments. The timing of this controversy is suspect. The motivation, even more so. Patriotism is being reduced to a pantomime. If you have reservations about Bharat, you are less of an Indian! What a contradiction of terms!

I asked a few friends what they will say when asked by foreigners where they're from. In the past,

we could respond on autopilot: "We're from India". Today, that's deemed politically incorrect. The right response should be: "We're from Bharat". If the foreigner looks stumped and asks: "Where's that? Which country is Baah-rat?", will we be deeply offended? Yes, we will. Even Shashi Tharoor may struggle to come up with an apt repartee, though he didn't waste a minute jumping into the Bharat/India dialogue on Twitter (X). Team India versus Team Bharat is going to be a bit of a stretch, going forward. But as we all know, it's about more than just "name-calling".

This move is seen as yet another strategy to mobilise and polarise our people, by insinuating we were and shall always remain a Hindu Rashtra. We were never India. "India" is a borrowed nomenclature, given to us by "outsiders" who couldn't pronounce "H" in Hindus, and dropped it in favour of "Indus". Indus eventually became India. All sorts of hoary sources are being quoted to support this argument. Assuming it is dead accurate, where does this intriguing "going back in time" journey end? Here we are, already on the moon's south pole, and steadily heading towards the sun... Why not look ahead, not backwards?

Forget obvious jibes like Isro calling itself "Bisro", or Indigo becoming "Bhaago". Will Miss India be crowned Miss Bharat in future? Will Times of India and India Today switch to Bharat? Banks like SBI and BoI... trusted brands for decades, will have to do a brand rethink as well. But remember, such light-hearted jibes always camouflage deeper issues and generate a sense of anxiety, insecurity and uncertainty about the future of the nation we all love and are proud of. Names can change. But what about mind-

sets? Playing games with citizens to garner a majority next year isn't just callous, it comes with in-built hazards too. "Mera Bharat Mahaan" was working fine across the board. As was "Yeh Mera India". Both identities co-existed without a political agenda attached. "Made in India" was another powerful reminder of our potential to compete globally and win. Tricolour or Tiranga -- the pride was in the flag, not its descriptor.

The fear is this: It's Bharat today. A concept that's been introduced in a subliminal, surreptitious way. Without any flourish. Citizens were caught unawares, but unable to express their true reactions without fearing repercussions. A young person asked in all seriousness: "Will I be arrested if I use the word India?" I also asked myself, will I (along with millions of fellow citizens) be ostracised, penalized, marginalised, disenfranchised if I don't switch? Will I be judged as less of a patriotic Indian for daring to ask questions? VHP spokesman Vinod Bansal's post is unambiguous: "Let's forget the word INDIA." Really, Bhaisaab? Why? I don't want to forget India. I feel wonderful introducing myself as an Indian.

What's next? Constitutional amendments? Or easier still... why not construct the world's largest bulldozer, designed to flatten any and every obstacle? To quote Emperor Napoleon: "The world suffers a lot. Not because of the violence of bad people, but because of the silence of good people." Indians are good people. It's time to speak up, good people. Before it's too late.

The "Bharatisation" of India is afoot. Those who don't like this version of their beloved nation are free to leave -- visa on arrival at the destination of their choice. Jai Hind! Jai Bharat!

## Of drag queens, evangelicals on 'racist' protest &amp; 'counter-demos'

By: Farrukh Dhondy

**T**here isn't an age beyond which one stops demonstrating on the streets. If I thought that even an overnight demonstration in London would get (Ras) Putin (no, he hasn't got dreadlocks yet!) to stop his bombing of schools, hospitals and restaurants in Ukraine, I would put on my walking shoes and be out there. No such prospect, Raspy couldn't give a flying fu...rry-creature about what his own people think, leave aside what he characterises as Nazi-supporting Westerners.

So, even if the comrades call a demo for this hopeless cause I shan't be going. Barracking an embassy whose government is in blatant violation of human rights -- getting their death squads to pick on and even kill women who defy their nasty rules or turning a blind eye to, or encouraging assaults on minority populations within the country -- I might consider showing my face, even though the chances of reversing such violations is remote.

However, a very local cause I have regularly endorsed with my presence has been easy for me -- as it concerns a pub which is fifty yards from the place where I live. No, gentle reader, I wasn't demonstrating outside The Honor Oak pub to protest against the price of beer or indeed complaining about the

quality of it -- which is excellent.

Why did I join a few hundred people on this demonstration -- which takes place on the last Saturday of each month?

Well, it is technically a counter-demonstration. What The Honor Oak has taken to doing over the last six or so months is to host in their tiny, one-room theatre on the first floor above the drinking space and gardens... a show for children. The show is a story-telling session by drag queens. Men dress up as women and tell stories, from tradition and several cultures, to the gathered young, delighted audiences.

This Saturday event came to the attention of what I conclude are hotheads from an American-origin evangelical church. I may be mistaken but I'll tell you later why I assume this. These evangelists concluded that men in drag -- wearing picturesque and extravagant women's apparel and wigs, were in some sense "perverting" the children in the audience.

The placards of their demonstration outside the pub even accused the narrative/theatrical performance of "grooming", the paedophile's seduction strategy.

These evangelist head-bangers were the initiators of the melee that takes place on the last Saturday of the month outside our local pub. A gang of these anti-drag show-wallas, sometimes not more than 15 of them and

at times a couple of hundred, gather on the opposite pavement outside The Honor Oak with placards and slogans such as "this is an anti-grooming zone" and "protect our children from perverts". They are, kept behind steel-frame barriers by a flood of police who recognise their right to protest but not to resort to any vandalism or violence.

The counter-demonstrators gather on the pavements outside the pub. This anti-anti-protest, sometimes up to eight hundred strong, labels itself "anti-fascists" and bears placards saying "fascist-free zone" and "racists, homophobes OUT!", or words to that effect.

They carry loudhailers and shout at the opposing protesters. They too are held back by steel barriers and the uniformed police who park their 15 police vans each protest day along the street to see that the traffic is not obstructed.

I join this latter mob -- no, gentle reader, not the police! -- the counter-demonstrators, most of them from a Trotskyist organisation called the Socialist Worker's Party, others from the Labour Party and local supporters. The pub has a lot of support, and the drag queen story-telling sessions go ahead as planned.

I characterise the anti-drag mob as evangelical headbangers because on several of these demonstrations I have seen young black men and women -- from

their dress and demeanour, church-going Christians who belong to organisations such as the Jehovah's Witnesses. Coincidentally or not, the South London headquarters and meeting place of the JWs is precisely opposite the road from The Honor Oak pub. I can't with any confidence say that the black members of the objecting demo are Witnesses, but my feeling that they are is strengthened by the fact that I think I recognised one of the demonstrators as a part of the couple of Witnesses who, some weeks ago, knocked at my door.

I answered, and this young man said: "Sir, do you know about Jesus?"

I said: "Of course! Any man who can turn water into wine -- that's my man!"

They went away.

I think that the anti-fascist rhetoric of our demonstration's slogans goes nowhere. Obviously, if there are blacks on the other side demonstrating against drag queens, the characterisation of the evangelists as "racist" falls on deaf ears.

Maybe what I should do is chalk up placards which say "GET WITH BRITISH CULTURE: PANTOMIME HAS HAD MEN DRESSED AS WIDOW TWANKY FOR AS LONG AS IT HAS EXISTED".

Or maybe: "WHEN SHAKE-SPEARE'S PLAYS WERE STAGED WOMEN CHARACTERS WERE PLAYED BY 'DRAG' MEN".



## Act of faith: Actor Siddhant Karnick, who is basking in the success of Made in Heaven 2, says he tries to bring his own life experiences into the roles he essays on screen

Siddhant Karnick is a name that resonates with versatility, passion, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. From his remarkable performances in Made in Heaven and Adipurush to his upcoming endeavours in the world of acting, writing, and production, Karnick's journey in the entertainment industry is a testament to his unwavering dedication.

Karnick's recent series on Amazon Made in Heaven has captivated audiences globally. His portrayal as the main lead alongside Mrunal Thakur in one of the episodes has garnered significant praise. Reflecting on his experience, he says, "I have been a huge fan of the series since season one and always wanted to be a part of it." The camaraderie and comfort between actors play a pivotal role in delivering outstanding performances. He adds, "Mrunal Thakur's presence on the sets was amazing." With directors like Alankrita Shrivastava and production houses like Zoya Akhtar's Tiger Baby, Karnick's experience was nothing



short of spectacular.

His involvement in Adipurush, the much-talked-about film, added another layer of prestige to his career, as he expressed contentment on being a part of such a monumental project.

True calling

The journey into the entertainment industry was a leap into the unknown. At 22, like many young adults, he was unsure about his path. Karnick's candid

admission resonates with those who have grappled with finding their true calling. He admitted that he didn't know what he wanted to do. Yet, his journey from uncertainty to achievement is an embodiment of hard work.

Growing up in a family with a strong military background, Karnick initially contemplated joining the Army. He says, "But my parents' encouragement and early inclination towards acting

brought me into the world of entertainment."

Karnick's involvement in a wide array of projects, from films to television, underscores his versatile approach to his roles. The actor shares, "When one is new or just starting off, not many jobs or roles are offered. But a proactive approach helps." Whether it's theatre, cinema, voice-over work or hosting shows, Karnick is undaunted. He emphasises, "The art of bringing my own life experiences into characters has resonated with audiences across mediums. Whether on stage or in cinema, I am committed to infusing authenticity into onscreen portrayals."

As Karnick continues his remarkable journey, he has exciting plans on the horizon. His upcoming projects, including the movie "Animal" and an Indo-French collaboration, promise to expand his creative horizons even further. "It's alright to start without a clear vision; what truly matters is the willingness to explore and seize opportunities that come your way," he beams.

## All about rhythm: Government should patronise Indian classical music, says tabla doyen Yogesh Samsi



Renowned tabla player Yogesh Samsi gave a solo performance at the Tagore Theatre on Friday to mark the 150th birth anniversary of doyen of classical music Pt Vishnu Digambar Paluskar. The event was organised by Gandharva Maha-Vidyalyaya,

Panchkula.

Samsi feels there is a need for cultural patronage by the government at both the central as well as state level. "And not just Hindustani classical music but also of different Indian art forms, heritage sites etc," he points out.

Samsi has earlier performed on the tabla with top classical instrumentalists, vocalists and dancers of India like Pt Shivkumar Sharma, Pt Hariprasad Chaurasia, Pt Bhimsen Joshi, Ustad Vilayat Khan and Ustad Amjad Ali Khan.

Having taught over 40 tabla players, Samsi was himself trained intensely under the legendary Ustad Allah Rakha for 23 years. He adds, "Goa has already made it mandatory that Indian classical music be a compulsory part of education in schools and colleges. This successful model needs to be emulated pan-India."

Meanwhile, apart from Yogesh Samsi, and Aditya Sharma, Vinay Mishra, Rajneesh Dhiman and Adarsh Saxena too performed at Tagore theatre.

## Actor Vijayalakshmi alleges Tamil politician promised to 'marry her'; summoned by police after she complains he 'cheated and ruined her life'

Tamil actor, director and politician Seeman was summoned by police following a complaint by actress Vijayalakshmi on Saturday.

Seeman, who is the founder leader of Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK) which is an ultra Tamil nationalist political party, was summoned by the Valsaravakkam police at 10.30 am.

Vijayalakshmi has filed a four-page complaint notice against Seeman at the Chennai City police commissioner's office.

The actress alleged that Seeman had promised to marry her. Vijayalakshmi alleged that Seeman cheated her and ruined her life.



The actress, who has been paired with Seeman in many movies, said that she had earlier filed a complaint against the actor-

politician in 2011 but took it back after he promised to marry her. Seeman had married Kalyavazhi in 2013 and has a son.

## Copy that!: As AP Dhillon's song With You comes under scanner for plagiarism, industry experts opine artistes have become lethargic and make songs on 'sample' beats

Ever since its release, AP Dhillon's song With You has become netizens' favourite love anthem for its catchy music and impressive lyrics. But in the times of technology, nothing remains concealed for a long time, and soon listeners were quick to find two other songs with similar music!

One of them, I Won't Follow Through, by singer Ratthew was released in 2022 on YouTube. While people in no time cried plagiarism, it was soon clarified that the two bought the sample music from the same composer. Anyhow, in an era when remixes and remakes of old songs are marked for lack of originality, listeners are not ready to excuse the Excuses singer for being a lazy artist! People from the music industry share



their opinion. Sampling or copy? In hip hop culture and

in the music industry, many artistes have been inspired by other

artistes' music and often tried to include or recreate that. Called sampling, it means taking a section of audio from other source (existing dialogue, music, lyrics) and reworking it to come up with an entirely new work of art. Meanwhile, With You isn't his first song that has come under scanner. AP Dhillon's songs, Fake and Summer High, also had beats from western hits. In other words, he is just dishing out Punjabi lyrics on western beats!

Lazy to the core

On Instagram and X, many called out AP Dhillon, with one user labeling his name as 'Audio Pirate Dhillon!' While some defended AP for buying the audio and making it better, others accused him for not just picking the audio but copying the entire base track of Ratthew, with

exactly the same drum and guitar loop.

Pop duo Parekh & Singh commented on one such post on plagiarism, "Lazy writing and production that finds commercial success is a dangerous and sad precedent because it encourages aspiring creators to focus on the success rather than the craft and the journey. It's too rampant all over the 'creative media industry', which includes TV, films and, of course, music."

In the past, other musicians have also been accused of doing the same. Remember cult classic song Mehbooba Mehbooba from Sholay? It was the copy of Say You Love Me (Demis Roussos, 1974). But not everyone had the luxury to listen to western music during the 70s!

## Rasika Dugal dubs for Little Thomas



Rasika Dugal, who was recently seen in the streaming series Adhura, has now started the dubbing process for her film titled Little Thomas. The film, which wrapped up production a few months back, was shot in both

Mumbai and Goa. The film tells a heart-warming story centered around a Goan family. Directed by the National Award-winning filmmaker Kaushal Oza, Little Thomas marks a reunion for Rasika and Kaushal, who had pre-

viously collaborated on the short film The Miniaturist of Junagadh.

Rasika's association with Kaushal dates back to their days at FTII (Film and Television Institute of India), Pune. Reflecting on the experience, Rasika shared, "Mostly, when I dub for a film/series, it is the first time that I am watching an edited version of the film. That always comes with so many surprises -things you were nervous would not turn out well but actually turn out to be the best parts of the film and vice versa. And generally just the feeling of watching it all come together."

She further said, "So, I am always a little overwhelmed and often relieved after dubbing. The narrative of Little Thomas is a simple and heart-warming one and it's been a joy working on it. I can't wait for the film to be complete and reach its audience." Meanwhile, Rasika has an array of projects lined up, including the highly anticipated Mirzapur 3, Spike, Lord Curzon Ki Haveli and Fairy Folk.

## City beautiful!: Aditi Bhagat shares her experience of shooting in Chandigarh



As Colors' show Udaariyaan takes a pivotal turn with an upcoming wedding sequence, Aditi Bhagat opens up about her experience of shooting for the show in the picturesque city of Chandigarh. Hailing from Mumbai, Aditi says the experience of living in Chandigarh was wonderful.

Says Aditi, "I was absolutely thrilled about shooting for Udaariyaan in Chandigarh. I went to the city for the first time and instantly fell in love with it. Shooting in Chandigarh placed me right inside the show's world. I had experienced the dynamic hustle of Mumbai, and so the peace and pace of Chandigarh were a novelty for me. In both cities, there's a blend of motion and stillness that I cherish. What I love the most about Chandigarh is that its people are rooted in their culture and are very welcoming. The delicious food was also quite amazing."

## Playing Habiba: Kritika Kamra says her Bamba Meri Jaan character is a woman of 'many shades'

Kritika Kamra, who is gearing up for the release of her upcoming streaming series Bamba Meri Jaan, has spilled beans on her character of Habiba, the youngest and the only sister among Dara Kadri's siblings.

The actress's character of Habiba makes for a good contrast in the show as she stands out as a bold and confident woman who breaks away from the stereotypical construct of a woman in such a setting, to make her voice heard with impact.

Sharing the dimensions of her part, Kritika said, "Habiba is a woman of many shades. She is stubborn like her father, courageous like Dara and is fiercely loyal like him. At the same time, being the youngest and the only woman among the siblings. She idolises her brother Dara and shares a special bond with him which influences his decisions and actions as well."

The actress said, "Just like him, she shares the ambition for power. Right from the beginning you see that she is



an alpha. As the show progresses, we get a glimpse of how she thinks and what her ambitions are, making it an absolute delight for me as an actor."

The series also stars Kay Kay Menon, Avinash Tiwary, Nivedita Bhattacharya and Amyra Dastur among others. Produced by Excel Media and Enter-

tainment's Ritesh Sidhwani, Kassim Jagmagia and Farhan Akhtar, Bamba Meri Jaan is created by Rensil D'Silva and Shujaat Saudagar and directed by Saudagar. The 10-part Hindi series will premiere on Prime Video on September 14 across multiple Indian and international languages.







# SED launches "Shanti Yatra" to promote Gandhi's message of Unity, Harmony, and Swachhata

Top News Report

**POONCH, Sep 9:** The Department of School Education Jammu embarked on a significant journey today as it flagged off the "Shanti Yatra" from Poonch, aimed at spreading the timeless message of Mahatma Gandhi - unity, harmony, swachhata (cleanliness), and a corruption-free society. The event took place at High School Purani Poonch, where Sandesh Kumar Sharma, the Additional District Development Commissioner Poonch, ceremoniously flagged off the yatra. A remarkable display of Gandhian spirit was witnessed as students dressed in Gandhi's attire and held the symbol of peace, reflecting the timeless values of the Father of the Nation.

The "Shanti Yatra," which will traverse all the districts of Jammu Province, is set to culminate at Teachers Bhavan in Jammu on October 2, 2023, coinciding with the auspicious occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.

The event commenced with the unveiling of the Symbol of Unity by the ADDC Poonch, followed by the singing of the national anthem and Sarv Dharam prayers led by religious preachers. Bishamber Dass, Chief Education Officer



Poonch, emphasized the significance of the Shanti Yatra as a means to carry forward Mahatma Gandhi's teachings and expressed his gratitude to the Director of School Education Jammu for providing this remarkable opportunity to Poonch district.

CEO Bishamber Dass urged students and teachers to actively participate in spreading the message of Gandhi throughout every nook and corner of Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing the values of unity, harmony, cleanliness, and integrity.

In his address, ADDC Poonch highlighted the remarkable diversity in religion and culture that India boasts. He underscored the fact that despite this rich tapestry of diversity, the country has historically lived in harmony. He urged everyone to embrace this unity and con-

tinuously strive to propagate the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, emphasizing the importance of working together to fulfill Gandhi's dreams of transforming India into a great and developed nation.

Sunita Sharma, the Headmaster of High School Purani Poonch, extended her gratitude during the vote of thanks and emphasized the profound significance of the Shanti Yatra. She echoed the sentiment that this journey serves as a powerful medium to instill Gandhian values among the populace.

Darshan Kumar, a member of the District Resource Group, conducted the proceedings and provided insights into the aims, objectives, and route of the yatra. The yatra was attended by several dignitaries, including DEPO Poonch N M Suri, Anwar Hussain, ZEO Kanuy-

ian, Vijay Kumar ZEPO Poonch, along with numerous teachers and students who participated enthusiastically in the event. Notably, hundreds of teachers, carrying the tricolor flag on their bikes, added a vibrant and patriotic dimension to the yatra.

Today, the yatra was warmly embraced by DSM Manjeet Singh Memorial HSS Poonch, led by Principal Rupinder Kour, and ZEO Kanuyian at MS Bhainch.

The spirit of unity and peace was further celebrated at PS Hillan Kalai, MS Shiendara, and HSS Lassana, with Abdul Aziz and Sukhpal Singh leading the way. The yatra continued its journey to HS Sanai, and finally, the enthusiastic reception reached its pinnacle at HSS Girls Surankote, where Mukhtar Manhas, the Principal of HSS Girls Surankote, extended a warm welcome.

Today, the yatra made its way to Surankote and is scheduled to reach Bimbar Gali tomorrow.

At Bimbar Gali, CEO Rajouri will receive the symbol of peace, further advancing the yatra towards its destination in Reasi District. Yougal Kishore Sharma, District Incharge Cultural Cell Poonch, expressed his gratitude to all the participants for their cooperation.

# Army conducts Essay Writing, Painting Competition at GMS Ganiah



Top News Report

**NOWSHERA, Sep 9:** In a thoughtful gesture to mark National Literacy Day, the Indian Army organized an Essay Writing and Painting Competition for the students of Government Middle School, Ganiah, Naushera. This event was designed to instill awareness and highlight the significance of education, as well as shed light on the National Education Policy.

With the primary focus on "Education for All," the competition was structured to engage young minds in a constructive manner and enhance their understanding of the National Education Policy. By doing so, the Indian Army aimed to emphasize the pivotal role edu-

societal growth. The event served as a means to raise awareness about the importance of literacy and education for all sections of society. It encouraged students to actively participate in discussions related to education policy and to become advocates for quality education in their communities. Winners and top performers were acknowledged and rewarded for their outstanding efforts. Prizes and certificates were distributed to recognize the achievements of the participants, motivating them to pursue their educational aspirations with zeal and enthusiasm. The Indian Army's initiative to commemorate National Literacy Day through this competition exemplifies their commitment to education and community development. Such events not only celebrate the spirit of literacy but also inspire young minds to become informed and responsible citizens, contributing positively to the nation's growth and development.

cation plays in human life and the nation's development. The competition aimed to empower students by fostering a deeper understanding of the National Education Policy, which serves as a cornerstone for educational reforms in India. Through engaging activities like essay writing and painting, students were encouraged to express their thoughts and ideas about education.

The essay writing and painting competitions provided a platform for students to creatively explore and articulate their views on the significance of education. Participants exhibited their creativity and talent while addressing the theme of literacy and its role in personal and

# BJP's proxy Govt in J&K proved damp squib: Rattan Lal

Top News Report

**DODA Sep 9:** The proxy government of Jammu and Kashmir run by the Bharatiya Janata Party from the Centre has failed in every sphere plunging the people of this sensitive region into an ocean of miseries. The height of mis-governance can be well gauged from the fact that today the people of J&K are craving even for the basic amenities and facilities essential for their very survival.

This was stated by Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President JKNC while addressing a day-long convention of party workers at district Doda. Notably, Rattan Lal Gupta along with Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Provincial Secretary and senior party leader Pardeep Bali visited Doda town to address the convention. Khalid Najeev Suhrawardy former minister and Provincial Vice President, NC, Jammu Province and Sajjad Ahmed Kichloo Zone President Chenab Valley were also present.

Rattan Lal Gupta lamented that the present government has dejectedly failed to address political and developmental aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that lack of direction and political will have compounded miseries of people of J&K. He said BJP Government rather than engaging with aggrieved people with an aim to address their issues, had chosen to tread a path of isolation, arrogance and confrontation contradicting the promises made to the people of J&K.

Earlier, Zaffer Ullah Rather, District President, Doda, apprised the senior functionaries of Party about the hardships being faced by the people of Jammu region. He said people residing in remote areas of district Doda are deprived of the basic amenities under the present regime.

The senior NC leader criticized the government for its failure to provide the basic amenities despite making tall claims of good governance.

He asked the government to prioritize the needs of the people residing in rural and far flung areas of district Doda and allocate necessary resources to improve the living standards and overall quality of life in the region.

Rattan Lal asked party workers to gear up for the upcoming ULB and Panchayat polls and made the public aware of the significant contributions that the National Conference has made to the development of the state.

Khalid Najeev Suhrawardy former minister, Provincial Vice President, NC, Jammu Province, in his address, lamented that the incumbent Govt is making tall claims of transparency and corruption free society but the fact remains that corruption rules the roost.

He claimed that once the NC wins the ULB elections it will definitely eradicate corruption and promote transparency in the working of government, the working of which has suffered badly under the present regime.

# 23rd J&K UT Sport Climbing Championship to start from Sept 23

Top News Report

**JAMMU, Sep 9:** The 23rd J&K UT Sport Climbing Championship shall be conducted by Mountaineering Association of J&K at Sprawling Buds ICSE School, Bantlatab, Jammu from 23rd to 24th September, 2023.

About 200 climbers including national medalists from the districts of Anantnag, Badgam, Kishtwar, Kulgam, Pulwama, Reasi, Srinagar, Samba, Shopian, Kathua, Rajouri and Udhampur besides Jammu are likely to compete and a keen tussle is on the cards in all the categories.

However, Shivani Charak, an interna-

tional sport climber of J&K, may not be able to participate in the UT competition because of her international assignments.

Since the selection of the J&K UT team for the 27th North Zone Sport Climbing Championship due to be held at Indian Mountaineering Foundation and Climbing Central, Delhi from 1st to 3rd October, 2023 shall be made on the basis of performance of climbers in this competition, the competitions shall be held in the age groups which are included in the zonal competition.

Accordingly, there will be only six categories of Men, Women (born in 2006, 2005 and ear-

lier), Junior Boys/ Girls (born in 2007, 2008 & 2009) and Sub Jr. Boys / Girls (born in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013).

The competitions shall be conducted strictly as per IFSC rules and only fresh international standard climbing equipment shall be used.

Whereas the specialized equipment is to be arranged by Mountaineering Association of J&K, the Indian Mountaineering Foundation North Zone Committee shall provide adequate technical support.

While Mitra Ghosh, an international Judge in Sport Climbing shall be the President of Jury, the other technical committees shall also be headed by officials from

IMF North Zone Committee. The national technical officials shall, however, be assisted by local technical officials and senior climbers.

The Championship is being organized by Mountaineering Association of J&K under the aegis of Indian Mountaineering Foundation North Zone Committee and sponsored by J&K Sports Council.

For further details and registration interested institutions/climbers should contact the General Secretary of the Mountaineering Association of J&K Shwetika Khajuria on Mob. No: 7006099855. The registration closes on 20th September, 2023.

## FROM PAGE 1

# G20 Summit: US, India, Saudi Arabia, UAE, EU set to unveil railway, ports connectivity deal

initiative, Finer noted it was not just a railway project but more of a shipping and railway project.

"It is not just the Railway project, it is a shipping and Railway project and it is important for people to understand how expansive, ambitious and ground-breaking this will be" Finer added.

Finer termed this to-be-built project as "affirmative positive" aimed at serving the underserved.

"The way we see the infra project, it is an affirmative positive project. It has appeal for countries underserved by infra. We are not asking countries to make a zero-sum choice. We have seen other efforts that are not as ambitious, we feel good about contrast of what we provide," White House Deputy National Security Advisor said.

The infrastructure deal is expected to connect countries in the Middle East via a network of railways. The network will also connect to India through shipping lanes from ports in the region.

# Powerful quake in Morocco kills more than 600 people and damages historic buildings in Marrakech

buried by the chunks of a collapsed building.

Baskets, buckets and clothing could be seen amid scattered stones in the remains of one building.

Moroccan media reported that the 12th century Koutoubia Mosque in Marrakech, one of the city's most famed landmarks, suffered damage, but the extent was not immediately clear. Its 69-metre (226-foot) minaret is known as the "roof of Marrakech".

Moroccans also posted videos showing damage to parts of the famous red walls that surround the old city in Marrakech, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The head of a town near the earthquake's epicentre told Moroccan news site 2M that several homes in nearby towns had partly or totally collapsed, and electricity and roads were cut off in some places.

Abderahim Ait Daoud, head of the town of Talat N'Yaouq, said authorities are working to clear roads in Al Haouz Province to allow passage for ambulances and aid to populations affected, but said large distances between mountain villages mean it will take time to learn the extent of the damage.

# JKEDI invites startups to register under JK Startup Policy, Check details

comprehensive guidance and support to aspiring entrepreneurs to facilitate a smoother registration journey, he added.

JKEDI is the UT Nodal Agency for the implementation of the J&K Startup Policy. The policy offers a wide array of incentives and benefits to startups, including support in financial linkages, mentorship programs, and access to state-of-the-art infrastructure.

Some of the features of the policy are

providing of Office Space, Monthly Allowance, Assistance for Product Research and Development/Marketing/Publicity, Energy Assistance, Patent Filing Cost Reimbursement, Tax benefits/ Exemptions, Public Procurement Self Certification of compliance under Labour Laws, Exposure visits and workshops for Start-ups Infrastructure Support in addition to others.

These measures are strategically designed to encourage local talent to transform innovative concepts into thriving businesses, ultimately fostering economic self-sufficiency in the region.

Further, the Director encouraged faculty members and DNOs to identify promising startup ideas and facilitate their seamless integration into the vibrant startup ecosystem.

Startups looking to register under J&K Startup Policy can visit the website www.startupjk.com, where they can access registration details and additional information about the policy.

Moreover, startups can directly reach out to In Charge CIIBM, JKEDI, Vishal Ray, on 9419216208 and Intiyaz Ahad Malla, Associate Project Manager, JKEDI, on 8825014846 or 01933-222267.

# Two 'self-styled' journalists held for extortion in Ganderbal: Police

boys on scooters with mobile phones and cameras in their hands were blackmailing and extorting the public in the general area of Gund.

Ganderbal Police has requested the general public not to fall prey to blackmailing and report such crimes to police so that

culprits shall be nabbed effectively under relevant sections of law in future also.

# Teacher suspended in Baramulla

School Shutloo Rafiabab, after a complaint.

"Pending an inquiry into the matter, Owais Ahmed Nanda, a teacher presently posted at HSS Shutloo, is hereby placed under suspension with immediate effect. During the period of suspension, the said official shall remain attached in the office of the principal of BHSS ( Boys Higher Secondary School) Sopore," reads the order issued by CEO Baramulla on August 31.

After the incident came to light, the locals staged a protest on Friday and demanded stern action against the accused teacher.

A committee led by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Baramulla, has been constituted to probe the matter.

Officials said, as per the complaint, the teacher had exchanged "lewd text messages" with school girls.

# High Court upholds power of JKBOSE to prescribe textbooks for Schools in UT

make it mandatory for the schools to prescribe the text books by the Board for their students.

The respondent Board in its response submitted that curriculum, syllabi and development of textbooks from Class 1st to 12th is their domain and as per the provisions of the Act of 1975, the Board has the power to advise the Government on the matters of policy relating to the Elementary Education and Senior Secondary Education.

The government lawyer said the JKBOSE has a well established Curriculum Development and Research Wing at its divisional offices in Jammu and Srinagar and it has permanent faculty of qualified academic staff to look after this task effectively.

The Board submitted that it functions according to the broader objectives set in the National Education Policy, 2020 and National Curriculum Framework, 2005.

The government lawyer argued that while issuing the impugned notification, mandate of the law was followed and the said notification has the approval of the competent authority.

It was submitted by the government lawyer that the petitioner is interested in commercialization whereas the endeavour of the respondent Board is to benefit the students so as to provide them low-cost textbooks.

After hearing the two sides, HC Judge Dhar observed that it is clear BOSE is vested with statutory power to prescribe text books which include publication of these books.

"It would be well within its power to make it mandatory for the affiliated schools to use only those books that have been prescribed and published by the Board. Neither the private schools nor other publishers have any right to compel the Board to prescribe text books published by these private publishers," the High Court observed.

The argument of counsel for the petitioner that the notification has been issued without the approval of the competent authority is without any merit, the court observed.

"For the foregoing reasons, I do not find any merit in this writ petition. The same is dismissed accordingly. Interim direction, if any, shall stand vacated," the order issued by Justice Dhar read.

## Global Biofuels Alliance likely to be launched at G20: Sources

The Global Biofuels Alliance is aimed at facilitating cooperation and intensifying the use of sustainable biofuels, including in the transportation sector.

NEW DELHI, Sep 9 (Agencies): India's proposal for setting up a Global Biofuels Alliance is likely to get through at the G20 summit with sources indicating that the new grouping may be launched on Saturday to help accelerate energy transition.

A group photo of the G20 world leaders may take place on the first day of the summit on Saturday after it begins at Bharat Mandapam, the venue for the two-day summit, sources said.

The Global Biofuels Alliance, which the world's third biggest oil consumer wants to push during its G20 presidency, mirrors the International Solar Alliance (ISA) piloted by New Delhi and Paris in 2015 to bring clean and affordable solar energy within the reach of all.

Earlier this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told PTI in an exclusive interview that India's proposal for a global alliance on biofuels among members of the Group of 20 major



economies will help accelerate sustainable biofuels deployment in support of the global energy transition.

"Such alliances are aimed at creating options for developing countries to advance their energy transitions," he had said.

"Biofuels are also important from the perspective of a circular economy. Markets, trade, technology, and policy, all aspects of international cooperation are crucial in creating such opportunities," Modi had said.

Biofuel is a renewable source of energy which is derived from

biomass. India, which imports over 85 per cent of its crude oil needs, is gradually building capacity to produce fuel from items including crop stubble, plant waste and municipal solid waste.

While India is on schedule to double the mixing of ethanol extracted from sugarcane and agriculture waste to 20 per cent with petrol by 2025, dozens of compressed biogas (CBG) plants are being set up.

The Global Biofuels Alliance is aimed at facilitating cooperation and intensifying the use of

sustainable biofuels, including in the transportation sector.

Its focus is primarily on strengthening markets, facilitating global biofuel trade, developing concrete policy lessons-sharing and providing technical support for national biofuel programmes worldwide. Such an initiative is also aimed at helping India's transition to alternative fuels and cutting its import bill, as it seeks to achieve its net zero carbon emissions goal by 2070.

On the other hand, the ISA aims to mobilise more than USD 1,000 billion of investment needed by 2030 for the massive deployment of solar energy.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates that global sustainable biofuel production will need to triple by 2030 to put the world's energy system on track towards net zero emissions by 2050.

Liquid biofuels provided more than 4 per cent of the total transport energy supply in 2022.

## RBI to withdraw incremental CRR in phases by October 7



MUMBAI, Sep 9 (Agencies): In a positive development for banks, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced to discontinue the incremental cash reserve ratio (I-CRR) in a phased manner beginning Saturday. RBI had imposed I-CRR on banks to absorb surplus liquidity following the withdrawal of Rs 2,000 currency notes.

On August 10, the RBI mandated banks to maintain an I-CRR of 10% on the increase in their net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) between May 19, 2023, and July 28, 2023.

"On a review, it has been decided to discontinue the I-CRR in a phased manner," the RBI said in a statement. "Based on an assessment of current and evolving liquidity conditions, it has been decided that the amounts impounded under the I-CRR would be released in stages so that system

liquidity is not subjected to sudden shocks and money markets function in an orderly manner," it added.

The RBI said 25% of the amount of I-CRR maintained by banks will be released on Saturday and another 25% on September 23. The rest will be released on October 7. With the imposition of I-CRR, RBI has managed to drain out excess liquidity from the banking system. As per RBI data, the liquidity was around `2.64 lakh crore on August 10, which went down to `1.21 lakh crore on August 13 and on August 21 the system transitioned into a deficit of `23,644.43 crore.

The liquidity in the banking system has remained below `1 lakh crore. On Thursday, the liquidity surplus was about `76,000 crore while a day before on Wednesday the surplus was `93,935 crore. While announcing the I-CRR, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had indicated that the provision was a temporary measure for managing liquidity overhang.

RBI says 25% I-CRR to be released on Sept 9

RBI said 25% of the amount of I-CRR maintained by banks will be released on Saturday and another 25% on September 23. The rest will be released on October 7. With the imposition of I-CRR, RBI has managed to drain out excess liquidity from the banking system

## India's digital growth transformative: World Bank

NEW DELHI, Sep 9 (Agencies): A World Bank report has termed India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) as having a 'transformative impact' and 'extending' far beyond inclusive finance.

In the report titled 'G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion', the World Bank highlighted measures taken by India in the past decade or so — the term of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the role of government policy and regulation in shaping the DPI landscape.

The World Bank report says India achieved in six years what would have taken decades. Jan Dhan Yojana,



Aadhaar and Mobile Number (JAM) linking has propelled financial inclusion rate from 25% in 2008 to over 80% of adults in the past six years.

The report says, "While DPIs' role in leap-frogging is undoubtable, ecosystem and policies

build on the availability of DPIs were critical. These included interventions to create a more enabling legal and regulatory framework, national policies to expand account ownership, and leveraging Aadhaar for identity verification."

## New strains of influenza A virus found in pigs raise pandemic risk



SINGAPORE, Sep 9 (Agencies): Scientists have uncovered several previously unknown strains of swine flu viruses that have been circulating unnoticed in Cambodian pig populations over the past 15 years, potentially posing a pandemic risk.

The new strains include viruses that have been passed by humans to pigs, as well as some with genes originating from as far as North America, said researchers from Duke-NUS Medical School in Singapore.

Pigs are a key intermediary in the emergence and potential spread of influenza viruses between animals and humans, the researchers noted, as they provide a suitable environment for the shuffling of gene segments between avian, swine and human hosts, ultimately giving rise to new viruses.

With pork production dramatically increasing over the past 50 years, international trade and movement have further amplified the risks.

"While swine influenza viruses typically cause mild symptoms in pigs, they pose a pandemic threat to humans, as the human population may lack immunity or have inadequate protection against new strains of swine influenza viruses. Therefore, systematic surveillance is crucial in early detection and warning of new subtypes or strains," said Prof. Gavin Smith, Director of the Emerging Infectious Diseases Programme at Duke-NUS.

From March 2020 to July 2022, the team conducted swine influenza surveillance in 18 pig slaughterhouses in

Cambodia. They collected 4,089 nasal swabs from pigs in different districts of four provinces. Among these, 72 pigs — or around 2 per cent of the pigs — tested positive for influenza A virus.

The findings, published in the journal PNAS, showed that the scientists identified nine distinct swine influenza A virus groups, at least seven of which had not been detected for between 2 to 15 years.

Among these are multiple H3 lineages that had been passed by humans to pigs, circulating undetected for about 10 years; as well as the H1N1 subtype, which was predominant and likely derived from human origins dating back to the 2009 pandemic.

Two seasonal viruses were detected in pigs from Kandal, Phnom Penh, and Takeo provinces, and likely originated from Thailand.

The team also isolated a new swine European H1N2 variant (that originally came from birds) with North American genes in Cambodia.

While they were the first to detect this variant, their genomic analysis suggests that it had been circulating in pigs in the region since 2014, highlighting the need for better surveillance.

Delving deeper into the movement of viruses across geographical borders, the scientists found that European swine flu viruses had been sporadically introduced into South Central China and Southeast Asia in the early 2000s.

Genetic evidence indicated South Central China has served as the major source of European-like swine flu virus transmission in the region since around 2010, with the viruses subsequently spreading more widely across China and Southeast Asian countries such as Cambodia.

Further studies are needed to understand the pandemic threat of the new viruses, including how they react with human viruses and how easily they can spread, the team said.

## Apple loses about USD 200 billion in market capitalisation on reports of iPhone restrictions in China

NEW YORK, Sep 9 (Agencies): Apple has lost around USD 200 billion in market capitalisation over several days as tensions between the US and China rise, with several media outlets reporting this week that the iPhone maker is being singled out by Beijing.

Apple shares fell 3 per cent Thursday and are down more than 5 per cent for the week on reports of an iPhone ban for Chinese state employees that is being dictated by Beijing.

The ban was first reported by the Wall Street Journal, which cited unnamed sources saying China is ordering officials at central government agencies not to use iPhones or other foreign branded phones.

The Financial Times cited six unnamed sources at government institutions and state-owned companies, including a nuclear technology company and a



hospital, saying they've been told to stop using Apple phones. The ban widens earlier restrictions on using iPhones for work, the outlets said.

"Beijing is looking to reduce its dependence on US technology, but this (ban) acts as a significant headwind to Apple as China is its largest international market and accounts for about 20 per cent of its revenues," said Victoria Scholar, head of investment at interactive investor, a UK investment platform.

Apple didn't respond to a request for comment.

When asked about the ban at a daily briefing in Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning didn't comment directly, saying only that "products and services from any country are welcome to enter the Chinese market as long as they comply with Chinese laws and regulations." Tensions between the US and China have been rising and early last month, President Joe Biden signed an executive order to impose blocks and regulations on US high-tech investment in China, reflecting the intensifying competition

between the world's two largest economies.

White House officials said Biden, who departed Thursday evening for New Delhi, will use the annual G20 summit as an opportunity for the US to highlight a proposition for developing and middle-income countries that would increase the lending power of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund by some USD 200 billion.

Biden seeks to drive home that the United States and its like-minded allies are better economic and security partners than China.

The reported ban on the iPhone comes at a bad time for Apple, which is gearing up for its latest product launch next Tuesday Sept. 12, when it's expected to unveil its latest smartphone, the iPhone 15.

A teaser of the livestream for the event, dubbed "Wonderlust," has been posted on YouTube,

revealing no details. Reports are swirling that big changes are in store for the iPhone, including a switch from Apple's Lightning connector to the USB-C plug that rivals are starting to adopt, partly in response to a European Union mandate.

Apple also faces a threat from Chinese tech giant Huawei, which recently launched its latest flagship smartphone, the Mate 60 Pro.

The phone reportedly has enough power and speed to rival the iPhone and has been selling briskly in China. Huawei has been low key about the device, but its capabilities have raised concerns that China has been able to circumvent US curbs on Huawei that stop it from acquiring high tech components like advanced processor chips that had effectively crippled its smartphone business.

## PGIMER cardiologist performs complex TAVI operation, awarded at national forum

Case of 75-year-old suffering from critical aortic valve stenosis, compounded by severe calcium deposits

CHANDIGARH, Sep 9 (Agencies): Prof (Dr) Rajesh Vijayvergiya from the Department of Cardiology was honoured with 'Best Case Award' at IndiaValves conference, which held from September 1 to 3 in Mumbai. The conference, attended by over 900 participants and faculty members, delved into various facets of the percutaneous valve replacement therapy and its latest advancements.

Dr Vijayvergiya's award-winning presentation was centered at a highly complex transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI) procedure. The case involved a 75-year-old male suffering from critical aortic valve stenosis, compounded by severe calcium deposits. This challenging condition was successfully addressed through a TAVI operation conducted at Advanced Cardiac Centre of PGIMER here.

The TAVI procedure is a minimally invasive procedure in



which an artificial aortic valve, crimped onto a delivery catheter, is skilfully manoeuvred through the groin artery to the heart for implantation. Subsequent to the valve's successful placement, the delivery catheter

is carefully withdrawn from the groin to conclude the procedure. Speaking about this intricate TAVI case, Prof Vijayvergiya disclosed that the patient encountered an uncommon complication during the operation — an

abrupt total occlusion of the left main coronary artery of the heart. Recognising the gravity of the situation, the medical team swiftly performed an emergency coronary angioplasty and stenting of the obstructed left main coronary artery. Their dedicated efforts bore fruit, leading to the patient's remarkable recovery. He was discharged three days after the operation and underwent a symptom-free six-month follow-up.

Experts at the conference thoroughly examined and discussed this remarkable case, lauding the timely and coordinated teamwork that saved the patient's life. Prof Vijayvergiya humbly attributed this award and recognition to his entire team, including Dr Basant Kumar, Associate Professor of Cardiology, Dr Sunder Negi, Associate Professor of Anaesthesia, resident doctors from the Cardiology and Anaesthesia Departments, and the entire technical and nursing staff.

## India-Pakistan match reserve day in Asia Cup leads to huge controversy; here is the clarification

*Bangladesh, Sri Lanka coaches object to reserve day; Boards say decision taken after consultation with all*

**NEW DELHI, Sep 9 (Agencies):** The Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) and Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) said that the reserve day for the high-profile Asia Cup clash between India and Pakistan clash was added after consultation with all the teams competing in Super Four stage of the tournament, ie, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

This comes after the head coaches of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka voiced their misgivings over the decision of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) to add a reserve day for the India-Pakistan clash in the Asia Cup Super-4 stage.

"A reserve day for India-Pakistan contest in the Asia Cup Super-4 stage has been added that effectively revised the Asia Cup playing condition. To clarify on the position, the decision was taken with the consent of all four participating teams and ACC," tweeted the BCB.

The SLC also tweeted, "The reserve day for the India-Pakistan contest of the Asia Cup



Super-4 stage was taken in consultation with all four member boards of the Super-4 competing teams. Accordingly, the ACC effectively revised the playing conditions of the tournament to effect the agreed-upon change. #AsiaCup2023."

Earlier on Friday, a reserve day was announced for the India-Pakistan clash, which will be played at the R Premadasa stadium in Colombo on Sunday.

Not holding back, Bangladesh coach Chandika Hathurasingh said the decision is not "ideal" as even they would have pre-

ferred a reserve day. "There is a technical committee (in Asia Cup) represented by every participating country. They might have decided it for some other reason. It is not ideal as we also would have liked to have an extra day," the Bangladesh coach said at the pre-match press conference on Friday.

"But I don't have any more comment on this because they have already made a decision. If they had consulted us earlier, we would have given our opinion," the Bangladesh head coach added.

His Lankan counterpart, former England speedster Chris Silverwood, also expressed his frustration over ACC's decision saying that it could affect qualification scenarios in the elimination stages of the tournament.

"Yeah! Look, obviously, I was a little surprised when I heard it first. But we don't organise the competition, so we can't do a whole lot about it, right? I haven't seen this kind of thing in another tournament, this changing rules in the middle of the tournament," Silverwood said. "To be honest, I see it only becoming a problem if it provides points to the teams, and affects us," Silverwood added.

As per the ACC, if adverse weather suspends play during the India and Pakistan game, the match will continue on September 11 from the point it was suspended.

In such an eventuality, ticket-holders are advised to hold on to their match tickets which will remain valid and will be utilised for the reserve day.

## Irish open: Sharma shoots 65 to take sole lead



**KILDARE (IRELAND), Sep 9 (Agencies):** Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma shot his best round of 2023 as he fired a flawless 7-under 65 that included an eagle and five birdies to take the sole lead at the Irish Open after the opening day. Sharma has finished in the top-10 twice this season — a tied-8th finish at the Open in

July and a T-7th at the first event of 2023 in Abu Dhabi.

The 27-year-old is ranked 65th in the Race to Dubai rankings and needs to be inside the top-50 to make the season-ending DP World Tour Championships in November in Dubai.

Another Indian Manu Gandas shot a 1-over 73 and was lying T-104th. He needs a very low

second round to make the cut.

Sharma started from the tenth tee late in the afternoon on the Palmer North Course at The K Club. Though he found only 12 fairways and 12 greens in regulation, his putting was outstanding. He needed just 24 putts for the round and that made the difference.

"It was really solid. Hit the ball pretty good. Made a lot of putts until the back-nine which was my front nine, and the round kind of got even better when I made that third shot off 18," Sharma said.

"I holed out from 105 yards. That got me to 5-under, and the front nine was solid again. I haven't seen the stats but I'm sure I gained some strokes on the field with my putting. It was one of those days that the hole grew bigger and bigger. Really pleased, yes. I was great off the tee but the putter would be No. 1," he added.

## Asian championships: Thakkar falls short vs Long

**PYEONGCHANG (S KOREA), Sep 9 (Agencies):** India's Manav Thakkar had his moments against Chinese legend Ma Long before going down fighting in a Round-of-16 men's singles contest at the Asian Table Tennis Championships here.

The 23-year-old, who suffered a 0-3 defeat, was expectedly nervous going into the match against arguably the greatest padder of all time but ended up giving a good account of himself as Long won 11-9 12-10 11-5.

On a day when the seasoned G Sathiyar and Sharath Kamal lost their Round-of-32 matches, another heartening performance came from the 170th-



ranked Ayhika Mukherjee, who stretched Chen Xingtong of China to five games, but the Chinese won 2-11 6-11 11-8 11-9 11-3 in the women's singles Round of 32. In the men's doubles last-8, Thakkar and Manush

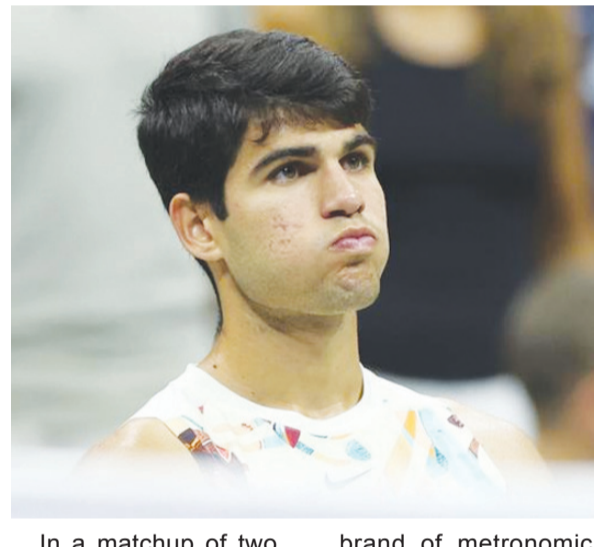
Shah lost to Fan Zhen-dong and Lin Gaoyuan 5-11 3-11 5-11. The women's doubles duo of Ayhika and Sutirtha Mukherjee also suffered a 5-11 11-13 10-12 loss to Wang Manyu and Chen Meng.

## World No 1 Carlos Alcaraz crashes out of US Open, Medvedev to face Djokovic in finals

**NEW YORK, Sep 9 (Agencies):** Daniil Medvedev beat defending champion Carlos Alcaraz 7-6(3), 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 to advance to his third US Open final, at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre.

"I said I needed to play 11 out of 10. I played 12 out of 10, except the third set," Medvedev was quoted as saying by 'usopen'.

"That's the only way (to beat Alcaraz). He's so young, already two Grand Slams, world No. 1 for many weeks, it's honestly just pretty unbelievable and I think nobody has done it before him, so to beat him you need to be better than yourself and I managed to do it."



In a matchup of two superstars, each with their own unique set of preternatural tennis talents, the 2021 New York champion, Medvedev got his calculations just right to neutralise the uber-athletic game of Alcaraz with his own

brand of metronomic baseline brilliance. The third seed also leaned on a stellar serving performance that peaked in the second set, when he rattled off three straight love holds.

Medvedev was hanging on at the start, bat-

ting through a series of tough holds and saving the only two break points of the first set as Alcaraz flew out of the blocks. But the tide began to turn when Medvedev won 12 straight points on serve late in the set, including a pair of love holds.

The third seed shook off a double fault that made it 3-3 in the tie-break by hitting two forehand winners in a four-point blitz to close the set.

Medvedev drove home that advantage with an instant break in set two, and he did not lose a point on serve in the set until he harmlessly conceded two in serving out the frame.

In the end, the puzzle presented by Medvedev

was too tough to overcome. It was the third seed's turn to endure a titanic service game in the final game of the match, but he fought off three break points and sealed the deal with a hugely satisfying overhead that bounded high into the stands.

Medvedev's latest stretch of dominance sets him up for a rematch of that 2021 final against Novak Djokovic—a match he won in straight sets to deny the Serbian a calendar-year Grand Slam.

In order to stop Djokovic from claiming a record-tying 24th major singles title, Medvedev knows he will need another otherworldly showing.

## “Don't Think Babar Azam Should've...”: Shoaib Akhtar Questions Pakistan Skipper's Plan vs India

**COLOMBO, Sep 9 (Agencies):** Legendary pacer Shoaib Akhtar has questioned Pakistan skipper Babar Azam over his captaincy tactics in the washed-out encounter against India in the group stage of the Asia Cup 2023. Akhtar feels Babar gave too many overs to the spinners after the pacers had rattled India's top-order. The spin trio of Mohammad Nawaz, Shadab Khan, and Salman Ali Agha conceded 131 runs in 21 overs without taking a wicket. According to Akhtar, Babar should've kept a pacer from end to put pressure on India's middle-order.

"I don't think Babar should have given that many overs to spinners. He could have kept the pace battery intact from one end and a spinner from the other. That is where I disagree with Babar, he used spin too much and gave up on the attack," Akhtar said during an interaction organised by Star

Sports. India were reeling at 66/4 at one stage before Ishan Kishan and Hardik Pandya did the repair job in the middle overs.

Both Kishan and Pandya missed out on their centuries, dismissed on 82 and 87 respectively as India went on to post a respectable total of 266.

Akhtar, on the other hand, was all praise for Pakistan pacers Shaheen and Rauf.

"These youngsters are very, very talented. It gives me so much happiness to think that Pakistan is being able to produce such fast bowlers over and over again. I would say Shaheen Shah Afridi is bowling is at the top of his career right now, and Haris Rauf has the same mindset, that he just has to keep picking wickets," he added.

India and Pakistan will square off once again on Sunday in the Super 4 stage.

## “Absolute Shamelessness”: Venkatesh Prasad's Scathing Attack On Jay Shah-led ACC Over India vs Pakistan Match Reserve Day



**COLOMBO, Sep 9 (Agencies):** Former Indian cricketer Venkatesh Prasad criticised Asian Cricket Council (ACC) for having a reserve day only for the match between India and Pakistan in the Super four stage of the Asia Cup 2023. ACC on Friday announced a reserve day for the match between India and Pakistan which is scheduled to take place on September 10 at R. Premadasa International Cricket Stadium in Colombo, Sri Lanka. If adverse weather suspends play during the India and Pakistan game, the match will continue on September 11 from the point it was suspended.

The former Indian bowler slammed ACC's decision and said it is unethical to have different rules for two teams. "If true this is absolute shamelessness this. The organisers have made a mockery and it is unethical to have

a tournament with rules being different for the other two teams. In the name of justice, will only be fair if it is abandoned the first day, may it rain harder on the second day and these malicious plans not succeed," Venkatesh wrote on his X (formerly Twitter) handle on Friday.

Earlier Bangladesh head coach Chandika Hathurasingha said on Friday that having a reserve day for only the India-Pakistan game was not ideal and that his team would have also liked have the advantage of a reserve day as rain was forecast for Colombo.

In the original tournament schedule only the Asia Cup final had a reserve day provision, but the India and Pakistan match has been given an exception by the Asian Cricket Council. After match against Pakistan, India's next scheduled match in the Super Four stage is versus Sri Lanka on September 12.

The group stage match between India and Pakistan was called off due to rain, with both teams sharing one point each. India were bundled out at 266 in 48.5 overs with Hardik Pandya's 87 and Ishan Kishan's 82 helping the team post a decent target. However, rain played spoilsport and the match was called off without Pakistan facing a single ball.

With rains also forecast in Colombo for the next week, the PCB, the official hosts of the tournament, were on board with plans to move the Colombo matches to Hambantota, but eventually, the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) sent a mail to the stakeholders stating that the matches would be played in Colombo as originally scheduled, according to ESPNcricinfo.

## Asia Cup 2023: Virat Kohli shares wisdom with budding cricketers in Sri Lanka ahead of Pakistan clash



**COLOMBO, Sep 9 (Agencies):** India superstar batter Virat Kohli met with budding cricketers in Sri Lanka and shared his experience with them. India is set to face Pakistan in the Super-4 stage of the ongoing Asia Cup 2023 on September 10.

In a video released by the Indian Cricket Team on Instagram, Kohli can be seen talking to young cricketers in Sri Lanka and imparting his cricketing knowledge to them.

Kohli could be heard talking about the importance of preparation and fitness. He also emphasised

the importance of working on minute details to rise above the rest of the competition.

India will be looking to get their Super-4 campaign off to a flying start when they take on arch-rivals Pakistan in Colombo.

India's group-stage match against Pakistan ended in a no-result in Pallekele earlier this month with rain playing spoilsport and forcing the match to be abandoned without a single ball being bowled in the second innings.

Following the washed-out Pakistan match, India defeated Nepal by

10 wickets via DLS to reserve their spot in the Super-4 stage.

Ahead of India's match against Pakistan, the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) announced a reserve day on September 11 with thunderstorms predicted in Colombo on Sunday. If adverse weather suspends play during the game, the match will continue on September 11, from the point it was suspended. Ticket holders have been advised to retain their tickets, which will remain valid and will be utilized for the reserve day.

Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan are the four teams that have qualified for the Super-4 stage. Each team will face each other in a round-robin format with the top-two teams facing off in the final at the R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on September 17.

India will be hoping to win the Asia Cup for the record eighth time, while Sri Lanka will be chasing their seventh title and Pakistan their third.

# People of J&K won't forget betrayal and dishonesty of BJP Govt: Dr Manohar

### TOP NEWS REPORT

BILLAWAR, Sep 9: Former Minister Dr Manohar Lal Sharma on Saturday organized monthly meeting at Dhan Panchayat, Danjadsar in Tehsil Ramkot to listen to public grievances especially property tax, price rise, unemployment and other problems faced by people.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include Th Bhudhi Singh, Raj Kumar, Amar Singh, Ch Mahmood, Vijay Kumar Sharma, Rattan Chand, Gian Singh, Dinesh, Shiv Ram, Mast Ram, Om Parkash, Tirth Ram, Kaka Ram, Bachiter Singh, Thoru Ram, Hans Raj, Sham Lal, Raj Kumar, Mahant Ram, Madan Lal, Shori Lal, Omkar Chand, Shanker Dass, Bodh Raj and Mir Chand

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Manohar said that BJP regime has destroyed Jammu and Kashmir in various spheres, as it lost its identity, status, right over jobs, lands, opportunities of trade and transport and business besides whatsoever selections and recruitment were done in the UT, witnessed corruption and scams.



He said that people have been exploited in the name of a bright future, control prices, and two crore jobs annually. But all their promises have fallen flat, except politics of hate and division, he said.

The ruling Government at the Centre has attained expertise in making big claims but on ground its performance is dismal with people suffering on all counts as civic edifice, healthcare, education, employment, tourism, businesses are all passing through an abysmal phase.

Dr Manohar said that the people of the country have made a big mistake by voting to power the BJP and the need of the time is to root it out as soon as possible and install pro-people Government to ensure

good governance in the country.

He said that BJP cannot offer anything except big hollow promises like bringing back black money, eradicating corruption, teaching a lesson to China and Pakistan, etc.

Dr Manohar said that the people of J&K are fed-up of series of lies and false promises made by the BJP leadership in the Union Territory.

He asserted that the people of the country are struggling with rising inflation and the youth are finding it difficult to get jobs.

Former Minister said the present government has miserably failed to ensure delivery of basic amenities like availability of ration, frequent supply of power and water & unemployment besides

affected people and the farmers.

Referring to the issues confronting people of J&K, Dr Manohar said in absence of elected Govt, LG Administration has failed badly to pursue all those connected with development for giving push to the schemes and projects aimed at overall development and welfare of various areas and different segments of society.

"We will keep pursuing and highlighting every issue, major or minor, to see J&K progress and prosper, notwithstanding the odds", he assured the people of Billawar constituency and said that their support, cooperation and, above all, feedback and counseling about their needs will be crucially useful for him to get their grievances

addressed timely and properly.

Dr Manohar described BJP as 'storyteller' which failed to give direction to the country and guide it on the right path. Party has completely failed and that's why they tell stories. He said whipping up passions for short-term political goals will not do any good to the nation. The policies of BJP have flopped. "I can tell you with guarantee that they can do no good to this country," he added.

Dr Manohar said that there is no visibility of the government on ground, as a result of which the wheels of development have come to grinding halt. But for the propaganda, the present dispensation has nothing to showcase as its achievements, he said, adding that utility services have been worst affected.

"The BJP has ditched the people and failed in deliverance", he said, adding that even its strong supporters were suffering from acute disenchantment as far as functioning of the government is concerned adding the BJP cannot behave like ostrich and shut eyes and years over the growing resentment against the government.

# Senior AAP leader Jagdeep Singh join Congress



### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 9: Former Chief Spokesperson AAP Jagdeep Singh, along with several Sarpanchs and Panches were joined into the Congress party by the JKPC Chief Shri Vikar Rasool Wani along with working president Raman Bhalla, Kapil Singh (Spokesperson, Dwarka Choudhary, Taranjeet Singh Tony,) Rajveer Singh, Namrata Sharma, Jatni Raina and Ricky Dalotra.

Others who joined include Sansar Chand, Sukhdev Ji, Gurdeep Singh, Raj Kumari, Gurdev Singh, Ramesh Chander Sharma, Raj Kumar, Gurcharan Singh. They expressed full faith on the policies and programmes of Congress party and its leadership Shri Mallikarjun Kharge and Shri Rahul Gandhi.

Vikar Rasool Wani President JKPC while welcoming him to the Congress party, exten-

sively dealt with emerging political scenario in the JKUT, 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 state and the entire Nation to the path of peace, progress and prosperity by strengthening secular fabric of this country.

Wani said that both Modi led Central Govt. and LG Administration in the state have failed to fulfill even a single commitment with the people and brought misery for the common man due to their wrong policies.

The achievement of Govt. is that the divisive forces have succeeded in vitiating the atmosphere of peace and harmony in the Country. There is hue and cry everywhere and nobody feels secure in the pres-

ent regime. He said that for their anti-national policies and assured new comers in the party that a state of fair deal and justice will prevail only under Congress Regime.

Addressing the gathering former Minister and Vice President PCC Raman Bhalla lashed out at the BJP Govt. for crushing the poor and the common man under huge taxes leading to record price rise, property tax, large scale unemployment and arbitrary downgrading of the historical state.

All sections of the society are resenting against the dictatorial policies of the Modi Govt., be they common man, unemployed youth, students, traders, transporters, adhoc, contractual, daily wagers, need based, pensioners, and others but the centre Govt. and the UT administration are insensitive and indifferent to the genuine demands of the different sections.

He said Congress party shall aggressively continue to raise the issues of different sections of people and seek early restoration of statehood.

Speaking on the occasion Jagdeep Singh said that he was impressed with the working and secular approach of Congress party which is progressing very fast under the dynamic leadership of Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi. He further said that the sincere efforts put in by PCC President Vikar Rasool Wani, he was highly impressed by the party functioning which motivated him to join Congress party under the leadership of Shri Wani.

# World First Aid Day observed at Fire & Emergency Services Headquarters

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 9: "World First Aid Day" was observed at the Fire & Emergency Services Headquarters in Gandhi Nagar, here on Saturday. The event included a training program on First Aid, organized in collaboration with the Health Department.

R.K. Raina, Deputy Director of Fire & Emergency Services, Command Jammu, presided over the event. Dr. Manju, a Medical Officer from the Fire & Emergency Services Medical Unit in Gandhi

Nagar, Jammu, gave a welcome address.

The training program focused on First Aid and was conducted for firefighters from various Fire & Emergency Stations across the province.

Five teams from the Health Department led by Dr. Manoj Bhagat, Principal of RIHFW/JSSC Nagrota, conducted the First Aid training. The training covered various aspects of First Aid, including CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation), burn injuries, wound care, fractures, dealing



with unconsciousness, drowning, snake bites, electric shocks, and more.

R.K. Raina, Deputy

Director of Fire & Emergency Services, Jammu, was the chief guest, who expressed gratitude to Alok Kumar,

ADGP, Director Fire & Emergency Services, J&K Jammu/Srinagar, and the Health Department for taking the ini-

tiative to provide First Aid training to firefighters. He emphasized that the training would benefit both the safety of lives and property.

This training program aimed to equip firefighters with the necessary skills to provide First Aid in various emergency situations, ensuring the safety and well-being of both individuals and property.

The training program was attended by various officers of the Department including Sanjay Nagri (Accounts Officer), Sarvesh Langer (Assistant Director

Command Udhampur/Reasi), Sahil Bandral (Assistant Director Command Ramban), Amit Shivgotra (Assistant Director Command Doda/Kishtwar), Himanshu Gandotra (Assistant Director Command Rajouri/Poonch), Mandeep Singh (Foreman Range Workshop Jammu), Kanwal Peshin (I/C Divisional Fire Officer Sub-Command City), Ramesh Kumar (Station Officer I/C Hqrs. Gandhi Nagar Jammu), and two personnel from each Fire & Emergency Station across the Union Territory.

# Army organises Drug Awareness Campaign in Sunderbani

### TOP NEWS REPORT

SUNDERBANI, Sep 9: In a dedicated effort to combat the escalating issue of drug abuse, the Indian Army orchestrated a compelling Drug Awareness Campaign in Kangri village of Sunderbani. The campaign, aimed to educate and sensitize local youth about the perils of drug use and overdose, while emphasizing prevention and rehabilitation measures to promote a healthy body and mind, thereby contributing to the noble cause of Nation Building.

Recognizing the pivotal role of the youth in shaping the nation's future, the Indian Army orchestrated this campaign with the intention of empowering young minds with knowledge and awareness. By arming them with information about



the adverse consequences of drug abuse, the campaign sought to steer them away from this detrimental path.

The campaign featured informative sessions conducted by experts in the field of substance abuse prevention and rehabilitation. These sessions provided insights into the harmful physical, psychological, and social effects of drug abuse, illustrating the stark contrast between a life dominated by addiction and one marked by good health and positivity.

The Indian Army's

efforts extended to the broader community, as the campaign aimed to foster a sense of collective responsibility in the fight against drug abuse. By involving families and community members, the campaign sought to create a supportive environment for those struggling with addiction and encourage them to seek help.

Recognizing that overcoming addiction is a challenging journey, the campaign emphasized the importance of rehabilitation and the availability of resources for those seeking recov-

ery. Information about rehabilitation centers and support networks was provided to ensure that individuals battling addiction have access to the assistance they need.

Nation Building initiative is aligned with the Indian Army's broader mission of contributing to Nation Building. By fostering a drug-free and healthy youth population, the campaign supports the development of a strong and prosperous nation.

The Indian Army's Drug Awareness Campaign in Sunderbani underscores their commitment to the well-being and future of the nation. Through education and awareness, they seek to eradicate the scourge of drug abuse and create a society where every individual can lead a fulfilling and productive life.

# JKAACL organizes Nukkad shows Uproot Corruption in ongoing Bhrashtachar Mukt J&K week

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 9: Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art Culture and Languages, Sub Office Kathua today organized two Nukkad Shows here at Govt.Boys Higher Secondary School ,and Govt women degree college Kathua respectively in connection with Bhrashtachar Mukt J &K being organised by District administration kathua.

Sh. Tara Chand principal of the Higher Secondary school was the Chief guest on this occasion who appreciated the performance of the play based on uprooting the corruption from the society and the system as well,so that all have equal opportunities to excel their respective fields regardless of caste, creed ,color and gender.

Dr. Savi behal



Principal government women degree college kathua who also grace this occasion as Chief guest congratulated the artists for their scintillating performance and efforts of JKAACL by organizing these awareness programmes to make the society aware about the stigma of corruption that needs to be uprooted for ever.

The play namely "Bhrashtachar Khatam karo " presented by samooch Theatre, made people aware that to

get rid from corruption we can use the following rights: The Right to Information Act.Right to Public Services laws.

Anti-corruption laws in India.Anti-corruption police and courts. Civic anti-corruption organizations,Electoral reforms.In the end the play gave the message that both giving and taking bribes in any shape come in the corruption categories .Earlier,Sh.Sanjeev Gupta Cultural officer Katha while welcoming

the guests and the general audience disclosed the activities of JKAACL being organized under the able guidance of Sh.Bharat Singh (JKAS) Secretary JKAACL. The programmes were witnessed by the students Staff and the teaching faculty of both school and college.

The artists who performed were Vijay Jeetu, Savita Sharma, Rekha Sharma, Kamla Devi, Rajinder Kumar, Sanjana Sodi, Shaib and Shaleen.