

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Attachment of properties of 13 Pak-Based terrorists set into motion in Kishtwar



JAMMU, Sep 16 (Agencies): A court has declared 13 Pakistan-based terrorists as proclaimed offenders in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, paving the way for attachment of their properties if they fail to appear before it within 30 days, officials said on Saturday.

The proclamation notice under section 82 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) was served to the families of the terrorists in different parts of Kishtwar by the special investigation units (SIUs) of the local police amid beating of drums, they added.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Kishtwar, Khalil Poswal said a total of 13 local terrorists, who are operating from across the border and making repeated attempts to revive terrorism in the district, were declared as proclaimed offenders after they failed to respond to the non-bailable warrants issued earlier.

The warrants were issued by the special NIA court in March in a terror-related case registered at the Kishtwar police station last year under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

"If these proclaimed offenders fail to surrender within 30 days, the proceedings to attach their properties under section 83 of the CrPC will be initiated," the SSP said.

In the proclamation notices served to the absconding terrorists at their birth places, Additional District and Sessions Judge (fast-track court) Doda Sudesh Sharma said the warrants of arrest issued by the court of additional sessions judge, Jammu were returned with the report that the accused could not be found.

"It has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused has absconded or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant. Proclamation is hereby made that the accused is required to appear before this court within the period of 30 days from the date of publication of proclamation, failing which proceedings under section 83, CrPC shall be

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J&K HC seeks details of 48 politicians who own houses, but occupy Govt accommodation

SRINAGAR, Sep 16 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court has sought details of 48 politicians who occupy ministerial bungalows in Jammu, Srinagar despite having own personal houses.

The order issued by the division bench comprising chief justice N Kotiswar Singh and justice Rajesh Sekhri directed the petitioner's counsel Sheikh Shaheel Ahmed and senior additional advocate general (AAG) SS Nanda appearing for the estates department to submit a list of the politicians who own houses in Jammu or Kashmir as was mentioned in a status report filed on March 28.



Notably, Estates department had submitted a list of 48 politicians who were allowed to utilise government accommodation in Jammu and Srinagar while 23 of these were in Jammu, 25 were in Srinagar.

The High Court bench issued these directions on PIL by an activist SK

Bhalla who had raised the issue of unauthorised retention of bungalows by former legislators.

He had also sought directions to the estates department to ensure eviction of illegal occupants from government accommodations in view of dissolution of the state

assembly in June 2018.

Sheikh Ahmed who appeared for activist Bhalla drew the courts attention towards the laws pertaining to the occupancy of government accommodation provisions about persons not eligible for allotment of residential accommodation who own or possess a house in the concerned city or are in default of payment of license fee etc.

Advocate SS Ahmed submitted to the court that several politicians who own houses in Jammu and Srinagar cities have been allowed to retain the government accommodation despite the clear provisions.

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Baramulla encounter: Three infiltrators killed, says Army

SRINAGAR, Sep 16 (Agencies): Army on Saturday said that three terrorists were killed as they were trying to infiltrate into this side of the Line of Control (LoC) in Uri tehsil of north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

"In a Joint Opera-

tion launched by Indian Army, @JmuKmrPolice and Intelligence agencies an infiltration bid was foiled today in the morning hours along LoC in Uri Sector, Baramulla. 03xTerrorists tried to infiltrate who were engaged by alert

troops," Chinar Corps said on X.

"02xTerrorists have been eliminated and bodies recovered, third terrorist killed but retrieval of body being interfered by firing by Pak post in vicinity, on LoC. Operation in progress."

Anantnag operation enters fourth day

SRINAGAR, Sep 16 (Agencies): The operation to flush out militants from the dense forest area in Anantnag district entered into its fourth day as drones and heli-

copters were pressed into service to track and neutralise the ultras who killed three security forces officers, officials said on Saturday.

Security forces

deployed drones and helicopters to surveil the hilly terrain and figure out the locations of the militants in the forests at Gadole in the Kokernag

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SIA conducts searches to bust terror modules in Reasi

JAMMU, Sep 16 (Agencies): The Special Investigation Agency (SIA) carried out searches in the upper reaches of Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi following information about desperate attempts by terrorists to revive militancy in the district, police said on Saturday.

The search was conducted by the investigators of SIA, a counter-terrorism wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police, in Pouni and Mahore teh-

sils based on intelligence reports that some overground workers (OGWs) were providing logistical help and information to anti-national elements, a police officer said.

Some electronic gadgets and several documents were seized during the search, he said.

Reasi was cleared of militancy more than a decade ago but has reportedly been witnessing movement of terrorists in the upper reaches

over the past some time. In Rajouri and Poonch district nearby more than 25 terrorists were killed in separate encounters on the Line of Control and hinterland this year.

On September 4, one terrorist was killed in a gunbattle with security forces at Gali Sohab village in the Chassana area of Reasi district, while another terrorist managed to escape.

The officer said there are some OGWs who

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BSF SDG reviews security measures along IB in Jammu Frontier, Visits IB in Samba



JAMMU, Sep 16 (Agencies): BSF Special Director General (SDG) Y B Khurania visited

the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba sector and reviewed the security

measures taken by the force, a spokesperson said on Saturday.

Khurania arrived here on a three-day visit to review the security situation along the Jammu frontier on Friday.

BSF Inspector General (IG) D K Boora gave a detailed presentation to the SDG covering all critical aspects of border security and dominance along the borderline in Jammu, the BSF spokesperson said.

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Traffic cop arrested while taking Rs 9,000 bribe in Sonamarg

SRINAGAR, Sep 16 (Agencies): A team of Anti-Corruption Bureau on Saturday arrested a traffic cop for taking bribe of Rs 9,000 in Sonamarg area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

An official said that ACB team raided traffic official post in Sonamarg today morning and caught red-handed

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Government extends deadline for free updation of Aadhaar details

NEW DELHI, Sep 16 (Agencies): Earlier this year, UIDAI allowed citizens to update details in their Aadhaar card online free of cost. All holders of Aadhaar cards have the opportunity to modify any necessary information on their card. Initially, the free update deadline was set for June 14. Subsequently, the government extended this deadline to September 14. Now, for the second time, the government has further extended the complimentary online Aadhaar card update deadline.



Citizens now have the liberty to update their Aadhaar card details for free until December 14.

The initiative is part of the Digital India wherein the UIDAI is urging residents to get the benefit

of free document update facility on myAadhaar portal. The initiative is targeted at individuals who obtained their Aadhaar cards a decade ago and have not updated

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Punjabis among 16 sentenced for money-laundering, human smuggling in UK

LONDON, Sep 16 (Agencies): A group of 16 people, including many of Indian origin, have been given jail sentences totaling more than 70 years for their involvement in international money-laundering and people smuggling in the UK.

An investigation by the National Crime Agency (NCA) identified that members of a West London-based organised crime group, led by 'ringleader' Charan Singh, were likely to have smuggled around 70 million pounds in cash out of the UK, making hundreds of trips to Dubai between 2017 and 2019.

Following a three-day sentencing hearing at Croydon Crown Court, which concluded on Friday, 44-year-old Charan Singh from Hounslow was handed a 12-and-a-half-year jail term.

His right-hand man Valjeet Singh got 11 years, while trusted lieutenant Swander Singh Dhal got 10 years for money-laundering and

an additional five years for people smuggling.

The other members of the crime group -- Amarjeet Alabadi, Jaginder Kapoor, Jackdar Kapoor, Manmon Singh Kapur, Pinky Kapur and

Jasbeer Singh Malhotra -- were given sentences ranging between nine years and 11 months.

The individuals arrested and charged as part of the NCA operation were prosecuted in two

trials at Croydon Crown Court in south London starting in January this year.

"Charan Singh and his network thought they were untouchable,

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Militancy reviving in Kashmir, Govt should take concrete steps to curb it: JKPC Chief



SRINAGAR, Sep 16 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir unit of the

Congress Saturday said militancy was reviving in the valley, and demand-

ed the government to take concrete steps by framing a comprehensive policy to curb it.

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president Vikar Rasool Wani condemned the killing of three security force officers in a gunfight with militants in

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LG Sinha inaugurates Annual Sports Meet of Burn Hall School at Bakshi Stadium

TOP NEWS REPORT

SRINAGAR, Sept 16: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the annual Sports Meet of Burn Hall School at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar, today.

"Sports is not only a medium of recreation but also shapes skill, experience and paves the right path for the students to follow their passion," the Lt Governor said.

He impressed upon the teachers and parents to encourage sports and outdoor activities among the children for their overall well-being and all-round development.



"We have to create a robust sports and fitness culture and make sports a

compulsory part of school curriculum to inculcate social skills, teamwork

and build a strong foundation for character building and mechanism to identify sporting talents at a very young age," he said.

Earlier, the Lt Governor inspected and took salute at an impressive march past by the students of the school.

Fr. Stalin Raja, Principal, Burn Hall School presented the report and highlighted the achievements of the school.

Most Rev. Ivan Albert Pereira, Bishop Jammu-Srinagar Diocese; Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary, Youth Services and Sports Department; Nuzhat Gul, Secretary J&K Sports Council, teachers, staff members, students and their parents were present.

Pak-sponsored terrorism on last legs in Kashmir: Rana

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 16: Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Saturday said Pakistan-sponsored terrorism is on its last legs in Jammu and Kashmir and slammed valley-based politicians advocating a dialogue with the neighbouring country.

Rana, a former legislator, said the people of Jammu and Kashmir are now realising the dividends of peace more than before.

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday said militancy in Jammu and Kashmir will not end until India and Pakistan hold a dialogue to find a lasting solution to all conflicts, while Congress leader Saifuddin Soz said the doors of dialogue should be opened to end the bloodshed in the valley.

The two leaders made the remarks in the aftermath of the recent encounters that left five security personnel including an army colonel, a major and a deputy superintendent of police dead in south Kashmir's Anantnag and Rajouri in Jammu region.

"The Centre has, time and again, made its policy of terror and talks not going together

very clear and still those trying to carve out an unsolicited role for themselves, for whatever reason, by jumping the line, should understand that India cannot engage itself with a country that sprouts terrorism," Rana said in a statement here.

Questioning the sensibilities of the "self-proclaimed votaries" of India-Pakistan talks and their sense of proportion, he expressed surprise and anguish over unwarranted rants of engaging Islamabad in dialogue even before the last rites of the bravehearts were held.

"The insensitive terror ecosystem should learn a lesson from the common man in Kashmir who took to the streets and joined the candle march to pay their tributes to valiant martyrs, who offered supreme sacrifice to maintain the prevailing momentum of normalcy in the valley," Rana said.

He said the anger against the recent terror acts in the valley, as elsewhere in the country, is a mute reminder to the "rejected and frustrated political elite who seize such opportunities to play dirty politics in the mistaken belief of remaining relevant to politics".

He said they forget that Kashmir has transformed and stands for peace and this urge has become predominant during the last four years that have witnessed near normalcy, leading to buzzing economic activity and humming tourist influx.

"The dubious role of the terror ecosystem to run politics over the graves and the miseries of common people has now become obsolete, which is why the people are up in arms against the cult of violence and disruption.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir are realising the dividends of peace now more than before," he said.

Notwithstanding the isolated terror attacks, Rana reiterated that terrorism emanating from Pakistan is on its last legs on the Indian soil of Kashmir due to focussed operations and campaigns of the security forces, the police and the people in particular, who have undergone a most traumatic phase during the past over three decades.

"A few people may try to condone or downplay the barbarism unleashed by terrorists in terms of death and devastation caused, and continuously being perpetrated, by the Pakistani lackeys but that does not change the ugly face of Pakistan and its ecosystem in Kashmir," he said.

He said Pakistan-sponsored terrorists cannot hold peace to ransom, as they are destined to doom and meet their designated fate. "In the guns they keep brandishing lies their ultimate end," he said, paying tributes to the fallen security personnel.

PTTI Vijaypur holds valediction of two courses

TOP NEWS REPORT

VIJAYPUR, Sep 16: Two training courses got concluded on Saturday at Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur.

The concluded courses are "02 Weeks SOG Refresher Course", and "01 Week Anti Sabotage Check course and X-Ray Baggage Scanner Monitoring Training Course" in which police personnel from various units of J&K Police had participated.

On this occasion a Valedictory function was organized which was graced by Dushyant Sharma, SSP, Vice Principal PTTI Vijaypur.

While speaking on the occasion, Vice Principal said that the objective of these courses was to hone the skills of Police



personnel and expose the trainees to the latest tools and techniques which would add substantial value to their existing knowledge and skill base.

The trainees of SOG Refresher Course have

been trained in Cordon and Search operations, Rappelling, Ascending, descending, slithering, anti ambush techniques, Tactical position taking etc. besides all required Do's & Don'ts including precautionary measures

to be adopted during operations whereas, the trainees of ASC and X-Ray Baggage Scanner Monitoring Training Course have been taught basic concepts of security and handling & operation of ASC equip-

ments etc. Vice Principal said that these courses would definitely help Police personnel in performing their field duties.

Among others, Kuldeep Raj, DySP (Indoor/Tech), Khushwant Singh, Dy.SP (Admn.), Surrinder Paul Singh (CLI/CTI), Inspr. Ram Lal (Course Coordinator of both the courses), Inspr. Anil Kumar, Inspr. Mulkh Raj, ASI Naresh Kumar, HC Gopal Singh, Narinder Kumar were present during valedictory function.

Bovine smuggling bid foiled, one arrested

TOP NEWS REPORT

REASI, Sep 16: Reasi Police, under the guidance of Amit Gupta, SSP Reasi, has adopted a zero-tolerance policy towards bovine smuggling and is dedicated to eliminating this unlawful activity from the district.

Continuing the initiative, Reasi police in the region of Pouni successfully thwarted an attempt of bovine smuggling.

During a routine checkpoint operation in Bhambla, they intercepted a vehicle with the registration number JK03B-8711.

Upon inspection, they discovered that the vehicle was illegally transporting 14 bovine animals without the necessary permission from the District Magistrate (DM).

In response to this violation, the police took cognizance of the situation and registered a

First Information Report (FIR) under Case FIR No 62/2023, invoking Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Section 11 (a) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act at the Pouni Police Station.

The accused in this case, identified as Sahil Ahmad, son of Mohd Ashraf and resident of Malik Market Narwal, Jammu, was arrested.

The operation was conducted under the leadership of PSI Jasbir Choudhary, ICPP Bhambla, and SHO Pouni, Purab Singh, with oversight from DySP HQ Reasi, Neeraj Padyar-JKPS.

Lt Gen Kotwal elected President Endocrine Society of India

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 16: Son of the soil, Lieutenant General Narendra Kotwal, Director and Commandant of the Armed Forces Medical College has been elected as President of Endocrine Society of India.

The Endocrine Society of India is the largest professional body of endocrinologists in India providing a common platform and network for clinicians, and researchers with special interest in endocrinology.

Lt Gen Kotwal did his MBBS from Government Medical College Jammu,

MD in Internal Medicine from AFMC.

He is a Diplomate of National Board in Medicine and a Member of the National Academy of Medical Sciences (MNAMS).

Continuing his academic journey further, he acquired Doctorate of Medicine (DM) in Endocrinology from PGIMER CHD. He is also an alumnus of the National Defence College, New Delhi where he was awarded an M.Phil. in Defence and Strategic studies.

Dr Kotwal belongs to a respectable family.

His father Professor JL Kotwal is a renowned educationist and social reformer. His mother Bimla Balaria is also an educationist and is Director of KNIT institute. The General Officer has the distinction of providing medical care to four Presidents of India.

He has also held the coveted appointments of member of Specialist Committee under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana; Advisor, UPSC for empanelment of advisors; Member, Standard Treatment

Workflows (STWs) by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

He has also served as the Vice President, Endocrinology Society of India and as Secretary, Indian Thyroid Society.

He has been an academic guide to numerous postgraduate and super specialty students. He has numerous scientific publications in acclaimed international and national indexed academic journals and is also a reviewer for numerous international and national academic journals.

ATWA alleges human rights violations by Parshotam

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 16: President, All Transport Welfare Association (ATWA), Davinder Choudhary alleged human rights violations by Parshotam Singh, who is identified as CMI/JAT and posted at the Railway Station in Jammu for the past thirty years.

"Parshotam Singh is accused of engaging in human rights violations, including allegedly developing illegal relations with undesirable elements and extorting money from innocent people at the Railway Station through illegal means," Davinder said while addressing a press conference here on Saturday.

Davinder said that Parshotam Singh discon-



nected the electricity and drinking water connection of the Taxi Stand at the Railway Station on September 11, 2023.

Davinder said that Parshotam did not have the authority to order or disconnect public utilities.

"This action caused significant difficulties

for yattris, tourists, drivers, and the local public, particularly in the hot and humid weather," he added.

He mentioned that all types of parking fees and electricity bills were deposited to the authorities until August 31, 2023 and asserted

that the matter of the Taxi stand is sub judice, and therefore, there should have been no right to disconnect basic facilities, which was considered a violation of human rights.

Parshotam raised concerns about the tender issued by the authorities

for commercial vehicles. He alleged that parcel vehicles (commercial load carriers) parking places were not included in the same tender.

Several individuals and representatives from various transport-related associations and unions were present at the press conference, including Inderjeet Sharma, President of STTA, Jugal Gandotra of Karan Bus Services, Balwant Singh, Chairman of the All Transport Welfare Association, Som Raj representing the Metador Union, Prakash Sharma, President of the Metador Union, Gurdeep Singh from the Airport Taxi Union, and Surinder Sharma, General Secretary of the Auto Union.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice

Tender Notice No. 770-W/169/WA-1/FZR/211-2023-24-ADEN-JRC & 212/2023-24-ADEN-JRC acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below filled tenders and available on www.irps.gov.in with closing date 05.10.2023 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Bid System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
14.09.2023	21.09.2023	05.10.2023

S. No. 1, Tender No : 211-2023-24-ADEN-JRC, Details of Tender : TRR (P) (Km 11.308) at Km 52.590 to 53.10 KM 63.633 to 72.110 (DN Line), Km 55.722 to 57.716 & 58.778 to 59.105(Up line) on JRC-PTK Section by Manually with 60 Kg 90 UTS Rails (LWR) under ADEN/JRC, Advertised Value (Rs.) : 22203144.03, Validity of Offer : 60 Days, Period of Completion : 12 Months

S. No. 2, Tender No : 212/2023-24-ADEN-JRC, Details of Tender : Provision of Divyangjan Toilets, Entry path, 50 Mtr COP and drinking water for Divyangjans under ADEN-JRC Advertised Value (Rs.) : 2020862.38, Validity of Offer : 60 Days, Period of Completion : 06 Months

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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL DIVISION RTIC JAMMU
Notice INVITING TENDER

e-NIT MD/JRTIC/24 of 2023-24 Dated 14-09-2023

For and on behalf of the "Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir", The Executive Engineer Mechanical Division RTIC Jammu, invites online bids by e tendering mode from eligible bidders/ tenderers/ firms dealing with electromechanical /electrical works.

Name of the Work	Name of the Division	Cost of Tender Document/Tender Fee(In Rs)	Earnest Money	Validity of Rates
Replacement of old/damaged components of HT motor feeder panel 6.6 KV of Unit No.02 & 04 installed at Tawi Pump House Jammu.	Mechanical Division RTIC Jammu	200.00 (Rs. 100/- for PMT DIC/SSI Registered Firms) (Non-Refundable) In the shape of treasury Challan only in favour of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division RTIC Jammu payable at Jammu	Rs.5000/- (Rs 2500 for DIC/SSI Registered Firms) In the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to the Executive Engineer Mechanical Division RTIC Jammu	Bid shall be valid for 180 days

Position of Funds Available

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 15-09-2023 (10:00 A.M) and uploaded upto 06-10-2023 (1:00 P.M). The tender shall be opened on 07-10-2023 (1:00 P.M).
- The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>
- Bids must be accompanied by cost of Tender Document and bid security/ earnest money as specified in column 3 & 4 of the table. The cost of tender documents should be in the form of Treasury Challan only in favour of Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division RTIC Jammu.
- Furnishing of Hard copies of documents pertaining to e bids immediately after submission of e tenders have been dispensed with as per Govt Order No. O.M. no. A/24(2017-651) dated 07-06-2018. The same shall be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as L-1 after opening of Financial Bids.
- The hard copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan and Earnest Money including other relevant documents must be delivered by L-1 to the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division RTIC Jammu within 03 days of opening of tender.
- The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited.
- The Technical Bids of the tender document received shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer Mechanical Division, RTIC, Jammu on 07-10-2023 at 1:00 P.M
- The Financial Bids of the tender document of the qualified bidders shall also be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical Division, RTIC, Jammu during office hours on a convenient day.
- Other details can be seen inside the detailed tender document.

No: MD/JRTIC/889-92
Dated 14-09-2023 DIP/J-8280/23

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical Division
RTIC, Jammu

EDITORIAL

BE CAUTIOUS FOR
ONLINE SHOPPING

Online shopping has indeed revolutionized the way we shop, offering numerous advantages for consumers. Here's a summary of the benefits and considerations associated with online shopping:

Online shopping allows people to shop from the comfort of their homes or anywhere with an internet connection. It eliminates the need to physically visit stores, saving time and effort.

Online platforms offer a vast selection of products from different brands and categories, providing consumers with more choices than they might find in a physical store.

Shopping online is time-efficient. You can quickly search for products, compare prices, and make a purchase within minutes, avoiding long queues and waiting times.

Online shopping makes it easy to compare prices across various websites, ensuring that you find the best deals and discounts available.

Most online retailers have a straightforward return and refund policy, making it convenient to return or exchange items if they don't meet your expectations.

Online shoppers can set a budget and filter search results according to their spending limits, helping them stay within their financial means.

Online stores often run promotions and sales, especially during festivals and holidays, providing opportunities for significant savings.

Online shopping transcends geographical barriers, allowing people in remote areas to access a wide range of products from top brands.

Online shopping eliminates the need to deal with traffic, crowded malls, and unfavorable weather conditions.

Online product descriptions, reviews, and ratings help shoppers make informed decisions, ensuring they choose items that meet their requirements.

Ensure you shop from reputable and secure websites to avoid scams and ensure product quality.

Be cautious of counterfeit products; buy from authorized sellers or the brand's official website when purchasing high-end or branded items.

Consider shipping fees and delivery times when making a purchase, especially if you need the item by a specific date.

Protect your personal and financial information when shopping online. Use secure payment methods and avoid sharing sensitive details on unsecured websites.

Pay attention to size charts and product specifications to reduce the likelihood of receiving ill-fitting clothing or items.

Read customer reviews to understand the experiences of others with the product and the seller. This can provide valuable insights.

Occasionally, the specific product you want may not be available online. Check availability and consider alternatives if necessary.

Online shopping offers convenience, variety, and savings, but it's essential to be cautious and informed while making online purchases to ensure a positive shopping experience. With the right precautions, online shopping can be a highly efficient and enjoyable way to acquire the products you need.

Fighting for the soul of India, from Hyderabad

By: Mohan Guruswamy

Once again, as it was in 1978 and 1980, the Congress' road to regain the political crown in New Delhi seems to begin in Hyderabad. The party will display its recently-found vitality by holding its Working Committee meeting in Hyderabad on September 16 and 17, and topping it off with a public meeting addressed by its dowager queen, Sonia Gandhi, always a popular figure in these parts. What lends the day added interest is that the BJP/RSS will display its determination to hold on to New Delhi with a public meeting of its own on the same day at the other end of the twin cities, to be addressed by its head stormtrooper Amit Shah. The day, September 17, is significant in Hyderabad as it is the day generally celebrated as Integration Day (and which the BJP/RSS calls Liberation Day).

Apart from Hyderabad, Jammu and Kashmir and Junagadh too did not accede to newly independent India. J&K did so only on October 26, 1947 when the Pakistani raiders began knocking on the gates of Srinagar. The Nawab of Junagadh actually acceded to Pakistan, but a popular upsurge forced him to flee and a referendum on September 15, 1947 ratified the accession. But the RSS never celebrates Kashmir's accession on October 26 and Junagadh's on September 15. It only wants to celebrate Hyderabad's 'liberation' on September 17, 1948. It has a reason for this.

The BJP's power base is in the old city of Hyderabad, which is the political domain of the Majlis Ithehad-ul Muslimeen, its mortal enemy. The MIM has its origins in the movement to establish an Islamic state in Hyderabad.

For a full 13 months after Inde-

pendence the Nizam had tested the patience of the people of Hyderabad and the newly-independent Indian Union. The Nizam of Hyderabad, like the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir, too entertained notions of an independent state and sought to widen the issue by moving the United Nations. His government consulted with Pakistan and began stockpiling arms. Within the Nizam's realm, militant Razakars led by Qasim Razvi had stepped up their campaign of terrorising Hindus and whipping up religious sentiments among the Muslims.

At the time of India's Independence, Hyderabad was the largest Indian princely state in terms of population and GNP. Its territory of 82,698 sq miles was more than that of England and Scotland put together. The 1941 census had estimated its population to be 16.34 million, over 85 per cent of who were Hindus and with Muslims accounting for about 12 per cent. It was also a multilingual state consisting of peoples speaking Telugu (48.2%), Marathi (26.4%), Kannada (12.3%) and Urdu (10.3%).

It was a Muslim dominated state. Typically, in 1911, 70 per cent of the police, 55 per cent of the army and 26 per cent of the public administration were Muslims. In 1941 a report on the civil service revealed that of the 1,765 officers, 1,268 were Muslims, 421 were Hindus, and 121 others, presumably British, Christians, Parsis and Sikhs. Of the officials drawing pay of Rs 600-1,200 per month, 59 were Muslims, 38 were "others", and a mere five were Hindus. The Nizam and his nobles, who were mostly Muslims, owned 40 per cent of the total land in the kingdom. Quite clearly it was too much of a good thing for so few, and the time for its end had come.

As can well be imagined, there

was absolutely no political activity in the kingdom for most of this period. The first stirrings began in 1927 when the Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen was formed to unite various Islamic sects for "the solution of their problems within the principle of Islam"; and to protect the economic, social and educational interests of the Muslims.

In 1933, an association of "mulkis", or local-born Hindus and Muslims, called the "Nizam's Subjects League" was formed as a reaction to the continued domination of gair-mulkis in government, even though most of them were Muslims. This was soon to be known as the Mulki League. It was the Mulki League that first mooted the idea of a responsible government in Hyderabad.

In 1937, the Mulki League split between the more radical elements that were mostly Hindus and the more status quo inclined. This led to the formation of the Hyderabad People's Convention in 1937, a prelude to the establishment of the Hyderabad State Congress the following year.

With this the movement for political and constitutional reform picked up momentum.

The Hyderabad State Congress agitation coincided with a parallel agitation led by the Arya Samaj and Hindu Mahasabha of V.D. Savarkar on Hindu civil rights. To a large extent, the interests of the Congress and the Hindu organisations coincided. This put them squarely against the Majlis, who were now led by Bahadur Yar Jung, who was also founder of the Anjuman-i-Tabligh-i-Islam, a proselytising Muslim organisation whose prime activity was the conversion of Hindus.

Bahadur Yar Jung was a charismatic figure became popular among the Muslims and had the ear of the

Nizam, Osman Ali. Bahadur Yar Jung summed his goal very succinctly: "The Majlis policy is to keep the sovereignty of His Exalted Highness intact and to prevent Hindus from establishing supremacy over Muslims."

The leadership of the Congress took more nationalist overtones after the arrival of Swami Ramanand Tirtha on the scene. Tirtha hailed from Gulbarga and as a young man became a sadhu. He became president of the Hyderabad Congress in 1946 and attracted around him several young men who rose to prominence in Independent India. Foremost among these was P.V. Narasimha Rao. Others included former home minister and Maharashtra chief minister S.B. Chavan, former Karnataka chief minister Veerendra Patil and former Andhra CM M. Channa Reddy.

While the Congress was gaining in strength, the Communists were also active in the Telugu-speaking areas. They captured the Andhra Mahasabha that was formed in 1921 to represent the interests of the Telugu-speaking people in 1942. Unlike the Hyderabad Congress, which took the cue from Mahatma Gandhi and launched a movement for democratic rights in the state to run parallel to the Quit India movement, the Communists joined hands with the Majlis to support the Nizam, who being a faithful ally of the British was fully immersed in the war effort.

The two celebrations truly reflect the ideological contest between the Congress-led INDIA alliance and the BJP-dominated NDA. One is celebrating its inclusive and secular identity, the other is trying to make it a reaffirmation of its majoritarian perception of India. It's really a fight for the soul of India.

What's in a name? From Persia to Iran & Mumbai: The rise of Bharat

By: Farrukh Dhondy

I was induced by Sir Vidya Naipaul to accompany him to the inaugural editorial meeting of a frightful right-wing magazine called Standpoint. There were maybe 12 people of some repute gathered round a board table, including Nigel Lawson, the sometime chancellor of the exchequer in Margaret Thatcher's government and the most distinguished personage, David Hockney.

Daniel Johnson, the appointed editor, opened the discussion outlining the proposed magazine's ultra-right stance, the ideological gap Standpoint was going to fill. As I listened in humble silence to the contributions, I noticed that Hockney was staring steadily at me.

Then, apropos of nothing, he pointed to me at the other end of the table and interrupted the proceedings by asking me if I was Indian. I said I was.

"So, why have you changed the name of Bombay to Mumbai?" he asked, a bit aggressively.

Silence. Neither Johnson nor the others felt bold enough to stop Hockney going off on this absurd tangent. I supposed I had to answer and muttered something to the effect that it was to erase the colonial legacy inherent in the name and revert to what may have been the origin of "Bombay" from a patron goddess of the islands, Mumba Devi.

I don't think Hockney was

interested in my answer as he went on to remonstrate about the change in the names of Yorkshire counties.

Though very many of my friends and acquaintances, old Mumbaiers, still use the name Bombay, I have no animosity towards calling the city — the city of my paternal ancestors and my present base when I am in India — after Mumba Devi. Names change: Britain is no longer called "Albion"; Madras becomes Chennai, Calcutta reinstates the Bengali pronunciation, current bigotry rids Allahabad of its Islamic connotations... authority is the instrument of christening.

The latest change proposed — of India to Bharat — leaves a few paradoxical puzzles. It was probably the Muslim invaders of India, the early dynasties and then the Mughals, who called the country "Hindustan" — the land of the Hindus. This was an accurate description from their point of view. And when, through the evolutionary process that all languages undergo, the old Sanskrit and Prakritic languages, having acquired some words from the invading army's vocabulary, fashioned the "Urdu" tongue, the popular version was still known as Hindustani. The words Hindu, Sindhu, Hindi all owe their origin to the original name of the river Indus. Obviously, "Hinduism" has its origins in the same historical evolution.

Ironically, the ideological embrace of the powers that want to change the name of India to Bharat is called "Hindutva". This "philosophy" will, we must assume, still retain its name and not be changed to "Bharatsutra", "Bharatva" or something derived from or related to the proposed new name of the country. Of course, the name-changers may not have noticed or care that Hindutva is a direct derivative of the name of the land of the Indus whereas Bharat derives from respected ancient Indian epic lore.

Yes, names change or co-exist. The world outside refers to Deutschland as Germany.

Mohammed Reza Shah, the monarch overthrown by the Islamic revolution of Ayatollah Khomeini, had decreed that the names "Iran" and "Persia" could both be used officially.

My barber happens to be from Iran, and when we first struck up a conversation, as one does when having a trim, he asked me my name and when I told him, he said: "So you are Muslim?"

I said: "No, I am a Parsi, a Zoroastrian!"

"Ah," he said, "I want to be Zoroastrian".

"Really? I can tell you are from Iran," I said, staring into the mirror as he paused using his scissors and comb.

"Don't say Iran. I am from Persia," he said.

I didn't ask him what ideolo-

gy led him to prefer one name rather than the other. Neither did I go into any pedantic etymology about how the name Iran originated in the ancient Avestan language and was meant to indicate that the country so named was the land of the Aryan people. The word Persia derives from the words used by the Greek enemies of the Achaemenid empire of Iran under Cyrus, Darius and Xerxes.

So why my hairdresser (a barber by any other name cuts as stylishly!) chooses the Greek name is mysterious. Perhaps he associates the word Iran with the fundamentalist Islamic regime that, he assures me, will be overthrown by a revolution in favour of modern democracy. He also assures me that the majority of Persians want to revert from Islam to Zoroastrianism but dare not declare this as, in the eyes and laws of the ayatollahs, this desire or determination is a capital offence.

I didn't ask if using the word "Persia" to describe the country is a capital offence in Iran but my stylist's use of it indicated that it was part of the defiance of the regime.

I must take a Tube to the Aldwych to see if the Indian high commission at India House is now the Bharat high commission at Bharat House. The building's name is engraved in stone, so the change may well take some effort, expenditure and time.

Apni Party promotes unity, opposes divisive politics: Manjit



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 16: Dozens of Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) leaders and workers from the women wing today joined Apni Party here at Gandhi Nagar.

The joining programme was organized under the leadership of Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh.

In presence of senior leaders of Apni Party, Jyoti Devi (Shweta Devi) District President Women Wing Rural from Block Marh Ward Number - 75, Neelam Gupta ward

no 23 accompanied by Tamana Rani, Payal, Ratna Devi, Anita Devi, Raj Rani, Shikha and others joined the Party in Jammu.

While welcoming the new entrants into the party fold, the Former Minister hoped that their joining would strengthen the party at the grass root level and encourage others to join the party that was founded with an agenda of unity, and development without partiality.

He said that the people are joining the Apni Party because of the agenda that provides equal opportunity to all the sections of the soci-

ety by opposing the divisive politics of traditional political parties.

He said that the traditional political parties exploited the people as their vote bank by encouraging regional divide that is being strongly opposed by the Apni Party.

"We tell the truth to the people. The people have faced a difficult time for the last seven decades in J&K because of the divisive policies and agenda of the traditional political parties. However, people are aware now and they prefer joining the Apni Party as they know we never play with

the emotions and work for the unity of J&K, and its integrity with the country," he said.

He however asked the party leaders to intensify their public outreach programme and prepare themselves for the Urban Local Body, and Municipal elections in J&K.

The joining programme was attended by Provincial Secretary, Dr. Rohit Gupta, State President SC Wing, Bodh Raj Bhagat, State President Apni Trade Union, Ajaz Kazmi, Provincial President Legal Cell, Adv Vikram Rathore, Provincial President Jammu Apni Trade Union, Raj Sharma, Provincial President Jammu Women Wing, Pavneet Kuar, Senior District Vice President Jammu Urban, Vaibhav Mattoo, District President Apni Trade Union, Jammu, Anirudh, District President Jammu Youth, Shivam Chowdhary, Additional Media Coordinator, Sandeep Vaid, Ashraf Chowdhary, Mohammad Asif, Shiekha, Sheetal Sharma, Divinder Gill, and others.

'Apna Bhojanalaya' represents true spirit of service: Sat

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 16: Showering all praises on a non-governmental organization, the 'Sewa Bharti', Sat Sharma said that the 'Apna Bhojanalaya' initiative by this NGO is a great service to mankind, particularly the poor people.

Sat Sharma, former BJP President & former Minister along with Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, J&K BJP Media Incharge, Bawa Sharma, Additional Protocol Secretary, Adv. Rajesh Gupta, District General Secretary, Atul Bakshi, Mandal President and others, was serving the subsidized meals to the people in the premises of GMC, Jammu, being established by 'Sewa Bharti'.

Sat Sharma, speaking on the occasion, said that for the first time in Jammu an NGO has started the services of



providing low rate meals to the people and the majority of the attendants of the patients in GMC are being benefited. They are charged just rupees 10, which is just a nominal amount to not make the beneficiaries feel that they are getting free meals.

"Nar Sewa, Narayan Sewa is the principle guiding force driving these programmes and the persons serving here believe that they are serving the Almighty", said Sat Sharma.

The 'Apna Bhojanalaya' is providing meals

in a limited time span extending a few hours at present but soon the NGO has planned to extend the time, besides extending this facility to other hospitals of Jammu city, he added.

The BJP leader was of the view that such meal service is cheap and affordable for the people staying as attendants in the hospital for days together as it will not put any extra heavy burden on their daily expenditure.

Dr. Pardeep Mahotra expressed hope that more organizations will

come forward to support and extend such philanthropic works to provide relief to those who are in real need of emotional and physical support. It is indeed a great service, he said.

Bawa Sharma said that to provide hygienic food within the hospital premises at almost no-cost to the caregivers is a service that deserves applause from all.

Rajesh Gupta and Atul Bakshi said that this service is particularly helpful to the persons from the far-flung areas like Rajouri-Poonch, who have limited resources here.

The volunteers serving in the Apna Bhojanalaya, said that they are trying their best to provide hygienic food, clean water and sitting facility with proper cleanliness around and will extend the services as possible in the space available.

Postgraduate Department of Conservative Dentistry & Endodontics organizes guest lecture

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 16: Postgraduate Department of Conservative Dentistry And Endodontics today organized guest lectures in the auditorium of IGGDC Jammu by renowned speakers and pioneers in their respective fields. Dr. Sourabh Gupta Dean examination, AIIMS JAMMU who is a well known root canal specialist gave a detailed presentation on recent advances in the diagnostic field related to endodontics and gave tips to young faculty and postgraduates in endodontics.

Dr. Sai Kalyan Director, Research Prevest Denpro Ltd. spoke about recent trends in material aspect of therapies crucial for saving young permanent teeth.

This faculty development program was conceived by Dr. Prof Azhar Malik HOD, Conservative Dentistry & Endodontics was attended



by senior faculty, post-graduates and undergraduate students of the institute. The event also carried 2 CDE points by J&K SDC in which Dr. Bhupender Singh President JKSDC (observer) and Dr. Ritesh Gupta Registrar JKSDC were also invited. Dr. Rachna Dhani (Asstt. Prof) gave welcome address and Dr. Rudra Kaul (Lecturer) introduced the speakers. Dr. Professor Parveen Akhtar Lone Prof & HOD

Postgraduate Department of Oral Surgery and Dr Prof Azhar Malik HOD Conservative Dentistry chaired the respective sessions. The presentations were followed by healthy discussions.

These lectures were accomplished under the overall guidance of Dr Rakesh Gupta Principal & Dean IGGDC Jammu who is ever encouraging and takes personal interest in faculty development and research activities.

Dr. Ajay Gupta (Assoc. Prof) presented vote of thanks. Dr. Shamim Anjum (Asstt. Prof), Dr. Ravinder Kumar & Dr. Sachin Chadgal (Lecturer), Dr. Tania and Dr. Saksham (Sr. Resident), Dr. Sangeeta (Dental surgeon), Dr. Sadiya, Dr. Insha, Dr. Jerin & Dr. Saniya (PG scholars) and other staff of the Dept. of Conservative Dentistry worked in their various capacities towards the success of this event.

GDC Mahanpur organizes slogan writing competition

TOP NEWS REPORT

MAHANPUR, Sep 16: Government Degree College (GDC) Mahanpur organized a slogan writing competition in continuation with the series of activities under the celebration of Gandhi Jayanti.

The event was organized under the patronage of worthy Principal of the college, Dr. Sangeeta Sudan.

The theme for the event was "Truth and Non Violence". Students of semester III and semester V participated wholeheartedly in



the event in which they made colorful posters with beautiful slogans. Dr Balbinder Singh, Dr.

Mohd. Sardar, Dr. Hilal Ahmed Bhat were also present on the occasion.

The programme was organized by Prof Arvind Kumar, Dr. Sapna Devi and Prof. Suman.

Campus Placements and Internships continue at CUJ

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 16: The Campus Placements and Internships at Central University of Jammu have is taking off at a steady pace under the action-oriented leadership of Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain.

In the year 2023, 100 students were offered jobs or jobs through internship, which is the

highest number during the campus placement drive.

The highest number of job offers were made to the students of the computer science department with 7.2 lakh is the highest.

As many as 100 students of the CUJ campus job offers. Highest package for MBA (Marketing) stood at Rs 7.25 lakh and

Average Salary Package (CTC) stood at Rs 3.67 lakh.

Training and placement Officer, CUJ has invited employers from Pan India.

Companies like Satguru Travels, VIA ENS, KENT, Planet Spark, APML, Ease My trip, India mart, LPU, AARK Global, Inrupt, Vedanta were among the top employers.

Students were offered positions like Management Trainee, Officer Tourism, Asst. Professor, Content writers etc.

The campus is emerging as the most preferred hiring destination for top recruiters in the country owing to the diversified pool of talent available with business acumen and scholastic achievements.

'FICCI FLO JKL's 'Uday Programme' paving the way for entrepreneurship & innovation'

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, SEP 16: The 'Uday Programme,' a collaborative effort between FICCI FLO JKL and Bangalore-based Schem India, it is a humble effort to build foundations in the realm of entrepreneurship in the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh regions. This initiative, aptly named 'Uday: Nayi Ummeedon Ki Shuruat' is shining a beacon of hope and creating fresh opportunities for young talents.

The program's core mission is to instill an entrepreneurial mindset in young individuals, fostering their creativity and providing the necessary support to turn their ideas into thriving businesses. Varuna Anand underscores the



collective responsibility to boost the startup ecosystem by identifying and supporting young talents with exceptional ideas, enabling them to translate their concepts into successful ventures. The program offers a substantial cash prize of 51,000/- to five finalists in the student category, along with financial support, mentorship, and guidance for five students whose ideas demonstrate the potential for growth and success in the undergraduate category.

By investing in these budding entrepreneurs, 'Uday' aspires to cultivate a vibrant startup culture in the region while promoting gender inclusivity within the startup landscape. The application process for this program is user-friendly and free, accessible via the official website at www.udaystartup.in.

Varuna Anand highlights that the 'Uday' investment program caters to two distinct age-based categories: students from Class 9 to Class 12 and those pursuing undergraduate studies in colleges. The primary focus of 'Uday' is to engage and nurture young entrepreneurs, providing them with vital resources, mentorship, and financial backing to refine their innovative

concepts. This strategic approach seeks to instill an entrepreneurial spirit from an early age, fostering a culture of creativity, problem-solving, and sustainable economic growth within the targeted regions.

She articulated the organization's primary objective, which is to transform individuals into job providers rather than job seekers and emphasized a pressing need to change this basic mindset in the region.

In the realm of entrepreneurship in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, 'UDAY: Nayi Ummeedon Ki Shuruat' initiative, is a sincere effort in encouraging & creating a beacon of hope for aspiring young minds and add as a catalyst for change in the entrepreneurial landscape of the region.

DYSS Udhampur holds district level inter school competitions

TOP NEWS REPORT

UDHAMPUR, Sep 16: District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Udhampur, continued to ignite the spirit of competition and sportsmanship as it reaches the tenth day of the District Level Inter-School Tournament.

This sporting event, held under the patronage of Subash Chander Chibber, Director of Youth Services and Sports, has been a testament to the exceptional talent and dedication of the youth of Udhampur.

In the continuation of the tournament brought forth a series of thrilling competitions in Kho-Kho, and Kabaddi here at Subash Stadium on Saturday.

District Youth Ser-



vices and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Udhampur, Romesh Chander Mishra, addressed all participants and emphasized the importance of fair play, sportsmanship, and healthy competition in shaping the future of these young athletes. Moreover, a total of 417 players participated

in this mega event.

The competition is being coordinated and supported by Pushpinder Kour, Sham Lal, Anita Goswami, Som Dev Khajuria, Romesh Chander, Sanjeev Kumar, Vikas Sharma, Karun Magotra, Abdul Qadir, Sanjeev Khajuria, Munazim Malik and

Anshu Brat.

Results
KHO KHO: GHSS Sewna lifted the winner title by defeating JK Public School Udhampur by 1 turn and 4 points.

KABADDI: GHSS Garhi lifted winner title by defeating GHSS Krimachi by (26-10) points.

SRK reveals why he chose the bald look for Jawan

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, who has been receiving immense appreciation from across the world for his recently released movie *Jawan*, has opened up about his preference for anti-heroes. He also shared why he chose the bald look for the action entertainer.

Directed by Atlee, *Jawan* stars SRK in dual roles of Captain Vikram Rathore, an ex-commando; and Azad, the jailer of a women's prison. SRK said: "I never wanted to play the hero. I find heroes very boring. I find them doing all the good things. Playing the puppy-eyed good guy repeatedly is boring after a point. Personally, I love playing a bad guy," he shared.

About his iconic bald look in *Jawan*, SRK said: "I chose the bald look out of laziness because then I didn't have to wear two hours of make-up. I'd rather just go bald. I just hope girls like bald



men because I like bald girls!" He further described himself: "If I was to explain myself, I would explain myself as an actor somewhere in India who has tried, and is still trying very hard."

Talking about *Jawan*'s genre, the Baazigar fame actor said: "There is a genre of filmmaking that exists in South India. It's louder, larger than life. It's a roller coaster ride of everything packed into two-and-a-half hours. It can be an out-of-body experience for global audiences."

On his entourage of female actresses in the movie, SRK said: "The idea was to take five fierce, dangerous women on board. All of them have learnt how to do action for the film, some for the first time. More than the fierceness of the girls, I'll miss their support."

Bambai Meri Jaan becomes first Indian OTT series to premiere in London



Actress Kritika Kamra takes centre-stage as she steps into the gritty world of gangsters in the upcoming series

Bambai Meri Jaan. The show has been produced by Excel Entertainment and created by director Shujaat Saudagar.

Bambai Meri Jaan became the first-ever Indian OTT series to witness an international premiere on September 12 in London.

Set against the backdrop of post-independence Bombay, where the streets were filled with crime and intrigue, *Bambai Meri Jaan* promises to be an edge-of-the-seat thriller. The narrative revolves around an earnest cop's relentless pursuit to protect his family amidst the chaos and danger that lurk in the city's shadows.

Says Kritika, "I am thrilled to be a part of *Bambai Meri Jaan*, a show that pushes the boundaries of storytelling in Indian content. The international premiere in London is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our entire team and I am very happy."

Actress Huma Qureshi turns author with the book Zeba

Actress Huma Qureshi is now an author. On Friday, she announced her debut novel titled *Zeba An Accidental Superhero*. Taking to Instagram, Huma wrote, "Finally the cat is out of the bag! Super-excited to share the announcement of my debut novel: *Zeba - An Accidental Superhero* with @harcollins... Been working on this for the past two years and everyone around me knows how much this means to me. Book out in December 2023. Comments below will be seen as a vote of interest to buy the book." Huma said that her novel is 'deeply personal'.

"I have learnt that accepting who you are, with all your quirks and uniqueness, is the most empowering journey one can embark on. We live in a world that needs diversity, and every individual's story is a piece of that beautiful mosaic. Stories of fierce women are not just the need of the hour; they are the timeless tales that inspire. We need these stories to remind ourselves



that we too can be the heroes of our own lives. This novel is deeply per-

sonal and puts out there the most unfiltered version of me," she added.

I make normal films, says filmmaker Vivek Agnihotri

Whether you like his films or not, whether you agree with his politics or not, National Award-winning filmmaker Vivek Agnihotri refuses to fall for the bait. He has a ready and intelligent repartee for any query you throw his way.

And even before you can utter the word 'propaganda film', which is how his detractors described his successful film *The Kashmir Files*, he reminds, "The film was about terrorism, not about Muslims." The National Award for the film is no vindication. "It's as important as any award should be. Of course, as far as awards go, National Award is the only award that matters."

As he is ready with his latest film, *The Vaccine War*, being touted as India's first bioscience film, he takes affront at the question — how do you make a subject like this entertaining? He shoots off, "This is very Bollywood line of thinking that assumes cinema is only entertainment. If it were so what would be the difference between cinema and circus? This also assumes that audiences are dumb people, who only want to be entertained. I think audiences want to move into new universes, new orbits."

Those who are prejudging the film as pro-establishment, he once again has befitting answers. "I am by nature anti-establishment. Only I stand up against the establishment (read



Bollywood), which is immediate to me, and from where I earn my bread and butter."

He does not consider himself an outsider in Bollywood. Rather he states vociferously, "Bollywood is an outsider in India. I am 100 per cent an insider. I make films about India with Indians." Thus he fails to understand how lauding India's achievement such as the indigenous Covid vaccine qualifies as pro-establishment? "If tomorrow someone makes a film on Chandrayaan, would that be pro-government. If so, that is as good as conceding that the government is doing a lot of commendable things."

Matter of choice
Talking of *The Vaccine War*,

tionary Buddha in a Traffic Jam. It took six years to make, at a budget of Rs 1 crore, and it went on to become a cult film."

Not ready to divulge much about his next, *The Delhi Files*, supposedly about anti-Sikh riots, answer to why he doesn't make one on Gujarat riots is met with an assertive, "It's my choice to make the kind of films I want." Cinema for him 'is connecting viewers with your inner self and inner emotions'.

Being honest
While he takes a dig at Karan Johar brand of cinema, he does not make much of his constant sparring with Anurag Kashyap. "I admire him as a filmmaker, I was the first one to congratulate him for *Dev D*." As for Agnihotri kind of cinema, he does not think his films are any more forthright than real life is. "I make normal films. Since people have stopped making cinema which tells the truth, they call my films hard-hitting."

However, *The Vaccine War*, set for theatrical outing on September 28, he promises his viewers will instil them with a sense of deep pride. "After watching this film, I want children to say they want to be virologists." See him as government's favourite child or maker with a difference, he certainly makes films he believes in. And judging by the recent track record makes cine-goers, whom he considers 'smarter than filmmakers', believe in them too.

Actress Nehha Pendse recalls working with Sunny Deol in 'Pyaar Koi Khel Nahi'



Actress Nehha Pendse, who is known for her versatile performances in both television and films, recently recalled her journey as a child artiste, and expressed her admiration for actor Sunny

Deol. She has acted in Hindi, Marathi, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada films.

About her early days in the entertainment world, the actress said: "I began my acting career as a child artiste with a

television serial on DD channel, and made my big-screen debut alongside the Sunny Deol in *Pyaar Koi Khel Nahi*. My parents had always held a deep appreciation for art and entertainment, and that's where it all began. During that era, child artistes were relatively limited, as many perceived it as taboo to involve children in the entertainment industry."

She added: "However, I believe destiny had its role to play, and everything fell into place, allowing me to be part of numerous wonderful projects as a child artiste. Sunny Deol is one of my favourites among the many talented artistes I've worked with. He is a remarkably soft-spoken and respectable man. Despite his commanding presence, he remained humble and grounded."

Meanwhile, Nehha is also set to return with the new episodes of *May I Come in Madam*, as Madam Sanjana. The show will air on Star Bharat from September 26.

Coming soon: ... Ishwak Singh in the film Tumse Na Ho Payega



Helmed by Nitesh Tiwari and directed by Abhishek Sinha, *Tumse Na Ho Payega*, Disney+ Hotstar's upcoming film is a fun, light-hearted take on the challenges faced by today's youth. It will release on September 29.

The cast includes Ishwak Singh, Mahima Makwana, Gaurav Pandey, Amala Akkineni, Gurpreet Saini, Parmeet Sethi and Meghna Malik.

"*Tumse Na Ho Payega* is a story that I relate to a lot, I feel like it's my story and I'm sure whoever watches it would feel the same. It's a light-hearted fun film with dollops of humour and a very strong theme that remains at the heart of it all — to follow one's dreams and not succumb to societal pressure," said actor Ishwak Singh.

Beyonce celebrates 42nd birthday in French Polynesia

Popstar Beyonce celebrated her birthday with style, as the 42-year-old took a break from her Renaissance World Tour to enjoy a family vacation in French Polynesia. "It was a nice break for Beyonce. The tour has been intense. She needed to recharge for a few days," a source said. The Grammy-winning singer went for the family vacation with her husband JAY-Z, 53, along with daughters Blue Ivy, 11, and twins, daughter Rumi and son Sir, six. The family 'rented several private villas' and spent a great deal of quality time together. They enjoyed the beach, had family dinners and engaged in several activities. Everyone had the best time."

The *Break My Soul* artiste reportedly travelled with her family right after her birthday concert in Los Angeles at SoFi Stadium on September 4, before returning home in time to resume the North American leg of her tour in Vancouver. Queen Bey's 42nd birthday festivities kicked off on stage during the final of her three Renaissance shows in Los Angeles.



Grain And Millet Portrait Of PM Modi Created Ahead Of His 73rd Birthday

The size of the portrait is 10X18 feet and it has been created using around 60 kg of grains like wheat, lentils and millets.

PUNE (MAHARASHTRA), Sep 16 (Agencies): Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday on September 17, a BJP worker in Pune is showcasing PM Modi's portrait using grains and millets.

BJP worker Kishor Tarwade said, "The size of the portrait is 10X18 feet and it has been created using around 60 kg of grains like wheat, lentils and millets (Jawar, Raagi). The portrait will be kept for display from September 16 to September 18 for visitors at the Budhwar Peth area of Pune city in Kalika Mata Mandir Bhavan. No fee would be charged to have a look out at the display."

The portrait has been created by artist Ganesh Khare and his



team in 18 hours.

Kishor Tarwade added, "Wheat, til, masoor daal, hari moong daal, jawar raagi, toor daal, and sarso have been used

to make the portrait."

Prime Minister Modi is going to celebrate his 73rd birthday on September 17. He was born in 1950.

'Childish': Assam Chief Minister Himanta Sarma slams INDIA bloc's media boycott

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has slammed the INDIA alliance for boycotting 14 television anchors, calling it "childish" and drawing parallels to media censorship from 1975.

NEW DELHI, Sep 16 (Agencies): Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday slammed the Opposition INDIA alliance over their decision to boycott shows of 14 television anchors on several platforms and termed the move "childish".

Speaking to the media in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur, Himanta Sarma said, "This boycott and media censorship can be traced back to 1975. It is not new."

"For any reason, if the Congress government comes to power, the media will get censored, but Irso has made the Chandrayaan at the right time. I will send the entire Congress party to the moon to form a government there. This



is childish," the Assam Chief Minister said.

Also taking a dig at former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister, Kamal Nath, Himanta Sarma said, "Who else in the world has a more tired face than Congress leader Kamal Nath?"

"If Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Kamal Nath ji are made to stand on a stage, Kamal Nath ji looks so tired. There

has been massive development in Madhya Pradesh and I want it to increase after the elections."

"INDIA alliance has openly opposed Hindus. I hope people will take cognisance of this and vote accordingly," he said.

WHAT INDIA BLOC ANNOUNCED

On Thursday (September 14), the oppo-

sition alliance INDIA announced that it will boycott shows of 14 television anchors on several platforms, a decision the BJP compared with the Emergency.

The News Broadcasters & Digital Association (NBDA) said the boycott sets a dangerous precedent and goes against the ethos of democracy.

The media committee of the bloc took the decision to boycott the programmes of these journalists and not send their representatives on debates hosted by them on such channels or platforms.

"Pursuant to the decision taken by the INDIA Coordination Committee in its meeting on September 13, 2023, the INDIA parties will not send their representa-

tives on the shows and events of the following anchors," a statement from the media committee of the opposition bloc read while listing the names of such journalists.

Justifying the action, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera, who is a part of the committee of opposition parties that took the decision in their virtual meeting, said some channels have put up a "nafrat ka bazaar" (market for hatred) for the last nine years.

The BJP condemned the move with its chief spokesperson and MP Anil Baluni saying in a statement that opposition parties have displayed their repressive, dictatorial and negative mindset.

Ex-MP minister's son, 2 others rescued from swollen river in Indore after their SUV gets washed away

INDORE, Sep 16 (Agencies): Nineteen-year-old son of a former Madhya Pradesh minister and two others were rescued hours after the Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) they were travelling in got washed away in a swollen river in Indore district during an attempt to cross a submerged culvert, police said on Saturday.

The incident occurred on Friday night, and the former minister Ranjana Baghel's son Yash

was found holding on to a tree branch in the middle of the Choral river before being rescued, they said.

Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Umakant Choudhary said the incident took place around 45 km away from the district headquarters.

"Former state minister Ranjana Baghel's son Yash, Tejas (24) and a person named Mallya were traveling in the SUV at the time of

incident. Although the culvert on the swollen Choral river was under water, an attempt was made by them to cross it," he said.

As soon as the information about the accident was received around 10 pm, a team of police personnel reached the spot and all three of them were rescued with the help of villagers, Choudhary said.

"Baghel's son Yash knows how to swim, but he got trapped in

the strong current of the river.

He somehow managed to catch hold of a tree branch. We rescued him by throwing a rope towards him after multiple attempts," he said.

Meanwhile, life in Indore city was severely hit due to water-logging following heavy rains since Friday evening.

Indore District Collector Ilayaraja T said that people living in low-lying areas of the city are being shifted to safer

places.

A holiday has been declared for all schools in the district on Saturday due to heavy rains, he said.

Deputy Director of Meteorological Department V P S Chandel said that 171 mm (6.73 inches) of rainfall was recorded in Indore city in 24 hours ending 8.30 am on Saturday.

There is prediction of very heavy rainfall in the city on Saturday, he said.

NIA launches multi-city searches in Tamil Nadu in suspected terror module case



CHENNAI, Sep 16 (Agencies): The Nation-

al Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday

launched coordinated searches at multiples locations in Tamil Nadu in a suspected terror module case, police sources said.

A DMK councillor in Coimbatore was among those under the agency's radar.

Searches were being held at the premises of various individuals in Chennai, Coimbatore and Tenkasi, sources said.

Asaram approaches Rajasthan High Court for parole

JODHPUR, Sep 16 (Agencies): Asaram has moved the Rajasthan High Court for parole after his plea for relief was earlier rejected, his counsel said on Saturday.

Allowing his application, the high court on Friday issued a notice to the state government seeking a reply in two weeks.

Asaram, a self-styled godman, has been serving a life sentence following his conviction on April 25, 2018, for sexually assaulting a teenage student of his ashram.

His counsel Kalu Ram Bhati said the District Parole Committee rejected his parole application a second time on the grounds that his release on parole could cause law and order issues.

"Asaram had moved an application seeking 20 days' parole but the committee rejected it citing a negative report from the police," he said.

Bhati in court argued that Asaram



had been serving the jail term for 11 years and even the Social Justice and Empowerment department had recommended parole for him.

"Moreover, his behaviour in this entire period in the jail has been satisfactory and he deserved parole owing to his old age and health," he argued.

Additional Advocate General Anil Joshi, however, sought time to file his reply, after which the division bench of Justice Vijay Bishnoi and Justice Rajendra Prakash Soni directed him to file his reply in two weeks.

BJP, BRS to celebrate merger of erstwhile Hyderabad princely state on Sunday

HYDERABAD, Sep 16 (Agencies): Poll-bound Telangana will witness hectic activity here on Sunday, especially over the commemoration of the merger of this erstwhile princely state with the Indian union 75 years ago, with the BJP, ruling BRS and AIMIM having lined up events to mark the day.

The Congress, fancying its chances of another electoral win in the south, is likely to sound the poll bugle with its announcement of 'guarantees', in a bid to repeat a winning strategy in neighbouring Karnataka earlier this year.

Meanwhile, the Congress is holding its Working Committee (CWC) meeting today and an extended session on Sunday in the city.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah would attend 'Hyderabad Liberation Day' event, organised by the Central government to mark the merger of this erstwhile princely state on September 17, 1948. The event is scheduled to be held at the Parade Grounds in the city. Shah had attended the celebrations last year as well which was organised officially by the Centre for the first time.

Separately, ruling BRS founder and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Reddy will be participating in the "National Integration Day," organised by the state government to mark the merger.

The Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM would organise a 'Tiranga bike rally' followed by a public meeting on Sunday to commemorate "National Integration Day".

September 17 is interpreted differently by different parties in Telangana.

The BJP celebrates the day as "Telangana Liberation Day", to com-

memorate the region's freedom from the then Nizam rule. The saffron party has been fighting for its official celebration by the governments for over two decades now.

It has been critical of the incumbent BRS government for not organising an official function despite being in favour of it during the Telangana statehood agitation.

The CPI has been conducting week-long celebrations of "Telangana armed struggle," contending that the movement spearheaded by the Communists led to the merger of the Nizam's Hyderabad

State with the Indian Union.

The party would organise a public meeting at Tukuguda on city outskirts on Sunday evening where it would announce its 'guarantees' for the coming Assembly polls in Telangana, which comes months ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The party, which registered an emphatic win in the Karnataka elections in May, had earlier promised five 'guarantees' including monthly assistance to women, free bus travel for them and unemployment dole.

Rajasthan paper leak case: ED arrests Anil Kumar Meena, RPSC member Babulal Katara



NEW DELHI, Sep 16 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate has arrested Babulal Katara, Member of Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC), and Anil Kumar Meena in connection with the Paper Leak case in Rajasthan, officials said Saturday.

Katara and Meena were arrested under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Lau-

ndering Act and sent to the custody of ED for three days by a special court, they said.

The Directorate had taken over the case filed by Rajasthan Police in connection with the leak of the General Knowledge paper conducted by RPSC for the recruitment of Senior Teacher Grade II between December 21 and 24, 2022.

It is alleged that Katara

leaked the paper and sold it to Meena who through his syndicate supplied it to candidates for Rs 8-10 lakh, they said.

"Earlier, ED conducted a search at 15 premises of accused persons on June, 05 resulting in recovery of incriminating documents/digital records. Further, ED has also provisionally attached movable and immovable properties worth Rs 3.11 Crore (approx) of Bbulal Katara, Anil Meena AKA Sher Singh Meena and others vide Provisional Attachment Order dated 18.08.2023," the agency said in a statement.

Four died as car rams into truck in UP's Mathura



MATHURA, Sep 16 (Agencies): Four people died as a car ramed into a stationary truck on the Delhi-Agra National Highway in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura, said the police on Saturday.

According to the police, the car was on its way from Uttar Pradesh's Aligarh to Kokilavan Dham Shani Mandir near Mathura.

"Four people died in a road accident on the Delhi-Agra National Highway as a car ramed into a stationary truck at the edge of the road. The car passengers were travelling from Aligarh to Kokilavan Dham Shani Mandir," said Martand Prakash Singh, Superintendent of Police, Mathura (Uttar Pradesh).

Three car passengers identified as Nishidh, Alok and Aakash, and the truck driver, Ajit died on the spot, the SP added. The car passengers were residents of Aligarh while the truck driver was a native of Bihar's Chhapra.

Five of family killed after portion of house roof collapses in Lucknow's Alambagh

LUCKNOW, Sep 16 (Agencies): Five members of a family including three children were killed after an old house collapsed Anand Naga area of Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow, the police said on Saturday.

According to the police, the incident took place in a Railway colony under the Alambagh police station in Lucknow.

Station House Officer (SHO) Shiv Shankar Mahadevan told agency that Satish Chandra (40) and his family members were fast asleep when the roof of their house collapsed partially.

Sanitation workers informed police about

the incident around 8 a.m., following which police and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams reached the spot, he said.

Chandra, his wife Sarojini Devi (35) and their children Harshit (13), Harshita (10) and Ansh (5) died in the incident, he said.

Upendra Kumar Aggarwal, Joint DCP, Law and Order, Lucknow said, "We got the information that five people were injured in the house collapse that occurred in the railway colony of the Anand Nagar area. They were rushed to a hospital where they were declared dead by

the doctors."

Speaking further, the joint DCP said that the colony was abandoned by the Railways Department and the railway had given the notice to vacate the house.

Meanwhile, the Lucknow District Magistrate also reached the spot and took stock of the situation.

"CM Yogi Adityanath took cognizance of the situation and asked the officials to reach the spot and provide all possible help to the locals. Along with this, we are giving notice to the locals to vacate all the damaged houses in the colony", DM Gangwar added.

Kim Jong Un to visit Russia's Pacific fleet amid talk of arms alliance

SEOUL, Sep 16 (Agencies): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was to travel to the far eastern port city of Vladivostok to see Russia's Pacific fleet, while his official media back home said on Saturday that he was "deeply impressed" by a factory producing the most advanced Russian warplanes.

Kim's trip to Russia, highlighted by a summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday, has sparked Western concerns about an arms alliance in which North Korean munitions fuel Putin's war in Ukraine and Russian technologies advance the threat posed by Kim's military nuclear program.

After meeting with Putin at Russia's main spaceport, a location that communicated Kim's desire for Russian assistance in his efforts to acquire space-based reconnaissance assets and missile technologies, North Korea's leader reappeared Friday in the far eastern city of Komsomolsk-on-Amur for a visit to a plant producing Russia's Su-57 fighter jets.

Experts have said potential military cooperation between the countries could include efforts to modernize North Korea's outdated air force, which relies on warplanes sent from the Soviet Union in the 1980s.

Kim's plans to see Russian naval ships in Vladivostok could be another hint at what he wants from Russia, possibly in exchange for supplying munitions to refill Putin's declining reserves as his invasion of Ukraine becomes a drawn-out war of attrition.

Kim in recent months has emphasized the need to strengthen his navy to counter the advanced naval assets of the United States, which has been expanding its combined military exercises with South Korea to counter the North's growing threat.

Analysts say Kim's focus on naval strength could be driven by ambitions to obtain sophisticated technologies for ballistic missile submarines and nuclear-propelled submarines



as well as to initiate joint naval exercises between Russia and North Korea.

Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency said on Saturday that during his visit to the aircraft plant in Komsomolsk-on-Amur, Kim expressed "sincere regard" for what he described as Russia's rapidly advancing aviation technologies, which he said were "outpacing the outside potential threats," a comment Russian media also highlighted.

North Korean state media have been reporting Kim's activities in Russia a day late while crafting the details to meet government propaganda purposes.

Russia's Cabinet on Friday released a video showing Kim on an elevated platform looking at the cockpit of an Su-57 while listening to its pilot. Kim also beamed and clapped his hands when an Su-35 fighter jet landed after a demonstration flight.

During a luncheon hosted by Russian officials, Kim's top military officer, army Marshal Ri Pyong Chol, said his leader's visit to the facility "added another glorious page" to the relations between the countries, KCNA said. Kim's delegation also includes the top commanders of North Korea's air force and navy.

Putin on Friday briefed Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko about his summit with Kim. During their meeting in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, Lukashenko suggested Belarus could join Russia and North Korea in "three-way coop-

eration."

Kim's trip to Russia, his first since April 2019 when he met Putin in Vladivostok, came days after he attended a ceremony at a North Korean military shipyard where the country unveiled a purported nuclear attack submarine.

State media claimed it is capable of launching tactical nuclear weapons from underwater. But South Korea's military expressed doubt about the operational capabilities of the sub, which was the result of reshaping an existing submarine to install missile launch tubes.

Kim has announced goals to acquire nuclear-propelled submarines, which can quietly travel long distances and approach enemy shores to deliver strikes, a key asset in his efforts to build a viable nuclear arsenal that could threaten the United States. Analysts say such capacities would be unfeasible for the North without external assistance.

Putin on Friday reiterated that Russia would abide by UN sanctions, some of which ban North Korea from exporting or importing any weapons. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov separately said that no agreements on bilateral military cooperation were signed after the Putin-Kim meeting Wednesday. Experts say North Korea and Russia aren't likely to publicize any deals on weapons to avoid stronger international criticism.

Kim, whose visit to Russia is his first foreign trip since the

Covid-19 pandemic, has been eager to boost the visibility of his partnerships with Moscow and Beijing as he attempts to break out of international isolation and insert Pyongyang in a united front against Washington. Some South Korean experts say that Kim could also pursue a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

In another sign of the North's post-pandemic opening, KCNA said Saturday that a team of North Korean athletes departed from the country's capital, Pyongyang, to participate in the Asian Games starting next week in Hangzhou, China. South Korea's government says around 190 North Korean athletes are registered for the event.

Since last year, the US has accused North Korea of providing ammunition, artillery shells and rockets to Russia, many of them likely copies of Soviet-era munitions. South Korean officials said North Korean weapons provided to Russia have already been used in Ukraine.

Some analysts question how much Russia would be willing to share its sensitive weapons technology in exchange for North Korean conventional arms. But others say that is now a possibility to consider as Russia becomes desperate to refill its drained reserves.

After a meeting in Seoul discussing the allies' nuclear deterrence strategies, U.S. and South Korean officials on Friday stepped up their condemnation of the recent moves by Russia and North Korea.

Sasha Baker, the US acting undersecretary of defense for policy, said Washington will continue to "try to identify and expose and counter Russian attempts to acquire military equipment, again, to prosecute their illegal war on Ukraine."

South Korean Vice Foreign Minister Chang Ho-jin said Washington and Seoul, while increasing security cooperation, would ensure that Moscow faces consequences if it helps advance North Korea's weapons program.

El Chapo's son extradited from Mexico to US



MEXICO CITY, Sep 16 (Agencies): Mexico extradited Ovidio Guzmán López, a son of former Sinaloa cartel leader Joaquín 'El Chapo' Guzmán, to the United States on Friday to face drug trafficking, money laundering and other charges, US Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement.

"This action is the most recent step in the Justice Department's effort to attack every aspect of the cartel's operations," Garland said.

The Mexican government did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Mexican security forces captured Guzmán López, alias 'the Mouse', in January in Culiacán, capital of Sinaloa state, the cartel's namesake.

Three years earlier, the government had tried to capture him, but aborted the operation after his cartel allies set off a wave of violence in Culiacán.

January's arrest set off similar violence that killed 30 people in Culiacán, including 10 military personnel. The army used Black Hawk helicopter gunships against the cartel's truck-mounted .50-caliber machine guns. Cartel gunmen hit two military aircraft forcing them to land and sent gunmen

to the city's airport where military and civilian aircraft were hit by gunfire.

The capture came just days before US President Joe Biden visited Mexico for bilateral talks followed by the North American Leaders' Summit.

On Friday, Garland recognised the law enforcement and military members who had given their lives in the US and Mexico.

"The Justice Department will continue to hold accountable those responsible for fuelling the opioid epidemic that has devastated too many communities across the country."

Mike Vigil, former head of international operations for the Drug Enforcement Administration, said he believed the Mexican government facilitated the extradition, because for someone of Guzmán López's high profile it usually takes at least two years to win extradition as attorneys make numerous filings as a delaying tactic.

"This happened quicker than normal," Vigil said, noting that some conservative members of the US Congress had raised the idea of US military intervention if Mexico did not do more to stop the flow of drugs. Vigil dismissed that idea as "political theater," but suggested it added pressure on Mexico to act.

Homeland Security Adviser Liz Sherwood-Randall said in statement that the extradition "is testament to the significance of the ongoing cooperation between the American and Mexican governments on countering narcotics and other vital challenges, and we thank our Mexican counterparts for their partnership in working to safeguard our peoples from violent criminals."

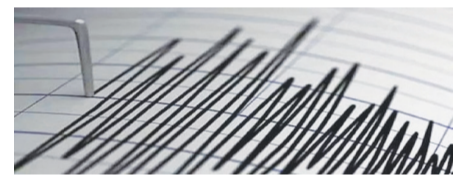
4.3 magnitude earthquake hits Afghanistan's Fayzabad

KABUL, Sep 16 (Agencies): An earthquake of magnitude 4.3 on the Richter Scale jolted Afghanistan's Fayzabad on Saturday, the National Center for Seismology (NCS) said.

The earthquake occurred at 10:58:08 (IST) on Saturday. According to NCS, the earthquake struck at a depth of 90 kilometres.

"Earthquake of Magnitude: 4.3, Occurred on 16-09-2023, 10:58:08 IST, Lat: 36.63 & Long: 71.67, Depth: 90 km, Location: 112 km ESE of Fayzabad, Afghanistan," NCS said on X.

Earlier, on September 4, an earth-



quake of magnitude 4.4 on the Richter Scale jolted Fayzabad. The National Center for Seismology (NCS) is the nodal agency of the Government of India for monitoring earthquake activity in the country. NCS maintains a National Seismological Network of 155 stations each having state-of-the-art equipment.

X introduces verification based on government ID for paid users



SAN FRANCISCO, Sep 16 (Agencies): Elon Musk-run X Corp has introduced government-ID-based verification checks for X premium users, as it aims to curb impersonation on its platform and doll out more benefits to them like "prioritised support".

ID Verification is currently available in numerous countries and will soon be extended to include more, such as the European Union, European Economic Area (EEA), and the UK, according to the company.

The platform has collaborated with Israel-based company Au10tix for identity verification.

"X currently focuses on account authentication to prevent impersonation, and may explore additional measures, such as ensuring users have access to age-appropriate content and protecting against spam and malicious accounts, to maintain the integrity of the platform and safeguard healthy conversations," according to X website.

Users who choose to participate in this ID verification may receive additional benefits associated with the specific X feature in the future, like receiving a visibly labeled ID verification in the pop-up that appears when clicking on your blue check mark.

They will also be benefitted from "increased trust from other users who will see your ID verification label when they hover over your blue check mark".

Such users will also receive prioritised support from X Services.

More benefits in the future will speed up the process of obtaining a blue check mark through a simplified review process and "greater flexibility in making frequent changes to your profile photo, display name, or username (@handle)".

This option is currently only available to individual users and not businesses or organisations, according to X.

The company recently unveiled a feature for paid users to hide their checkmarks from their profiles.

US elections 2024: Biden and Trump are taking different paths to reach 'critical' young voters

HAMPTON, Sep 16 (Agencies): Students were dancing in the aisles and their seats in the Hampton University auditorium long before Vice President Kamala Harris took the stage for the first stop of her fall college tour.

Jaden Clemons and Layth Carpenter, both 18-year-old freshmen, said they viewed Harris as "authentic" and "relatable" as the alum of Howard University, another historically Black school.

But neither was ready to commit to supporting Harris and Joe Biden next year, the first time they will be eligible to vote in a presidential election. And when it comes to lining up behind Democrats or Republicans, Clemons said, "We don't even feel like it's something that we need to choose."

Getting students like these two off the sidelines is one of the top challenges for the White House as Biden seeks a second term as the oldest president in American history, and it's one that Harris will confront as she crisscrosses between campuses in the coming weeks.

Although young people lean left, they're less likely to vote, and preventing them from tuning out is crucial in close campaigns that hinge on narrow margins.

And Biden isn't the only candidate trying to line up support among young voters. Former President Donald Trump, the frontrunner for the Republican nomination in his comeback bid for the White House, visited Iowa State University last weekend.

He tossed autographed footballs into a cheering crowd during a cookout at Alpha Gamma Rho, an agricultural studies fraternity, and then attended the football game against in-state rival University of Iowa. "I guess the youth likes Trump," he said.

John Brabender, a media consultant for the Trump campaign, said the former president tries to show up at events that lead to video on social media — for example, Trump's appearance at a



mixed martial arts fight in Las Vegas in July.

Since YouTube and TikTok are crucial platforms for young people, he said, "Our goal is to make sure content is created in an interesting enough way that it does get shared."

Drawing the attention of young people can be difficult, but Trump's celebrity remains powerful. One of the few things that Isaac Gavin, a 21-year-old senior at Drake University in Des Moines, knows about the Republican primary is that Trump is a candidate again.

"I don't even know all who is running. It seems like so many," he said. "It's confusing."

Sen. Mitt Romney, a Utah Republican who announced his retirement this week, told reporters at the U.S. Capitol that he doubted Trump could make inroads with a new generation.

"My party is only going to be successful getting young people to vote for us if we're talking about the future," he said. "And that's not happening so far."

Biden won 61 per cent of voters between the ages of 18 and 29 in 2020, according to AP VoteCast, making young voters a critical part of his coalition. However, his approval ratings within that age group now stand at 29 per cent compared to 40 per cent overall, according to a new AP-NORC poll.

At Hampton, Harris said there was too much at stake — abortion, voting rights, gun control — for students to miss their shot to shape the country's future.

"What concerns me sometimes is that our young leaders will be told that their vote doesn't matter," she told the audience. "It's because you voted," Harris added, "that Joe Biden is president and I'm vice president of the United States."

Harris' college tour — with another stop Friday at North Carolina A&T in Greensboro, N.C. — is one part of a broader strategy.

The White House has worked with online influencers to reach people who don't rely on traditional media. The Democratic National Committee is also building a network of student volunteers to organize on college campuses, and they flew banners over football games to urge voter registration. "As Democrats did in 2020 and 2022, we will meet younger Americans where they are and turn their energy into action as part of our winning 2024 coalition," said Kevin Munoz, a Biden campaign spokesman.

Given the liberal bent of younger voters, Democrats' competition isn't always Republicans but apathy or the lure of a third party.

John Della Volpe, director of polling at the Harvard Kennedy School Institute of Politics, said the White House will need

to break through to people who tend to tune out when it comes to politics so they're aware of what Biden has accomplished since taking office.

"It's just an incredibly challenging environment to communicate that message," said Della Volpe, who worked on Biden's campaign in 2020. "And unless those things are understood, cynicism grows."

Destiny Humphreys, a 22-year-old senior at South Carolina State University, said she fears that politicians always say they'll "listen to the people" only to backtrack once they're in a position of power. "Everybody keeps saying the same thing just in different ways but ultimately, they're not listening to the people," she said.

Harris repeatedly tried to demonstrate that she understood young voters' concerns. She said they had taught her about "climate anxiety" and their fears of a warming world. At another point, she asked how many students had participated in active shooter drills in their schools, and a sea of hands went up. Older people, Harris said, "don't get it."

Harris acknowledged that the White House has faced roadblocks, such as the US Supreme Court decision that undermined its debt forgiveness plan. But she said she wouldn't stop fighting for the administration's agenda. "I like to say, I eat 'no' for breakfast," she said. "I don't hear 'no.'"

Harris ended with a pitch for help. "With each generation, we must fight for our rights and our freedoms," she said. "And so, just stay active. Because I and your country are counting on you."

After the event, Carpenter said she felt that Harris sort of "danced around" students' questions and blamed problems on Congress.

But Clemons might have been won over.

Biden and Harris are "strong candidates, in my eyes," he said, "mainly because of what I saw today."

“Opposition Named Its Alliance INDIA As UPA Was...”: Amit Shah In Bihar

MADHUBANI, Sep 16 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday that the Opposition named its alliance INDIA as the old name United Progressive Alliance (UPA) was associated with scams and corruption.

“They have made a new alliance with a new name. They worked with the name of UPA and indulged in corruption worth 12 lakh crores. Lalu Yadav did corruption worth crores while he was the Railway Minister. They changed their name because they could not come back with the name UPA, hence they had to come up with INDIA Alliance,” Mr Shah said at a public meeting in Bihar’s Jhanjharpur. “People of this alliance disrespect Ramcharitmanas. They cancel holidays on Rakshabandhan and Janmashtami. They link Sanatana Dharma to a number of diseases. All they can do is appeasement,” he added.

Mr Shah also thanked the



people for standing against the decision of the Nitish Kumar-led government over the cancellation of holidays on Rakshabandhan and Janmashtami in Bihar. “A few days ago, the Lalu-Nitish government declared that there would be no holidays for Rakshabandhan and Janmashtami in Bihar. I want to thank the people of Bihar for standing against this decision of the Lalu-Nitish government,” he said.

Earlier, the Bihar second-

ary education department announced the reduction of holidays for teachers from 23 to 11 days annually, leading to a furore among teachers in the state. Faced with backlash, the state government later withdrew its order.

A circular issued by the Director of Secondary Education said, “The holiday table issued for government/government-aided elementary and secondary/higher secondary schools under departmental order

memorandum no. 2112 dated 29.08.2023 is cancelled with immediate effect.”

This is Amit Shah’s sixth visit to the state in one year since his party was ousted from power in the state in August 2022. In February this year, he visited Valmikinagar and Patna and addressed Kisan Samagam organised on the occasion of the birth anniversary of peasant leader Sahajanand Saraswati in Patna, in a bid to woo the Bhumihar community.

On April 2, 2023, Amit Shah visited the state for the fourth time, addressed a public meeting in Nawada and cancelled the programme of Rohtas (Sasaram) in view of violence in the area.

Last time, Amit Shah arrived in Bihar on June 29 and addressed a mega-rally at Lakhisarai in Munger Lok Sabha constituency which is the home turf of Janata Dal (United) (JDU) President and Lok Sabha MP Lalan Singh.

Man asleep in front of road roller run over in Kerala

ANCHAL (KERALA), Sep 16 (Agencies): A man in his thirties was killed in a tragic incident after a road roller ran over him while he was asleep in front of it in Kerala’s Anchal, police said on Saturday.

An officer from Anchal police station said the man lived a couple of kilometers away from where the tragedy occurred and had come there to catch fish.

“He also used to drink. We are trying to find out whether he was drunk when he fell asleep before the road roller. A case under section 304A (causing death by negligence) of the IPC was registered today and the inquest proceedings have commenced,” he said.

Meanwhile, the driver of the road-roller was taken into custody on Friday night itself, but has not been arrested yet, he said.

“He does not appear to be at fault. But, we will wait for the post mortem results to decide further course of action,” the officer said.

The road-roller was parked at Kurishumukku near Anchal bypass where road construction work was going on and the incident occurred at around 11 pm on Friday when the vehicle was being moved from where it was parked, police said.

The driver allegedly did not see the victim lying in front of the vehicle, it said.

3 Killed, 8 Injured As Private Bus Overtakes In Madhya Pradesh’s Ujjain

UJJAIN, Sep 16 (Agencies): Three persons were killed and eight injured after a private bus carrying nearly 40 passengers overturned in Madhya Pradesh’s Ujjain district in the early hours of Saturday, the police said.

The incident occurred near Farnakheddi village, about 80 km from the district headquarters when the bus going from Indore to Jodhpur flipped at a turn due

to heavy rains at around 12.30 am, said Khachrod police station in-charge Narendra Singh Tomar.

Two persons, including the conductor, were crushed under the bus, while another passenger died during treatment, the official said.

Eight passengers suffered injuries in the accident and are in hospital, he said.

After Tamil Nadu, Telangana to launch breakfast scheme for school kids from Oct 24

HYDERABAD, Sep 16 (Agencies): In a move aimed at benefiting students in government primary and high schools, the Telangana government has announced the implementation of the Chief Minister’s Breakfast Scheme. This initiative, set to kick off on October 24, is a Dussehra festival gift to the students of government schools across the state.

Under this scheme, students in classes 1 to 10 attending government schools will receive a nutritious breakfast, enhancing their overall health and well-being. The government has committed to spending an estimated amount of Rs 400 crore to ensure the successful execution of the program.

The primary objective of the Chief Minister’s Breakfast Scheme is to provide students with not only quality education but also a nutritious start to their day.

The decision to implement this initiative was informed by a study conducted by a team of officers who visited Tamil Nadu to take note of a similar breakfast scheme for students. Following their assessment and report submission, the Telangana government resolved to bring this beneficial program to its own students.

As the scheme prepares for its launch in October, it is expected to have a positive impact on the health and educational outcomes of students in government schools across Telangana.

Air Force to phase out ageing MiG-21, 23 fleet; to buy 100 more Tejas jets

NEW DELHI, Sep 16 (Agencies): With the objective of replacing its ageing fleet of MiG series fighters, the Air Force is set to place orders for around 100 additional Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mark-1A fighter jets from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

The decision, expected to boost the indigenous aerospace industry, is taken to replace the ageing fleet of the MiG-21, 23 and 27 fighter aircraft fleets.

“The LCA was developed from the ground up

for replacement of the large MiG series fleet including the MiG-21, MiG 23 and MiG-27 aircraft. With the phasing out of all these aircraft, it is essential that we have adequate numbers of the LCA class aircraft in our inventory. So, apart from the 83 LCA Mark 1A that we have already contracted for, we are moving a case for around 100 more aircraft,” Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari said in Spain’s Seville.

VR Chaudhari is currently on his visit to Spain to receive the first



C-295 transport aircraft built by Airbus. Chaudhari received the aircraft at the aerospace major’s production facility in the southern Spanish city of Seville.

TEJAS FIGHTER JETS Tejas Mark-1A is an indigenously designed, developed and manufactured modern 4-plus generation fighter air-

craft with more than 65 per cent indigenous components. Tejas MK 1A is an indigenously developed Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar, Beyond Visual Range (BVR) Missile, modern Electronic Warfare (EW) Suite with Air-to-Air Refuelling (AAR) capabilities.

The purchase is also seen as a boost to the Centre’s ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat’, offering the indigenous sectors to enter into a technology-intensive and competitive defence industry.

FROM PAGE 1

J&K HC seeks details of 48 politicians who own houses, but occupy Govt accommodation

SS Ahmed also read the names of 48 politicians from March 28 compliance report submitted by Estates department which included Ghulam Nabi Azad (former CM), Shamsher Singh Manhas (ex-MP), Muzaffar Hussain Beigh (ex-MP), Chander Mohan Gupta (ex-mayor), Kavinder Gupta (ex-deputy CM), Sunil Sharma (former minister), Ravinder Raina (BJP state president), GM Saroori (ex-MLA), Neelam Langhe (ex-MLA), Daleep Singh Parihar (ex-MLA), Bali Bhagat (former minister), Sat Sharma (former minister), Ravinder Sharma (ex-MLC), Shilpy Verma, Sajjad Gani Lone (ex-MLA), Hakim Mohammad Yaseen (ex-MLA), Sofi Yousaf (ex-MLC), Abdul Majid Paddar (ex-MLA), Vikram Randhawa (ex-MLC), Mohammad Amin Bhat (ex-MLA) and Zafar Iqbal Manhas (ex-MLC).

During the hearing, Advocate SS Ahmed argued that estates department is adopting double standards as as 200 leaders, including former CMs, Mehbooba Mufti and Omar Abdullah, were evicted earlier in a similar situation.

Advocate SS Ahmed also cited the judgment on December 26, 2022 by the bench that security assessment and entitlement to government accommodation are two different issues.

The Division Bench directed senior AAG SS Nanda to submit whether any of the 48 politicians has an alternative accommodation in Jammu or in Kashmir.

The next hearing is scheduled for September 25.

Anantnag operation enters fourth day

area of the south Kashmir district, officials said.

As the assault was resumed on Saturday morning – the fourth day of the gunfight – the security forces fired several mortar shells towards the forest, they said.

Drone footage showed a militant running for cover after a cave-like hideout was hit by shells fired by security forces on Friday.

Additional Director General of Police (Kashmir) Vijay Kumar late Friday night said the operation was launched on the

basis of specific input and claimed “two to three trapped terrorists will be neutralised.”

Major Ashish Dhonchak, 19 Rashtriya Rifles Commanding Officer Col Manpreet Singh, Deputy Superintendent of Jammu and Kashmir Police Humayun Bhat, and a soldier were killed in the encounter with the militants on Wednesday.

SIA conducts searches to bust terror modules in Reasi

are working as border guides and are using different mobile apps to stay in touch with their Pakistan-based handlers and are providing logistical support to terrorists.

“The terrorists are desperate to revive their activities in the Reasi hinterland,” he said.

The SIA is already probing a case registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act against two terrorists arrested last year. It obtained search warrants from a court and carried out the raids in the presence of an executive magistrate.

The two terrorists — Talib Hussain Shah of Rajouri and his Kashmiri associate Faisal Ahmad Dar of Pulwama — were overpowered by the villagers of remote Tukson Dhok in Reasi in July and handed over to police. Two AK assault rifles, one pistol, seven grenades, and a large quantity of ammunition were recovered from them.

The case, initially registered at Mahore Police Station of Reasi, was transferred to SIA Jammu which filed a charge sheet against four Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists including Shah in December last year.

In its charge sheet, the SIA said its investigation had established that Mohd Qasim and Zia-Ul-Rehman had earlier exfiltrated to Pakistan and were using drones to supply weapons and explosives which were collected by Shah and his associates.

The investigation has also established that on the directions of his Pakistan-based handlers, Shah had recruited several local youths to revive terror in Chenab Valley and Pir Panjal areas of the Jammu region.

BSF SDG reviews security measures along IB in Jammu Frontier, Visits IB in Samba

Boora described the general security sce-

nario in the area of operation, including the deployment pattern of BSF battalions and their robust domination aspects along the International Border (IB), he said.

Khurania visited the Samba sector where he was briefed about the recent threats being faced by the BSF in the area, ranging from tunnelling and cross-border smuggling. A special emphasis was given to the threats posed by drones coming from across the border, he said.

The SDG was shown various border domination aspects on the ground.

Khurania addressed the troops and praised them for their effective border duties round the clock, the spokesperson said.

Traffic cop arrested while taking Rs 9,000 bribe in Sonamarg

a cop while taking bribe of Rs 9,000.

The cop has been identified as Muhammad Ayoub, working as Selection Grade Constable in Jammu and Kashmir Traffic police.

Punjabis among 16 sentenced for money-laundering, human smuggling in UK

moving tens of millions of pounds of criminal cash out of the UK. The NCA mounted a long and complex investigation into their activities, and over a two-year period we were able to evidence their involvement in money-laundering and organised immigration crime,” NCA senior investigating officer Chris Hill said.

Government extends deadline for free updation of Aadhaar details

them since. To utilise this service, individuals must provide proof of identity and address through the official website. Typically, updating each detail on an Aadhaar card costs Rs 50. It’s important to emphasise that the cost-free updates are exclusively applicable to online modifications and are not accessible at physical Aadhaar centres.

Last date of free online updation The UIDAI has specified that users can

upload their identity and address proofs by December 14, 2023.

Why update your Aadhaar Updated supporting documents for identity and address for Aadhaar enable ease of living, better service delivery and accurate authentication. Therefore, submitting recent identity and address documents is in the interest of the Aadhaar number holder.

How to update Aadhaar details online: Visit the Aadhaar Self-Service portal on the official website of UIDAI <https://myaadhaar.uidai.gov.in>

Log in to the portal using Aadhaar number, and captcha. An OTP will be sent to the registered mobile number to authenticate the process.

Go to the document update section and review the existing details. Select the appropriate document type from the drop-down list and upload the scanned copies of the original documents. Click on the submit button. Note down the Service Request Number (SRN) to track the status of the application request.

Militancy reviving in Kashmir, Govt should take concrete steps to curb it: JKPC Chief

Kokernag area on Wednesday. Major Ashish Dhonchak, 19 Rashtriya Rifles Commanding Officer Col Manpreet Singh, Deputy Superintendent of Jammu and Kashmir Police Humayun Bhat, and a soldier were martyred in the encounter with the militants on Wednesday.

The gunfight entered into its fourth day on Saturday. “We condemn it in no uncertain terms. It is a very sad incident. The situation is that militancy has not ended as the Government of India or the LG administration claims. I think they should frame a comprehensive policy to curb the militancy so that people come out of a life of distress which they have been living for the last 35 years,” Wani said here.

Wani said the party will not indulge in politics over the issue, and said it is pained by the killings. “There was an incident in Rajouri as well, there is firing in Uri as well, so I think, militancy is again reviving and the government should take some concrete steps (against it),” he added.

The JKPC president said the ground situation in the valley was different from what the BJP was projecting in the rest of

the country.

“They use it in other states, to make speeches, when the ground situation is different. When Article 370 was abrogated, they made it sound like Jammu and Kashmir was previously an area under Pakistan, which is totally wrong.

“They use militancy politically to try to make the ground favourable. Congress and other like-minded parties see such issues in the national interest and have never indulged in politics on such issues or martyrs. They (BJP) sought votes in the name of Pulwama martyrs, which is very wrong,” Wani said.

Earlier, addressing a press conference, Wani said the Congress will start a protest programme from next week against the “anti-people measures” of the government.

He said from September 19 to 28, protests would be held by the party daily in two districts – one each in Kashmir and Jammu province. Referring to the alleged scam in the Jal Shakti department, Wani demanded a CBI inquiry into the matter. He said the protest would also target the continuous installation of pre-paid smart metres and forceful recovery of electric tariffs from the people. “Removal of additional duties on several American products such as apples, etc., which will devastate the apple industry of Jammu and Kashmir, and forceful imposition of property, water and toll taxes are the other issues on which protests will take place,” the JKPC president said.

Attachment of properties of 13 Pak-Based terrorists set into motion in Kishtwar

launched against him,” the identical notices issued on Thursday read. The officials said the proclamation was issued, among others, against Shah Nawaz Kanth alias “Umer” of Hullah, Nayeem Ahmed alias “Amir” of Jamia Masjid Kishtwar, Mohammad Iqbal alias “Bilal” from a place near the Kichloo market, Shah Nawaz alias “Nayeem” of Chirool and Javid Hussain Giri alias “Muzamil” of Kundali Pochal.

The list also included Bashir Ahmed Mughal, Gazi-ul-Din and Sattar Din alias “Saifullah” of Jugna Keshwan, Imtiyaz Ahmed alias “Dawood” of Banderna, Shabir Ahmed of Kithar Bonjwah, Mohammad Rafiq Keen of Patnazi Bonjwah, Muzaffer Ahmed of Zewar and Azad Hussain of Affani Padder, they added.

UK agrees to give £500 mn to Tata Steel for Port Talbot unit

LONDON, Sep 16 (Agencies): The UK announced that it had agreed a joint investment package with Tata Steel for the country's largest steelworks in Wales, including a grant worth up to £500 million – dubbed one of the largest British government support packages in history and a “defining moment” for the steel industry.

As part of the agreement, the Indian steel giant is expected to invest £1.25 billion, including the government grant, in a new Electric Arc Furnace and related facilities for greener steel production at Port Talbot in South Wales, currently the UK's largest single carbon emitter.

The Department for Business and Trade (DBT) said the proposal, which is subject to information and consultation processes led by Tata Steel, has



the potential to safeguard over 5,000 jobs across Britain.

“The UK government is backing our steel sector, and this proposal will secure a sustainable future for Welsh steel and is expected to save thousands of jobs in the long term,” said UK Business and Trade Secretary

Kemi Badenoch.

“This is an historic package of support from the UK government and will not only protect skilled jobs in Wales but also grow the UK economy, boost growth and help ensure a successful UK steel industry,” she said.

Tata Steel UK employs over 8,000 people, including at Port Talbot, which was under serious threat without substantial investment. The company also supports around 12,500 further jobs in the upstream supply chain.

“The agreement with the UK government is a defining moment for the future of the steel industry and indeed the industrial value chain in the UK,” said Tata Group chairman N Chandrasekaran, who had been working with the Rishi Sunak-led government in developing a “transition pathway” for sustainable steelmaking in the UK. “The proposed investment will preserve significant employment and presents a great opportunity for the development of a green technology-based industrial ecosystem in South Wales,” he said.

TikTok fined USD 379 million for failure to keep children's data safe in EU

LONDON, Sep 16 (Agencies): The Chinese short-video-making app TikTok has been fined 345 million euros (\$379 million) by the Irish Data Protection Commission (DPC) for failing to keep kids' data safe on its platform.

The fine, under the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), was announced in relation to TikTok's processing of personal data relating to child users of its platform.

TikTok was found to have violated eight articles of the GDPR. As part of the inquiry, the DPC also examined certain of TikTok's transparency obligations, including the extent of information provided to child users in relation to default settings.

The Irish data watchdog now requires TikTok to bring its processing into compliance by taking the action specified within a period of three months.

TikTok said in a statement that it “respectfully disagrees with the decision, particularly the level of the fine imposed”.

“The DPC's criticisms are focused on features and settings that were in place three years ago, and that we made changes well before the investigation even began, such as setting all under 16 accounts to private by default,” the company added.

Elaine Fox, TikTok's head of privacy in Europe, argued in a blog post that the company addressed safety concerns prior to the DPC's investigation, such as setting accounts of users aged 13-15 private by default.

The DPC probe focused on a five-month period (July 31, 2020 to December 31, 2020), looking at whether TikTok complied with its obligations under the GDPR in relation to its processing of personal data relating to child users.

The probe was initiated in the context of certain platform settings (including public-by-default settings; and settings associated with the “Family Pairing” feature); as well as examining age verification as part of the registration process.

‘Over Rs 330 per litre’: Fuel prices in Pakistan smash records after interim govt another hike

ISLAMABAD, Sep 16 (Agencies): Pakistan's caretaker government has announced yet another hike in the prices of petrol and diesel, taking them to a historic high — over Rs 330 per litre — amidst double-digit inflation in the cash-strapped country.

The Ministry of Finance on Friday night announced the price hike of petrol by Rs 26.02 and diesel by Rs 17.34 per litre following clearance from caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar.

After the hike, petrol and high-speed diesel (HSD) are costing over Rs 330 at the filling stations, “a psychological barrier that has been crossed for the first time in the country's history,” the Dawn wrote.

The fuel price hike comes on the heels of over 27.4 per cent increase in the rate of inflation in August, putting an unbearable burden on the masses, as petrol and HSD are used by all private and public service vehicles. “Owing to the increasing trend of petroleum prices in the international market, the government has decided to revise the existing consumer prices of petroleum products,” the ministry said.

On September 1, the caretaker gov-

ernment had jacked up the petrol and diesel prices by over Rs 14.

The rise is on top of Rs 32.41 and Rs 38.49 per litre increase in petrol and HSD prices since August 15.

The combined increase now works out at Rs 58.43 and Rs 55.83 per litre within one month.

Petrol and diesel have become costlier by 20 per cent since the caretaker government took over in August.

No GST is charged on petroleum products but the government is charging Rs 60 per litre petroleum development levy (PDL) on petrol and Rs 50 each on HSD under the commitment with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In July, the IMF transferred USD 1.2 billion to cash-strapped Pakistan, part of the USD 3 billion bailout programme for nine months to support the government's efforts to stabilise the country's ailing economy.

Pakistan's economy has been in a free fall mode for the last many years, bringing untold pressure on the poor masses in the form of unchecked inflation, making it almost impossible for a vast number of people to make ends meet.

Govt hikes windfall tax on domestic crude, reduces levy on export of diesel

The government expects these tax adjustments to have a positive impact on the nation's fiscal health and its position in the global fuel market.

NEW DELHI, Sep 16 (Agencies): In a bid to maintain equilibrium in the domestic and international fuel markets, the Central Government announced changes in the taxation structure for crude oil and petroleum product exports, effective from today.

As per the Gazette of India, the Ministry of Finance, and the Department of Revenue, issued two notifications, amending previous taxation rates. According to the notifications, the windfall tax on domestic crude oil production has been increased significantly, while levies on the export of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) and diesel have been reduced.

A tax levied on an unforeseen or unexpectedly large profit is called a windfall tax.

The windfall tax on domestic crude oil production has been



raised from Rs 6,700 per ton to Rs 10,000 per ton. This move aims to capture a larger portion of profits from the surging crude oil prices, providing additional revenue for the government.

The windfall tax on the export of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) has been decreased from Rs 4 per litre to Rs 3.50 per litre. This reduction is expected to

make Indian ATF exports more competitive in the international market.

The tax on the export of diesel has been reduced from Rs 6 per litre to Rs 5.50 per litre. This adjustment is aimed at boosting the export of diesel, potentially increasing revenue from international sales.

These changes come as India

navigates the complexities of fluctuating global oil prices and aims to strike a balance between reaping benefits from high crude oil prices and ensuring competitiveness in the international fuel market.

The notifications, No. 30/2023-Central Excise and No. 31/2023-Central Excise, issued by the Ministry of Finance, will come into effect on September 16, 2023.

The government expects these tax adjustments to have a positive impact on the nation's fiscal health and its position in the global fuel market.

These amendments follow a series of recent changes in the taxation structure for petroleum products and are part of the government's efforts to adapt to the evolving economic landscape and maintain stability in the energy sector.

Why you should be aware of thalassemia

India is called the thalassemia capital with more than 10,000 children born with this inherited blood disorder every year. Yet, awareness remains low

NEW DELHI, Sep 16 (Agencies): THALASSEMIA is an inherited blood disorder in which the blood haemoglobin (Hb) level is low due to mutations in mostly the beta-globin gene. In its most severe form, it is known as ‘thalassemia major’, in which there is a rapid fall in Hb levels after birth. The baby presents with paleness and increase in liver and spleen size and low Hb levels. Symptoms include paleness, poor appetite, decreased activity and abdominal distension. It's a treatable disease where the patient needs regular blood transfusions at least twice a month or a bone marrow transplant from a matched donor, usually a sibling.

A less severe form of the disorder is thalassemia minor. When a child is diagnosed with thalassemia major, that means both parents are thalassemia carriers or have thalassemia minor.

Dealing with it The patient needs one to two packets of blood usually every 15-30 days. This increases the iron load of the body. Iron chelation therapy is a must for thalassemia patients. It removes excess iron and is usually given orally two to three times a day or as subcutaneous infusions three to five times a week, depending on the serum ferritin levels that should always remain below 1,000. Otherwise, iron accumulates

in organs like heart, liver and endocrine glands like thyroid and causes damage and complications. The problems include swelling of body, lethargy, puffiness of face, constipation, increased weight gain, and muscle cramps.

Patients must also ensure that blood for transfusions should always be from a registered blood bank or a known donor, as blood from unknown sources can raise the risk of blood-borne infections like hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV.

Other risks include indigestion, weakness, jaundice, increased risk of infections. Regular monitoring of serum ferritin is a must as high levels, a marker of iron overload, can land the patient in hospital with increased heart rate, decreased activity and heart failure. Periodic follow-up and monitoring is crucial.

Cost of treatment The most common curative therapy for thalassemia is bone marrow transplant (BMT). The cost can vary between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 70 lakh, depending on whether it is done in a government or private hospital and who is the donor, a sibling or matched unrelated donor. If a sibling donor is not available, then the donor can be searched from the Marrow Donor Registry India or through other sources, in consultation with the BMT



centre. The best results are when BMT is done early at the age of 10 to 12 years. However, some hospitals also do this treatment for older patients. A new form of therapy called ‘gene therapy’ is being done in some private hospitals. But it is quite expensive, the availability is limited and it is usually not recommended in India.

Thalassemia is an easily identifiable genetic disorder. Prevention of births of affected children is possible by timely prenatal diagnosis or testing of the unborn baby. Since the frequency of carrier state is high in some ethnic groups (i.e. Sindhis, Lohanas, Bhanusalis), routine thalassemia screening should be done in these groups. If both parents are carriers for beta-thalassemia, then the risk of the baby being affected with thalassemia major would

be 25 per cent in every pregnancy. An invasive testing between 11-20 weeks of pregnancy by an experienced doctor is the only solution. As per the report, abortion can be done within 24 weeks of pregnancy at any authorised hospital or clinic as per Indian MTP laws/PNDT Act.

Life with frequent blood transfusions Alka Chaudhary was three months old when she was diagnosed with thalassemia major in 1983 at PGI, Chandigarh. A falling Hb, jaundice and a pale skin made the doctors test her for thalassemia. She has been receiving regular blood transfusions ever since. It used to be a packet of blood every month initially that soon went up to two packets every 15 days as she grew up. If that was not enough, she has a rare blood group A2b+ (a subgroup of AB+).

“In the beginning, finding a donor was difficult. Things have become better now,” says the gutsy girl.

Her condition never became a handicap. Alka has represented Chandigarh in the Sub-Junior Ball Badminton Championship many times. No wonder the spirited young woman has become the poster woman for PGI's thalassemia awareness campaigns.

Alka, a programme assistant at Regional Organ & Tissue Transplant Organisation Chandigarh at PGI, has also been actively working with the Chandigarh Thalassemia Society to create awareness as well as help other patients. She was awarded the National Award for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in 2019 for her work with the advocacy group.

“During the lockdown, we helped many patients in finding donors for even those stranded in other states. We were able to connect many patients with registered blood banks wherever they were stuck.”

Alka also regularly counsels other thalassemia patients as well as their parents at PGI. She also travels with PGI doctors' team across states for health camps. “Much needs to be done, as even nearly 40 years after my birth there is still not much awareness,” says Alka.

Covid variant ‘Eris’ found to escape immunity better than other strains



NEW DELHI, Sep 16 (Agencies): The EG.5.1 variant of Covid has been found to evade the neutralising antibodies and neutralising the defences of a vaccinated or previously infected individual, according to a Lancet study.

This gives the variant, commonly called ‘Eris’, a distinct advantage in infiltrating the defences of vaccinated or previously infected individuals.

The research was published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal. Despite its evasion tactics, this variant's ability to elude antibodies is only moderately enhanced, failing to fully undermine the robust immunity established through the phenomenon of hybrid immunity.

After examining the characteristics of EG.5.1, a team of researchers from the German Primate Centre in Gottingen, Germany found that while EG.5.1 does not exhibit heightened infectiousness compared to its pre-

decessors, it excels in outwitting the immune system's defenses. Thus, surpassing other circulating lineages of SARS-CoV-2.

This gives EG.5.1 the upper hand in infected individuals who have developed neutralising antibodies through vaccination or prior infection, confounding the well-laid plans of our immune protection.

These neutralising antibodies, made by the cells of our immune system, attach themselves to the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2, thwarting the virus's intentions of infiltrating our cells.

This phenomenon, known as neutralisation, forms a crucial component of our immune system. Since its emergence in May of this year, the EG.5 lineage, including its descendant EG.5.1, has surged in numerous countries, earning the classification of a “Variant of Interest” by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The study conclusively established that

the heightened ability to evade antibodies is the likely catalyst behind Eris's rampant spread.

Lu Zhang, the lead author of the study, said, “In comparison to other currently circulating SARS-CoV-2 lineages, EG.5.1 does not possess a superior knack for infecting host cells.” Zhang added, “Further investigations have unearthed EG.5.1's remarkable ability to elude antibodies present in the blood of vaccinated individuals or those who have bravely battled the virus through vaccination and infection.”

For safety reasons, these experiments were conducted using laboratory-produced viruses, known as pseudoviruses.

Markus Hoffmann, the lead scientist behind this study, summarised their findings by saying, “In essence, our results indicate that the spread of EG.5 and its sublineages primarily hinges on the art of antibody escape, rather than an augmented ability to infiltrate host cells.”

Hoffmann emphasised, however, that the increased capacity to evade antibodies remains rather moderate, insufficient to fully undermine the immunity fortified through vaccination or previous infection.

Klaasen's 83-ball 174 propels South Africa to 164-run win over Australia in 4th ODI

Klaasen, who came in at No. 5 and hit 13 fours and 13 sixes in the fourth-highest ODI innings by a South African batter

CENTURIAN (SOUTH AFRICA), Sep 16 (Agencies): Heinrich Klaasen smashed an outrageous 83-ball 174 to propel South Africa to a 164-run win over Australia in the fourth one-day international, leaving the series tied at 2-2 heading into the finale.

The Proteas posted a huge 416/5 on Friday mainly thanks to Klaasen, who came in at No. 5 and hit 13 fours and 13 sixes in the fourth-highest ODI innings by a South African batter.

He was caught on the boundary rope off the final ball of the innings, by which time he'd guided the South Africans to their third-highest ODI total.

Australia was bowled out for 252 in 34.5 overs and has seen its 2-0 lead wiped out in the five-match series ahead of the Cricket World Cup in India next month.

But a nasty blow to Travis Head's left hand off a Gerald



Coetzee lifter that forced the Australian opener to retire hurt was of more immediate concern. Scans had already confirmed a fracture with Australia still determining whether he will be able to play a part in the upcoming World Cup, which is three weeks away in India.

"He's going to go in for some more scans tomorrow to work

out the detail of (the injury) and then we'll work out the management from there," coach Andrew McDonald was quoted as saying by Cricket Australia. "How long that (recovery) time frame is, we're yet to determine that." Klaasen shared a 222-run stand for the fifth wicket with David Miller (82 not out in 45 balls). Rassie van der Dussen

hit 62 in 65.

Josh Hazlewood took 2-79. Leg spinner Adam Zampa was the most expensive with his 10 overs returning 0-113. That included nine of South Africa's overall 20 sixes.

Wicketkeeper Alex Carey was the standout batter for Australia, hitting 99 in 77, and Tim David scored 35. South Africa quicks Lungi Ngidi (4-51) and Kagiso Rabada (3-41) did most of the damage.

The right-handed Klaasen, a Pretoria local whose family was in attendance for his record-breaking innings, was lbw for a second-ball duck to Head in the third match of the series in Potchefstroom.

"I had a shocker of a day the other day in Potch so it's lucky to bounce back immediately and play an innings like that," Klaasen told the on-field broadcaster. "It's definitely up there as one of my better ones."

England heads into defence of Cricket World Cup on back of dominant ODI series win over New Zealand

LONDON, Sep 16 (Agencies): England didn't leave it late this time at Lord's.

In the teams' first ODI meeting at the home of cricket since that epic 2019 World Cup final, England beat New Zealand by 100 runs in the fourth match of the series to complete a 3-1 win on Friday.

With Ben Stokes rested, David Malan took up the mantle of England's power hitter by smashing 127 off 114 balls in the team's total of 311-9.

New Zealand was dismissed for 211 after 38.2 overs and lost the last three matches of the series, having opened it with an eight-wicket victory in Cardiff last week.

The teams will next meet in the 50-over format in Ahmedabad on Oct. 5 in the opening game of the World Cup, when the English will be defending the title they clinched in that dramatic Super Over four years ago. They'll head to India in good heart and with some welcome selection posers.

Malan is sure to be in the team. He backed up his knock of 96 in Wednesday's third ODI — when he was upstaged by Stokes making 182 for the highest individual ODI score by an England player — by hitting 14 fours and three sixes to post his fifth century in the 50-over format.

He went past 1,000 ODI runs in his 21st appearance, claiming

a share of Kevin Pietersen and Jonathan Trott's joint record. With an average of 61.52 and a strike-rate of 96, he has a formidable track record.

England, which won the toss, slowed in the second half of the innings as wickets fell at regular intervals, but still went beyond 300 for the second straight match.

Jos Buttler contributed 36 off 31 balls, while Joe Root (29) and Liam Livingstone (28) got starts but couldn't take advantage of them.

Stokes wasn't playing at Lord's to manage his fitness after featuring in the first three matches of the series.

Spinner Rachin Ravindra had the best bowling figures of 4-60 off his 10 overs.

In the chase, Buttler — England's wicketkeeper — took care of the dangerous Devon Conway (7) in the sixth over, flinging off his right glove and running the opener out with an opportunistic effort behind the stumps, then held on to Will Young (24) off David Willey's delivery.

Having failed to bring the required power to the powerplay, and with news of Tim Southee's fractured thumb emerging, an air of resignation appeared to take hold among the New Zealanders.

Twice in a row, a Buttler bowling change paid off in the first over, with Brydon Carse firing



one into Daryl Mitchell's off stump with a nipping delivery and Moeen Ali darting an off-break down the slope and right through Tom Latham (13).

At 88-4, it looked like game over. Ravindra completed a productive evening in north London by smashing 61 from No. 7, but by then Ali had already done enough.

He had Henry Nicholls lbw thanks to Buttler's insistence on calling for DRS, then picked off Kyle Jamieson and Matt Henry with successive deliveries. Ben Lister defied a hamstring strain to block the hat trick before Sam Curran ended Ravindra's spree with a yorker.

England opener Jason Roy didn't play — meaning he was absent for the entire series —

after failing to get over a back injury. That's a concern ahead of the World Cup as he looks to hold off Harry Brook for a place in the squad.

Brook was unable to make a go of his chance at No. 4, though, allowing Roy some respite. He was dismissed for 10 when he hit Ravindra's drag-down straight to mid-on.

With 37 from his three outings this series, Brook has failed to amplify his case.

Southee looks to be a doubt for the World Cup after breaking a bone in his right thumb while attempting to take a catch in the 14th over of England's innings.

"A timeline for his recovery will be established tomorrow when he undergoes further assessment," New Zealand said.

We're trying to improve our batting on slow pitches: Shubman Gill



COLOMBO, Sep 16 (Agencies): Indian batters, barring centurion Shubman Gill, struggled against Bangladesh spinners on a pitch that offered turn and grip during their six-run defeat in the Asia Cup Super-4 match, and the opener said they are working on their skills to master such tracks.

Gill said it was important to give attention to the area in view of the approaching World Cup, and the Asia Cup final on Sunday against Sri Lanka.

"It is definitely an area that we are trying to improve on. We had camp in Bangalore before coming here, and we were practicing on similar wickets," said Gill during the post-match press conference after India failed to chase down 265.

"World Cup is such a long tournament as we go deeper into the tournament, the wicket tends to get slower."

Gill said the Indian batting unit is trying to minimise the dot balls by increasing the strike rotation.

"It is not easy for batsmen who are coming in to rotate the strike and minimise those dot balls. As a batting unit, we are looking to work on it," he said.

On their approach against Bangladesh spinners at Premadasa stadium, Gill said the batters were trying to play late.

"Taking singles was not easy on this wicket. So, we were trying to let the ball come to the bat because we get more runs square of the wicket on slow wickets. So, we were trying to play the ball late," he added.

Gill said he should have stayed back and carried India past the finishing line against Bangladesh, but termed the chase as a good learning experience.

"Sometimes, there is so much adrenaline when you are batting, you miscalculate. It was a miscalculation on my part."

"But when I got out and there was a lot of time left, and if I would have batted not that aggressive then we should have gotten over the line. But these are learnings, and fortunately this game wasn't the final."

Axar Patel had coped a bit of beating on his right hand during the match against Bangladesh but Gill allayed any concerns.

"I don't think there is anything wrong with Axar. I think that was temporary and nothing to worry about," he said.

Gill also defended India's decision to rest five frontline players in Virat Kohli, Hardik Pandya, Jasprit Bumrah, Kuldeep Yadav and Mohammed Siraj for the Bangladesh match.

"The reason why we gave rest to all the bowlers is because they played continuously for three days against Pakistan and then Sri Lanka. The bowlers needed a bit of rest, so that they can come back fresh for the final," he said.

Pep Guardiola Backs Phil Foden's Manchester City Role After Gareth Southgate Claim

MANCHESTER, Sep 16 (Agencies): Pep Guardiola insists Phil Foden can play in a number of attacking positions for Manchester City after England boss Gareth Southgate claimed the forward was not able to take a central role for his country. Southgate said people should "speak to Pep" earlier this week after being asked why he seemed reluctant to use Foden in central areas of his attack. Southgate's inference was that, as Foden tends to play largely on the flanks at City, it was difficult for him to deploy the 23-year-old centrally in international games.

Foden was below his best at times last season despite City's historic march to Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup glory.

Quizzed about Foden's role for his team ahead of the treble winners' trip to West Ham this weekend, City manager Guardiola expressed support for his player.

"I have an incredible relationship with Gareth. A comment from me? It looks like I disagree with him and I completely agree with him," Guardiola told reporters.

"When you play outside it is a completely different role but he knows, I

know, that Phil can play in all positions up front — in the middle, outside right, left, in the pockets.

"But, as Gareth has said, in the pockets you have another responsibility, especially without the ball. Sometimes you don't have to be so smart to read what happens every moment."

"But the important thing is Phil can play in the five positions up front without a problem and this is a big, big advantage for him."

"I saw the friendly game against Scotland. He started playing in the right, but moved and was most of the time inside. So the players move right, left, inside, outside. In the end it's not a big issue."

The West Ham game will see Guardiola back at the helm after missing two matches whilst recovering from his back operation in Spain.

In his absence, table-toppers City maintained their 100 per cent to their title defence as assistant Juanma Lillo oversaw victories over Sheffield United and Fulham.

"I'm getting better, three weeks after surgery. The doctor made a good job and, step by step, I think every week will be better," Guardiola said.

Shotgun contingent likely to miss foreign coaches at Asiad

NEW DELHI, Sep 16 (Agencies): India's two foreign coaches in shotgun, Italy's Marcello Dradi and Ennio Falco, are unlikely to accompany the Indian shooting contingent to the Asian Games due to accreditation and contractual technicalities.

Trap coach Dradi and skeet expert Falco were appointed India's shotgun coaches following the National Rifle Association of India's (NRAI) fallout with Australia's Russell and Lauryn Mark, who quit earlier this year.

Dradi will likely miss out as his contract with the Sports Authority of India (SAI) was signed after the long list of athletes and accompanying officials had already been finalised by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and sent to the Hangzhou Asian



Games Organising Committee (HAGOC).

India trap coach Vikram Chopra will accompany the trap contingent while Jitender Beniwal will most likely accompany the skeet contingent, NRAI secretary Rajiv Bhatia said.

"Their (foreign coaches) contracts were signed after the long list of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) had been finalised and sent to the Asian Games

organisers (HAGOC). That is the reason they will likely miss out," said Bhatia.

A source said that Dradi's coaching contract with the Spanish team had not yet ended and he had "unofficially" started training the Indian team.

The Italian expert is currently in India with the trap team preparing for the Asian Games and will probably fly back to Italy on Saturday.

Rohan Bopanna looks to fare well against Morocco

This will be doubles legend's final Davis Cup match

LUCKNOW, Sep 16 (Agencies): Hauling themselves up from World Group II should not be a complicated task for the Indians when they take on the unostentatious Morocco in the Davis Cup home tie, which will be more of a celebration of Rohan Bopanna's 21-year career in the tournament coming to a halt on Sunday.

The lack of singles players who could challenge the big names of the ATP circuit, coupled with defeats in winnable matches, had hurt the Indian Davis Cup team badly in the last few years, but relegation to World Group II in February was a new low.

It was for the first time since the new format was launched in 2019 that the Indians dropped to this level. Much has changed since India last played in a Davis Cup tie in March, when



they lost 2-3 to Denmark. Indian tennis has had few memorable moments this season until Bopanna reached the US Open men's doubles final last week.

It's not just the lack of on-court results in the singles that is disappointing; off the court, the country also felt the disappointment of losing its only ATP 250 event, the Tata Maharashtra Open.

Yuki Bhambri, one of India's finest players,

off those stunning passing winners from difficult angles.

It would have been ideal if he had got his farewell tie where he wanted — in Bengaluru — but still, he has a chance to bid adieu to the tournament before India fans. In the 32 ties played since making his debut in 2002, the player from Coorg has won 22 matches, including 10 singles.

India's No. 1 singles player, Sumit Nagal, is in good form. He comes to the tie after playing the final of a Challenger event in Austria. It was his third final of the season at that level. Unless there is an inexplicable meltdown, he would win two points for India.

"The love of playing Davis Cup is missing" Davis Cup has become just another tournament for the current genera-

tion of players and love of playing the World Cup of tennis can't be seen these days, said Rohan Bopanna ahead of the tie against Morocco. Bopanna didn't make any bones while admitting the new crop of players are not as passionate about playing the Davis Cup as the ones from the bygone era. "It has become too mechanical to just come, play and leave," said Bopanna. "There used to be fantastic team atmosphere, which has been kind of lost in the last couple of years. And we need to bring that back," Bopanna said. "Davis Cup is all about team camaraderie, spending time with the team, being together, everybody coming together. And I think that is a little missing link. We need to bring it back to have a successful team," he added.

Ganesh Chaturthi to be celebrated on Sep 19

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 16: Ganesh Chaturthi in Bhadrpada Shukla Paksha starts on Monday, 18th September at 12:40 PM and ends at 01:44 PM on Tuesday, 19th September. This year, it will be observed on Tuesday, 19th September.

This was informed by Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailash Jyotish Avim Vedic Sanathan Trust in a statement issued on Saturday.

"The Bhadra period is considered inauspicious



for certain activities, but on this day, Bhadra falls in Libra, making it suitable for worshipping and establishing Ganapati idols," he said adding that devotees install the idol of Lord Ganesh in their homes, temples, or other places and worship Him for ten days.

When placing the idol, ensure that the trunk of Lord Ganesh faces left, towards the door, as it is believed to fulfill wishes, he said adding that avoid placing the idol facing a wall connected to a toilet. In the case of a silver idol, the north-east or south-west direction is auspicious.

The worship of Lord Ganesh involves bathing the idol with water, milk, and Pancharit (or betel nut for clay idols), offering new clothes and jewelry, and performing Aarti. Modak, sweets, jaggery, and fruits are offered as

prasad. Reciting Ganapati Atharvashirsha and seeking forgiveness for any mistakes in the Puja is also part of the ritual, he said.

While some devotees celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi for 3 or 5 days, it is traditionally observed for ten days, culminating in Anant Chaturdashi, he added.

Ganesh Chaturthi is a time for devotees to express their devotion and seek the blessings of Lord Ganesh for happiness, prosperity, and the removal of obstacles.

Horticulture Deptt Doda organizes District level Kissan Mela

TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Sep 16: Horticulture Department Doda organized District level event/Fruit show/Kissan Mela at Chinta Bhaderwah under the scheme MIDH Horticulture Zone Bhaderwah in which large number of farmers, PRI members, Social activists attended the event.

District Development Council Chairman Doda Dhananter Kotwal was the Chief Guest among others Director Horticulture Jammu Ram Sevak, Vice Chairman District Development Council Sangeeta Rani Bhagat Block Development Council Omi Chand, Chief Horticulture officer Doda Rakesh Kotwal, District Horticulture Officer Doda Shakil Ahmed, Manager Cum chemist Bhaderwah B.B.Pangotra Horticulture Development Officer of all the zones Scientists from RHRS and KVK Bhaderwah officers/official of allied Department and orchardists were also present in programme.

DDC chairman in his address asked the participant to avail the subsidies under different schemes to uplift there socio eco-



economic status. Vice chairperson loaded the efforts of the Department with focus on Women empowerment in organizing awareness programme. Director Horticulture Jammu emphasised for establishment of High Density plantation Mother Block irrigation sources Drip irrigation custom hiring centres farm machinery Banks processing units for women empowerment. He also distributed certificates to the trainee of One month in the Art of Fruit and vegetables and awards to winners of fruit exhibits.

Chief Horticulture officer Doda in his address asked the participant to

bring more and more area under High Density plantation of Fruit plants in the coming season especially Apple, Walnut, Apricot, Pear, Plum and Lime for which the land and climate is most suitable for cultivation.

The department is providing 50% to 80% subsidy to the interested and eligible applicants under all schemes viz HADP (Mother Block, Nursery Development), Area expansion, Irrigation facilities, Mechanization, Nursery establishment etc under implementation in the District. MCC Bhaderwah gave detailed presentation to orchardist regarding fruit preservation/ food pro-

cessing Since Horticulture zone Bhaderwah is known for high Apple and walnut, pear plum other temperate fruits and asked the participants to adopt post harvest processing techniques like walnut drying and walnut hulling/peeling, on which Department of Horticulture provides 50% to 60% subsidy to beneficiaries.

DHO Shakeel Ahmed presented the vote of thanks to the participant.

Time has come to save Jammu from cruel clutches of BJP: Rajesh

TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 16: Launching a scathing attack on the BJP, Jammu Warriors Front (JWF) Chief Rajesh Gupta, said in the last nine years BJP has done nothing for the public except give suffering. "The entire State administration is on the brink of collapse as BJP cheated the people of Jammu and the entire UT", Rajesh Gupta said while addressing media persons.

He said, Jammu is ruined under the BJP administration. Everywhere there is a hue and cry. Not a single citizen of Jammu is satisfied with the dictatorial attitude of the BJP-led government. They have multiple miseries through their anti-people decisions and measures despite brewing resentment among the people.

Gupta said that people are waiting eagerly to teach a lesson to the BJP for allegedly failing to fulfill the promises made before coming to power at the Centre and in J&K.

Gupta said that people should elect those who will ensure that their voice is heard. "People of J&K want a credible voice to represent their aspirations and must give a chance to new and honest persons," he added.

"The people of J&K remember BJP for unleashing countless miseries on the State and its people. People still recount the numerous instances of BJP and its leaders committed from time to time. The treacherous role played by the BJP and its leadership is an open secret," he said, adding, that now the responsibility rests on people to choose between forces inimical to the State's integrity and those who have lent immense sacrifices for the protection of the State's communal harmony and brotherhood.

"Now, it is up to people to discern between the ones who stand for their rights and who trampled them. However, people have made it a point to show such forces as are inimical to the State they have the right to place. In the end, it is the people whose resolve will prevail," he said.

The JWF leader said that the public would teach a lesson to the BJP in the J&K Assembly elections. It will lick the dust in the coming J&K assembly polls," Gupta said.

He said that now the time has come to save Jammu from the cruel clutches of the BJP and he would revive and make stronger his Jammu Warriors Front.

RVS iGlobal Partners with IRC for First Aid Training Workshop in Jammu



TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 16: RVS iGlobal, a UK-based IT MNC, in collaboration with the Indian Red Cross Society, Jammu, successfully completed a 16-hour First Aid Training Workshop at its Jammu-based Corporate Office.

The workshop aimed to equip the employees with essential first aid skills while raising awareness about the

importance of immediate response and preparedness in emergencies. The program covered a comprehensive range of first aid procedures, from basic life-saving techniques to more advanced interventions and was conducted by certified paramedics and doctors from the Indian Red Cross Society.

"Our collaboration with the Red Cross Society, Jammu on this First Aid

Training Workshop is a testament to our commitment to the safety and well-being of our employees and our society," said Vikrant Gupta, Managing Director of RVS iGlobal.

As a responsible corporate organization, RVS iGlobal believes in promoting safety not only within the workplace but also throughout our neighborhoods. The event served as a

platform for spreading awareness about the importance of first aid training within our local community.

With a strong commitment to safety and well-being, RVS iGlobal is proud to collaborate with organizations like the Indian Red Cross Society to enhance the knowledge and skills of our employees and contribute to the greater good of our community.

GDC Khour organizes Slogan Writing Competition

TOP NEWS REPORT

KHOUR, Sep 16: NSS Unit of GDC Khour organized a Slogan Writing Competition in commemoration of Gandhi Jayanti, themed "Truth and Non-Violence".

The aim of the activity was to pay tribute to the ideals and philosophies of Mahatma Gandhi, a pioneer of truth and non-violence, whose life and teachings continue to resonate with people globally. Best slogan was made by Needhi Kumari of Semester 5th, 2nd position was shared by Simran and Barsha Bhau of Semester 5th and 3rd position was shared by Sam-



riti Gouria and Sweeti Manhas of Semester 5th.

Participants were judged based on the relevance to the theme, and impact of their slogans.

Addressing the students Principal of the college highlighted that Mahatma Gandhi's values of truth and non-violence are as relevant today as they were during the indepen-

dence movement". This programme was organised by NSS Programme Officer Gurvinder Kour under the guidance of Principal of the college, Prof. (Dr) T K Sharma.

GDC Vijaypur organizes book reading activity

TOP NEWS REPORT

VIJAYPUR, Sep 16: NSS Unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Vijaypur in collaboration with Department of English under the flagship banner of Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations 2023 including Nasha Mukh Bharat and Bhrashtachar Mukh J&K organised a book reading activity of Mahatma Gandhi's autobiography My Experiments with Truth to commemorate birth anniversary of Gandhi ji. The activity was aimed at introducing students to the life, principles, philosophy, thoughts, contribution of Gandhi ji in the struggle for independence, and everything in the autobiography that teaches a holistic approach towards life.

The event commenced with the welcome address by Dr. Radhika Rasyal (Lecturer, Department of History) where she introduced the book to the readers saying the book's sole motive is to represent Gandhi's experiences and experiments with truth. NSS volunteers

and other college students participated in the book reading activity with great enthusiasm, fervor and zeal whose main aim was to inculcate the habit to book reading among college students. Discussion was also held at the end of book reading to discuss main ideas of the book.

The activity was carried out under the able guidance of Dr. Vandana Gupta, Principal of the College. In her address to the participating students she said that the major objective of organizing such an activity was to inculcate and revive the fast dying habit of book reading in the digital era. She also stressed upon various principles that Gandhi Ji adopted in his life like SatyaGrah, Non-Violence, Self-Reliant to lead a successful and disciplined life. The event was coordinated by Dr. Shital Sharma (Convenor, NSS) and Dr. Naseem Chowdhary (NSS PO). The formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Attied Khawar Balwan (lecturer, Department of English).

Airtel, Jio customers in Waltangoo Village annoyed over poor services

TOP NEWS REPORT

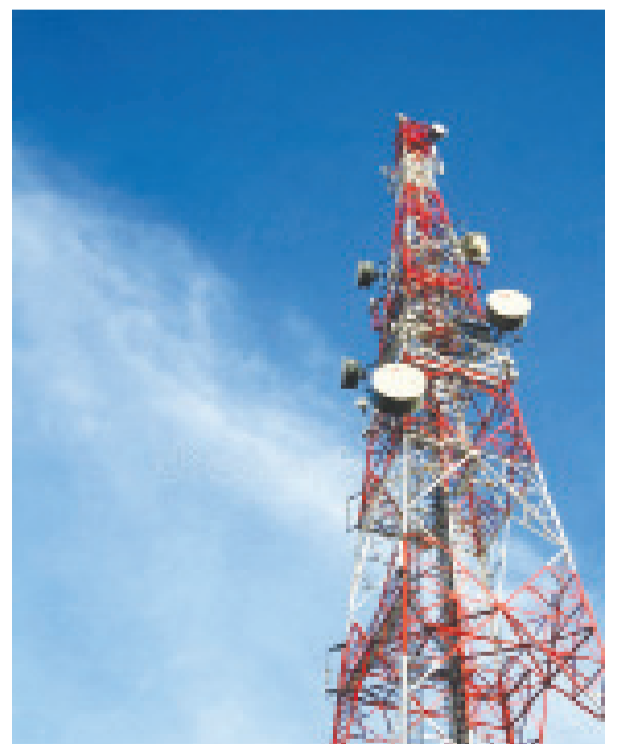
KULGAM, Sep 16: Airtel Jio consumers of Waltangoo village in south Kashmir's Kulgam district are facing inconvenience as the cellular network service has failed to provide quality services in the area.

Locals from Waltangoo village of Devser belt of Kulgam district said that they are facing tough times in terms of network since more than a year now and despite demonstrations and requests to the company officials their demands were not met.

They said that most of the people in the area have opted for Airtel and Jio services but the company never took our problems seriously.

"If they don't take steps, we will have no option but to change to another service provider," Altaf Hussain, an annoyed consumer, said.

"Although we have requested several



times to the authorities but they did not pay any heed towards it," he added.

Locals alleged that the officials of the company just gave assurances in this regard, but nothing has been done on ground. Due to poor

Airtel and Jio internet services we face so many problems and hardships especially our children, the locals rued.

Locals requested the concerned authorities to look into the matter at an earliest so that they can have a sigh of relief.