

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-14 Issue-266 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

## BRIEFLY

**Moderate rain, snow over higher reaches in J&K during next 24 Hrs: MeT**

JAMMU, Sep 28 (Agencies): Meteorological Office on Thursday predicted light to moderate rain or snowfall over higher reaches at many places in Jammu and Kashmir during the next 24 hours.

The MeT office said light to moderate rain or snowfall over higher reaches is very likely to commence towards late evening or night at many places in north Kashmir & likely to spread gradually to other parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The snowfall may also occur in the Kashmir valley, Pirpanjal, and Sonmarg-Zojila passes on the Ladakh highway on September 29.

It said there is a possibility of rain or snowfall over higher reaches, very likely at many places in Kashmir and isolated places in the Jammu region, on September 29 as well.

The weather is likely to remain mainly dry on September 30, while from October 1 to 5, the weather will remain dry, but a brief spell of rain or snowfall over higher reaches in isolated places can't be ruled out, although chances are less, the MeT office added.

Overall, there's no forecast of any major rain or snowfall for the next week, it said.

The MeT office has also advised farmers to postpone harvesting crops on September 29 in view of a possible rain or snow prediction.

Srinagar recorded a low of 10.8 degree Celsius on Thursday which was 0.4 degree Celsius below normal.

**Police arrest drug peddler in Baramulla, contraband recovered**

SRINAGAR, Sep 28 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police arrested a drug peddler on Monday along with contraband substance in the Tangmarg area of North Kashmir's Baramulla.

A police spokesperson stated, "A police party from Police Station Tangmarg, led by SHO PS Tangmarg under the supervision of SDPO Tangmarg, established a check-point at Hardu Ichloo where they intercepted

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## Why JKAP, DAP, JKPC not invited by opposition parties for Jammu meeting: Tarun Chugh

SRINAGAR, Sep 28 (Agencies): BJP National General Secretary and Incharge of J&K, Tarun Chugh, questioned opposition parties on Thursday for not extending invitations to parties headed by Sajad Lone, Altaf Bukhari, and Ghulam Nabi Azad for the meeting scheduled on October 3rd in Jammu.

In a statement, Chugh also said that opposition leaders are raising a hue and cry, alleging that the BJP mistreated the people of J&K, "While the fact is that, under the rule of these parties for three decades, J&K was known as the terror-



ist capital of India, and now these parties are alleging that the BJP has created an environment of terrorism in J&K."

He further said that it is evident today that PM Modi has transformed J&K into a tourism and development hub, and terrorism has decreased in the Valley since the BJP came to power.

"People can see the

outcomes of the initiatives taken by the Government. All the allegations by the opposition do not hold any value," he said.

Regarding elections, Chugh said that in the previous DDC, Panchayat, and BDC elections, opposition parties formed an alliance, yet millions of people voted against them. "Due to this, an alliance has been formed between Mufti and Abdullah. The people of J&K will not accept this alliance, even though they were previously elected. This shows that people know the true faces of these parties."

## BJP is shying away from polls in J&K: Omar Abdullah

SRINAGAR, Sep 28 (Agencies): Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and vice president of the National Conference (NC) party, Omar Abdullah alleged on Thursday that the BJP was shying away from polls in the state for fear of being punished by voters.

Speaking to media persons about the possible postponement of Panchayat and urban bodies' elections in J&K, Omar told reporters that



the BJP was in no mood to conduct these polls in the state because they know that people will punish them through votes.

A similar statement

was made yesterday by former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and president of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Mehbooba Mufti.

The criticism against the BJP by the NC and the PDP was evoked after media reports indicated that the security forces had conveyed to the Centre that Pakistan's ISI was planning to carry out target killings of political activists during the Panchayat

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## J&K Police bust gang of burglars, arrests 7 in Kulgam

SRINAGAR, Sep 28 (Agencies): Police busted a gang of burglars by arresting seven accused and recovering stolen property worth lakhs within 24 hours of crime in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district, police sources said on Thursday.

Police said after receiving several complaints about burglary in the areas of Police Station Kulgam, a case was registered under relevant sections of the law.

A special team of police was constituted to investigate the incidents of burglary, police said, and during the course of the investigation, one suspected person identified as Ayan Shameem, a resident of Bijnoor, Uttar Pradesh, at present residing in Rangrezpora, Kulgam, was called for questioning.

During questioning, he disclosed that he, along with six other persons identified as Shahid Sheikh of Delhi present-

ly residing in Srinagar, Farman Ahmad of Bijnoor, UP, Mohd Amir and Bhar Alam, both from UP, Mudasir Habib of Shalipora Sopore, and Shabir Ahmad Bakerwal, a juvenile, committed the crime.

All the accused persons were brought to Kulgam police station, where they confessed that they were involved in multiple burglaries and were subsequently arrested, police said.

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## Indian Railways announces special trains from Varanasi to Vaishno Devi

NEW DELHI, Sep 28 (Agencies): As the season of festivals kicks in, people have already begun booking their train tickets to their hometowns or their desired destinations. A lot of people also face inconvenience, as they can't find suitable trains to commute to different places. In a bid to provide a comfortable travelling experience, the Indian Railways has arranged



for special trains from Uttar Pradesh. For the convenience of the passengers looking to travel

to Mata Vaishno Devi (Jammu and Kashmir) on Navratri, trains have been started.

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## 75 Livestock Charred to Death in Kishtwar

RAMBAN, Sep 28 (Agencies): In a tragic incident, at least 75 animals including goats and sheep were charred to death in a devastating fire that engulfed a cowshed in the Dachan area of Kishtwar on Wednesday night.

Reports said that the cowshed belongs to Lala, son of Chopan.

The Station House Officer Dachan has confirmed the incident and said that the cause of the fire is currently under investigation.

## 'Ganja', cell phones among contraband most frequently smuggled into prisons: Parliamentary Committee on Home Affairs

NEW DELHI, Sep 28 (Agencies): 'Ganja' and cell phones are the common contraband items that are most frequently smuggled into the prisons among others, according to a report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs.

The 245th report of the committee on the subject 'Prison-Conditions, Infrastructure and Reforms' made it clear that the fact came to the fore during its interactive sessions with various state and Union Territory (UT) governments.

The report was submitted in both Houses of Parliament (the Rajya

Sabha and the Lok Sabha) on the last day of the recently concluded special session that started on September 18.

"During its interactive sessions with various state and Union Territory (UT) governments, the committee was informed that Ganja and cell phones are the common contraband items that are most frequently smuggled into the prisons among others," states the report.

Tamil Nadu state government informed that the throw method using a catapult is one of the common approaches employed to smuggle the contraband into the

prisons, the Committee states in the report.

The committee observes in the report that articles like "cell phones inside the prison are used by the inmates to operate criminal activities outside the prison."

"Possession of cell phones in the hands of the prisoners can also stir up gang wars inside jails. Usage of ganja and other narcotics in prison compromises the reformation and rehabilitation of the inmates."

The committee, in the report, has also suggested to organise "e-Mulakat" or video conferencing to reduce the smuggling of

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## PUNJAB | Congress MLA Sukhpal Khaira arrested in 2015 drugs case

CHANDIGARH, Sep 28 (Agencies): Congress MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira was arrested by the Punjab Police in connection with a 2015 drugs case on Thursday morning, official sources said.

A Punjab Police team led by Superintendent of Police Manjeet Singh raided the Chandigarh residence of Khaira around 6 am.

The MLA's son went live on Facebook showing that a team of Punjab Police has reached their residence to apprehend Khaira. In the video, Khaira could be seen arguing with the police team and asking them to show him the arrest warrant.

The Bholath legislator could also be seen asking for the identity of the police officers who were part of the raiding team.

He was told by the police official that he was being arrested in the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act case. When Khaira asked the team where he was being taken, a police official told him that he



was being taken to Jalalabad in Fazilka.

According to official sources, a special investigation team led by Deputy Inspector General of Police Swapan Sharma was formed in April 2023 and Khaira was arrested based on its investigation into the 2015 case.

Slamming the Bhagwant Mann government, the Congress MLA, who has been critical of the AAP government on various issues, claimed that he was being apprehended in a "false" case and that "jungle raj" was prevailing in the state.

Meanwhile, the Punjab Congress hit out at the AAP government, accusing it of indulging in political vendetta. The Congress state unit chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring and Leader of Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa strongly condemned the arrest of Khaira.

Warring visited the residence of Khaira after his arrest and met his son Mehtab Khaira and other family members. He said they stand by the Bholath MLA.

The Punjab Congress chief questioned the police action, asking what kind of probe was conducted by the Punjab police which led to Khaira's arrest after eight years.

"It shows that 'jungle raj' is prevailing in the state," Warring said and questioned the

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## Centre transfers Srinagar SSP Rakesh Balwal to Manipur



NEW DELHI, Sep 28 (Agencies): The Centre has rushed senior IPS officer Rakesh Balwal from Jammu and Kashmir to Manipur amid fresh violence in the northeastern state.

Balwal, a 2012 batch IPS officer serving as Srinagar senior superintendent of police (SSP), has been transferred to his parent cadre Manipur where the situation

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## SRS expresses serious concerns over Motor Vehicle Department's laxity in issuing driving licenses

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 28: Shri Ram Sena, a prominent socio-political organization, has raised grave concerns regarding the alarming apathy displayed by the Motor Vehicle Department in Jammu due to the unavailability of driving licenses. In a statement issued today, Rajiv Mahajan, President of Shri Ram Sena Jammu & Kashmir, highlighted a significant discrepancy in the department's performance.



smart cards and colored films required for printing permanent licenses. Regrettably, over 10,000 individuals have endured official negligence for over six months.

Jammu and Kashmir have witnessed remarkable progress, transitioning from a conventional paper-based system to a seamless digital era. The administration's unwavering focus has been on delivering essential services to the public's doorstep. However, certain departments, including the Transport Department and its Regional Transport Offices (RTOs), appear to be out of sync with the LG administration's vision.

The current issue revolves around the issuance of driving licenses, specifically concerning the non-availability of

Mahajan expressed his dismay, stating that it is disconcerting when a department designed for licensing cannot procure the necessary smart cards and colored films in a timely manner, and there seems to be a lack of accountability. This has left the public to fend for themselves. The situation escalates when individuals are stopped by traffic police officials who demand hard copies of their licenses, imposing fines on the spot for non-compliance.

The issue becomes further aggravated when residents of Jammu and Kashmir travel outside the Union Territory. Drivers find themselves in precarious situations

despite no fault of their own, as they face difficulties due to the unavailability of their licenses.

Driving without a valid license is a punishable offense, and any resulting FIR or court-imposed penalties could detrimentally impact students' careers.

Mahajan emphasized that the relentless efforts of the administration to provide efficient online services within stipulated timeframes are being thwarted by the Transport Department's negligence. While the administration has successfully delivered more than 1,000 services online, the Transport Department has failed to address the issue of driving license printing and issuance for over half a year.

In light of these pressing concerns, Rajiv Mahajan earnestly appeals to LG Sinha to intervene and hold those responsible accountable for resolving this matter expeditiously. It is imperative that the Transport Department aligns its operations with the administration's commitment to providing seamless and efficient public services.

## Justice Tashi inaugurates Legal Care & Support Centre at Panchayat Ghar Prehta

### TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Sep 28: In an effort to reach out to the rural population living in the remote areas of district Kathua, Justice Tashi Rabstan, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority accompanied by Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Administrative Judge for District Kathua, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, Judge High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority today visited Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Basohli, District Kathua and inaugurated a Mega Legal Awareness Programme.

On their arrival, the Judges were warmly received by Ashok Kumar Shavan, Pr. District & Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA) Kathua, Colonel (Retd.) Mahan Singh, Chairman, District Development Council, Kathua, Judicial officers and officers of Civil and Police Administration, whereafter a ceremonial Guard of Honor was accorded to the visiting dignitaries.

Addressing a massive gathering of members of Public Representative Institutions, Panel Lawyers, Advocates,



LADCs, PLVs, local populace, students and staff of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Basohli, Justice Tashi said that the focus of Legal Services Authority is to reach out to the poor and marginalized sections of the society and in this endeavor the District Legal Services Authority has organized today's programme to spread awareness amongst them about their rights and duties enshrined in the Constitution of India. Tracing background about the enactment of Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, Justice Tashi informed the gathering that the same was enacted by the parliament to ensure that no citizen of this country is deprived of his/her legal and fundamental rights

guaranteed under the Constitution.

He also said that the Legal Services Authorities at all levels are working in tandem with various Govt. departments to ensure that the benefit of welfare schemes reaches to those who are entitled to the same. He further exhorted that the PLVs are acting as a bridge between the legal aid seeker and organs of the District Administration for the welfare of society.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar in his keynote address urged the officers of Civil Administration to ensure that the PLVs who approach them with the grievances of legal aid seekers are entertained as they are the frontline workers and the backbone of the Legal

Services Institutions working for the poor and marginalized sections of the society.

He also said that with the collaborative efforts of Legal Services Authority and Executive Bodies we can wipe the tears from the poor and weaker sections of the society.

Justice Rajesh Sekhri in his special address recalled that he started his career as Judicial Officer from Tehsil Billawar thus has a special connect with this area. He further said that although India has topped the ranking having maximum population in the world yet majority of the citizens are illiterate and does not have the knowledge about their basic legal and fundamental

rights. He appreciated the efforts of J&K Legal Services Authority in organizing such type of Legal Awareness camps and programmes to educate the masses.

Speaking on the occasion, Colonel Mahan Singh, (Retired) Chairman DDC, Kathua said that the people of Basholi are fortunate to welcome three High Court Judges in a single function which perhaps happened for the first time in the history of Basholi.

The welcome address was presented by Sh. Ashok Kumar Shavan, Pr. District & Sessions Judge (Chairman, DLSA), Kathua, whereas, the vote of thanks was proposed by Ms. Puneet Kumari, Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel, DLSA Kathua.

Later on, Justice Tashi along with Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Rajesh Sekhri inaugurated a Legal Care and Support Centre (Legal Aid Clinic) at Panchayat Ghar, Prehta Basholi. While addressing the local populace, Justice Tashi urged them to take maximum benefit of the support center inaugurated today for getting their grievances redressed.

## Lt Gen Gurbirpal embarks on 5-day visit to 1 Ladakh NCC Bn, Leh



### TOP NEWS REPORT

LEH, Sep 28: The Directorate General of National Cadet Corps (DGNCC) has commenced his 5-day visit to the Leh NCC Unit, with an aim of extending its engagement to remote regions of Ladakh. The main objective of this

visit is to strengthen the ties between the NCC and local educational institutions, as well as to promote the values of discipline and patriotism among the youth.

Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh, along with Maj Gen R K Sachdeva, Additional Director-

ate General of Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh Directorate, visited Leh NCC Unit from 28 Sep and will conclude his visit on 1st October.

During the visit, the DGNCC will actively participate in discussions and interactive sessions with the

cadets, aiming to understand their experiences and aspirations within the NCC. The purpose of these exchanges is to motivate and inspire the young cadets to continue their journey of self-development and community service. The delegation will also

observe various training activities, including drills, adventure sports, and leadership programs, which will highlight the NCC's role in instilling discipline, leadership, and teamwork among the youth.

Furthermore, the DGNCC will deliver a motivational address to the cadets, students, and faculty members, emphasizing the values of unity, discipline, and selfless service. This address aims to inspire the youth to actively contribute to the betterment of society and the nation.

Additionally, Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh will be meeting with the Lt. Governor and Vice Chancellor of Ladakh during the visit.

## Modi schemes transformed lives of poor, marginalised ones: Munish



### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 28: Stressing upon the party activists to further gear up their activities for maintaining better communication with the public in their respective areas, Jammu and Kashmir BJP former General Secretary Munish Sharma, said that people need to be aware about the welfare schemes for their benefit.

Munish Sharma was interacting with a large number of people of Ward No. 32, during his tour of the different areas of Talab Tillo.

He said that during the last nine years, Narendra Modi government has launched a large number of schemes for all the sections of the society with

a motive of transforming the lives of the poor and marginalised ones. These schemes have improved the socio-economic status of crores of people across the country and J&K too has got due share in it.

Munish told the people that the BJP activists are always available for their service and that anyone can get details related to welfare schemes and also guidance and help in availing the benefits of the same. He said that the BJP Councillor of Ward 32, Sohan Lal Kariupia, is also doing very appreciable work and corner of the ward. He assured the people to be with them, as and when needed. The BJP leader was accompanied by Lovekesh Gondhi, Geeta Sodhi, Baba Kumar and others

## DWO protests against handing back of power projects, prepaid meters, property tax

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 28: A protest was held today in front of Hari Singh Park under the leadership of Amit Kapoor, President of Dogra Welfare Organization (DWO). The organization is campaigning against smart meters and property tax, and witnessed a large number of participants, including women.

During the demonstration, the protesters raised slogans against JKPDCL (Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited) and the LG administration.

Addressing the protesters, Amit Kapoor emphasized that the prepaid meter issue is of immense concern across Jammu and Kashmir. The protest will continue until



prepaid meters are removed, as people are receiving exorbitant bills once these meters are installed. The situation will worsen when electricity becomes privatized. Kapoor also appealed for the waiver of old electricity bills and demanded that power projects in Jammu and Kashmir be returned to local control.

Kapoor urged people

to voice their concerns in their respective areas and to hold leaders accountable during the upcoming elections. He accused BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) leaders of misleading the public on the smart meter issue. Kapoor also demanded the immediate release of old age pensions and called for the simplification of the process. He expressed his dissatis-

faction with the government's decision to suspend pension payments due to an ongoing investigation, causing significant hardship for the elderly population.

Kapoor strongly criticized the LG administration for deploying police forces to forcibly install smart meters and questioned the increasing electricity bills despite the implementation of

these meters.

Kapoor highlighted that the movement against smart meters and property tax began in Janipur and has now gained widespread opposition across the state. He asserted that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have the primary right to the electricity generated within the region and should be provided with free electricity.

Kapoor also strongly criticized the LG administration in regards to property tax and criticized BJP leaders for their silence on the matter. He accused the BJP of exploiting the people and urged the public to deliver a resounding response to the party in the upcoming local body and other elections.

## Dimple to attend all parties meeting on Oct 3

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 28: President of Mission Statehood Jammu And Kashmir, Sunil Dimple plan to attend an all parties meeting on October 3rd in Jammu.

"There is an expectation that a verdict on Article 370 and Article

35-A will be delivered in the near future, possibly in October," Dimple said and advocated for the restoration of the state of Jammu and Kashmir, with reference to the three instrument accession conditions signed during the accession of J&K with

India.

Dimple mentioned that their focus in the meeting will also be on various issues, including the Jammu Kashmir grand sale, toll plazas, smart meters, property tax, starting of Darbar move, and unemployment.

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Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost (Rs.)	Cost of Tender form (Rs.)	Date & time for submission of tender	Earnest Money (Rs.)
27-TRD-GSU-T-103-2023-24	OHE modification work in c/w Upgradation of Signalling system from Standard-I to Standard-II at Muktsar, Khurdpur, Nasrala and Hoshiarpur over Firozpur division	2,98,65,474.95p	NIL	Upto 20.10.2023 15:00 Hrs	2,99,300/-
27-TRD-GSU-T-104-2023-24	OHE modification work in c/w Upgradation of Signalling system from Standard-I to Standard-II at Guru Har Sahai, Patti and Bhagatnala over Firozpur division	2,51,74,234.11p	NIL	Upto 20.10.2023 15:00 Hrs	2,75,900/-
Opening of tender		20.10.2023 after 15:00 Hrs	Website Particulars	www.treps.gov.in	
<p>Note: # Tenderer (s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete &amp; invalid offer and for which contractor shall have no claim on Railway.</p>					
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## EDITORIAL

## ORGAN

## TRANSPLANTATION

Organ transplantation saves the lives of many people, but there is a big illegal trade hidden behind organ transplantation, which is known as organ trafficking. Integral organ transplantation is the process of transplanting body parts of people and from here people make needy people crazy and take advantage of their helplessness and take more money from them.

The practice of organ transplantation in humans and animals is increasing day by day. At present, awareness about organ transplantation is being spread in the country through media and many types of work are also being done by the government to stop organ trafficking. Continuous efforts are being made by the government to stop organ trafficking.

There is a high demand for healthy organs globally, which leads to crimes such as organ trafficking for commercial purposes. After death, many people want to donate their organs and many living people also donate their organs, but doctors sell those organs further. Doctors engage in organ trafficking, due to which most of the victims are poor, uneducated people who have to suffer losses.

In many such cases, we have often seen that doctors, in the name of money, make poor people victims of organ trafficking and mislead them. People's organs are sold for small amounts of money, other most vulnerable victims are those who go for treatment for illness and their organs are fraudulently removed without their knowledge.

Scientific advancements and advances in medicine have also given rise to organ trafficking.

Poverty and illiteracy are the main reasons for the rise of this crime, with victims receiving little or no payment for organ trafficking. Trafficking victims can be of any age group. Child trafficking and human trafficking victims have also become victims of organ trafficking. Victims of organ trafficking suffer from poor health conditions and immune systems due to surgeries.

Legal regulations can play an important role in preventing organ trafficking.

Be it India or any other country, doctors are mainly involved in organ trafficking, because without doctors, trafficking is not possible and the government also took strict action against doctors in 2007. A bulletin was issued by the World Health Organization in 2007, through which many guilty doctors were caught.

Taken by the World Health Organization, this step led to action against around 2000 doctors who were involved in kidney organ trafficking in the country and selling the kidneys to other countries. India's name has been included in the list of integral parts of the world by the World Health Organization.

A huge problem is emerging in the country regarding organ transplantation. In the country, 4 to 5 thousand people require organ transplant every year, but the need of only 100 to 150 people is fulfilled, and the rest of the people have to lose their lives.

To completely eradicate organ trafficking, the Human Organ Transplantation Amendment Bill was passed in the year 2009. Through this law, many types of guidelines were issued by the government, mainly it was told that if a person is caught doing organ trafficking, then that person will be sentenced to 10 years in jail and a fine of ₹ 1,00,00,000. The fine will have to be paid to the government.

That person will never be forgiven through the court and that person will be ordered to suffer this fine and 10 years of imprisonment. Since then, fear has arisen among many people involved in organ trafficking, but even at present the work of organ trafficking is continuing, but the government is also making every effort to stop organ trafficking and in the coming time, it will become even stricter regarding organ trafficking. Steps can be taken.

According to the guidelines of doctors, it is not possible to stop organ trafficking, because as long as the demand for organs increases, this trafficking will continue, for this the most important thing that the government should do is to spread awareness about organ donation among the people and organ donation will increase. So they will be easily available to the needy people and in such a situation the issue of organ trafficking will gradually end completely.

The name of organ trafficking is becoming quite popular in the country. Lakhs of people are earning money through organ trafficking, but this work is very wrong and the government can also punish those caught doing organ trafficking. Many innocent people lose their lives because of organ traffickers.

## Will a Doctor with zero percentile be trusted?

By: Vijay Garg

Recently, the Health Ministry announced zero percentile for admission in NEET PG. In the counseling session held in July this year, MOC had kept it at 50 percentile. As the seats were not filled, many medical associations took interest in MS. Had requested. Now the government has also reduced the cost of bringing it to zero. The question arises that if only post graduation seats are to be filled then what was the need for NEET PG test? The arrangements for filling seats will be as per the marks of MBBS. Racking would be done. the system is collapsing Zero percentile means that it does not have minimum marks. Even those whose percentile is in minus, 1 or 15, can now take degrees like MD-MS etc. Those who have decided to make MD-AMS or DNB are at zero percentile. My question to them is, do we want to create such doctors whose qualifications are not even sufficient to achieve 50 percentile? And if such people become doctors, then what will they do to the patients? people were in MBBS when we passed, our marks were kept at 50 percent. Our friends who were doing BA, BSc etc.,

their passing marks were 33 percent. In such a situation, we felt very proud. The challenge was also that if 50 percent did not come, how would the patient be treated? If someone who has done MBBS with 50% is given admission in PG at zero percentile, will he pass in PG at zero percentile? If someone knows that he will get admission in zero percentile then why would he get admission? Ants are kept only because weak students should not get admission. But the arrangements that have been made now are not achieving this objective. This will paralyze the country's medical system. You don't say in Defense Services or DRDO. Will give admission on zero centile. Then why is this being allowed in medical? The story is not only this. There are many seats for post graduation in private colleges across the country which are going vacant. The annual fee for PG course in government medical colleges ranges from around Rs 10,000 to Rs 10,000. three bit There is a L degree course, which can be largely settled for thirty-four thousand rupees. In private colleges, the same fee ranges from one to one and a half crore rupees. Everyone knows that government medical colleges

are everyone's first choice, so there are no seats left there. Seats are left in these private medical colleges; these colleges were incurring a loss of crores of rupees. To compensate for the same, the government has reduced the percentile to zero. But when seats start being sold in this manner, rockets are created and medical mafias start flourishing. Are. Government thinking is clear on this point Paradox [When NMC was formed, it said that we are setting quality standards, the doctors who come from abroad will have to undergo training for at least two to four years, only then they will get the license to practice in the country. But on the other hand, admissions are being given at zero percentile. Isn't this a contradiction? If the government really wants to improve NEET PG, then first of all it will have to set a limit on the fees of private medical colleges. If the government tells them that their seats are not being filled then reduce the fees, the number of doctors in the country There is shortage. But by not doing this it has done zero. This means that the quality will not be the same, but the income of private colleges will definitely increase. Zero percent-

tile actually makes one understand and such compromises cannot be accepted at all in the study of medical science. respect for doctors Indian doctors are highly respected all over the world. Indian doctors are called pet doctors. UK-US ML Wherever I go for treatment in the world, I see the highest respect for Indian doctors. This is because the world knows about us. Is. There is a penchant for getting minimum fifty percent in studies from Entrance, if we reach 25 percent then we write Honors in our degree. We passed tough competition in PG also. Doctors emerged after being filtered through this filter, the world accepted them wholeheartedly and still does. But will those who come out of zero percentile be respected so much? And now even abroad everyone has come to know that India has made zero percentile in PG admission. Indian medical system was already on ventilator, NEET PG admission zero percentile Has it been brought for euthanasia?

(Vijay Garg Retired  
Principal PES-1  
Educational Columnist  
Malout Punjab)

## Bring jobs back to the top of India's political agenda

By: Patralekha Chatterjee

In April 2022, while walking around Lal Gumbad Basti, a low-income neighbourhood, just beside tony, tree-lined Panchsheel Park in South Delhi, I met Angoori Devi, a 70-year-old widow. She sold parathas for a living. Words like "consumer food price inflation" or "retail inflation" were not part of her vocabulary. But she told me her regular customers were ordering much less. Many young mothers I met in the colony had cut down on milk for their children. They ate less vegetables. The Covid-19 pandemic-induced lockdown had shaved off household savings; many families told me they were in deep debt.

Cut to September 2023. Amid the swirl of geopolitical stories about India's friends, foes, and frenemies, near and far, one thing leaps out again -- the long shadow of household debt.

This month, the Reserve Bank of India revealed that Indian households were saving less and borrowing more. According to the RBI, as a percentage of the gross domestic product, households' financial liabilities shot up to 5.8 per cent in 2022-23, up from 3.8 per cent in the previous year.

Meanwhile, as Money Control, a leading financial portal, pointed out in its analysis of the latest RBI data: "Indian households saved 19 per cent less in 2022-23 compared to 2021-22 on a net basis, with the absolute amount of Rs 13.77 lakh crores falling to just 5.1 per cent of the economy's GDP."

A recent visit to Greater Kailash-I M block, one of Delhi's most popular markets, was quite revealing. Several familiar stores had shut down. Every other salesperson spoke of falling footfalls. Many stores simply can no longer afford to pay the high rents.

You can slice and dice data in many ways. But to an ordinary citizen, much of what one sees around points to erosion of the spending power of Indian households. I am leaving out the super-rich.

The ministry of finance says there is no distress. "Critical voices have been raised about household savings and its overall effect on the economy. However, data indicates that changing consumer preference for different financial products is the real reason for the household savings and there is no distress as is being circulated in some circles," it said on X (formerly Twitter) on September 21 to rebut critics.

The "State of Working India 2023" report, just released by Azim Premji University, should be read against this backdrop.

Arguably, we are hugely handicapped by the fact that India has not had a Census since 2011. But the report which taps into other official data sets makes some very important and worrying observations.

The report tells us that "caste-based segregation has reduced. In the early 1980s, Scheduled Caste workers were more than five times over-represented in waste-related work and over four times in leather-related work. This has declined rapidly over time, though it is not eliminated as of 2021-22".

After stagnating since the 1980s, the share of workers in India with regular wage or salaried work started going up in 2004, increasing from 18 per cent to 25 per cent for men and 10 per cent to 25 per cent for women. Between 2017 and 2019 this jumped to five million per year.

Since 2019, however, the pace of regular wage jobs creation has decreased due to the growth slowdown and the pandemic.

Unemployment is falling, but remains high. "Job creation con-

tinues to be India's main challenge," the report notes.

The "J word" refuses to disappear.

We might gloat that India has overtaken the United Kingdom to become the fifth largest economy in the world but "economic growth remains weakly connected to job creation", as the report puts it. This is the stark reality which cannot be glossed over in a country with a population of 1.4 billion and whose median age is 28. We are a young nation; the vast majority are job-seekers.

Encouragingly, the report points out, unemployment is lower post-Covid for all education levels. "But it remains above 15 per cent for graduates, and more worryingly, it touches a huge 42 per cent for young graduates. At the other extreme, among older, less educated workers, it is in the range of 2-3 per cent."

The report points out that women and Scheduled Castes are over-represented in low paying occupations.

What does that tell you about a nation aspiring to be a leader in the knowledge economy and one which is "transitioning from women's development to women-led development", as the Prime Minister put it the other day.

After falling or being stagnant since 2004, female employment rates have indeed risen since 2019 due to a distress-led increase in self-employment, according to the report. But here is the rub -- earnings from self-employment have declined in real terms over this period.

What is really worrying: even the good news about working women has a dark side.

The report says that districts where women experience less restrictions are also the ones where women are likely to under-

take paid work but there is evidence for a backlash effect as well. "Women who are more likely to do paid work reside in districts where domestic violence is more prevalent. This could be because of the backlash effect. The suggested mechanism is that working women are more likely to face partner violence due to challenging of established gender norms."

These are India's pain points.

Even as we celebrate the country's triumphs in science and sports, it is vital that we spotlight these concerns. There are signs that the economy and job creation will be back again in the news as several states gear up for Assembly elections soon. Ruling parties in the poll-bound states (Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh) are platforming their own schemes to address the employment situation. Rajasthan, for example, has passed the Rajasthan Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill 2023. Telangana has recently started a programme offering financial assistance of Rs 1 lakh to those engaged in community-based traditional occupations. The Chhattisgarh government has done away with the provision of stipend for government staffers appointed through the direct recruitment process and who were getting full salaries only from the fourth year of appointment.

This move is expected to benefit nearly 38,000 government officials and employees. Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has not talked much about jobs but the issue is not going away.

Bill Clinton's famous slogan -- "it's the economy, stupid" -- resonated; it helped him become US President in the 1992 election.

In India, it is never just the economy, but could we bring jobs back to the top of the political agenda, for the sake of young Indians?

## Development is "Governance Mantra" Of Modi Govt: Vinay



### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 28: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Senior leader and Seh Prabhari Jammu North Vinay Gupta along with Chairman Cantonment Board and Gandhi Nagar Mandal President Bharat Bhushan, kick-started the lane and drain work in Narwal Pain, ward no.1, Cantonment Board of Bahu Constituency.

Vinay toured many adjoining areas of Narwal Pain to take stock of problems being faced by the people and start Lane and drain work. Vinay Gupta was accompanied by Bharat Bhushan, Narinder Koki, Racht Khosla, Ramesh Gupta, Ajay Sharma, Naresh Kumar, Gharu Ram, and others who were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Vinay Gupta said that development is the "Modi Mantra" of

good governance and the union government is committed to providing all basic amenities like adequate drinking water, power, education, healthcare facilities, and other civic facilities to the people of the union territory of J&K, especially the areas where there is lack of basic amenities to the public. He said, that continuously from the last nine years, Jammu has witnessed the development on the ground. He stated the BJP believes in delivering instead of false promises as is done by other political parties in the past during their rule in erstwhile J&K. Referring to the developmental works under execution in Gupta, underline that the construction of various developmental projects are apace and on completion of these schemes it will change the socio-economic conditions of the people of

the area.

Vinay Gupta and Bharat Bhushan, during the extensive tour in the area, met with the locals to listen to their problems and to address the same on the war foot. They interacted with the locals during his door-to-door visit to the place to take stock of the ground situation. Vinay Gupta added that the BJP is the party of principles and doing a lot in the interest of all segments of society under the dynamic leadership of PM Narendra Modi and leading the Central Government, all the public representatives and the public concern departments are dutybound to address the aspirations of the public on a priority basis. He also emphasized, how, PM Modi is working tirelessly for "Swachh Bharat" with a focus on every single area of the Nation.

Vinay asserted that the present dispensation holds a very clear view to leave no area with underdevelopment, although the whole process will take some time, in due course, every region and area of India is set to become a model world in itself.

## Crystal Crop acquires Sadanand Cotton Seeds from Kohinoor Seeds

### TOP NEWS REPORT

NEW DELHI, Sep 28: Crystal Crop Protection Limited, one of the fast-growing R&D-based crop protection manufacturing and marketing companies in India, has strengthened its cotton seeds portfolio with the strategic acquisition of Sadanand Cotton Seeds from Kohinoor Seeds.

The acquisition will boost Crystal's goal of providing end-to-end innovative and progressive solutions to stakeholders in the cotton seed business. With a persistent commitment to innovation and quality, Crystal Crops has consistently demonstrated its dedication to enhancing agricultural productivity and crop yields for farmers across the country.

Commenting on the acquisition, Satyender Singh, CEO of Seeds at Crystal Crop Protection, said: "We firmly believe that this strategic acquisition will not only reinforce our market presence in the Cotton Seeds segment but will also substantially enhance our reach and accessibility within the broader Seeds industry. In a market where approximately five crore packets constitute the cotton seed sector,

displaying consistent performance over recent years, the importance of cotton as a pivotal cash crop for farmers cannot be emphasized enough. Crystal's commitment to actively collaborating with farmers to amplify their income levels remains consistent. This acquisition represents an important milestone in further solidifying Crystal's presence within the cotton crop sector. We look forward to continuing the legacy of Sadanand and delivering exceptional value to our customers."

Commenting on the acquisition, Pawan Kansal, Managing Director, Kohinoor Seed Fields India Private Limited said: "We are delighted that Crystal Crop Protection is a leading company in the segment and has been making giant strides in this space through focus on innovation and digitalisation. We believe that this acquisition will provide a unique synergy of strengths to build the brand further."

Crystal's seeds business has experienced substantial growth in recent years, driven by a combination of organic and inorganic expansion efforts.

## Swachhata Hi Seva: NSS volunteers conduct door to door awareness campaign, cleanliness drive



### TOP NEWS REPORT

KATHUA, Sep 28: Under Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) campaign, NSS Volunteers of NSS Units of GDC Kathua organised Door to door awareness campaign and cleanliness drive in their respective localities throughout the Kathua district. A good number of volunteers organised this campaign in their localities. Volunteers collected plastic and polythene waste from their area and dispose it in the proper place.

After conducting cleanliness drive with the support of the community, Volunteers conducted door to door awareness campaign wherein they appealed the people to avoid single use plastic and polythene and to keep their surroundings neat and clean.

They also appealed and convince people to participate on 1st October National wide campaign "Ek October, Ek Ghante Ke Liye, Subah Dus Baje Se, Swachhta Ke Liye Kare Shramdaan". People showed their commitment to keep their surroundings neat and clean. Volunteers and to participate in the campaign on 1st Oct 2023 so that they could also contribute for the development of Nation.

The areas where volunteers organ-

ised this campaign were Logate, Shiva Nagar, Ward No.2 Kathua, Hatlimore, Marheen, Hamirpur, Radio station, etc. Volunteers like Mr Vishal Gupta, Sneha Sharma, Nikita Sharma, Meenakshi Devi, Dheeraj, Mansha kumari contributing a lot in organising this campaign since its launched. Campaign is organised every year during 15th September to 2nd October for undertaking shramdaan activities aiming to generate jan andolan through community participation. Theme of this year campaign is 'Garbage Free India' with focus on visual cleanliness and welfare of Safai Mitras. Like earlier years the spirit of cleanliness activities is voluntarism.

The focus of these swachhata drives would be on high footfall public places like bus stands, railway stations, cantonment boards, beaches, tourist places, zoos, national parks & sanctuaries, historical monuments, heritage sites, river fronts, ghats, drains and nallahs etc. in both rural & urban areas of State/ UT.

Activities under Swachhta Hi Seva are being organised under the Patronage of Principal Prof Seema Mir Principal Gdc Kathua and under the supervision of NSS Prog officers Prof Manmohan Singh, Prof Neha Bandral and Dr.Suresh Sharma.

## AAP remembers Shaheed Bhagat Singh on his birthday

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 28: Shaheed Bhagat Singh Ji remembered on his birthday at the Aam Aadmi Party office in Jammu North.

While commemorating Shaheed Bhagat Singh on his birthday, AAP leaders Kuldeep Kumar Rao and O.R Bhall stated that Shaheed Bhagat Singh was a socialist revolutionary who fought for the independence of the country. He was born on September 28, 1907, in Bhangra village in the Lyallpur District of Punjab in British India (now in Pakistan) to a Sikh family. His father's name was Kishan Singh, and his mother's



er's name was Vidya-vati Ji. He is regarded as one of the most influential revolutionaries in India's struggle for independence, inspiring thousands to join the movement. He was a courageous freedom fighter.

AAP leaders now urged the people of the nation, particularly the youth, disregarding caste, creed, and

color, to remember the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the country's freedom. They believed that the true tribute to Shaheed Bhagat Singh ji is to fight for the restoration of Jammu & Kashmir's full status.

On this occasion, they called upon all, without considering caste, creed, color, religion, or region, to

pledge not to remain silent and to continue the efforts to reclaim the state of Jammu & Kashmir. The leaders expressed concerned over the distress faced by the youth due to misguided policies of the current regime and past governments, leading to escalating unemployment rates.

They emphasized that the blending of religion and politics is detrimental to the country and deceives the general public to serve selfish agendas. The leaders urged the public, especially the youth, to make every effort to expose such corrupt elements in the system for the overall benefit of the people.

## NHPC Kishtwar accused of violating MoU for Dul Hasti Power Project: Ajeet Bhagat

### TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Sep 28: Ajeet Bhagat, Senior leader of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference from Chenab Valley Zone, has criticized the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) for breaching the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Dul Hasti project, as agreed between NHPC and the state government.

According to Bhagat, the agreement signed between NHPC and the state government clearly stipulated that NHPC would provide power supply, road connectivity, drainage system,



hospitals, free education, drinking water, bus facilities for school-going children, employment opportunities for affected landowners, scholarships, and other amenities within a five-kilometer radius of the project.

"Unfortunately, none of these facilities have been provided despite the project generating 390 MW power and sig-

nificant revenue for the central government," Bhagat alleged.

Furthermore, Bhagat claimed that NHPC has failed to provide free education to the children of affected landowners and neglected healthcare services for the residents of Kishtwar District, despite earning significant income from the project.

In addition, Bhagat expressed disappointment that NHPC has not fulfilled its commitment to construct a drainage system in Kishtwar town, as they had promised.

"While NHPC is earning crores of rupees from the Dul Hasti Power station, they

have not contributed even a penny towards the overall welfare of Kishtwar District, except for donating dustbins," Bhagat stated.

Bhagat further highlighted that NHPC has not established hospitals or secondary schools in Kishtwar town, while its employees enjoy uninterrupted electricity and drinking water supply at the expense of the locals.

Bhagat urged the General Manager (GM) DPS to ensure 24-hour electricity and water supply to the residents of Kishtwar town and to establish schooling facilities at the Dam Site and Power House site.

## Toyota Kirloskar Motor Showcases Special-purpose Hilux at the Indo-Pacific Armies Chief's Conference

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, 28 September 2023: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) proudly showcased a Toyota Hilux which has been uniquely modified through its authorised external vendor, during the Indo-Pacific Armies Chief's Conference (IPACC) held on 26th - 27th September in New Delhi. Hosted by the Army Design Bureau, Indian Army, in collaboration with the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM), the Defence Equipment and Technology Display coincides with the Indo-Pacific Armies Chief's Conference (IPACC), Indo-Pacific Armies Management Seminar (IPAMS), and Senior Enlisted Leadership Forum (SELF). Alongside, a general-purpose Hilux was also on display at this important summit.

Toyota's participation in this high-profile forum, reflects its commitment to providing innovative solutions, with its technological strengths, in the critical areas of defence and capable of serving other special customer requirements. In line with this approach, TKM showcased the versatile Hilux at IPACC, through the Hilux Toyota Service Express (TSE) - Mobile Service Vehicle thereby illustrating the adaptations made to the meticulously modified Hilux by Toyota's authorized external vendor, that can offer robust solution for remote location service and repair needs apt for army usage.

Recently Toyota displayed two modi-

fied (with the support of an authorised external vendor) Hilux vehicles - Field Diagnosis Vehicle (FDV) and Rapid Intervention Vehicle (RIV) at the North Pooch Symposium organised by Northern Command of Indian Army. To elaborate, the FDV offers vital vehicle servicing while the RIV is equipped for firefighting and rescue operations during emergency situations.

With Toyota's legendary QDR (Quality, Durability and Reliability), this 4x4 all-terrain mountain off-road vehicle is engineered to excel in the harshest of environments, making it an ideal choice for varied customers with specific necessity as well as Indian army purposes. The purpose of TSE Hilux is aligned with such utilities offered by FDV & RIV Hilux which are designed to provide essential services in remote locations and during unexpected scenarios, thereby supporting the Army at defence sites. With a focus on periodic maintenance and offering a one-stop solution for various maintenance tasks, this modified Hilux (via authorised external vendor of Toyota) is designed to meet demanding purposes, be it servicing equipment in remote areas or conducting essential repairs, demonstrating its adaptability and reliability in critical operations as in case of defence sector, thus always ensuring operational readiness and efficiency. During July this year, TKM handed over a fleet of Hilux, marking the company's first-ever delivery of its Hilux to the Indian Army.

## World Tourism Day celebrated with a focus on 'Tourism & Green Investment'

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 28: The Poonch Development Authority (Tourism) in collaboration with the YUVA Tourism Club of Govt. Degree College Surankote celebrated World Tourism Day with a focus on "Tourism & Green Investment" on September 27th.

The event was flagged off by the Principal of the college, Prof. (Dr.) Rani Mughal, along with the CEO of Poonch Development Authority (Tourism), Dr. Mohammad Tanwir. Also present at the event were Dr. Syed Wajahat, IQAC Coordinator, Prof. Khalil Ahmed, and Prof. Oyais Ahmed.

The event aimed to celebrate the significant role of tourism in sustainable development and emphasized the importance of eco-conscious travel choices. World Tourism Day is an annual global observance that highlights



tourism's potential for economic growth, cultural exchange, and environmental conservation. This year, the theme "Tourism & Green Investment" underscored the crucial need for sustainable practices in the tourism industry. To mark the occasion, Poonch Development Authority (Tourism) and the YUVA Tourism Club organized a series of engaging activities and initiatives, including Tree Planting Drive, Green Investment Programmes,

Community Engagement, Youth Involvement and Eco-Friendly Tourism Packages.

Dr. Mohammad Tanwir, CEO of Poonch Development Authority (Tourism), expressed enthusiasm for the event's success, stating, "World Tourism Day serves as a platform to promote sustainable tourism practices and raise awareness about the importance of green investment in our region. We believe that responsible tourism can lead to long-lasting

positive impacts on our environment and communities."

Dr. Mohammad Ashfaq, Coordinator of the YUVA Tourism Club, added, "Youth play a vital role in shaping the future of tourism. Through events like these, we aim to inspire young people to become responsible and conscious travelers who contribute to a greener, more sustainable world."

Poonch Development Authority (Tourism) and the YUVA Tourism Club

invited travelers, stakeholders, and the public to join the movement for "Tourism & Green Investment." By collectively embracing eco-conscious choices, we can ensure that tourism continues to thrive while preserving our planet for future generations. Poonch Development Authority (Tourism) is dedicated to promoting tourism and sustainable development in the Poonch region, with a focus on preserving natural beauty and cultural heritage.

## A rare gem called Lata

As we remember the golden voice of India, Lata Mangeshkar, on her birth anniversary, musicians go down memory lane and recollect her genius

Hers was a voice touched by Ma Saraswati. Her admirers, of course, put, the iconic Lata Mangeshkar on the same pedestal. Love, pathos, beauty, patriotism, bhakti... there isn't a mood that does not have a Lata song. Timeless, a voice beyond mortal standards... so how do we mark her birth anniversary? By recalling the Bharat Ratna awardee's greatness, by paying her more compliments. But then what more can be said about the rare gem in the galaxy of Indian music, who recorded her first song at age 13.

Ghazal singer Vinod Sehgal, who had the rare honour of not only meeting the legend but also witness her record a song, has only one word, "Nishabd." Working as chief assistant director to music director Hansraj Behl, who composed a tune for her, he remembers Lata as a picture of tranquillity. Calm and collected, she hardly said a word when she heard the song to be picturised in the film Jugni (1979). He reminisces, "Yet all the time she was internalising the lyrics and the tune, and when she began to sing it was sheer magic. It was an ethereal experience."



Thorough professional Celebrated music composer Shantanu Moitra too had an opportunity to interact with her when she recorded the opening lines of the song he composed for 100 years of Indian Cinema. He says, "Until she knew the song like the back of her hand, she would not start singing."

As a Bengali, he was suitably impressed by her Bengali repertoire of songs, her fluency in the language and diction. Singer of thousands of songs in umpteen languages, Moitra states, "It was

not just her golden voice but also flawless diction that made music directors like Salil Chowdhury pick her over other talent."

A God's gift honed to perfection by diligent practice, Moitra asks, "How else can you explain the fact that she sang for six generations of music directors?" Indeed, from SD Burman to his son Pancham da, from Shankar Jaikishan, Naushad Ali, Sardul Singh Kwatra, Amarnath, Husanlal, Madan Mohan to AR Rahman and Vishal Bhardwaj... she remained a voice wrapped

in melody that continued to echo through corridors of time.

As for his favourite song, Sehgal says, "O mere sanam, o mere sanam from the film Sangam." Punjabi music composer Brijesh Ahuja picks up the songs Pyaar de bhulekhe kinne sohne and Lai aa te tod nibhavin, duets she sang with Mohammed Rafi and Mahendra Kapoor, respectively. He says, "Both are high-pitched songs more suited to male voices, and only she could match them."

Lifetime of reverence Back in time, legends like Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan gave her a nod of wholehearted approval, "Kambakht kabhi besura nahi gaati." Today Ahuja swears by her sur, taal, lay, range and versatility. Admired to the point of reverence in her lifetime, a lifetime perhaps is required to decode her singing prowess and how she made us fall in love with the very notion of love.

Aaj Kal Paon Zameen Par Nahin Padte Mere...her memorable songs brimming with that wistful feeling of romance would always make us walk on those dreamy clouds.

## Pariva Pranati proud to break taboo around breast cancer with her Wagle Ki Duniya character



Pariva Pranati, who essays the role of Vandana in the show Wagle Ki Duniya —Nayi Peedhi Naye Kissey, is proud to break the taboo around breast cancer with her role.

In recent episodes of the show, the audience

witnessed how Vandana (played by Pariva Pranati) was diagnosed with breast cancer and decided to proceed with the treatment.

In the upcoming episodes, viewers can see the chemotherapy's adverse effects on Van-

dana, resulting in her hair loss. The transformation for the character's look was achieved through the use of prosthetics.

Talking about the recent track, Pariva says, "Portraying someone suffering from cancer was a very emotional and entirely new journey for me. While preparing for the scenes where I had to bear a bald look, I thoroughly researched what goes into the process of chemotherapy and its effects on the patient."

The actress adds, "It was a rollercoaster ride for everyone on the sets because my appearance evoked strong emotions in everyone. Nonetheless, it makes me proud to portray such a character working to break the taboo surrounding such issues concerning women."

Wagle Ki Duniya: Nayi Peedhi Naye Kissey airs Monday to Saturday on Sony SAB.

## Shubhangi Atre's retreats for wildlife enthusiasts: Bandhavgarh, Kanha national parks

On the occasion of World Tourism Day, Shubhangi Atre, who is well known for her role as Angoori Bhabhi in sitcom Bhabiji Ghar Par Hain, shared her favourite destinations from her hometown Madhya Pradesh, and recommended the must-visit places in the state.

Shubhangi, who hails from Indore, said the state is the heart of India and home to a plethora of historic gems, making it a must-visit destination for global tourists.

"The state is renowned for its cleanliness and offers visitors a warm and homely experience. Its remarkable historical attractions are the intricately carved Hindu and Jain temples of Khajuraho, celebrated for their stunning sculptures," she shared.



The Kasturi fame actress said, "Choosing one as my favourite is tough for me.

For nature enthusiasts, visiting the east-

ern Bandhavgarh and Kanha National Park is a must, where you can witness the wonders of wildlife and pristine landscapes."

## A look at Waheeda Rehman's journey

Rosy of Guide, Hira Bai of Teesri Kasam, Gulabo of Pyaasa, Jaba of Sahib Bibi Aur Ghulam or Jameela of Chaudhvin Ka Chand... choosing one's favourite character from Waheeda Rehman's memorable repertoire is one challenging task. An ethereal beauty, with over 90 films to her credit, she has rightly been chosen for the highest honour of Indian cinema — Dadasaheb Phalke Award.

As the news broke on her legendary Guide co-star Dev Anand's birth centenary, the effervescent actress shared, "I am very happy because it is Dev Anand's birthday. I think, taufa unko milna tha, mujhe mil gaya."

Early years Daughter of a Deputy Commissioner in Chingalpet town of the



Madras Presidency of pre-Independence era, Rehman learnt Bharatanatyam, along with one of her sisters, Sayeeda. A stage performance at 10 bagged her a dance sequence in a Telugu film, which became such a superhit that Guru Dutt took young Rehman under his wings. Her Hindi debut C.I.D., opposite her favourite star Dev Anand, became the highest grossing film of

that year (1956).

Standing her ground The youngest in a progressive, privileged Muslim family, Rehman, who enjoyed a pampered childhood, entered the film industry only after her father's demise, but worked on her own terms. Refusing a stage name as suggested by her director Raj Khosla on account of it being 'too long' or standing firm to have it mentioned in her C.I.D.

contract to wearing costumes only if she liked them, Rehman always stood by her choices. There are many other examples too — she chose to play the second lead in Sahib Bibi Aur Ghulam, despite a successful career; took on the role of an adulteress in Guide and played mother to Jaya Bhaduri (Bachchan later) in Phagun rather early in her career. She refused a kissing scene in the English version of Guide.

On song Some of the most iconic songs of Hindi films have been picturised on Rehman. Throwing societal norms to winds in Aaj Phir Jeene Ki Tamanna Hai (Guide); the playful Jaane Kya Tune Kahi (Pyaasa); heart-breaking Waqt Ne Kiya (Kaagaz Ke Phool), love and desire coming

together in Piya Tose Naina Laage Re (Guide) to rather recent Genda Phool (Delhi-6), are only a handful of numerous such tracks. She had multiples hits with Guru Dutt and Dev Anand; she gave the unforgettable Teesri Kasam with Raj Kapoor and the iconic Khamoshi with Rajesh Khanna.

Recognition came her way in ample measure. Reshma Aur Shera won her the National Film Award for Best Actress; she was conferred Padma Shri in 1972 and the Padma Bhushan in 2011. Dadasaheb Phalke Award is the latest honour, and, Rehman, at 85, is going strong. Last seen in coming-of-age sports drama Skater Girl in 2021, she is a living legend, who will forever be an epitome of beauty, grace and talent!

## The show must go on for Babil Khan



Babil Khan recently impressed the audiences and critics yet again in his second cinema outing, titled Friday Night Plan.

Currently streaming on Netflix, the film was highly anticipated post Babil's noteworthy debut in the psychologi-

cal drama Qala.

Speaking of Friday Night Plan, the high school drama has managed to consistently stay in the Netflix Top 10 charts across South Asia owing to its warm storyline and solid performances. While Babil Khan is now basking in

the success of the film, the actor did go through his share of difficulties during an important sequence shoot of the film.

Sharing inside details, the actor revealed how just two days before the shoot of the film's central dance sequence of its song Bahaane, he twisted his knee and was in extreme pain. Being a thorough professional, Babil decided to complete the shoot of the Bahaane song as scheduled while taking breaks and necessary cures. He said, "As a performer, I really enjoy dancing, but this time around the pain was severe. Each time I was on my right leg, the pain spiralled through my back and head. It was a very difficult time and I was so nervous about how we would complete the song. I put ice my foot and took multiple breaks while shooting it. There's nothing more I could have asked for. Everyone's support indeed played a big role in pushing me to do my best."

## Hina back in KKK 13 as a challenger



Hina Khan, who is renowned for her exceptional resilience and acing most of the stunts in the eighth edition of the show, is poised to challenge the contestants of this season in Khatron Ke Khiladi 13.

Living up to her fearless persona, Hina will be seen entering the show crooning Lag Ja Gale as she is about to jump off a cliff. In the upcoming episode, viewers will witness Hina's indomitable strength.

Speaking about her return to Khatron Ke Khiladi 13 as a challenger, Hina says, "Returning to Khatron Ke Khiladi was like revisiting the adventure that made me what I am today. I could not overcome my fears if I had not been on this show. This season is unique in its own way and filled with mind-blowing stunts."

## Alia Bhatt drops unseen pictures with b'day boy Ranbir Kapoor: 'You make it all magical'

Actress Alia Bhatt on Thursday showed birthday love on husband and actor Ranbir Kapoor, as the latter has turned 41, saying he makes everything magical.

Alia took to Instagram, and shared a string of unseen pictures with Ranbir.

In the first photo, which is a little blurred, Alia can be seen giving a kiss on Ranbir's cheek. The couple seems to be sitting in a balcony on a high rise building. The selfie is being clicked by Ranbir.

The second picture shows the lovebirds enjoying a game at a stadium. Both are facing backwards towards the camera, with Alia holding onto Ranbir tightly. Wearing a matching cap with Ranbir, Alia sports a braided ponytail, and is donning a white tee shirt. While Ranbir is wearing a blue checkered shirt.

The next photo shows Alia flaunting her beautiful smile in a selfie, while she poses with a big figure of numeric 8 in the background. "Eight" is Ranbir's lucky number, and Alia follows it religiously.

Then there is a solo black and white picture of Ranbir from their wedding. There is also a candid photo from their mehendi ceremony, and the series ends with a closeup picture of Ranbir.

Alia captioned the post as: "my love.. my best friend.. my happiest place.. as you read this caption from your secret account sitting right next to me.. all I'd like to say is... happy birthday baby.."



you make it ALL magical".

Gauahar Khan commented: "Happy Birthday Ranbir", P V Sindhu wrote: "Happy birthday Ranbir!! Love the Yankes support".

Bipasha Basu, Riddhima Kapoor Sahni, Zoya Akhtar dropped heart emojis, and birthday wishes on the post. Alia married Ranbir in April 2022, and the couple have a baby daughter Raha. Meanwhile, on the work front, Alia was recently seen as Rani Chatterjee in romantic comedy drama 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani', alongside Ranveer Singh. She was also seen in American spy action thriller 'Heart of Stone'. The film stars Gal Gadot.

While, Ranbir was last seen in 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar'. He next has 'Animal' in the pipeline.

## Swaminathan's groundbreaking work transformed lives of millions, ensured India's food security: PM

NEW DELHI, Sep 28 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief at the death saying his ground-breaking work in agriculture transformed lives of millions and ensured India's food security.

"Deeply saddened by the demise of Dr MS Swaminathan Ji. At a very critical period in our nation's history, his groundbreaking work in agriculture transformed the lives of millions and ensured food security for our nation," Modi said in a post on X.

The prime minister said, "Beyond his revolutionary contribu-



tions to agriculture, Dr. Swaminathan was a powerhouse of innovation and a nurturing mentor to many. His unwavering commitment to research and mentorship has left an indelible mark on countless scientists and innovators."

Modi said he would

always cherish his conversations with Swaminathan and added that his passion to see India progress was exemplary.

"His life and work will inspire generations to come.

Condolences to his family and admirers. Om Shanti," Modi wrote.

## Renowned agricultural scientist MS Swaminathan dies at 98

CHENNAI, Sep 28 (Agencies): Renowned agricultural scientist MS Swaminathan and the driving force behind the nation's 'Green Revolution,' passed away here on Thursday.

He was 98 and is sur-



vived by three daughters.

The celebrated agriculture icon was being treated for age-related illness for quite some time, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation sources said.

## 4-Year-Old Kidnapped In Mumbai, Video Shows Man Walking Away With Child

MUMBAI, Sep 28 (Agencies): A 4-year-old girl was kidnapped while playing outside her house in Navi Mumbai on Thursday. The police have arrested a 74-year-old man in connection with the case.

According to the police, the incident took place near Nerul railway station area of Navi Mumbai. On Thursday, when the girl did not return home, her parents registered a complaint with the Nerul police.

The cops immediately launched an investigation and scanned CCTV

footage of the area. One camera caught a person carrying the child in his arms and walking away. Senior police officer Tanaji Bhagat formed a team to track down the accused. The team checked about 150 CCTVs in and around the railway station.

Using the CCTV footage, the police were able to identify the man and laid a trap to arrest him. The accused was found to be in the Karave village area of Navi Mumbai. According to the police, the man, identified as Mani Thomas, had kept the girl at his house. After

losing his first wife, Thomas remarried, but he and his new wife had no children. He told police that he kidnapped the girl because he wanted a child. A preliminary investigation revealed that he was planning to leave the state with her.

The girl was rescued unharmed and was reunited with her parents. The accused has been charged with kidnapping and is currently in police custody.

The police are investigating whether the accused is involved in any other child trafficking cases.

## Amit Shah, Nadda hold discussion with BJP's Rajasthan leadership on upcoming assembly polls

JAIPUR, Sep 28 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president J P Nadda held night-long discussions with the party's Rajasthan leadership here on a range of issues about the upcoming assembly elections.

The meeting began at a hotel late on Wednesday evening and continued till 2 am, party sources said on Thursday. The discussions were held amid a buzz that two central ministers might be asked to contest the upcoming polls. The speculation follows the BJP's decision to name three Union ministers and four MPs in its second list of candidates for poll-bound Madhya Pradesh.

Following the meeting, both Shah and Nadda left for Delhi on Thursday. A meeting with local RSS leaders was not held, party sources said.



"Discussions on election strategy were held in the meeting last night," Gajendra Singh Shekhawat told reporters at the hotel on Thursday.

Shah and Nadda arrived in Jaipur on a special plane on Wednesday evening and headed to the hotel near the airport for the core committee meeting.

Party sources said that Shah and Nadda first held a meeting with former Rajasthan chief minister Vasundhara Raje for around 15 minutes. It was followed by a meeting with senior party's election strat-

egy was discussed. Feedback on the four 'Parivartan Yatras' that the BJP held recently was also discussed.

Union minister and the party's election in-charge for Rajasthan Pralhad Joshi, co-in-charge Nitin Patel, BJP's in-charge for Rajasthan Arun Singh, state unit president C P Joshi, Union Ministers Gajendra Singh, Arjun Meghwal, Kailash Chaudhary, leader of opposition in Assembly Rajendra Rathore, deputy leader of opposition Satish Poonia and other leaders were present at the meeting, the sources said.

The meeting continued for around three hours.

Poonia and MP Rajyavardhan Rathore were the first to leave the venue after the first round.

Nadda and Shah held the next round of meetings with the BJP's national general secretary (organisation) B L Santosh, Union minister Pralhad Joshi, Nitin Patel, Arun Singh, Kuldeep Vishnoi and Vijaya Rahatkar, among others, the party sources said.

"The leaders held discussions on the assembly constituencies and brainstormed on ways to win the maximum number of seats in Mewar, Vagad, Shekhawati, Hadauti and Marwar regions and in eastern Rajasthan in the assembly and Lok Sabha elections," a source said.

During the meeting, a clear message was sent out that the "party organisation is supreme and all have to work together

to ensure the victory of the party" in the elections.

Some leaders said that ticket distribution and other poll-related issues were discussed in the meeting.

Sources in the BJP's Rajasthan unit said Union Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal may be fielded in the assembly polls, along with some other MPs.

However, the party leaders who came out of the hotel refrained from sharing details of the meeting with the media.

Convener of the election management committee Narayan Panchariya said the party's authorised person will share details of the meeting with the media.

There is speculation that senior RSS pracharak Prakash Chand may be given certain responsibilities in the upcoming Assembly election.

## "People Gave 50-100": Ujjain Cop On How Residents 'Helped' Raped Teen

*Ujjain rape case: When NDTV pressed that the girl was half-naked and bleeding, and that she needed medical attention more than cash, SP Sachin Sharma replied, "People may have had reservations."*

UJJAIN, Sep 28 (Agencies): A minor girl, raped and bleeding, went from door-to-door seeking help but was turned away, shows security footage from a neighbourhood in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain.

Ujjain police chief Sachin Sharma, responding to reports that residents refused to help the 15-year-old, disagreed, saying they did help her with money. A grand total of 120.

"There were mixed responses. People in the localities she passed through had helped her. Some gave her 50, others gave 100. She crossed a toll booth on the way. The staff



there gave her money and some clothes. At least 7-8 people tried to help," the officer told NDTV.

CCTV footage show a man shooing away the young girl, who was half naked after the assault. She finally got help at an ashram, where a priest gave her his clothes and called the police. Twenty minutes later, the cops came, and she was

rushed to a hospital.

On the visuals of the man turning away the teen, the senior police officer said, "We traced the video and questioned people in that area. When we found her, she had 120 rupees that people from the locality had given her."

When it was pointed out that the girl needed medical attention more than cash in the cir-

cumstances, the officer Sachin Sharma replied, "People may have had reservations. But financially, they tried to help her as much as they could."

The officer also said the girl was not specifically asking for help, but approaching people and telling them that someone is following her. "In the statements we have recorded, people have told her that she was repeatedly saying, 'I am in danger, someone is behind me'. So she was not stable, people responded accordingly," he said.

The girl's condition is now stable, though she has suffered very serious injuries. There have

been no arrests in the case so far.

Police have now found that she is from another district in Madhya Pradesh, about 700 km from Ujjain. She stays there with her grandfather and elder brother. On Sunday, she left home for school but did not return. Her family members had also filed a missing complaint.

The incident has once again spotlighted the dismal record of Madhya Pradesh on crimes against women. Madhya Pradesh reported the most rapes in the country in 2021, according to the National Crime Records Bureau. More than half of these crimes were against minors.

## Parents of murdered Meitei Manipuri youths request govt to locate kids' remains for last rites

*Both families hope that the CBI probe will help in finding the bodies of their children and reveal why they were murdered.*

IMPHAL, Sep 28 (Agencies): Parents of both the murdered youths, viral pictures of whose bodies caused widespread protests in Imphal valley for two days, on Thursday pleaded with authorities to locate the remains of their children so that the last rights of the boy and the girl can be conducted "with the dignity they deserve."

They hoped that with sleuths from the CBI joining the investigation into the kidnapping and death of the duo who went missing in July this year, the mystery of where their bodies lie will be solved.

The 18-year-old girl's father, Hijam Kulajit, in an interview with PTI said, "We just want to see our children one last time and conduct their last rites with the dignity they deserve. Nothing can substitute the loss. According to Meitei custom, at least a small portion of the clothes they wore is needed to perform the last rites and give them a farewell."



"Whenever I see her photo, it makes me completely restless and I can't find peace in my heart. Her mother has lost her senses and became bedridden while embracing a photo of our daughter," Kulajit said.

The two went missing on July 6. They were last seen on CCTV camera footage at Nambol in Bishnupur district. Their phones were tracked by police to Lamdan in Kuki-dominated Churachandpur district.

"For a day, we assumed they had eloped, but after contacting the boy's family,

we sensed something missing. I don't understand why they had to be killed," Kulajit asked.

Meanwhile, the family of the 20-year-old boy continues to struggle to deal with the situation.

Unable to believe that their son is no more, his mother continues to cook for him daily. "It's been two-and-a-half months now, but I haven't washed the blanket of my son as I can still smell him," she said.

In accordance with Meitei custom, both mothers offer incense sticks, candles and a small portion of food in

front of the photographs of their children daily till the last rites are conducted. Both families hope that the CBI probe will help in finding the bodies of their children and reveal why they were murdered.

On Wednesday, Chief Minister N Biren Singh said Union Home Minister Amit Shah assured him that those who had kidnapped and killed the two Manipuri youths will be arrested and punished.

A team of CBI officials, led by the agency's Special Director Ajay Bhatnagar, reached the state on Wednesday and

started a probe into the crime which has rocked Imphal valley and led to two days of violent protests by students and youths on the streets of the state capital, leading to more than 60 people being injured.

Meanwhile, curfew relaxation had been cancelled in Imphal East and West districts from 4 pm on Wednesday till further orders.

More than 175 people have been killed and several hundreds injured since ethnic clashes broke out in the north-eastern state on May 3, when a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the majority Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status.

Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal valley, while tribals, including Nagas and Kukis, constitute 40 per cent and reside mostly in the hill districts.

## Video Of Ahmedabad Man's Brutal Assault Of Woman Business Partner Viral



AHMEDABAD, Sep 28 (Agencies): A shocking video of a man brutally assaulting a woman near a salon in a posh Ahmedabad neighbourhood has prompted the police to register a case of sexual harassment and voluntarily causing hurt.

Police have reached out to the woman, who is from the Northeast, and registered the case against the man on the basis of her statement.

The woman has told the police that she and Mohsin, who is seen hitting her, were business partners, and that they ran a salon for women in Ahmedabad's upscale Sindhuhavan neighbourhood.

The viral video shows the man approaching the woman and hitting

her across her face. As she tries to push him away, he hits her again. The two are seen arguing as the man continues to approach the woman menacingly. Another man in the video is seen trying to intervene and stop Mohsin as he drags the woman by her hand. But he does not stop, he pulls the woman by her hair and repeatedly hits her across the face.

In a video statement, the woman has said the incident took place on Monday. "We had suffered a loss of about 4,000- 5,000. So I scolded a woman staff member. He (Mohsin) was angry and asked me why I had scolded her. I asked him if he has a relationship with the girl because of

which he is defending her. He then started hitting me. I asked him not to hit me and to talk calmly, but he did not stop," she said.

"I tried to call police on the 100 helpline, but he snatched my phone. The phone was running on low charge and eventually switched off. Then I started running and somehow escaped," the woman said.

The woman said in her statement that Mohsin had later apologised to her. "He apologised to me, so I forgave him and did not approach the police. When the video became viral, police came to know. I did not want to file a complaint. I did not want him to face action. But police and others explained to me that this has happened to me, and it should not happen to anyone else. Everyone supported me. Then I filed a complaint," she said.

"I am thankful to those who have supported me. I am from the Northeast. I am glad that the police, the media have stood beside me. Thank you so much," the woman added.

## North Korean leader urges greater nuclear weapons production in response to a 'new Cold War'

SEOUL, Sep 28 (Agencies): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called for an exponential increase in production of nuclear weapons and for his country to play a larger role in a coalition of nations confronting the United States in a "new Cold War," state media said Thursday.

The Korean Central News Agency said Kim made the comments during a two-day session of the country's rubber-stamp parliament which amended the constitution to include his policy of expanding the country's nuclear weapons programme.

The Supreme People's Assembly's session on Tuesday and Wednesday came after Kim traveled to Russia's Far East this month to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin and visit military and technology sites.

The trip sparked Western concerns about a possible arms alliance in which North Korea would supply Putin with badly needed munitions to fuel his war on Ukraine in exchange for economic aid and advanced Russian technologies to enhance North Korea's nuclear and missile systems.

As North Korea slowly ends its



pandemic lockdown, Kim has been actively boosting his partnerships with Moscow and Beijing as he attempts to break out of diplomatic isolation and join a united front against Washington. He has described the world as entering a "new Cold War" and that North Korea should advance its nuclear capabilities in response.

KCNA's reports on Kim's comments came a day after North Korea confirmed the release of U.S. Army Pvt. Travis King, who is now being flown back to America, two months after he sprinted across the heavily fortified border into the North.

King's relatively swift expulsion defied speculation that North

Korea might drag out his detention to squeeze concessions from the United States, and possibly reflected the North's disinterest in diplomacy with Washington.

KCNA said members of the assembly gave unanimous approval to a new clause in the constitution to "ensure the country's right to existence and development, deter war and protect regional and global peace by rapidly developing nuclear weapons to a higher level."

North Korea's "nuclear force-building policy has been made permanent as the basic law of the state, which no one is allowed to flout with anything," Kim said in a speech at the

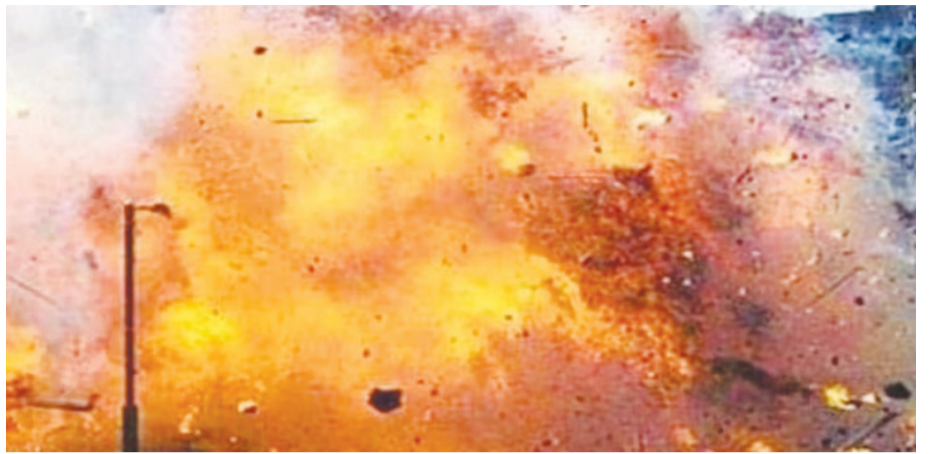
assembly. He stressed the need to "push ahead with the work for exponentially boosting the production of nuclear weapons and diversifying the nuclear strike means," KCNA said.

Kim pointed to what he described as a growing threat posed by a hostile United States and its expanding military cooperation with South Korea and Japan, accusing them of creating the "Asian version of NATO, the root cause of war and aggression." "This is just the worst actual threat, not threatening rhetoric or an imaginary entity," he said.

Kim urged his diplomats to "further promote solidarity with the nations standing against the U.S. and the West's strategy for hegemony." Tensions on the Korean Peninsula are at their highest level in years as North Korea has test-fired more than 100 missiles since the start of 2022 and the U.S. has expanded its military exercises with its Asian allies, in tit-for-tat responses.

Last year, the assembly passed a new nuclear doctrine into law which authorises preemptive nuclear strikes if North Korea's leadership is perceived as under threat.

## One killed, over 162 injured in powerful explosion in Uzbekistan's Tashkent



TASHKENT, Sep 28 (Agencies): One person was killed and 162 injured by a powerful explosion on Thursday at a warehouse near Tashkent's airport that sparked a fire and shattered windows in apartment blocks nearby, authorities in Uzbekistan said.

A teenage boy died after a window frame fell on him, the health ministry said in a statement, adding that 24 people had been hospitalised, but faced no threat to their lives,

while 138 were treated for injuries.

Flights were operating as normal at the international airport in the capital, its administration said.

In video and photographs on social media, flames soared into the night sky, with a huge cloud of smoke hanging above the warehouse, but the cause of the explosion was not immediately clear.

A special laboratory had been set up at the scene to investigate the

blast, the emergencies ministry said.

"As a result of the quick actions of emergencies ministry employees, the area of the fire is being reduced," it added on the Telegram messaging app.

"The situation is completely under control."

A social media post from Uzbek outlet Daryo said 16 fire and rescue crews were sent to fight the fire at one of the warehouses in the city's Sergeli district near the airport.

## Justin Trudeau apologises for recognition of Nazi unit war veteran in Canadian Parliament

*Says the speaker of the House of Commons was 'solely responsible' for the invitation*

TORONTO, Sep 28 (Agencies): Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau apologised for Parliament's recognition of a man who fought alongside the Nazis during last week's address by Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Trudeau said the speaker of the House of Commons, who resigned on Tuesday, was "solely responsible" for the invitation and recognition of the man but said it was a mistake that has deeply embarrassed Parliament and Canada.

"All of us who were in the House on Friday regret deeply having stood and clapped, even though we did so unaware of the context," Trudeau said before



entering the House of Commons. "It was a horrendous violation of the memory of the millions of people who died in the Holocaust, and was deeply, deeply painful for Jewish people."

Trudeau repeated the apology in Parliament.

Just after Zelenskyy delivered an address

in the House of Commons on Friday, Canadian lawmakers gave 98-year-old Yaroslav Hunka a standing ovation when Speaker Anthony Rota drew attention to him. Rota introduced Hunka as a war hero who fought for the First Ukrainian Division.

## Nikki Haley slams Vivek Ramaswamy for joining TikTok

WASHINGTON, Sep 28 (Agencies): Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley has slammed her fellow Indian-American rival in the Republican primary race Vivek Ramaswamy for joining Chinese-owned TikTok, saying "every time I hear you, I feel a little bit dumber".

Haley, the former two-term governor from South Carolina and the former US Ambassador to the UN, was critical of the 38-year-old biotech entrepreneur and the two entered into a war of words during the second Republican presidential primary debate at Reagan Library in Simi Valley in California.

"Every time I hear you, I feel a little bit dumber. This is infuriating because TikTok is one of the most dangerous social media apps we could have," Haley told Ramaswamy during the debate as the two entered into verbal duels multiple times during the two-hour-long debate boycotted by former US president Donald Trump and the current frontrunner.

Haley, 51, jumped in when Ramaswamy was responding



to a question about him joining TikTok, a social media site that has been banned by many countries, including India.

Asked about his move to join the video-sharing app TikTok, despite it being banned on government-issued devices due to concerns about its parent company's ties to the Chinese government, Ramaswamy said, "Part of how we win elections is reaching the next generation of young Americans where we are."

Kids under 16 should not be on "addictive social media", Ramaswamy said, but "we're

only going to ever get to declaring independence from China, which I favour if we actually win."

"This is infuriating because TikTok is one of the most dangerous social media apps that we could have. And...honestly, every time I hear you, I feel a little bit dumber for what you say," Haley said.

"One hundred and fifty million people are on TikTok. That means they can get your contacts, they can get your financial information, they can get your emails, they can get your text messages, they can get all

of these things. China knows exactly what they're doing," she said.

In February, Haley said under her leadership, "Communist China will end up on the ash heap of history."

"We can't trust you. We can't trust you. We can't have TikTok in our kids' lives," Haley told Ramaswamy.

Ramaswamy fought back. "I think we will be better served as a Republican party if we are not sitting here hurling personal insults and actually have a legitimate debate about policy following Reagan's example and in his honour," he said.

"And the answer is, that is what actually makes our country strong, and I believe in these people. I believe in these people on this stage, they're good people, but let's have a legitimate discussion," he said.

Haley was not the only candidate on the stage to attack Ramaswamy, who was among the youngest on the stage. Haley is the only woman in the Republican Party's presidential aspirants.

## Nagorno-Karabakh to dissolve, ending independence dream

ARMENIA, Sep 28 (Agencies): Nagorno-Karabakh's decades-long, bloody dream of independence ended on Thursday with a formal decree declaring that the ethnic Armenian statelet in Azerbaijan "ceases to exist" at the end of the year.

The dramatic decree issued by the separatist region's leader came moments after it was announced that more than half of the ethnic Armenian population had fled in the wake of last week's assault by arch-rival Azerbaijan.

Baku's lightning offensive ended with a September 20 truce in which the rebels pledged to disarm and enter "reintegration" talks.

Two rounds of talks were held as Azerbaijani forces methodically worked with Russian peacekeepers to collect separatist weapons silos and enter towns that had remained outside Baku's control since the sides first fought over the region in the 1990s.

Azerbaijani forces have now approached the edge of Stepanakert -- an emptying rebel stronghold where separatist leader Samvel Shakhramanyan issued his decree.

"Dissolve all state institutions and organisations under their departmental subordination



by January 1, 2024, and the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) ceases to exist," said the decree.

"The population of Nagorno-Karabakh, including those located outside the republic, after the entry into force of this Decree, familiarise themselves with the conditions of reintegration presented by the Republic of Azerbaijan."

"Ethnic cleansing" The republic and its separatist dream have been effectively vanishing since Azerbaijan unlocked the only road leading to Armenia on Sunday.

Tens of thousands have since been piling their belongings on top of their cars and taking the winding mountain journey to Armenia every day.

Armenia said more than 65,000 had left by Thursday

morning -- more than half of the region's estimated 120,000-strong population.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said Thursday that "in the coming days" all ethnic Armenians will have left the region, where ethnic Armenians have been living for centuries.

"This is an act of ethnic cleansing of which we have been warning the international community (about for a long time)."

Nagorno-Karabakh has been officially recognised as part of Azerbaijan since the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991.

No country -- not even Armenia -- recognised the statelet's independence claim.

But ethnic Armenian separatists have been running the region since winning a brutal war in the 1990s that claimed tens of thousands of lives.

The fighting was accompanied by allegations of massacres against civilians and gross violations of human rights that many in the region recall to this day.

But the bloody feud between the mostly Christian Armenian and predominantly Muslim Azerbaijan dates back to the years in the 1920s when the region was handed to Baku by the Soviets.

Baku clawed back large parts of the statelet and its surrounding areas in a six-week war in 2020 that significantly weakened rebel defences. Azerbaijan has agreed to allow rebel fighters who lay down their arms to withdraw to Armenia.

But Baku added that it reserved the right to detain and prosecute suspects of "war crimes".

Azerbaijani border guards on Wednesday detained Ruben Vardanyan -- a reported billionaire who headed the Nagorno-Karabakh government from November 2022 until February.

Baku said on Thursday it had charged Vardanyan with "financing terrorism".

The region's former foreign minister David Babayan said he had also been added to Baku's "black list" and agreed to hand himself over to Azerbaijani authorities.

## Hundreds rescued as new storm Elias pummels Greece



ATHENS, Sep 28 (Agencies): Hundreds of people were rescued from floods in Greece overnight and early on Thursday, officials said, as a new storm hit the country just weeks after floods left 17 dead.

The fire service said it had assisted over 250 people in the region surrounding the central city of Volos, where a curfew was declared Wednesday as Storm Elias made landfall.

The storm also hit the island of Evia, prompting emergency traffic restrictions in the north of the island.

Much of Volos was without electricity and sections of the local hospital flooded, though the facility remained

operational. Elias is expected to abate on Friday.

Volos, a city of nearly 140,000, was still struggling to recover from Storm Daniel, which three weeks ago dumped cataclysmic amounts of rain in central Greece.

Volos was without drinking water for over two weeks earlier this month, and the damage to the local utility network has still not been fully repaired.

Storm Daniel left 17 dead, destroyed crops, and killed tens of thousands of farm animals across a wide area in the heart of Greece's agricultural production.

Agriculture Minister Lefteris Avgenakis on

Wednesday said cleanup crews had disposed of over 180,000 dead livestock and poultry, but were still unable to reach over a dozen chicken farms cut off from access roads.

Destroyed crops include cotton, corn, wheat, apples and kiwis, he said.

Facing a barrage of criticism at a perceived failure in cooperation between the army and civil protection in the hours following the disaster, the government has pledged over two billion euros (\$2.1 billion) in reconstruction funds.

EU Agriculture Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski is scheduled to tour the central region of Thessaly on October 5, Avgenakis said Wednesday.

The heavy rains and flooding followed devastating fires in Greece this summer that killed at least 26 people, most of them migrants trapped in a forest near the northeastern border with Turkey.





Glimpses of concluding celebration of ten days Bhagwan Ganesh Chaturthi with immersion of idols of Bhagwan Ganesh in River Chenab in Jammu. (Pics by Aman Sharma)

## DLSA Bhandarwah conduct cleanliness drives and Awareness camp

### Top News Report

BHANDARWAH, Sep 28: In a remarkable display of community engagement and commitment to Mahatma Gandhi's ideals of cleanliness and sustainability, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bhandarwah under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority organized a series of impactful activities as part of the national campaign 'Swachhata Hi Sewa-2023 (SHS-2023)'. This initiative was undertaken to honor the 154th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi.



Under the direction of Chairman DLSA, Bhandarwah (Pr Dist and Sessions Judge), Sunit Gupta and close supervision of Secretary DLSA, Ramesh Lal, the DLSA Bhandarwah team, along with Advocate Mohd Majid Malik, Advocate Sarvash Gupta and dedicated Para Legal Vol-

unteers (PLVs) organised awareness camps and cleanliness drive impetus to the nationwide campaign under the theme of "Garbage Free India". In this connection an awareness camp in collaboration with BVM organised in the prem-

ises of BVM school. This event brought together staff members, teachers, and enthusiastic students of Bhartiya Vidya Mandir Bhandarwah who worked tirelessly to clean and rejuvenate their surroundings. The event served as

an excellent opportunity to instill the values of cleanliness and civic responsibility in the younger generation. During this campaign, Advocate Mohd Majid Malik delivered an inspiring address on the importance of sustainability and the adoption of eco-friendly alternatives. His words resonated with the audience, reminding everyone of the need for sustainable practices to preserve our environment for future generations. This grassroots effort aimed to inspire every citizen to take personal responsibility for keeping their surroundings clean and participate in Swach Bharat Abhiyan.

## International Day for Universal Access to Information celebrated in Magam

### Top News Report

MAGAM, Sep 28: The J&K RTI Foundation celebrated the International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI) with great enthusiasm and participation. The event, held in Magam, witnessed an engaged audience both in-person and via Zoom, highlighting the importance of access to information in the digital era. IDUAI is globally recognized as a day to emphasize the crucial role of access to information in empowering individuals, promoting transparency, and fostering informed decision-making. The United Nations General Assembly designated September 28 as IDUAI in 2019, following the lead of UNESCO, which had established this observance in 2015. Irfan Banka, Anthropologist and Founder of J&K RTI Foundation, stressed this year's theme, "the importance of the online space for access to information." He drew attention to the J&K Government's efforts in making 1028 services available online and

urged for the provision of Online RTI Facilities (e-RTI Service) to enable citizens to exercise their right to information efficiently in the digital age. Sheikh Maqbool, Columnist and Co-founder of J&K RTI Foundation, reiterated the organization's commitment to the goals of the Right to Information Act, emphasizing the need for widespread awareness about this fundamental right. Sajad Hussain, Co-founder of J&K RTI Foundation, asserted that the Right to Information is an essential right, and citizens should actively exercise it to ensure transparency and accountability in governance. Aaqib Bashir and Ishfaq Majeed, members of RTI Pend, showcased the pivotal role of the RTI Pend initiative in raising awareness about the Right to Information among the public. The J&K RTI Foundation remains committed to its mission of promoting transparency, accountability, and informed decision-making through the effective use of the Right to Information Act.

## FROM PAGE 1

### 'Ganja', cell phones among contraband most frequently smuggled into prisons: Parliamentary Committee on Home Affairs

contraband into the prison. The committee has also noted that the prison staffs are helping the prisoners to get the contraband inside the prison. Keeping in view the negative impact the contrabands can have on reformation of prisoners, the committee recommended enhancing frisking standards in all the state prisons. "MHA should set benchmark frisking standards to curb the entry of contraband articles and in turn prevent gang wars. All the state and UT governments shall comply with such standards," recommends the committee. Further, it suggested the use of drones in prisons to keep aerial surveillance of the prison premises, and sniffer dog squads for detecting contraband. The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs is chaired by Bharatiya Janata Party MP Briljal who is also a former DGP of UP Police. The committee held six meetings on the subject and interacted with the representatives of the Ministry of Home Affairs, domain experts on the subject, and various state governments. The committee also collected information from all the states and UTs on the issues

### BJP is shying away from polls in J&K: Omar Abdullah

and urban body polls. The recent attacks on the security forces in Kulgam, Kokernag and Srinagar City are believed to have prompted a rethinking on these polls otherwise scheduled to be held in November-December this year. Centre transfers Srinagar SSP Rakesh Balwal to Manipur has been tense for the past few months. He took charge as Srinagar SSP in late 2021. "The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs for premature repatriation of Rakesh Balwal, IPS, from AGMUT cadre to Manipur cadre," an official order said. Before taking charge as Srinagar SSP, Balwal was on deputation with the NIA for three-and-half years as superintendent of police and was a member of the team that investigated the 2019 Pulwama terror attack in which 40 CRPF personnel lost their lives. More than 180 people have been killed and several hundred injured since ethnic violence broke out in Manipur on May 3, when a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against

### PUNJAB | Congress MLA Sukhpal Khaira arrested in 2015 drugs case

the majority Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status. A fresh bout of violence, this time led by students, broke out in the state capital on Tuesday after photos of the bodies of two youths who went missing in July went viral on social media. Violent protests continued till the early hours of Thursday with a mob vandalising the deputy commissioner's office in Imphal West and torching two four-wheelers, officials said. On Wednesday night, the protesters clashed with security personnel in Uripok, Yaikul, Sagolband and Tera areas, prompting the forces to fire several rounds of tear gas shells to control the situation, they said. absence of Chandigarh Police during the Punjab Police action. In a post on X, Warring said, "The recent arrest of MLA Sukhpal Khaira ji smacks of political vendetta. It is an attempt to intimidate the opposition and is a ploy of the AAP government in Punjab to distract (people) from core issues. We stand strongly with Sukhpal Khaira and will take this fight to its logical conclusion." Bajwa said, "The arrest of senior Congress leader Sukhpal Khaira is extremely deplorable. The AAP government in Punjab has stooped to an all-time low and resorted to vendetta politics. Sukhpal Singh Khaira has been outspoken and raised his voice against the wrongdoings and irregularities committed by CM Bhagwant Mann's government."

### J&K Police bust gang of burglars, arrests 7 in Kulgam

"The Punjab Congress under the ambit of law will leave no stone unturned to get him released," he added. The drugs case was registered in March 2015 at Jalalabad in Fazilka. Nine people were booked in the case and later convicted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. Police had recovered 2 kg of heroin, 24 gold biscuits, one country-made pistol, a .315-bore pistol and two Pakistani SIM cards from them. Khaira's cropped up later during the police probe. However, in 2017, the Supreme Court stayed the trial court proceedings against Khaira who was summoned as an additional accused in the matter. He was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in 2021 on the charge of money laundering linked to the 2015 drug case. He was granted bail in 2022. In February 2023, the apex court quashed the summoning order against Khaira in the 2015 drugs case. The investigating team was also able to recover stolen property worth lakhs on their instance. The investigation into the matter is in progress as more arrests and recoveries are expected, the police said. Indian Railways announces special trains from Varanasi to Vaishno Devi

### Police arrest drug peddler in Baramulla, contraband recovered

between Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra. Train number 01654 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi - Varanasi Special train will depart from Katra at 11:20 pm every Sunday and will reach Varanasi at 11:55 pm the next day. The train will run from October 22 to November 26, 2023. For the return schedule, the 01653 Varanasi - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Special train will depart Varanasi at 06:20 am every Tuesday and it will reach its destination at 11:20 am the next day. The special train comprises air-conditioned, sleeper, and general-class coaches and it will stop at Ambala Cantt, Ludhiana, Jalandhar Cantt, Pathankot Cantt, Jammu Tawi, and Uthampur stations en route in both directions. one person identified as Ghulam Mohd Bhat, the son of Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, a resident of Khaminderpora Tangmarg (sic). The police spokesperson added that during the search, 55 grams of Charas were recovered from his possession. The police spokesperson further said that he has been arrested and cases under relevant sections of the law have been registered against him. The police spokesperson urged the public to contact the nearest police establishment or dial 112 in case they witness drug peddling or any other crime. "People are requested to cooperate with the police in curbing the menace of drugs in society and we reassure the community members that the police will take tough action against the criminals as per the law," statement reads.

## Govt allows sharing of cable TV infrastructure with broadband service providers

*Notifies amendments to Cable Television Network Rules-1994*

NEW DELHI, Sep 28 (Agencies): The government has notified amendments to the Cable Television Network Rules-1994 that grant registration for multi-system operators for a 10-year period and make the process online through the Broadcast Seva Portal.

The amended rules for MSO registration also enable the sharing of infrastructure by cable operators with broadband service providers to promote Internet penetration to the last mile.

Besides shifting the process of registration and renewal of MSOs to online mode through the Broadcast Seva Portal of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the amended rules make it clear that registration shall be granted or renewed for a period of 10 years.



The processing fee of Rs 1 lakh is kept for the renewal of registration, the rules said.

According to the rules, the application for registration renewal shall be made within a window of seven to two months before the expiry of the registration.

"The renewal procedure is in line with the government's com-

mitment to ease of doing business as it will provide certainty to cable operators to continue their services without interruption and therefore make the sector attractive for foreign investment," an official statement said.

The ministry has further said that MSOs whose registration is expiring within seven months

are required to apply online through the Broadcast Seva Portal.

Earlier, only fresh MSO registrations were granted under the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994.

The rules also did not specify the period of validity for MSO registrations, nor did they recognise the mandatory filing of online applications.

The inclusion of a provision related to the sharing of infrastructure by cable operators with broadband service providers will provide the twin benefits of enhanced internet penetration and efficient utilisation of resources.

It will also reduce the need for additional infrastructure for broadband services, the statement said.

## Retrospective tax demand on gaming firms legally untenable, say experts

NEW DELHI, Sep 28 (Agencies): Legal experts are raising concerns about the demands placed on online gaming and gambling companies in India, totalling over Rs 1 lakh crore (1 trillion), for goods and services tax (GST).

They believe these notices may not withstand legal scrutiny due to several reasons including the retrospective nature of the tax demands.

Experts argue that demanding taxes for past periods raises doubts about the legality of such actions. Moreover, these demands are seen as disregarding the well-established legal distinction between games of skill and games of chance. This distinction has been recognized and upheld by Supreme Court and High Court judgments in the past.

Sudipta Bhattacharjee, a partner at Khaitan & Co, said affected gaming companies would challenge these notices in their jurisdictional high courts. He added that the entire legal basis of the demands appears to be questionable and in violation of previous court rulings.

The notices claim that players participating in games of skill for monetary stakes amount to gambling based on the presence of three elements: the stake, an element of uncertainty, and a higher reward. However, legal experts argue that this test would classify any tournament or competition involving entry fees and prize money as gam-



bling, even if the games played are purely skill-based, such as chess or cricket.

Experts highlight that the tax department seeks to collect GST amounts significantly higher than the total revenues earned by these companies, which appear legally inconsistent and arbitrary. As per Bhattacharjee, the companies may face challenges and delays in navigating through the litigation process, which in turn, would affect their funding and operations.

"Companies in receipt of such notices based on recent amendments, pertaining to past periods, will have to challenge the retrospective demands at the outset before the High Courts. The GST council and GoM took more than 2 years to deliberate and clarify the issue. This indicates that the underlying issue is not of non-compliance or breach but arises on account of lack of clarity," said Sashi Mathews of IndusLaw.

## India's external debt at USD 629.1 billion at June-end: RBI

MUMBAI, Sep 28 (Agencies): India's external debt rose marginally to USD 629.1 billion at June-end 2023, although the debt-GDP ratio declined, according to Reserve Bank data released on Thursday.

The debt rose by about USD 4.7 billion from USD 624.3 billion at March-end. "The external debt to GDP ratio declined to 18.6 per cent at end-June 2023 from 18.8 per cent at end-March 2023," RBI said.

The valuation effect due to the appreciation of the US dollar vis-à-vis the major currencies such as yen and SDR amounted to USD 3.1 billion. US dollar-denominated debt remained the largest component of India's external debt, with a share of 54.4 per cent at end-June 2023, followed by debt denominated in the Indian rupee (30.4 per cent), SDR (5.9 per cent), yen (5.7 per cent), and the euro (3.0 per cent).

Excluding the valuation effect, external debt would have increased by USD 7.8 billion instead of USD 4.7 billion in end-June 2023 over end-March 2023, the central bank said.

According to the data, at end-June 2023, long-term debt (with original maturity of above one year) was placed at USD 505.5 billion, recording an increase of USD 9.6 billion over its level at end of the preceding quarter. The share of short-term debt (with original maturity of up to one year) in total external debt declined to 19.6 per cent at end-June 2023 from 20.6 per cent at end-March 2023. RBI further said the outstanding debt of the general government decreased, while non-government debt increased at end-June 2023. The share of outstanding debt of non-financial corporations in total external debt was the highest at 39.8 per cent, followed by deposit-taking corporations (except the central bank) (26.6 per cent), general government (21.1 per cent) and other financial corporations (7.6 per cent).

Further, loans remained the largest component of external debt, with a share of 32.9 per cent, followed by currency and deposits, trade credit and advances and debt securities.

## Asian Paints non-executive director Ashwin Dani dies at 79

NEW DELHI, Sep 28 (Agencies): Ashwin Dani, non-executive director of Asian Paints, died on Thursday at the age of 79.

Dani maintained his position on Asian Paints' board of directors in a non-executive capacity after the company officially appointed Deepak Satwalekar as the Chairman of the Board on June 23, 2021.

On June 23, 2021, the Asian Paints board granted approval for the appointment of Deepak Satwalekar as Chairman of the Board, while announcing that Ashwin Dani would continue to serve as a non-executive/promoter director on the company's board.

Asian Paints confirmed the development in a stock exchange filing. "With deep regret, we inform you that Mr. Ashwin Dani, Non-Executive Director of the Company, left for heavenly abode today, on account of brief illness," the company said.

"Mr. Ashwin Dani was associated with the Company since 1968 and has been a strong force in heralding the Company to technological excellence.



He joined the Company's Board in 1970. He held the position of Vice Chairman and Managing Director of the Company from 1998 to 2009," Asian Paints said.

"Since 2009, he continued on the Board as the Non-Executive Director and vice chairman of the Board and the Company. For the period between 2018 to 2021 he held the position of Chairman of the Board and the Company. Mr. Ashwin Dani will always be remembered for his significant contributions to the Company" the statement added.

Under Ashwin Dani's leadership, Asian Paints significantly expanded its global operations, propelling the company to a prominent position in the global paint industry. Notably, he was instrumental in introducing India's first computerized color mixing program.

Ashwin Dani's association with Asian Paints dates back to 1968, when he joined the company founded by his father and three others in 1942. Between December 1998 and March 2009, Dani held the position of Vice-Chairman and Managing Director at the company.

Born in Mumbai, Dani pursued a Bachelor of Science degree from the Institute of Science, University of Mumbai.

He later earned a Master's degree in polymer science from the University of Akron, Ohio, and completed a diploma in color science from Rensselaer Polytechnic in Troy, New York. Before joining Asian Paints, Dani worked as a development chemist at Inmont Corp in Detroit, US.

Ashwin Dani is married to Ina Dani, and together, they have three children.

Their son, Malav Dani, also serves on the board of Asian Paints. Beyond his business endeavors, Ashwin was a devoted yoga practitioner and had a keen interest in art collection. Forbes estimates his family's net worth to be \$7.7 billion.

## Employees' association announces bank strikes

NEW DELHI, Sep 28 (Agencies): All India Bank Employees Association has decided to conduct a series of bank-wise, state-level and all-India strikes from December 4 to January 20, 2024. The strike is against an acute shortage of banking staff and reluctance from banks to hire adequate employees, the union said in a statement.

The union announced a two-day strike from January 19-20, 2024, across the country in all banks, including private banks. Initially, employees from PNB, Punjab & Sind Bank, SBI, Bank of Baroda and Bank of

India, Canara Bank, Central Bank of India, UCO Bank, Indian Bank, Union Bank of India and Bank of Maharashtra have called strike from December 4-8. Later all employees in the union will strike across regions from January 2-6. They have also decided to call a strike on December 11 at all private banks.

In recent years, while the number of customers and total volume of business has increased, the consequent workload on the employees has gone up unbearably as they don't have adequate staff strength in the banks, the union alleged. The vacancies

arising out of retirements, promotions, and deaths are not being filled up and additional staff are not being provided in branches to cope up with the increase in business. Shortage of workforce is also adversely affecting customer satisfaction and resulting in friction and complaints from the customers.

All India Bank Employees Association said there is a deliberate attempt on the part of the government and banks to reduce the number of employees in clerical and subordinate cadres in banks and to increase the number of supervisory staff.

## Decoded: Why your face feels 'tight' after being washed

NEW YORK, Sep 28 (Agencies): Ever wondered why the skin on your face feels tight after washing with a cleanser? Research shows it is due to contraction of the stratum corneum, the outermost layer of our skin.

Skin is the largest organ in the body and it's constantly exposed to the environment around us. The stratum corneum acts as a barrier to keep out unwanted chemicals and bacteria and to keep up the moisture.

Researchers at Stanford University in the US show how mechanical changes in the outer surface of our skin translates into sensations and provides a quantitative approach for determining how people will perceive their skin after using a moisturiser or cleanser.

"This work provides a new understanding of how products affect the physical properties of our skin, which includes not just skin health, but also skin sensorial perception. That's a significant advance," said Reinhold Dauskardt, Professor in Stanford's Department of Materials Science and Engineering.

The team predicted that the mechanical forces created by this shrinking or swelling propagates through the skin to reach mechanoreceptors (a sense organ) below the epidermis, which then fire off signals to the brain that we interpret as a feeling of skin tightness.

In the study, published in 'PNAS Nexus' journal, researchers studied the effects of nine different moisturising formulas and six different cleansers on donor skin samples from three locations on the human body—cheek, forehead, and abdomen.

They measured changes in the stratum corneum in the lab and then fed that information into a sophisticated model of human skin to predict the signals that the mechanoreceptors would send.

The predictions from their analysis lined up almost perfectly with what people reported in human trials for each formula. Collaborators at L'Oréal Research and Innovation recruited 2,000 women in France to assess the nine moisturisers and 700 women in China to assess the six cleansers. The participants ranked their perceived feelings of skin tightness after using the formula they were given. "The ability to understand and predict how people will feel after using a skin treatment could help cosmetics companies improve their formulations before bringing in people to test them," said Dauskardt.

## About 70 pc of premature cancer deaths in 2020 preventable, 30 pc treatable: Lancet study

NEW DELHI, Sep 28 (Agencies): About 70 per cent of the 5.3 million premature deaths from cancer globally in 2020 were preventable, while the remaining 30 per cent were treatable, according to a new The Lancet Global Health research.

Of the total deaths, 2.9 million were in men, while 2.3 million were in women, the study said, which had used the GLOBOCAN 2020 database on cancer mortality from the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) for analysis.

The IARC conducts and coordinates research into the causes of cancer and is an inter-governmental agency under the World Health Organisation of the United Nations.

Tobacco, alcohol, obesity, and infections accounted for roughly 1.3 million deaths in women across all age groups in 2020, the study reported, acknowledging that the burden of cancer in women due to these risk factors was widely under-recognised.

Further, the study suggested that 1.5 million premature cancer deaths in women could be prevented each year through the elimination of exposures to key risk factors or via early detection and diagnosis, while a further 0.8 million lives could be saved each year if all women had access to optimal cancer care.

This study is a global estimation of the burden of premature, preventable, and treatable deaths from 36 cancer types in 2020 in 185 countries, by world region and Human Development Index (HDI).

"Discussion about cancer in women often focus on 'women's cancers', such as breast and cervical cancer, but about 3,00,000 women under 70 die each year from lung cancer, and 1,60,000 from colorectal cancer: two of the top three causes of cancer death among women, globally.

"Furthermore, for the last few decades in many high income countries, deaths from lung

cancer in women have been higher than deaths from breast cancer," said study author Isabelle Soerjomataram, Deputy Branch Head of Cancer Surveillance at IARC.

Greater scrutiny of the causes and risk factors for cancer in women is also needed as they are less well understood compared with cancer risk factors for men, the study said.

Further, it said, growing evidence suggests links between commercial products predominantly used by women, including breast implants, skin lighteners and hair relaxers, and an enhanced cancer risk.

According to a new Lancet Commission report, gender inequality and discrimination influence women's rights and opportunities to avoid cancer risk factors and impede their ability to seek and obtain timely diagnosis and quality cancer care.

Further, gender inequalities have resulted in an unpaid caregiver workforce that is predominantly female, and

hinder women's professional advancement as leaders in cancer research, practice, and policymaking, which in turn perpetuate the lack of women-centred cancer prevention and care, the report said.

"The impact of a patriarchal society on women's experiences of cancer has gone largely unrecognised. Globally, women's health is often focused on reproductive and maternal health, aligned with narrow anti-feminist definitions of women's value and roles in society, while cancer remains wholly under-represented," said study author Ophira Ginsburg, co-Chair of the Commission.

"There are important factors specific to women which contribute to this substantial global burden – by addressing these through a feminist approach we believe this will reduce the impact of cancer for all," said Verna Vanderpuye, senior consultant at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, Ghana, and co-chair of the Commission.

## Air pollution may spur risk of stroke within 5 days: Study

NEW YORK, Sep 28 (Agencies): Short-term exposure to air pollution, defined as occurring within five days of the stroke, can significantly increase the risk of stroke, according to a new study.

In the study, researchers from University of Jordan in Amman looked at pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide, ozone, carbon monoxide and sulphur dioxide as well as different sizes of particulate matter, including PM1, which is air pollution that is less than 1 micron (µm) in diameter, as well as PM2.5 and PM10.

The team found higher concentrations of nitrogen dioxide were linked to a 28 per cent increased risk of stroke; higher ozone levels were linked to a 5 per cent increase; carbon monoxide had a 26 per cent increase; and sulphur dioxide had a 15 per cent increase.

Along with this higher concentration of PM1 was linked to a 9 per cent increased risk of stroke, with PM2.5 at 15 per cent and PM10 at 14 per cent.

Their findings, published in the journal *Neurology*, is based on a review of 110 studies that included more than 18 million cases of stroke.

The team also found that higher levels of air pollution were linked to higher risk of death from stroke.

Higher concentrations of nitrogen dioxide were linked to a 33 per cent increased risk of death from stroke, sulphur dioxide, a 60 per cent increase, PM2.5, a 9 per cent increase and PM10, a 2 per cent increase.

"There is a strong and significant association between air pollution and the occurrence of stroke as well as death from stroke within five days of exposure," said Ahmad Toubasi, study author, MD of the University of Jordan in Amman.

"This highlights the importance of global efforts to create policies that reduce air pollution. Doing so may reduce the number of strokes and their consequences," Toubasi added.

## Not confused as a team, know our plans: Indian skipper Rohit Sharma

RAJKOT, Sep 28 (Agencies): Indian captain Rohit Sharma says he believes in giving opportunities to everyone before the big tournament as this will help them to win the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

India lost their third ODI match against Australia by 66 runs on Wednesday. However, they sealed the series by 2-1.

Ahead of the World Cup, India in a three-match series made many changes and gave every player a match practice. In the post-match presentation, Rohit Sharma said that he wants to give opportunity to every player and this could make them win the World Cup.

"I'm pretty happy, of course I would like to go all the way along but if I'm hitting like that I'm happy. The last 7-8 ODIs we have played really well, we have been challenged under different conditions and different teams, I thought we responded to that challenge pretty well. Unfortunately not the result we wanted today. [On Bumrah] I'm pretty happy, more importantly how he feels body-wise, he has got so much skill, one bad game can



happen to anyone. How he feels mentally and body-wise is key for us and that's looking good for us" the Indian captain said.

"When we talk about the 15 we are very clear what we want. We are not confused; we know where we are headed as a team. It's a team sport and we want everyone to come and play their part - that's how we win championships. It's about looking after the body and try and stay fresh for the next one and half months," Sharma said.

In the match, Rohit tapping

into his prime form, taking on the bowlers, and dealing effectively with the left-arm pacers will be a major takeaway for the Indian team.

While chasing a mammoth target of 353, a major shuffle in the batting set-up saw the skipper opening with Washington Sundar who failed to impress with the ball in the first innings.

Rohit looked dangerous right from the beginning, he stepped out of his crease, made room to open his arms and scored maximums.

His six sixes in his quick-fire 81 off 57 balls showcased his talent and raw hitting power. Unlike Mitchell Marsh, he didn't run out of steam, but Maxwell's blinder brought an end to his impactful innings.

Virat Kohli also announced his return with a bang as he swiftly put runs on the board, troubling the bowlers on each possible occasion.

But it was Maxwell once again who provided the much-needed breakthrough with his unexpected off-breaks and dismissed Kohli for 56. Shreyas Iyer looked in fine touch but fell to Maxwell for 48.

The rest of the game was a clinical bowling performance and impressive fielding from the Australian players at the boundary to break their 5-match losing streak and register a consolation win.

Earlier, opener David Warner's explosive fifty followed by outstanding batting by Mitchell Marsh, Marnus Labuschagne and Steve Smith powered Australia to score a mammoth total of 352/7 against India.

## Sri Lankan cricketer Danushka Gunathilaka found not guilty of rape charges in Australian court case



SYDNEY, Sep 28 (Agencies): Sri Lankan cricket international Danushka Gunathilaka has been found not guilty of raping a woman he met on a dating site during the south Asian team's tour of Australia last November.

Judge Sarah Huggett acquitted the 32-year-old player as he sat at Sydney's Downing Centre District Court on Thursday listening to the decision.

Huggett found that the alleged victim, who cannot be legally named, was an intelligent witness who did not deliberately give false evidence about the use of a condom but was motivated by a desire to paint the cricketer in an unfavourable light.

"I find that the evidence regarding the complaint far from supports the com-

plaintant. Rather it undermines the reliability of her evidence," she said.

Gunathilaka and the woman met for drinks at a bar before having pizza together in downtown Sydney and catching a ferry to the woman's home in the city's eastern suburbs.

The woman accused him of various acts of aggression and violence. Police initially brought four charges against the 32-year-old, who was arrested at a city hotel just hours before Sri Lankan team was due to fly out home on November 6.

Prosecutors later dropped three of those charges.

Gunathilaka maintained his innocence, pleading not guilty to one count of sexual intercourse without consent.

During the judge-alone trial, defence lawyers attacked the credibility of the woman, claiming her story shifted over time and that she edited her version of events to paint Gunathilaka as an aggressive person.

Gunathilaka had been on bail during the trial, but was unable to play international cricket or return to his hometown of Colombo in Sri Lanka.

He travelled to Australia with Sri Lanka's ICC T20 World Cup squad last year, but only played in the team's first game before being ruled out of the tournament with a hamstring injury.

## Asian Games 2023: Roshibina Devi Naorem wins silver after losing to Xiaowei Wu in women's 60Kg final

HANGZHOU, Sep 28 (Agencies): India's Roshibina Devi Naorem, on Thursday, won the silver medal in the women's 60Kg event in wushu in the ongoing Asian Games 2023. Roshibina had a chance to win India's maiden gold medal in the sport in the history of the championship. However, India's wait prolonged after Roshibina lost 0-2 to China's Xiaowei Wu.

Earlier, India won seven medals in wushu in the Asian Games, but they lost in finals every other time. Back in 2010, Sandhyarani Devi Wangkhem was the last Indian to take part in the Asian Games final in wushu and lost to Iran's Azadpour Khadijeh in the final of the women's 60kg sandal event in Guangzhou.

Back in the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta, she clinched the bronze medal in the sanda 60kg category. In the 2019 South Asian Games, Roshibina finished on top in the 60Kg event, but failed to replicate the same in the Hangzhou games.



Born in the Bishnupur district of Manipur, Roshibina's journey to international recognition was not an easy one. From a young age, she displayed a natural inclination towards fighting, often engaging in playful fights with boys in her neighborhood. This early exposure to combat paved the way for her future career in wushu.

Roshibina's talent and determination led her to defy the odds and make her mark on the international stage. She has represented India in various prestigious tournaments, earning accolades for her exceptional

performance. In the 9th Asian Junior Wushu Championships held in Gumi, South Korea, she won a gold medal, marking a significant milestone in her career.

In addition to her achievements, Roshibina is also known for her grit and determination. Her commitment to her sport is so profound that she has been quoted saying she is ready to 'give her life' for it. As of September 2023, she continues to be a prominent figure in the world of wushu, inspiring many with her journey from a humble background to international fame.

## "If There's Any Change...": Rahul Dravid On R Ashwin's Possible World Cup Inclusion

RAJKOT, Sep 28 (Agencies): India coach Rahul Dravid is relieved that key players such as Jasprit Bumrah, KL Rahul and Shreyas Iyer, who are all coming back from injuries, could get enough miles in their legs ahead of the ODI World Cup, starting in a week's time. Bumrah, who was troubled by a back issue that kept him out for long, bowled his full quota of overs in Mohali and Rajkot - the two matches he played against Australia - but was a bit expensive in the series-concluding third ODI.

The fast bowler had made a comeback during the T20 series against Ireland last month and also competed in Asia Cup in Sri Lanka.

Iyer, who is expected to bat at number four, struck a hundred in Indore and also contributed 48 in Rajkot.

Rahul not only batted in an impressive fashion, scoring two half centuries, he also kept the wickets, allaying concerns around his fitness.

"For all those guys game-time was impor-



tant. The fact that they have been able to get that is I think something that we are much better off for it," Dravid said after the third ODI that India lost by 66 runs.

"Jassi has been able to play a couple of games and bowl his quota of 10 overs, Siraj (was) suffering from a little bit of bug but he got back and was able to bowl," he said.

"(For) Ashwin, it was really nice to see the way he bowled in the first two games. KL as well, the keeping right through the 50 overs, he is coming off after almost 6-7 months.

"Shreyas has played a couple of really good knocks in the last couple of games. We know we have to keep improving but also hope that we carry this momentum

into the World Cup," the India coach added.

Off-spinner R Ashwin's inclusion in the squad for the Australia series had triggered speculation that he might be included in the final World Cup squad. However, Dravid was non-committal. All the teams are required to finalise their World Cup squads by Thursday.

"We have to wait for an official confirmation or a decision on that. The NCA is in touch with the selectors and Ajit (Agarkar) so I will not make any comments on that. If there is any change you will get to hear about it officially, as of now there are no changes," Dravid said, hinting that Axar Patel will be retained in the 15-man squad.

The India coach expects India's full-strength squad to assemble in Guwahati ahead of the first warm-up match against England on September 30.

India had only 13 players to pick their final eleven against Australia here on Wednesday as some members Shardul Thakur, Hardik Pandya and Mohammed Shami returned home while Ishan Kishan missed the contest due to a bug going around in the group "The two practice or warm-up games, generally people play 15 versus 15, it is tough to sometimes get the intensity in those games but as we have seen in these three games, in hot conditions there has been a lot of intensity as well," Dravid added.

"There was a bit of juggling we had to manage in this game but I am hoping that we have got about a week, we have got a few days. We should have the full strength squad, hopefully the bug around the group has cleared out as well. It will be nice if that happens," the coach said.

Talking about the big loss in the Rajkot ODI, Dravid blamed it on giving away too many runs in the first half of the Australian innings.

"In the overall scheme of things probably 350 was 30 (runs) too many. We should have been chasing 320 if we had bowled better in the first half," he said.

Rohit Sharma (81) and Virat Kohli (56) added 70 runs but the team lost the plot after their partnership was broken. Dravid, however, was pleased to see the two senior batters were among runs right after a break.

"We were on par when Virat and Rohit were batting. We needed one of the top three to get 130 or 140. In these chases you need these kinds of scores," he said.

"Unfortunately it did not happen, but a good thing from our perspective is that both of them batted really well - that is a positive. They are coming off not playing cricket for a week so it was nice to get straight into it and get runs for us," he said.

## Asian Games 2023, Badminton: PV Sindhu leads Indian women's team to quarter-finals

The Indian women's badminton team delivered a resounding victory, defeating Mongolia 3-0 to reach quarterfinals at the Asian Games.



HANGZHOU, Sep 28 (Agencies): The Indian women's badminton team defeated Mongolia 3-0 to advance into the quarterfinals of the team championships of the Asian Games 2023 on Thursday. Star Indian shuttler PV Sindhu displayed her prowess by defeating

Myagmartseren Ganbaatar, Mongolia's 775th-ranked player, 21-2, 21-3 in the opening match of the India vs. Mongolia women's team badminton tie.

Following Sindhu's triumph, Ashmita Chaliha, a champion in women's singles at the South

Asian Games, continued India's dominance by securing a 2-0 lead in the tie. Chaliha defeated Kherlen Darkhanbaatar with identical scores of 21-2 and 21-3.

In the third match, the young talent Anupama Upadhyaya, aged 18, sealed the victory for India with an impressive performance, winning 21-0 and 21-2 against Khulanguo Baatar. This result led India to a 3-0 win in the round of 16.

India will face a formidable Thailand in the quarterfinals.

With former world champion Ratchanok Intanon, world no. 12 Pornpawee Chochuwong and world no. 17 Supanida Katethong in their ranks, it will be a tough task for India to tame the Thailand team. Looking ahead, PV Sindhu and her team will face Thailand in the women's team quarter-final tomorrow at 6:30 AM IST.

## Asian Games 2023, Shooting: India win gold in Men's 10m Air Pistol Team event



HANGZHOU, Sep 28 (Agencies): The Indian trio of Sarabjot Singh, Shiva Narwal, and Arjun Singh Cheema won gold in the Men's 10m Air Pistol Team event by securing a total score of 1734. Their remarkable performance allowed them to clinch the team gold, narrowly edging out China by just one point.

Vietnam put up a strong showing

and claimed the bronze medal with a total score of 1730. Sarabjot, who earned 580 points, secured the fifth position, while Arjun, with 578 points, claimed the eighth spot during the individual qualification event. Both of them are set to compete in the men's 10m air pistol final scheduled for later today.

This was the third team gold at the shooting ranges here after the

10m air rifle top-podium finish and women's 25-metre pistol gold.

Sarabjot, the 22-year-old, who won his first individual senior gold medal at the ISSF World Cup in Bhopal earlier this year, will be gunning for more success in the individual section as he is placed fifth among the eight finalists after the qualification round.

Sarabjot, whose success story started in 2021 when he won the junior air pistol team and mixed team gold at the ISSF World Championships in Lima, Peru in 2021, has been performing consistently ever since, bagging the mixed team gold at the recently-concluded World Championships in Baku, Azerbaijan. He shot series of 95, 95, 97, 98, 97 and 98 to aggregate 580.

Team-mate Arjun Cheema shot series of 97, 96, 97, 97, 96 and 95 for his 578 to also make it to the finals, placed eighth.

This marks India's 24th medal in the current edition of the Asian Games and their fourth gold medal in the sport of shooting.

## Rahul Sahai meets CEO Shrine Board; seeks cooperation to enhance pilgrim stay in Jammu

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 28: Rahul Sahai, the Chair of PHDCCI Jammu, recently held a meeting with Anshul Garg, CEO of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, to discuss ways to extend the duration of pilgrims' stay in Jammu. The meeting aimed to explore avenues for boosting the economy of Jammu by promoting tourism and showcasing the various tourist attractions the city has to offer.

Jammu, often referred to as the City of Temples, is renowned for its rich cultural heritage and is home to the famous Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Temple. Sahai highlighted the need to leverage this popularity to extend the stay of religious tourists in Jammu. In addition to visiting the Vaishno Devi Temple, Sahai proposed showcasing



other tourist destinations in Jammu such as Jamboo Zoo, Sri Venkateshwara Swamy Temple in Sidhra (also known as Tirupati Balaji Temple), Jammu Tawi Golf Course, Beating Retreat at Suchetgarh, Gandola at Jammu, Raghunath Temple, Bawe Mata Temple, Baghe Bahu Light & Sound Show, Kol Kandoli Temple, Patnitop, Sana-sar, Bani, Basoli, Kishtwar, Bhaderwah, Inter-

national Yoga Centre at Mantalai, and Shiv Khori, among others. Sahai also noted the lack of hoardings along the Nandani-Katra road to promote Jammu's tourist destinations. He suggested utilizing LED screens in Katra bazaars, the Ban Ganga to Bhawan road, the railway station of Katra, and other high-traffic areas to display videos and information about these destinations.

To further facilitate planning and encourage longer stays, Sahai proposed sending detailed documents on Jammu's attractions, including links for bookings, to pilgrims' mobile numbers and email addresses. Physical pamphlets containing the same information should also be distributed to the pilgrims.

During the meeting, Anshul Garg, CEO of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, expressed his gratitude for the suggestions put forth by PHDCCI. He assured that the recommendations would be taken into consideration, acknowledging the government's enthusiasm for extending pilgrims' stay in Jammu and Katra. Garg emphasized the importance of platforms like PHDCCI in planning programs to further discuss and address this issue.

## District Level Biodiversity Management Committee meeting held in Doda

### TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA, Sep 28: The District Level Biodiversity Management Committee in Doda recently convened a meeting to discuss important matters related to biodiversity conservation.

Chaired by Dhanan-ter Singh Kotwal, the District Development Council Chairman of Doda, the meeting saw the presence of other committee members, including Miss Sangeeta Bhagat (Vice Chairperson DDC Doda), Bipna Manhas, Jaya Rani Katoch, Sumit Kotwal, and Forest Officers Ravinder Singh, DFO Doda, and Chander Shekhar, DFO Bhadarwah. The primary focus of the meeting was to deliberate on the collection fees and levy imposed on Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) as per the Biodiversity Act of 2002.

During the meeting, the committee engaged in a comprehensive discussion on the NTFP policy and highlighted the importance of raising public awareness to promote sustainable collection and utilization of MFP and other



bio resources. As part of this objective, it was decided to organize an event in the Dessa area of Doda Forest Division, Bhadarwah Forest Division, and the Bhalessa Forest Division in order to create widespread understanding and awareness of the NTFP policy.

Two key issues were addressed during the meeting. Firstly, the committee thoroughly examined the provisions of the Biodiversity Act and its associated rules regarding the collection of minor forest produce. It was resolved

that the committee will strictly adhere to the provisions of the act, ensuring transparency and effectiveness in the collection process.

Secondly, the committee agreed to approach the State Biodiversity Council to advocate for the inclusion of additional minor forest produce and cedar oil extraction within the levy collection purview of the respective Biodiversity Management Committees of the Panchayats. This step aims to enhance sustainability and conservation efforts in the region.

The District Level Biodiversity Committee

meeting emphasized the importance of biodiversity preservation and sustainable development. With a focus on collection fees, levies, and the inclusion of various forest produce, the committee aims to strengthen biodiversity conservation measures and ensure the well-being of both the ecosystem and local communities. By raising awareness and enforcing the NTFP policy, they demonstrate the significance of cooperative efforts among stakeholders in achieving long-term sustainability goals.

## Shiv Sena pays tributes to Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh, urges youth to eradicate social evils

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 28: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit today paid glorious tributes to the brave son of Mother India, Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh, on his birth anniversary and urged the youth to come forward to eradicate societal evils.

During the program organized at Party's Central Office in Jammu, State President Manish Sahni along with party leaders and workers paid their heartfelt tributes to the heroic martyr, Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh. Shiv Sena leaders read out quotes such as "Our hearts long for revolution" and "Fortunate



are those who sacrifice for the nation, for they become immortal even in death."

Sahni encouraged the youth to consider Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh as a role model and emphasized the importance of patriotism and eradicating vices like addiction

from society.

Later, several prominent personalities influenced by the party's policies and ideologies, joined the party fold and pledged their support on this occasion.

Sahni warmly welcomed them into the party fold and hoped that their joining will

strengthen the party base.

Prominent figures like General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Vice President Balwant Singh, Vikas Dewan, President Kamghar wing Raj Singh, Mangu Ram, Tarsem Lal, Bhair Singh were present on this occasion.

## Jammu climber Shivani to represent India in Asian Games

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 28: Shivani Charak, an ace sport climber of J&K, has been selected by Indian Mountaineering Foundation, New Delhi, the apex body for adventure sports in the country, for participation in the 19th Asian Games Hangzhou, China.

She is among the three men and four women climbers of India who shall participate in Lead and Speed climbing and Bouldering.

The other climbers are Bharat Pereira of Karnataka, Aman Verma of Tata Adventure



Academy, Jamshedpur, Viraj of Army, Shivpreet of Punjab, Saniya Farooque Sheikh of Maharashtra and Anisha Verma of Tata Adventure Academy, Jamshedpur. Bibhas Roy from Tata

Adventure Sports Academy is the coach of the team.

Whereas Shivani Charak and Saniya Sheikh shall compete in Lead Climbing and Bouldering the other two women climbers Shiv Preet and Anisha Verma shall compete in speed climbing only.

Whereas five climbers Aman Verma, Viraj, Shiv Preet, Anisha Verma and Saniya Shekh have already reached Hangzhou along with the coach, the remaining two climbers Bharat Pereira and Shivani Charak along with

Chairman of National Sport Climbing Committee Kirti Pais shall leave for Hangzhou, China tomorrow.

The Sport Climbing Competitions of the Asian Games are scheduled to begin from 3rd October, 2023.

Meanwhile, members of the Mountaineering Association of J&K and Tawi Trekkers J&K led by Zorawar Singh Jamwal, Ram Khajuria and Shawetica Khajuria have congratulated Shivani Charak for the grand achievement and wished her all the best for the Asian Games.

## Samvedna Society organizes free heart check-up camp

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 28: Samvedna Society Jammu, in collaboration with Medanta Hospital Gurgaon, organized a free heart check-up camp at Sheela Resorts Talab Tillo.

The camp was held under the leadership of Chairman Samvedna Society, Keshav Chopra, and was inaugurated by Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sandeep Seointra (JKAS), along with former Minister Sat Sharma CA, accompanied by Municipal Councillors Parmod Kapahi, Sanjay Baru, Jeet Angral, Neelam Nargotra, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, and others.

A team of medical experts, including a Cardiologist and Physician, examined the local residents of Talab Tillo. PFT (Pulmonary Function Test), ECG, Blood Sugar, Blood Pressure, and other tests were



conducted free of cost. The camp aimed to provide the best healthcare services to people at their doorstep. More than 152 patients were examined by the Cardiologist, and approximately 110 were examined by the Physicians.

Speaking at the event, ADC Jammu Sandeep Seointra appreciated the efforts of Samvedna Society and emphasized the importance of orga-

nizations like Samvedna in providing assistance and care to people. He also highlighted the significance of routine health check-ups and commended the society's initiative to offer voluntary services to the community.

Sat Sharma, speaking at the occasion, praised the efforts of Samvedna Society in providing top-notch medical facilities to the people. He urged

individuals to prioritize their health and emphasized the need for creating awareness about heart diseases.

Keshav Chopra, in his remarks, reiterated Samvedna Society's commitment to providing exceptional healthcare facilities to the common people. He assured that he and his team would continue to organize free medical camps for the community in the

future.

Also present at the event were Dr. Arvind Sharma (Physician), Dr. Ankur Kaushik (Cardiologist), Sandeep Singh Jamwal (Assistant Manager Marketing), Manshu Skolia, Fiza Mandi, Saniya Sharma, Priya Sharma, Hritick, Rinkal Manhas, Nazia Kosar, Ishrat, Vikas Kumar, Akash Sharma, Sushil Gupta, Manoj, Divyansh, and others.

## Peoples Party United announces its state unit

### TOP NEWS REPORT

KISHTWAR, Sep 28: Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Party United (PPU) held Jam-packed press conference under the leadership of its State President Ashiq Hussain Beigh announced its state unit with Party General Secretary Advocate Mohammad Aslam Choudhary, Senior Vice-president and Chief Spokesperson Advocate Qazi Ayaz, State Vice President Iqbal Hussain Lone, State General Secretary women wing Fareeda Quraishi, State Secretary SC ST Wing Mohammad Rafiq Sheikh, Fayaz Ahmad Bhat State secretary, Mohammad Ashraf Lone Provisional President Youth Wing Jammu, Mohammad Rafiq Bhat, Organiser Chenab valley, Ishfaq Bashir Wani, Youth president Kupwara, Fayaz Ahmad Thoker,

Treasurer and Sheikh Tanver youth President District Ganderbal.

The PPU was formed in the year 2014 by its founder Late Ghulam Rasool Doolwal resident of Kishtwar. Party contested the state Assembly elections of 2014 as well as parliamentary elections in the year 2019 however due to the sudden death of its founder the party could not continue its activities. The party was restructured and relaunched by forming an interim state body comprising of above named members and accordingly relaunching announcement was made by its President today at his residence Chhatrahama Dargah Srinagar.

It was announced that the party will bring its manifesto before the people very shortly and it was also announced that

the party will participate in the ensuing ULB, Panchayat, Parliamentary, and Assembly elections from all the seats.

It was also announced that the party has representation from all the regions of Jammu, Kashmir, Chenab valley, Pirpanjal and is not based on hereditary devolution. The party will carry on its mission under the democratic set up and with the nation first slogan however it was ruled out that the party has any affiliation with any other political party.

It was reiterated that the party will contest elections from all the seats and will form the next government in the state however chances of coalition are open with party which emerge as largest one. Party will provide tickets to all those who perform their duties clearly in the field.