

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

### Two mortar shells found along IB in Kathua

KATHUA/JAMMU, Sep 29 (Agencies): Two old mortar shells were found in a farm along the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district on Friday, officials said.

A farmer found the two live mortar shells while ploughing his farm in Patti Meru hamlet along the IB in Hiranagar sector, they said.

The farmer informed the police and BSF, who swung into action and recovered the two shells, they said.

The mortar shells were safely defused.

### Delhi jewellery heist: Two held in Chhattisgarh; 18.5 kg gold and diamond ornaments, Rs 12.5 lakh recovered

NEW DELHI/RAIPUR, Sep 29 (Agencies): The Chhattisgarh Police have arrested two persons in connection with a Rs 20-crore burglary from a jewellery store in New Delhi earlier this week and recovered around 18.5 kg gold and diamond ornaments from them, a senior official said on Friday.

A joint team of officials from the anti-crime and cyber unit and the Civil Line police station in Bilaspur district carried out the operation while probing a series of thefts in Bilaspur city, Superintendent of Police Santosh Singh told PTI.

The arrested persons have been identified as Lokesh Srivas, who is allegedly involved in seven thefts in Bilaspur, and Shiva Chandravanshi, he said. Acting on a tip-off about Srivas being present in Kawardha town of Chhattisgarh's Kabirdham district, the team conducted a raid there on Wednesday and arrested Chandravanshi along with ornaments worth Rs 23 lakh, he said.

By that time, Srivas had managed to escape, the SP said.

The team then tracked down Srivas to a house under the Smritinagar police station jurisdiction in Durg district and recovered 18.5 kg of gold and diamond jewellery and

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## Over 2500 dead, missing as 186,000 people cross Mediterranean to Europe in 2023

NEW YORK, Sep 29 (Agencies): Over 2,500 people died or have gone missing while trying to cross the Mediterranean to Europe so far this year, reported Al Jazeera citing the United Nations Refugee Agency.

However, approximately 186,000 people arrived in European countries during the same duration.

Ruven Menikdiwela, director of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office in New York, told the UN Security Council that out of the 186,000 people who crossed the Mediterranean, 83 per cent, which makes around 130,000 people landed in Italy, Al Jazeera reported.

Adding to this, she noted that people also



landed in some other countries including Greece, Spain, Cyprus and Malta.

Compared to last year, the number of people who died or went missing during the sea crossing has increased this year, the Security Council was told, reported Al Jazeera.

The number of those who died or went missing during the dangerous sea crossing has surged

this year compared with last year, the Security Council was told.

"By September 24, over 2,500 people were accounted as dead or missing in 2023 alone," Menikdiwela said. That number marked a large increase over the 1,680 who died or went missing in the same period in 2022.

Menikdiwela further said that the UN Refugee Agency saw "no

end in sight" to the lives lost at sea and on land routes to Europe, which are similarly dangerous.

She explained to the council how the land journey from sub-Saharan African countries to sea crossing departure points on the Tunisian and Libyan coasts "remains one of the world's most dangerous", Al Jazeera reported.

"Lives are also lost on land, away from public attention," Menikdiwela added.

According to the UNHCR official, the migrants and refugees "risk death and gross human rights violations at every step."

Reportedly this year, over 102,000 people attempted to cross the Mediterranean from

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## 52 killed, 58 injured in suicide blast near mosque in Pakistan's Balochistan



QUETTA, Sep 29 (Agencies): A suicide bombing in Pakistan killed at least 52 people and injured more than 50 on Friday at a religious gathering to mark the birthday of Prophet Mohammed in a restive province bordering Afghanistan, health officials and police said.

No group has claimed responsibility for the blast which comes amid

a surge in attacks by militant groups in western Pakistan, raising the stakes for security forces ahead of national elections scheduled for January next year.

"The bomber detonated himself near the vehicle of the Deputy Superintendent of Police," Deputy Inspector General of Police Munir Ahmed told Reuters.

The blast ripped

through near a mosque in Balochistan province where people were gathered for a procession to mark Mohammed's birthday, which is a public holiday, Ahmed added.

At least 58 people were wounded, said Abdul Rasheed, a district health official, adding that the toll could rise as many people were in a serious condition.

Pakistan has seen a resurgence of attacks by Islamist militants since last year when a ceasefire broke down between the government and the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), an umbrella organisation of various hardline Sunni Islamist groups.

The TTP denied

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## Dengue outbreak hits Jammu

JAMMU, Sep 29 (Agencies): Sending across an alarm, a major dengue outbreak has hit Jammu region as the cases are rising sharply, officials said.

Officials revealed that three deaths due to dengue have been reported so far while 73 new dengue cases were reported today taking the total number of Dengue patients in Jammu region to 1886.

Pertinent to mention, 71 dengue cases were reported Wednesday from Jammu region.

Although the Health Department and the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) have been jointly conducting fogging drives in different areas of Jammu, however they are prov-

ing to be ineffective, officials said.

"The Health Department and the JMC have been jointly carrying out fogging drives across Jammu," Director Health Services-Jammu, Rajeev Sharma told Rising Kashmir, adding, "We are hopeful that Dengue spread will be controlled".

Jammu region is the worst affected with the disease, followed by Samba, Kathua and Udhampur as per the number of dengue patients.

Three deaths due to dengue have so far been reported from Jammu region, out of which 2 are from Udhampur, while one death has been reported from

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## People celebrates Eid-Milad-Un-Nabi at Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar



SRINAGAR, Sep 29 (Agencies): The streets filled with people as Eid Milad un-Nabi procession was taken in downtown, Srinagar. The procession started from various mosques in Srinagar and proceeded through the city streets.

People gathered at the Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar to offer prayers on the auspicious day. The streets along the procession routes were

decorated with colourful banners, flags, and lights.

People came out in large numbers to witness and participate in the event. The procession displayed a vibrant display of religious fervour. Devotees offered prayers, chanted hymns, and recited verses from the Holy Quran as they walked. Many people carry colourful banners and posters with reli-

gious messages.

The procession also included floats and decorated vehicles depicting scenes from the life of the Prophet. These floats are adorned with flowers, lights, and religious motifs.

As the procession moves through the city, people join in along the way, swelling the numbers. The atmosphere was filled with joy and enthusiasm, with participants expressing their love and respect for the Prophet.

Earlier on the occasion of Eid-Milad-Un-Nabi, Satnam Singh Sandhu, the convener of the Indian Minorities Foundation (IMF) joined the Muslim community at Sabri Masjid and took part in the mass prayers.

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## Two Punjab residents arrested with drugs in Kulgam



SRINAGAR, Sep 29 (Agencies): Police on Friday arrested two Punjab residents and recovered a large quantity of contraband substances from them in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district.

A police party of police station Qazigund during patrolling noticed two

persons roaming in suspicious condition carrying luggage bags and were intercepted.

Police said after noticing the police party, both tried to flee the spot but were chased and apprehended tactfully.

During the checking of their luggage bags, 19

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## DG CRPF visits Kashmir to assess Operational readiness

SRINAGAR, Sep 29 (Agencies): The Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Sujoy Lal Thaoson, undertook a visit to Kashmir to assess operational readiness and boost the morale of personnel stationed in the region, a spokesman of the Force said on Friday.

The visit of DG CRPF comes almost two weeks after a deadly gun battle in a forest area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district that left two decorated Army officers, a deputy superintendent of police, and a jawan dead.

Two militants, including a top Lashkar-e-Taiba commander who was



behind the killing of the officers, were also shot dead in the operations that lasted for a week.

A CRPF spokesman said the visit of the DG was aimed at assessing operational readiness and boosting the morale of CRPF personnel stationed in the region.

The DG CRPF vis-

ited the Recruit Training Centre (RTC) in Srinagar, now based at Lethpora Pulwama, and a CRPF battalion in south Kashmir.

DG Thaoson was accompanied by Additional Director General (ADG) of Jammu and Kashmir Zone CRPF, Nalin Prabhat, Inspec-

tor General (IG) of Kashmir Operations Sector CRPF, Gyanendra Kumar Verma and IG of Srinagar Sector CRPF, Ajay Yadav.

The visit commenced at RTC, where DG meticulously inspected the facilities and engaged in meaningful interactions with the trainees.

The DG shared profound words of inspiration and motivation, reaffirming the CRPF's commitment to excellence in training and operational preparedness.

Subsequently, they proceeded to 180 battalion in Tral Pulwama, where a guard of honour was accorded to

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# Farmers' Stir In Punjab: Passengers stranded at Jammu, Katra Stations as 7 trains cancelled, 13 diverted

**TOP NEWS REPORT**

JAMMU, Sep 29: A large number of passengers, many of them pilgrims, were stranded at Jammu and Katra railway stations on Friday as seven trains were cancelled and 13 diverted due to a "rail roko" agitation by farmers in different parts of Punjab.

Members of several farmers' bodies began their three-day agitation on Thursday to press their demands such as a financial package for losses caused by recent floods, legal guarantee to minimum support price (MSP) and debt waiver.

As part of the protest, farmers squatted on train tracks in many places, including Moga, Hoshiarpur, Gurdaspur, Jalandhar, Tarn Taran, Sangrur, Patiala, Ferozepur, Bathinda and Amritsar.

"Due to this agitation, some trains have been affected but 60 to 70 per cent of trains are being run through diverted routes. Officials have been put on duty round the clock to monitor train traffic and ensure minimum inconvenience to passengers," senior railway official Prateek Shrivastav said.

Railway officials said 13 trains have so far been diverted and seven cancelled due to the agitation.

Shrivastav said the agitation has directly affected Ambala and Firozpur

railway divisions.

"The trains have been diverted from here via the Nakodar area (in Punjab). Major affected area is Jalandhar. Two special trains to Katra have been cancelled. Shiv Shakti train has also been cancelled," he said.

The official said that every day, 15,000 to 20,000 people arrive at the Katra railway station. "Of them, 70 per cent are pilgrims. Due to this agitation, some trains have been affected and the majority of trains are being diverted to ferry them," he said.

However, the number of stranded passengers at Jammu and Katra railway stations are increasing causing them inconvenience due to the cancellation and diversion of trains.

"We are stranded at the railway station, we don't know what to do. We would have reached home. But now they are saying that trains will be diverted.... It is a problem for us," Arvind Kumar of Gorakhpur said.

Bihari Lal of Chhattisgarh, returning home after paying obeisance at the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, remained stranded at the railway station.

"We have been stranded here since yesterday after the train was cancelled. We don't know what to do. No one is listening to us. We are a group of eight people, including children," Lal said.

# PM changed J&K from 'terror capital' to tourism hub: Chugh

**TOP NEWS REPORT**

JAMMU, Sep 29: BJP's national general secretary Tarun Chugh on Thursday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has transformed Jammu and Kashmir, which was once known as the "capital of terrorism", into a hub of tourism and development.

During the three decades of rule by parties associated with the families of Muftis, Abdullahs, and Gandhis, Jammu and Kashmir was known as the "terrorist capital of India", he alleged.

Hitting out at the "three dynastic rulers", Chugh said, "Jammu and Kashmir witnessed the largest migration in the history of the country, mass massacres of Hindus, months-long curfews, and now, these parties are alleging that the BJP is responsible for terrorism in the Union Territory".

"Prime Minister Modi has transformed



Jammu and Kashmir into a hub of tourism and development. Since the BJP came to power, terrorism has almost ceased in the valley.

The removal of Article 370 brought peace to Jammu and Kashmir, and development with peace has been ongoing since 2019. It has become a capital of tourism from erstwhile terror capital", Chugh said.

He said people are experiencing positive changes brought about by the government, and they are content.

# AAP seeks link road from Halaran Morh to SC Basti Sachil in Thathri

**TOP NEWS REPORT**

DODA, Sep 29: Senior AAP leader, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, in a press statement issued here, has appealed to the Lt. Governor of J&K UT, Sh. Manoj Sinha, and Dr. Jatinder Singh, concerned MP & MOS in the Prime Minister's office, to look deeply into the matter and issue directions to the concerned authorities to take immediate necessary steps to complete the Halaran to Khatsoo 8 km sanctioned road and construct the link road from Halaran Morh to SC Basti Sachil on a priority basis. This would benefit the ST/SC population and put an end to the age-old hardships faced by the people of the area.

Rao expressed his concern that it is very unfortunate that despite the Prime Minister's Grievances Cell's direction to

provide a link road from Halaran Morh to SC Basti Sachil, the concerned Department of District Doda has not yet carried out a survey for this road, which spans about 2 km. He strongly urged that the survey of this link road be conducted immediately without any further delay. Additionally, he appealed to the Lt. Governor of J&K-UT, Sh. Manoj Sinha, Dr. Jatinder Singh, concerned MP & MOS in PMO, Delhi, to take notice of the construction work on the Halaran-Khatsoo 8 km sanctioned road. This road has been under construction since 2014, but within these 9 years, only 3 km of earthwork has been executed by the R&B department. This situation is unjust to the people of the area and highlights concerns about the government's efficiency and development on the ground.

# Air pollution increases risk of heart attacks: DAK on World Heart Day

**TOP NEWS REPORT**

SRINAGAR, Sep 29: On world heart day, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) said air pollution increases the risk of heart attacks.

"Polluted air heightens your chances of having a heart attack," said DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

Dr Hassan said according to a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) people exposed to fine particulate air pollutants have an increased risk of experiencing a heart attack.

Fine particulate air pollutants, also known as PM2.5, are fine particles that are 2.5 micrometers or smaller in diameter which are emitted from vehicles, factories and fires.

The study found that

PM2.5 exposure at a concentration between 12.0 and 13.9 micrograms per cubic meter was associated with a 10% increased risk of experiencing a heart attack and a 16% risk of dying from heart disease.

Additional analyses found that the increased risk of heart attacks persisted even at concentrations below the current air quality standards of 12 micrograms per cubic meter.

"This suggests that we could see fewer heart attacks if the standards are reduced further," he said.

The DAK President said air quality in Kashmir has been constantly deteriorating for the past few years due to increasing number of vehicles, constructions, brick kilns, cement and other factors which emit

pollutants and significantly pollute the air.

And this could be contributing to spike in the number of heart attack cases in the valley.

"Not only elderly people, but young and healthy individuals are brought to hospitals with massive heart attacks," he said.

"While smoking, hypertension, diabetes and high cholesterol remain important risk factors for heart attack, in Kashmir many people with none of these risk factors come to hospitals with massive heart attacks and air pollution could be a factor," said Dr Nisar.

"There is an urgent need to control air pollution to reduce the number of heart attack cases in the community and save precious human lives," he said.

# GMC organises awareness programme

**TOP NEWS REPORT**

JAMMU, Sep 29: An Awareness Campaign was organized by the Department of Blood Transfusion Medicine, GMC Jammu, in collaboration with ISBTI, NGO SUPPORT, and Rotary Bahu.

The campaign aimed to educate transporters, drivers, and associated staff of HPCL about HIV/AIDS, including its routes of transmission, prevention measures, signs and symptoms, and the availability of free testing and treatment facilities in all government hospitals.

Additionally, awareness was raised about other STDs such as syphilis, which can be associated with HIV.

Dr. Naveen Aktar, Consultant Transfusion Medicine at GMC Jammu, and Dr. Navneet Kour, Founder Chair-

person of NGO SUPPORT and Secretary General of ISBTI J&K UT Chapter, served as keynote speakers during the awareness campaign/workshop. They expressed their commitment to conducting similar awareness campaigns in the region to save precious lives and promote widespread testing. The campaign emphasized the importance of avoiding high-risk behaviors associated with HIV infection and the necessity of testing and treatment for individuals who suspect they may be infected.

The Senior Depot Manager, Ashish Samalia, and Abhishek Karmani, Assistant Manager at HPCL POL Jammu Depot, commended Dr. Navneet Kour for her initiative in organizing these crucial awareness campaigns.

# POJK displaced persons protest, reiterate demands

**TOP NEWS REPORT**

JAMMU, SEP 29: Pakistani-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK) displaced persons today took out a protest rally at Maharaja Hari Singh Park under the leadership of Captain (Retd.) Yudhvir Singh Chib, President of the POJK DP's Front. Accompanied by General Secretary J.P. Sharma and Secretary K.S. Chib, the event served as a platform to address their long-standing issues and convey their demands to the authorities.

The protesters expressed their gratitude to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for taking decisive actions against influential individuals who had illegally occupied government and forest land. However, they emphasized the need for sustained efforts to ensure all encroachments are removed and justice is served.

During the rally, the DP's highlighted sever-



al key issues that have been pending for many years. They specifically addressed the delay in the disbursement of the Prime Minister's Package, where only 80% of the affected families have received Rs. 5.5 lakhs each. The remaining 20% of the DP families are still awaiting their share. The attendees requested immediate action to release the balance amount recommended by the Joint Parliamentary Committee.

The DP's also brought attention to the evacuee property and housing left behind by Muslim families who migrated to Pakistan during the

1947 partition and their own properties in POJK, which remain under Pakistan's occupation. They urged that these properties be allotted to POJK DP's (Non-Camp) in accordance with State Cabinet Order 1954.

During the rally, several crucial demands were put forth by the POJK displaced persons. They urged for the allocation of land reclaimed from illegal occupations within colonies to non-camp DP's, ensuring a minimum of 10 Marlas per family for proper resettlement. Additionally, they called for the conferring of Scheduled Tribe (ST) status upon all POJK refugees to

grant them access to ST quota benefits in education, employment, and professional courses. The attendees emphasized the need for the allocation of agricultural land to non-camp refugees, offering options of 4 acres of irrigated land or 6 acres of non-irrigated land per family, as per Cabinet Order No. 578-C of 1954.

Furthermore, they appealed for the release of 12 out of the 24 Assembly seats in J&K that have been held in abeyance, providing POJK refugees with the representation and voice they deserve in the assembly. Addressing the challenges faced

by refugees in the Pargwal sector, especially those affected by the Roshni Act, was another key demand. Lastly, the DP's sought the regularization of allotments made on a temporary basis for those displaced during the 1965-1971 Indo-Pak wars, ensuring they enjoy ownership rights and permanent settlements. These demands collectively represent the aspirations and needs of the POJK displaced persons, advocating for their rights and welfare.

J.P. Sharma General Secretary and K.S. Chib Secretary assured the DP's that they would continue to approach the government and relevant authorities to prioritize these genuine demands. With upcoming assembly elections in J&K, they emphasized the importance of unity among refugees to advocate for their rights effectively.

Among those who joined the rally include Kulbir Singh Chib (PRO), Sakandya Devi, Sudesh Rani and Rani Devi.

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION GANDHI NAGAR**  
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**SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
Short e-NIT No. DGN/08 of 2023-24 Dated 26-09-2023

For and on behalf of the **Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir** e-tenders are invited on **percentage basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advised Cost (in Lacs)	Cost of document (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Providing and laying of 80mm thick paver block interlocking tiles from H/o Dadechi Mansion to H.No. 36 in South Extension Trikuta Nagar Jammu (Under Non Plan)	PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar	8.41	600	16820 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	03 Month	(1400 Hrs) on or after 07-10-2023	"A", "B" "C" & "D" Class
2	Restoration of road damaged by Jio Digital Fiber for laying of OFC Cable through open trench on Chowadhi road (Under OFC)	PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar	5.10	600	10200 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	01 Month	(1400 Hrs) on or after 07-10-2023	"A", "B" "C" & "D" Class
3	Construction of drain near House of MS Seema Khanna and Sh. Arun Joshi upto Nallah at Chowadhi Jammu (Under Non Plan)	PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar	5.00	600	10000 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	01 Month	(1400 Hrs) on or after 07-10-2023	"A", "B" "C" & "D" Class
4	Construction of drain opposite to House of Sh. Anand S.P upto Nallah at Chowadhi, Jammu (Under Non Plan)	PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar	5.00	600	10000 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	01 Month	(1400 Hrs) on or after 07-10-2023	"A", "B" "C" & "D" Class
5	Construction of lane by way of P/L WBM Gr-II and WMM opp. Radha Krishna Temple Channi Himmat Deeli Jammu (Under Non Plan)	PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar	4.16	600	8320 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	01 Month	(1400 Hrs) on or after 07-10-2023	"A", "B" "C" & "D" Class
6	Construction of drain in Lane of Sh. Charanjeet at Chowadhi Jammu (Under Non Plan)	PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar	4.00	600	8000 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	01 Month	(1400 Hrs) on or after 07-10-2023	"A", "B" "C" & "D" Class
7	Restoration of road damaged by Jio Digital Fiber for laying of OFC Cable through open trench on Chowadhi road near Petrol Pump (Under OFC)	PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar	3.99	600	7980 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	01 Month	(1400 Hrs) on or after 07-10-2023	"A", "B" "C" & "D" Class

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**Position of TS** :- S.No. 1, 3, 4, 6 Sanctioned  
**Major Head of Account** :- S.No 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 Under Non Plan and S.No. 2 & 8 Under OFC

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule :

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	26-09-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 26-09-2023 to 06-10-2023, 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	03-10-2023 at 1400 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar
4	Bid submission Start Date	26-09-2023
5	Bid Submission End Date	06-10-2023 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	07-10-2023 on or after 1400 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar and upload the same i.e treasury challan/receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of L1 be submitted to the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar at the time of allotment.
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder need not to make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **Financial-bids of responsive bidders** shall be opened online in the **Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar**. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

.. Sd ..  
(*Er. Rahat Gupta*)  
Executive Engineer  
PWD (R&B) Division  
Gandhi Nagar

DIP/J-8902/23

## EDITORIAL

INCULCATE  
PATRIOTISM

Love for motherland arises in every person automatically and that love is called patriotism. Every person and every child living in the country should love the country. It is important for every human being to have a feeling of devotion towards the country.

A feeling of patriotism arises in a person's mind, but due to many other reasons, a person is not able to contribute towards patriotism and the same is being seen in today's time.

Love and loyalty towards one's country is called patriotism. Patriotism is selfless playing of one's important role towards the country. The feeling of love and patriotism brings one person closer to another and also promotes the development of the country.

To move the country forward and strengthen the country, it is very important for every citizen living in the country to have a feeling of patriotism. Love for the country plays the main role in taking the country forward and in the development of the country. Where there is no patriotism, there is no progress for that country. It is often said that jaggery always has power.

Similarly, if every citizen of our country has a feeling of patriotism, then the country will grow as a strong power and any enemy country will think before looking at it. The feeling of patriotism can also eliminate corruption and black marketing being done by some people in the country. Patriotism is an important aspect in rapidly advancing the development of the country.

A person who loves his country should always love selflessly. Many of our duties are directly and indirectly related. But now if we have selfless love for the country, then we are making a major contribution in taking the country forward.

It is the duty of all of us to maintain the spirit of sacrifice for our country and to treat each other with unconditional love. Every person should fulfill his patriotism and duty towards the country, so that the traitors growing in the country can be destroyed and the country can be strengthened.

Examples of thousands of patriots and patriots can be found in our country. Along with the freedom fighters, even during the time of the kings and maharajas, many Maharanas had sacrificed their lives to save the culture of this country.

The name of Maharana Pratap, son of Rajasthan is also included among them. Maharana Pratap accepted to eat grass bread but did not accept defeat. This is a true example of patriotism. On the other hand, many traitors have also been born in the country.

Today the feeling of patriotism is gradually disappearing. Today's youth do not feel as strong a sentiment toward their country as people of previous generations. Today, patriotism is seen only on 15th August and 26th January, the patriotism weakens on the second day itself.

Elders should try to inculcate the feeling of patriotism in their children. For this, institutions like schools and colleges should also be promoted. The youth of the country should love and respect their country and work towards strengthening it. If we have rights over the country, we also have many duties towards it. We should perform all the duties of the country with honesty.

## Scientists get closer to solving mystery of antimatter

By: Vijay GarG

Scientists have made a key discovery about antimatter - a mysterious substance which was plentiful when the Universe began.

Antimatter is the opposite of matter, from which stars and planets are made. Both were created in equal amounts in the Big Bang which formed our Universe. While matter is everywhere, though, its opposite is now fiendishly hard to find.

The latest study has discovered the two respond to gravity in the same way.

For years, physicists have been scrambling to discover their differences and similarities, to explain how the Universe arose.

Discovering that antimatter rose in response to gravity, instead of falling would have blown apart what we know about physics.

They've now confirmed for the first time that atoms of antimatter fall downwards. But far from being a scientific dead end this opens the doors to new experiments and theories. Does it fall at the same speed, for example?

During the Big Bang, matter and antimatter should have combined and cancelled each other, leaving nothing but light. Why they didn't is one of physics' great mysteries and uncovering differences between the two is the key to solving it.

Somehow matter overcame antimatter in those first moments of creation. How it responds to gravity, may hold the key, according to Dr Danielle Hodgkinson, a member of the research team at Cern in Switzerland, the world's largest particle physics laboratory.

"We don't understand how our Universe came to be matter-dominated and so this is what motivates our experiments," she told me.

Engineers adding liquid helium to the system to keep antimatter at minus 270 celcius, near to the lowest possible temperature, absolute zero

Most antimatter exists only fleetingly in the Universe, for fractions of seconds. So to carry out experiments, the Cern team needed to make it in a stable and long-lasting form.

Prof Jeffrey Hangst has spent thirty years building a facility to painstakingly construct thousands of atoms of antimatter from sub-atomic particles, trap them and then drop them.

"Antimatter is just the coolest, most mysterious stuff you can imagine," he told me.

"As far as we understand, you could build a universe just like ours with you and me made of just antimatter," Prof Hangst told me.

"That's just inspiring to address; it's one of the most fundamental open questions about what this stuff is and how it behaves."

What is antimatter?

Let's start with what matter is: Everything in our world is made from it, from tiny particles called atoms.

The simplest atom is hydrogen. It's what the Sun is mostly made from. A hydrogen atom is made up of a positively charged proton in the middle and negatively charged electron orbiting it.

With antimatter, the electric charges are the other way round.

Take antihydrogen, which is the antimatter version of hydrogen, used in the Cern experiments. It has a negatively charged proton (antiproton) in the middle and a positive version of the electron (positron) orbiting it.

Graphic showing hydrogen and antihydrogen atoms

These antiprotons are produced by colliding particles together in Cern's accelerators. They arrive at the antimatter lab along pipes at speeds that are close to the speed of light. This is much too fast for them to be controlled by the researchers.

The first step is to slow them down, which the researchers do by sending them around a ring. This draws out their energy, until they are moving at a more manageable pace.

The antiprotons and positrons are then sent into a giant magnet, where they mix to form thousands of atoms of antihydrogen.

The magnet creates a field, which traps

the antihydrogen. If it were to touch the side of the container it would instantly be destroyed, because antimatter can't survive contact with our world.

When the field is turned off the antihydrogen atoms are released. Sensors then detect whether they have fallen up or down.

Antimatter explainer  
Some theorists have predicted that antimatter might fall up, though most, notably Albert Einstein in his General theory of Relativity more than a hundred years ago, say it should behave just like matter, and fall downwards.

The researchers at Cern have now confirmed, with the greatest degree of certainty yet, that Einstein was right.

But just because antimatter doesn't fall up, it doesn't mean that it falls down at exactly the same rate as matter.

For the next steps in the research, the team are upgrading their experiment to make it more sensitive, to see if there is a slight difference in the rate at which antimatter falls.

(Vijay GarG Retired  
Principal PES-1  
Educational columnist  
Malout Punjab)

## MAKE 'JAWAN' TAX FREE!

By: Dr. Uday Narkar

Shahrukh Khan's 'Jawan' has done an unexpected feat. A jaw-dropping performance by RSS devotees who claim monopoly on nationalism. The congregation was well over the clouds after making hateful films like Kashmir Files, Kerala Story. They began to believe that India's nationalism dances to on their beat. They deliberately spread the misconception that India's nationalism was a dividing line within the Indian people. Since Shah Rukh Khan was a Muslim, some people were trying to make him a traitor. For that, the citizens of India are witness to the history of how his son was tortured by BJP politics using the repressive mechanisms of the country. 'Jawan' has challenged that torture by saying 'talk to the father before touching the Son'. Of course, since this is a Bollywood affair, care has also been taken to ensure that it remains within the framework of entertainment.

It is well known that Hindi films are simultaneously a spicy recipe of realism, escapism, establishment ideology and the need for egalitarian social change. But in the era of 'Corporate Manuvada' its egalitarian content disappeared. Hindi cinema has been singing the praises of nationalism while at the same time criticizing it. After independence, the framework of socialist consciousness will not be broken, so much rightness was seen in the movie. It used to bluntly say that your nationalism does not adequately uphold social justice. Even at that time there was a chunk saying that 'Pather Panchali' defames India, but there were also questions like 'Yeh Dunya Agar Mil Bhi Jaye To Kya Hai'.

Since the 1970s, a lot of water has been transported through the rivers of India. The rising corporate standards, especially the egalitarian culture under the North's dominance, began to erode. RSS people started talking about establishing the system of social equality and justice. In such an environment, the film 'Jawan' has brought an uncomfortable questions of its own style.

It is becoming a rare thing to make modern films without strong action and bloodshed. In addition, video games now normalized digital collateral violence as more visible. The cinematographers are becoming increasingly used to them. The 'jawan' is full of fake violence. The 'jawan' is full of fake violence. But its exaggeration and the fakeness of violence are even more striking. Audiences are habitual to see such action-packed violence in movies as obvious phenomenon.

'Jawan' is the usual romantic action-packed masala film but one frame given to it underlines his separateness. What is core message of the movies? Farmers committing suicide due to debt overburdened money, lack of interest by corporate companies and injustice in loans given to farmers at higher rates, health system that is becoming worse, and not only that, pollution has been made the subject of the film by 'Jawan'! There is another difference in 'Jawan': the villain



in it is not a criminal in the framework of capitalism, but a criminal in its core values. The villain, whose only business is to break the democratic process and make money from all kinds of natural resources, is capitalist hero of Modi's new India.

Indications are beginning to emerge from few right wing cinemas, that nationalism itself can become a solution and alternative option for social economic and political issues of India. Some films propagated BJP-printed nationalism. BJP promoted those films as a such version of nationalism suits its political ideology. At such a time, Anubhav Sinha's 'Mulk' was such an important film that it was said that Indian Muslims also have rights over India. Anubhav Sinha had cleared it, yes it's his patriotism and nationalism.

In fact, Indian nationalism permeates the very fabric of Indian cinema. It has been expressing every phase of nation building. It has shown his strengths and weaknesses. Whether conscious of its inherent contradictions or not, from one point of view this nationalism was unambiguous. Understanding that nationalism cannot survive unless it is inclusive. It has been insisting that the nationalism that binds Amar Akbar Anthony together is real Indian nationalism.

Av very Few other superstars in Bollywood have done as many issues based films as as 'Muslim' Shahrukh Khan. Shahrukh Khan is the superhero of the star era. The blending of their on-screen and real life looks happens gradually. It is an integral part of the film system built on big capital. Still, Shahrukh has been stamping his Indianness through his films. Take 'Phir Bhi Dil Hai Hindustani', take 'Swades', or take 'Chak De India'. It underlines the need for creativity among Indian nationalists. The self-proclaimed upper cast Indians, who are full of false patriotism, go to America and do rituals to demonstrate their Indian identity, while the hero of the film 'Swades' leaves a high-paying job of NASA in America to work for the development of India.

'Swades' calls him to come back and he comes and remains here. This universality is matter of outside of the minds of those who recite Vishwaguru's mantra. Kabir Khan of 'Chak De India' is giving the message that women also have the right to hoist the tricolor flag. Kabir Khan reminds us that the Indianness of 'Chak De India' is not limited to just the banks of Ganga, it is a team made up of all the states. India's team cannot be formed without these states,

that is why India is a federal-state.

Releasing a cinema named 'Pathan' in Modi's state is itself a nationalist act. If space is not kept for all-inclusive nationalism, Muslim Indians will have to repeatedly repeat that they are patriots. Using the prevailing rules of nationalism and patriotism in the current situation, Shahrukh made a nationalist 'Pathan' film parallel to Hindu nationalism.

The nationalism of 'Jawan' is more intense and hence more real. In this film, he won't fight against any stranger. He fights against the exploitation of farmers. He fights for our people's education and health. Moreover, it also fights environmental damage and pollution that causes people to breathe poison. This is nationalism which is consistent with social reality. It is a nationalism that inspires honest introspection. On the other hand there is nationalism which questions our condition and emphasizes that democracy should be based on accountability. A farmer's suicide is the starting point of this story. The second point of departure is humans, who are dying without oxygen. Intruding. A third point of departure is the private Indian capitalists who supply poor quality rifles to the army. The picture is ready. Many such points join together to form this larger 'nationalist' canvas.

Of course, this film cannot be compared with Satyajit Rai, nor with Mrinal Sen, Ritwik Ghatak, Shyam Benegal etc. It can be seen from the figures that this is also a blockbuster film. Even its budget of 300 crores was insufficient to complete it, he said. But he didn't spoil anything, I mean the creators didn't spoil anything! He has earned seven hundred crores in the first week itself! In fact, Modi should have made an impassioned appeal to the public to clap and clap for Indian capital's aggressively raising the bar on profit. But to appreciate genuine patriotism one has to be charitable. Is Adani's stupidity too small to appreciate?

However, while benefiting a huge profits, 'Jawan' has done one thing knowingly. It has questioned a system that considers questioners traitors. Questions have been asked to those who called the 'doctors' who provide oxygen to the poor in hospitals as traitors. It is not the fault of director Atlee or Shah Rukh Khan, If anyone remembers why Dr. Kafeel Khan was kept in jail, when questioned the medical supplies. And thought-provoking questions have been asked about Supplying fake ventilators in Gujarat and other states during Corona period and tehka scam and who the Rafale dealmakers might be. Thought-provoking questions have been asked as to how many more innocents are filled in Indian jails. At the end of the film, the protagonist makes a statement, "Hum jaan laga dete hain desh ke liye, tumhare jake desh bijewale ke liye nahi." It is not the audience's fault if anyone remembers the song 'Aya Deshvikreta Dekho, Aya Deshvikreta' written for Prime Minister Modi after hearing this sentence.

As 'Pathan' had a political purpose, so does 'Jawaan'. There are references

to it in the film, as well as outside it. At an event in Mumbai, Shah Rukh candidly said: The film was launched on January 26 and released on Krishna Janmashtami. (By the way, the hero is born in a prison and unleashes evil forces). He announced another piece of news at the event. His film 'Dunki', about those who flee abroad under false pretences, will be released on Christmas. If nationalism is imperative for India, it is equally imperative that it be 'inclusive'.

If 'Jawan' has created a real problem for anyone, it is for BJP and Sangh Parivar and its supporters. After the audience showed the dustbin to the threats of boycott by the right wing propaganda machinery and the movie became a huge success, BJP's spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia has made a ridiculous attempt to smear the movie as being about the corruption of the UPA government. Whether the UPA government was corrupt or not is not the issue at this time as country is ruled by BJP for 9 consecutive years with full majority. The question is whether the BJP, who accommodate stained NCP leader Ajit Pawar and in power since 2014 is corrupt or not.

Inclusivity is what this movie is all about. These women are not humanitarian slaves; They are doers of action. Its story creates true national unity across the country. The life of Vikram Rathod, the hero of this, is saved by a tribe in Northeast India. Even in violence-ridden Manipur, humanity seems to overcome hatred. In the last part of the film, he sings Ramayya Vastavayya and he also makes room for Telugu nationalism. He even associates himself with the socialist lyricist Shailendra, making room for a provincial language in Indian nationalism! He also recalls the declarations of independence and says that independence is not unknown to Indian nationalism.

All this means that the film does not claim to be progressive at all. Whether the cave has a mouth or not, he shows a possibility to clear the doubt. Why is the hero's name Vikram Rathod a high caste? A similar question has been asked and rightly so. A new cycle of transformation will begin when Kamble or Pasi becomes a hero. But in today's reality, if films prompt the audience to ask some limited questions, it will be a positive step.

If anything else, the BJP says, if the film 'Jawaan' is about the corruption of the UPA government, all BJP-ruled state governments should do one thing. Just like the Kashmir files, Kerala story, 'Jawan' should also be shown tax-free. That much merit of national work will fall to BJP governments.

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## Sadhguru emphasizes significance of Karma, Remembrance on Purnima



### TOP NEWS REPORT

RANJADI, Sep 29: On the auspicious occasion of Purnima, Sadhguru of Sahib Bandagi Shri Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj graced the Sangat with his enlightening sermons at Sant Ashram Ranjadi. During his discourse, he emphasized the profound role of karma and remembrance in one's spiritual journey.

Sadhguru Maharaj began by expounding that an individual's conscience is shaped by the accumulated sanskars (impressions) from their past births. He elucidated that every aspect

of one's life, including family, home, and circumstances, is a product of their karma – the law of cause and effect. In this world, karma plays a pivotal role, and it's a concept unique to this earthly existence. The human mind, instincts, and every facet of life are intertwined with one's karma, whether one possesses a sharp intellect or lacks it. The entire world is entangled in the web of karma, with karma exclusively manifesting on Earth. Beyond this realm, there is no karma, only worldly pleasures. The soul remains unconnected to karma.

He further enlightened the gathering about the world they inhabit, emphasizing that it is a complex tapestry woven with threads of karma. The soul, however, remains untouched by karma. Sadhguru explained that individuals unconsciously engage in their actions and simultaneously experience the consequences. The soul seemingly enjoys or suffers the fruits of its deeds, raising the question of this intricate relationship.

Sadhguru delved into the duality of karma, distinguishing between auspicious and inauspi-

cious actions. He clarified that both types of actions are governed by the mind. It's the mind that controls actions, whether good or bad. However, when one transcends their mind and reaches a state of self-realization, the workings of the mind become apparent.

He urged the audience to meditate, emphasizing the importance of concentration. Sadhguru noted that concentration is essential for meditation, and without it, meditation remains elusive. Remembrance, according to Sadhguru, is the key to meditation. He encouraged individu-

als to engage in remembrance while performing daily activities like walking, eating, and drinking. This continuous remembrance helps one maintain focus and not get carried away by the mind's distractions.

Sadhguru emphasized that remembrance can be practiced in various forms, including chanting, penance, and meditation. There is no specific posture required for meditation; instead, remembrance can be integrated into daily life. The true essence lies in maintaining constant awareness and concentration. Remembrance, or Sumiran, is a powerful tool that aids in spiritual growth.

In conclusion, Sadhguru Maharaj underscored the importance of maintaining remembrance in all aspects of life, practicing concentration, and avoiding unnecessary distractions. He encouraged individuals to incorporate meditation into their daily routines and remain steadfast on their spiritual journey, appreciating the precious human birth as an opportunity for spiritual evolution.

## Ishant highlights Modi's life-changing initiatives for Poor & marginalized sections



### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 29: Ishant Gupta, the State Head of the Information Technology (IT) Department of BJP J&K, participated in the ongoing "Basti Sampark Abhiyan," a campaign aimed at connecting with people and creating awareness about the life-changing initiatives introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the benefit of the poor and marginalized masses. Gupta visited the Sheikh Nagar area in Ward No. 48, Bahu Constituency, Jammu, where he interacted with local residents.

Neena Gupta, Corporator, Ward President Ajay Kumar, Ankush Khajuria, Karuna Chhetri, Sunny Sangotra, Sajjan Gupta, Mukhtar Singh, and Trishula Gupta also graced the occasion.

During his visit, Gupta encouraged party volunteers to intensify their efforts to communicate with people in their communities. He emphasized the importance of ensuring that everyone is informed about the life-changing schemes and programs initiated by

Prime Minister Modi for the betterment of the poor and marginalized masses.

Gupta elaborated on the positive impact these schemes have had on the lives of millions of people. He highlighted several schemes, including the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, where people receive an Ayushman Health Insurance Card free of cost for medical emergencies and treatment up to Rs. 5 lakhs. He also discussed schemes like Jan Dhan Yojana, PM Ujjawala Yojana, Swachh Bharat Mission, PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, Mudra Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana, Standup India Scheme, and many more.

He assured the people that BJP activists are always available to provide information and assistance regarding these schemes for their benefit. This demonstrates the party's commitment to serving the public and advancing its mission of "Sab Ka Saath, Sab Ka Vikas, Sab Ka Vishwas, Sab Ka Paryas" (Together with All, Development for All, Trust of All, Efforts for All).

## Kashmiri Pandits urge swift passage of Temples & Shrines Bill

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 29: Kashmiri Pandits maintained high hopes for the current government, eagerly anticipating the fulfillment of its commitment to enact the Temples and Shrines Bill. This long-standing demand from the community seeks to safeguard and preserve temples and shrines in the Kashmir Valley, serving as a confidence-building measure before

their eventual return and rehabilitation.

In a statement released today, various socio-political leaders have called upon the Government of India to promptly enact the Temples and Shrines Bill. This demand, pending for over two decades, has been raised by numerous community organizations. Distinguished leaders, including Rakesh Koul, Senior BJP Leader (General

Secretary BJP Anantnag), Vinod Pandita, and Vishal Jotshi, noted the significant achievements made under the present regime since 2014 in various domains. They emphasized that the Central Government should ensure the expeditious passage of the Temples and Shrines Bill, as these sites hold immense religious significance and must be safeguarded and maintained.

Furthermore, the leaders underscored the pressing need to establish a comprehensive and time-bound return and rehabilitation policy for the displaced community, which has been living in exile for over three decades. They expressed great optimism in the current government and its commitment to addressing the concerns of the Kashmiri Pandit community.

## Yuva World Brahman Federation concludes meeting in Khour Block

### TOP NEWS REPORT

KHOUR Sep 29: The Yuva World Brahman Federation, J&K unit, under the leadership of Adv. Dakshesh Sharma, successfully concluded a meeting in Block Khour. The gathering was organized by members of the organization and witnessed the presence of various socio-political figures, including Sarpanches and Panches from the area.

To strengthen the outreach efforts of the Yuva WBF, several meetings were held in Block Khour, including Khour, Kleeth, and Karah Bali. These meetings garnered significant attendance from members of the Brahman com-

munity and focused on addressing the current challenges facing the community, particularly malicious propaganda targeting Brahman Samaj and the methods used for such campaigns.

The discussions at these meetings underscored the need for a united front to counter the deliberate and baseless targeting of the community on social media platforms, aimed at maligning their reputation. Participants recognized the importance of forming village-level committees to streamline efforts, raise awareness, and effectively respond to such malicious campaigns. These committees will

also work to educate the general public about the contributions made by community members towards the betterment of society.

Adv. Sharma emphasized during the meeting that the upcoming municipal and Panchayat elections would be pivotal for the community, and the Federation would play a central role in ensuring that community members set a positive example for the future. Any aspiring candidates would be required to gain the confidence of the community before receiving support.

Additionally, it was decided to establish an institution named the "Brahman Kalyan

Board" to uplift economically disadvantaged and needy members of the community. This board will collect donations and disburse funds to support those in need.

Adv. Sharma urged all community members to collaborate for the welfare and advancement of the Brahman community. Teams for Block Khour will be formed shortly. Other attendees at the meeting included Atul Raina, Vice President; Varun Sharma, Secretary; Satish Raina; Ranjeet Sharma; Rajan Sharma; Ashwani Sharma; Deepak Sharma; Ved Pal Sharma; Ashok Sharma, and many others.

## Congress expresses concern over Dengue outbreak in Jammu

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 29: Prominent leaders, including Gurmeet Singh, President of the Beopar Mandal, and District General Secretary of the Congress, led a vigorous protest in the Jammu East Constituency in response to the alarming spread of dengue and its rising death toll. They voiced their concerns and grievances against the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), the Medical Department, Medical Colleges, Associated Hospitals in Jammu, and the worst sanitation conditions prevailing in various wards of Jammu city, especially in the central area.

The protest focused on the inadequate measures taken by the JMC to address the rapidly growing dengue cases in Jammu city, which have claimed many lives. Gurmeet Singh, along with other senior BJP leaders, including Vinod Pandita and Vishal Jotshi, highlighted the dire situation, where sanitation issues, garbage piles, and lack of fogging and malarial spray have become a common sight in several



areas of Jammu city.

Gurmeet Singh pointed out that JMC autos have failed to collect garbage waste from households in the last 15 days, causing further distress to the residents. He expressed deep concern over the sharp rise in dengue cases in Jammu, with patients not only from the city but also from other districts seeking treatment at Jammu's hospitals. He urged the medical hospital administration to establish dedicated dengue wards in all Jammu hospitals.

Tragically, a man from Udhampur succumbed to dengue at Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) in Jammu, while 71 new dengue cases were reported in various parts of Jammu and Kashmir. These developments have heightened con-

cerns about the dengue outbreak.

A health official disclosed that out of 445 people screened for dengue in Jammu province, 71 tested positive. The positive cases included both adults and children, with the majority in Jammu district. The district-wise distribution of cases revealed that Jammu district had the highest number of cases, followed by Samba and Kathua.

Gurmeet Singh, President of the Beopar Mandal and District General Secretary of Congress, strongly criticized the JMC's administration for its insufficient efforts in controlling the dengue outbreak. He emphasized that poor sanitation conditions and garbage heaps in residential wards have contributed to the spread of

dengue. Gurmeet Singh warned that if immediate action is not taken, the public will be compelled to protest against the prevailing corruption and its encouragement of private clinics and nursing homes.

He also urged the LG Government to take swift action to address the situation, emphasizing that the JMC must actively engage in house-to-house garbage collection, dengue fogging, and coronavirus sanitization spray. Failure to do so could lead to mass agitation by the public.

Gurmeet Singh further stressed the need for hospitals to be fully prepared to tackle the ongoing crisis, calling for effective measures to control the outbreak as early as possible.

Prominent members who participated in the protest included Ward President Hardavinder Singh, Manohar Joshi, Javid, Ranjit Singh, Vishu Arora, Ashok Kumar, Subash Kumar, Harmeet Singh, Vijay Sharma, Yash Sharma, Lovely Arora, Ajay Kumar, Chandeeep Singh, Amarpreet Singh, Vijay Kumar, Raj Kumar, Apu Singh, and others.

## Protest held against unscheduled power cuts, water shortages in Jammu City



### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 29: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, led a spirited protest and demonstration on Janipur High Court Road, joined by a significant number of women and ladies. The protest aimed to denounce the frequent unscheduled power cuts by the Power Development Department (PDD) in Jammu city, where residents have been enduring power outages lasting up to three hours

after every two hours, severely affecting daily life and water supplies for the past week.

Addressing the gathering, Sunil Dimple alleged that Jammu city is grappling with unscheduled power cuts of three hours every two hours. He pointed out that the Jammu West constituency and Jammu city have been enduring power cuts lasting 10 to 12 hours daily for several days. Dimple attributed these disruptions to the installation

of smart meters, which have exacerbated power curtailment, disrupting businesses, online work, and the functioning of domestic and provision stores.

Furthermore, Dimple highlighted the acute shortage of drinking water in Jammu city, blaming the PHE (Public Health Engineering) and PDD for not addressing the issue effectively. He demanded the return of power projects, including the Salal Hydel Project, to the Jammu

region and state. He also expressed concern over the delayed replacement of burnt transformers.

Dimple emphasized that water supplies through tankers have been halted due to the condemnation of government tankers by the PHE department, exacerbating the water crisis. He called for the immediate commencement of construction on the Chinav Water Project, a lifeline for the region.

In addition, Dimple advocated for providing "totally free of cost" drinking water to the people of the state, given the state's abundant water resources.

Prominent protesters who joined the demonstration included Vijay Sharma, Veena Devi, Rekha Kumari, Koushlya, Rano Devi, Geeta Rani, Sudershan Sharma, Vicky Gupta, Dev Raj, Rakesh Sharma, Mukesh Gupta, and many others.

## As Fukrey 3 rolls out, the cast, including Varun Sharma, Pulkit Samrat, Richa Chadha and Manjot Singh, is going through mixed emotions — excitement and anxiety

The Fukrey franchise has been a hit among audiences and now, fans get to see their beloved characters — Choocha (Varun Sharma), Hunny (Pulkit Samrat), Bholi Punjaban (Richa Chadha), Lali (Manjot Singh) — reunite in Fukrey 3. Excited for their movie, the Fukrey gang gets candid about their journey of playing these quirky characters.

Talking about the chemistry they share in Fukrey, the four actors say, "It cannot be forced or rehearsed." Adding to the thought, Richa Chadha says, "Because we were so raw and so new when we started out. We did not just grow up together, but also grew together in our careers. We've seen each other through ups and downs, and that really strengthens the bond."

Character calling  
Playing Bholi Punjaban, a character that oozes confidence, Richa says, "If you look at the history of cinema, there are archetypes that are followed, but I don't know which archetype this character will fall under. She is not just all rage, she is also very manipulative, she has a wicked sense of humour...I find it really amazing to play Bholi Punjaban. She has zero sophistication, her style is her own, she doesn't care what people think about her. She is just who she is and that's very attractive about the character."

As the movie reaches the big



screen, Pulkit Samrat and the gang have coined a new term — 'anxieted'. Explaining it, he says, "We are experiencing mixed feelings, full of excitement and anxiety right now. Anxiety because we want people to like the film and excitement since we know we have made a very interesting film and maintained the soul of Fukrey."

Pulkit has been lauded for his dance moves in the title song Ve Fukrey by Bollywood superstar Salman Khan, who wrote on Instagram that 'Pulkit's success is long overdue'. Expressing his gratitude, the actor says,

"Salman Khan has seen my journey, he knows I've got very few chances to dance whereas I've been trained in many dance forms, including Kathak and Jazz. To be appreciated and noticed by Salman bhai means the world to me."

Varun Sharma, who debuted in Bollywood with Fukrey, calls it his life. "My aspiration of becoming an actor, all that I wanted to do, happened because of this film. Fukrey is my foundation. Whatever I have today and all the work that I am doing is because everyone got a chance to see my work as Choocha in

the film."

Manjot Singh, who was recently seen in Dream Girl 2, expresses what it's like to be a turban-clad actor in the industry. "From when I did my first film till now, there have been multiple occasions where I've rejected roles because I've been asked to give up on my turban. I joined this industry with the clarity that I will never compromise on my identity."

Coming back to his character in the film, Lali, Manjot says, "Many people can relate to my character or would identify someone in their family as Lali. That's what makes it so special for me."

When love came along  
While Fukrey changed the lives of these actors in many ways, it played Cupid for Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal. "In the initial days of shooting, all that these guys would talk about was food and video games, and I would wonder what to talk with them. Yes, we all became friends later and would dance to Honey Singh songs, but until that happened I had only Ali to converse with. There were conversations about books and theatre that connected us and here we are today," Richa says.

Grateful for the bonds these actors have forged on Fukrey sets, all they now hope is that their fans and audience at large enjoy their fukrapanti in the much-loved comedy franchise.

## Tabu believes it is a challenging, yet beautiful experience to play a character with depth



Acclaimed actress Tabu said she has had the longest relationship with the film Khufiya, as

she was the first one to be cast. The film features Tabu in the role of an independent and fierce RAW agent, for whom her work and country take precedence over everything else. Yet, Tabu's character is also a loving mother and a committed partner, which adds depth and nuance to it.

Tabu said: "I've had a long relationship with this film, as I think I was one of the first ones to be cast. It is always a challenging, yet beautiful experience to play a character with such depth. I would describe Krishna Mehra as a complex and dedicated woman. For her, duty comes before anything else." The spy thriller, Khufiya is directed by Vishal Bhardwaj and stars Tabu, alongside Wamiqa Gabbi and Ali Fazal.

The actress added: "Despite being so dedicated to her work, we see the vulnerable side of Krishna come to light when she is with her partner and in the interaction with her son. I think this goes to show how layered she is as a person." Khufiya will stream on Netflix from October 5.

## Sukhmani Sadana starts shooting for Tanaav Season 2 in Kashmir

Sukhmani Sadana, who is known for Manmarziyaan, Sacred Games and Tandav, has landed in Kashmir to begin shooting for the second season of the streaming series, Tanaav.

She will be seen reprising her role of Nusrat Farooqui in the second season of the show, which is the official Indian adaptation of the acclaimed Israeli show Fauda.

Nusrat is a character of profound complexity, shrouded in sombre and 'grey' shades, adding layers of intrigue to the show's landscape.

In the first season, Sukhmani's portrayal of Nusrat Farooqui drew accolades for its depth and authenticity, elevating the character into the heart of the series.

The show also stars Sahiba Bali, Arsalan Goni, Amit Gaur and Satyadeep Misra.



Tanaav Season 2 promises to deliver an even more intense and captivating storyline.

## Love working with Sanjay Leela Bhansali because he is relentless: Richa Chadha

Actor Richa Chadha says she enjoys working with filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali as he is "relentless" in his pursuit of bringing his vision on screen.

Chadha, who first collaborated with Bhansali on 2013 hit 'Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela', has reunited with the filmmaker for his upcoming OTT debut series 'Heeramandi'.

"I've worked with him in 'Ram-Leela'. We have had a ten year gap but we picked up from where we left. I love working with him because he is relentless. When you work with him, even your toe is important. I feel very scared on his sets because you can't do anything half-heartedly.

"From body language to hair, all of these things are important to him. He is very perfect in terms of aesthetics. So, you can't miss out on these things," the actor told agency.



According to the makers, the Netflix series explores the cultural reality of 'Heeramandi', a dazzling district, through the stories of courtesans and their patrons set against the tumultuous backdrop of the Indian freedom struggle of the 1940s.

The 36-year-old actor described the experience of working on the show as "difficult".

"You are told to wear a 30 kg lehenga, take four rounds and on the beat just pause, and a drop of tear should fall from your left eye" because the light is coming from that side. It is a meditation level of concentration. For me, it was very difficult to do, especially in a commercial space," she added.

Best recognised for her roles in 'Gangs of Wasseypur', 'Masaan' and 'Fukrey', Chadha said she looks forward to the challenges that filmmakers like Bhansali make her face as an

actor.

"I like working with directors, who push me, challenge me... I love working with him (Bhansali), there's always a challenge... I've worked with big independent filmmakers, who are considered cult (filmmakers) but when I work with Bhansali sahab, I believe I've transformed as an actor. There's something that has got triggered in me," she said.

'Heeramandi' also features actors Manisha Koirala, Sonakshi Sinha, Aditi Rao Hydari, Sharmin Segal, and Sanjeeda Sheikh. The show will soon premiere on Netflix.

On the film front, Chadha's latest release is 'Fukrey 3'. She is also gearing up for her maiden production venture "Girls will be Girls", backed by her and actor-husband Ali Fazal's Pushing Buttons Studios.

## Prajakta Koli says she owes everything to her YouTube presence

Content creator-actress Prajakta Koli, who is known for Jugjugg Jeeyo, Neeyat, Mismatched, has said that she owes everything to her presence on the digital platform YouTube.

The actress started off as a content creator capitalising on the 4G revolution in India and carved a niche for herself as she became one of the top content creators of India in no time. She recently attended the YouTube Fanfest in Mumbai's Goregaon area and shared her thoughts on the fest which returned after four years owing to the lull induced by the pandemic.

Prajakta said, "It's

been four years since YouTube Fanfest happened on the ground, and we are all overjoyed to have this platform back with us. It offers a sizable platform for networking, collaborating with other creators as well as connecting with the audience."

She added, "You also get to meet people who are in leadership positions, power, and decision-making.

YouTube is a virtual universe where the people who worked so hard to create a product that gives you your life can interact with you. Therefore, it's a fantastic conclave of opportunities. I owe everything I currently possess to my YouTube presence."



## Nikki Sharma is a gifted singer

Nikki Sharma, who has been making waves with her portrayal of the character Shakti in the show Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya ShivShakti, is also a gifted singer as well.

Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya ShivShakti explores the healing power of love in a contemporary take on the Shiv-Shakti dynamic. Produced by Studio LSD Productions, with a stellar cast led by Arjun Bijlani as Shiv and Nikki as Shakti, the show has been a huge success since its debut, keeping audiences glued to their screens.

Amidst all the generous applause, Nikki has quietly been shining both on and off-screen



— with her acting and singing talent.

The talented actress says, "I love music and I'm grateful to share that passion with my Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya ShivShakti family. Acting has been my passion, but singing has always been a part of my soul."

"Music gives me inner peace. Singing on sets has been a wonderful way to unwind and bring smiles to the faces of the cast and crew when we have our impromptu jamming sessions.

It's a beautiful way for all of us to bond and create some unforgettable memories together," she adds. Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya ShivShakti airs on Zee TV.

## Period from 2004 to 2014 of policy paralysis, political instability: Amit Shah

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the period of 2004 to 2014 "shook the country" and was the "last period" of political instability, while the last nine years have seen the result of performance.

NEW DELHI, Sep 29 (Agencies): The last nine years have witnessed decisive policies, political stability, democracy and teamwork in the federal structure that led the country out of the "policy paralysis" from 2004 to 2014, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Friday.

Addressing the 118th Annual Session of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, he said the period of 2004 to 2014 "shook the country", which was also the "last period" of political instability.

The last nine years have seen the result of performance. The country's economy has also got a new direction under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Shah said.

"The last nine years have been that of political stability and decisive policy-making... our GDP has grown from \$2.03 trillion to \$3.75 trillion during the period, which is almost double. Per capita income has grown from Rs 68,000 in 2013-14... to Rs 1.80 lakh," he said.



Shah said PM Modi has tried to change India in every field in the last nine years and has also been successful. After successfully organising the G20 Summit, a new energy has been infused not only in trade and industries but also in every sector of the country and all people are experiencing a new momentum, the Union home minister said.

He said trade and industries are the centre of the country's economy, from where it gets energy. "Due to the changes brought about by policies, today

'India's Moment' is talked about everywhere and India is known as a vibrant spot all over the world," he said.

Shah said whenever a company wants to shift base around the world, India emerges as the bright spot to relocate.

"Our country is the youngest and we also have the largest number of engineers, doctors and technocrats. There is democracy here, there is teamwork and the policy formulation is also clear under the leadership of Modi ji. Therefore, now

no one can stop India from establishing itself at the first place in every field in the Amrit Kaal," he said.

The Union home minister said the Production Linked Incentive Scheme has fulfilled the dream of Make in India in 14 sectors within the country. "This is the right time. The next 25 years are extremely important for India's trade and industries. Indian industries will have to move towards changing both their size and scale," he said.

Shah said the need of the hour is that Indian companies become multi-national. "The network of small industries along with big industries will have to be strengthened and PHDCCI will have to come forward strongly to provide guidance and infrastructure in this," he said.

Shah said that because of the new education policy brought by the Modi government, India is going to become the best destination in the world for students in the next 10 years.

## Karnataka bandh over Cauvery issue disrupts normal life



BENGALURU, Sep 29 (Agencies): The Karnataka bandh called by the 'Kannada Okkoota' to oppose release of water to Tamil Nadu received a good response in Bengaluru and other southern parts of the state on Friday, disrupting normal life.

Authorities have clamped prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code in Bengaluru Urban, Mandya, Mysuru, Chamarajanagara, Ramanagara and Hassan districts, and declared a holiday for schools and colleges there.

'Kannada Okkoota' is an umbrella organisation of Kannada and farmers' outfits. A Bengaluru bandh was observed over the same reason on Tuesday.

Most of the shops, business establish-

ments and eateries in Cauvery basin districts such as Mandya in southern part of the state downed their shutters. Private vehicles were off the roads in those areas.

The state-owned transport corporations operated very few buses in the southern districts fearing a backlash.

The bandh evoked a mixed response in other regions of the state.

Protestors set fire to a portrait of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin in the district headquarters town of Chitradurga.

The Kannada film industry has extended support to the bandh.

Theatres across the state have cancelled shows till evening, with the Karnataka Film Exhibitors Association backing the bandh.

Most of the information technology companies and other firms in Bengaluru have asked their employees to work from home.

Key market areas in Bengaluru such as Chikpet, Balepet and adjoining business areas wore a deserted look.

The Auto Rickshaw Drivers Union and Ola Uber Drivers and Owners Associations, too, have extended their support to the bandh.

## 'Won't break away': Kejriwal reaffirms AAP's commitment to 'INDIA' amid Sukhpal row in Punjab

NEW DELHI, Sep 29 (Agencies): Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday said the Aam Aadmi Party is committed to the opposition INDIA alliance and will not break away from it.

His comments assume significance against the backdrop of the Congress' Punjab unit accusing the AAP government in the state of indulging in political vendetta following the arrest of Congress MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira in connection with a 2015 drug trafficking case.

The AAP has, however, rejected the allegation saying the action against the Bholath legislator was taken according to the law.

At a press conference here on Friday, Kejriwal, who is the national convener of the AAP, was asked about the future of the INDIA alliance following the arrest of the Congress legislator in Punjab.

"The AAP is commit-



ted towards the INDIA alliance.

We will not break away from the alliance. We are committed to fulfilling the dharma of the alliance," he said.

About the case, Kejriwal said, "I have heard about it but I don't have details. You will have to talk to the Punjab Police."

"The Bhagwant Mann government is committed to ending the drug menace in the state since it has destroyed the youth. Be it an influential person or a small-time person, no one will be spared. I am

not commenting on any particular incident since the details are not with me," he said.

Asked about the opposition INDIA alliance not projecting a prime ministerial candidate yet, Kejriwal said, "We have to prepare a system so that the 140 crore people of India feel they are prime minister. We have to empower people and not one person," he said.

The Punjab Congress has already opposed any alliance with the ruling AAP in the state for the 2024 general elections.

## Punjab farmers stir: Train movement hit; protesters block Chandigarh-Ambala national highway

CHANDIGARH/HOSHIARPUR, Sep 29 (Agencies): Farmers in large numbers squatted on rail tracks in parts of Punjab on Friday, while another group of cultivators blocked the Chandigarh-Ambala national highway as part of their stir to demand a financial package for losses incurred in floods, a legal guarantee to MSP and a sweeping debt waiver.

As part of the three-day 'rail roko' protest, farmers squatted on the Amritsar-Delhi railway track in Devidas Pura, while in Hoshiarpur, members of the Azad Kisan Committee, Doaba, sat on dharna at the local railway station.

According to railway officials, while some trains were cancelled, routes of several trains have been diverted. Some trains are being short-terminated in view of the agitation.

The stir is underway at 17 places in Punjab, including in Moga,



Hoshiarpur, Gurdaspur, Jalandhar, Tarn Taran, Sangrur, Patiala, Ferozepur, Bathinda, and Amritsar.

A group of farmers owing allegiance to BKU (Sidhpur) also squatted on the Chandigarh-Ambala national highway near Lalru in Punjab. Farmers have also parked their tractors alongside the highway.

A Punjab Police official said both sides of the highway have been blocked and traffic has been diverted through alternate routes.

State President of the Azad Kisan Committee, Doaba, Harpal Singh Sangha, said their agitation will continue till September 30. If the demands are not met by that time, the next course of action will be decided, he said.

The stir has left many rail passengers stranded in Punjab and Haryana.

"The matter is between the Centre and the farmers. Why should passengers face harassment. Since yesterday, we have been waiting at the railway station, but there is no surety when

our train will come," said an elderly passenger at the Ludhiana railway station who was travelling to Patna.

On Thursday night, hundreds of railway passengers travelling to various destinations, including Delhi, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, were stranded at the Ambala Cantonment Railway Station in Haryana as rail movement was hit in neighbouring Punjab due to the protest.

Several farmer groups, including the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee, Bharti Kisan

Union (Krantikari), BKU (Ekta Azaad), Azaad Kisan Committee Doaba, BKU (Behramke), BKU (Shaheed Bhagat Singh), and BKU (Chottu Ram), are participating in the protest.

Their demands include a financial package for the flood-affected people in north India, a legal guarantee for minimum support price on all crops, and a debt waiver for farmers.

Farmers want a Rs 50,000-crore flood relief package for north Indian states and MSP as per the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission report, farmer leader Gurbachan Singh had said in Amritsar on Thursday. He demanded waiver of the entire debt of farmers and labourers, and Rs 10 lakh and a government job in compensation to the kin of each farmer who died during the agitation against the now-repealed three farm laws.

## Man, 2-month-old girl die as basement floor of under-construction building collapses in Uttar Pradesh

LUCKNOW, Sep 29 (Agencies): A two-month-old girl and a man were killed in their sleep while 14 labourers were injured when the floor of the basement of an under-construction building collapsed here, police said on Friday.

The incident occurred near Kalindi Park around Thursday mid-

night, a police official said.

"Some labourers who worked at the site used to live in shanties in the basement. As the floor collapsed, the labourers were buried under the rubble in their sleep," Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Sayed Ali Abbas said.



Immediately after the incident, a team of local police officials rushed to

the spot and began looking for survivors with the help of locals.

Mukadam (30), a labourer, and the two-month-old girl Aishya died in the incident while 14 other injured labourers were taken to the hospital, the police officer said.

Teams of the fire department and the NDRF have reached the spot and rescue work is underway.

## Boy ends life after receiving fake message in the name of NCRB

KOZHIKODE (KER), Sep 29 (Agencies): A 16-year-old boy ended his life by suicide in this north Kerala district allegedly after he received a fake message in the name of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) seeking payment for accessing an unauthorised movie website, police said on Friday.

Adinath, a 11th standard student at a city school, was found hanging in his apartment in Chevayur here on Wednesday evening.

A suicide note recovered from his room gave indications about the online fraud which is suspected to have claimed the life of the teenager, a police officer said.

In the suicide note addressing his mother, the boy said he didn't log into any unauthorised website but watched a movie on a legitimate website on her laptop, the officer said.



"In the laptop, there was a fake message in the name of the NCRB saying that as he accessed an unauthorised website, he had to pay an amount of over Rs 30,000, failing which it would invite a fine of a huge amount and imprisonment.

This seemed to have scared the boy," he told agency.

Police checked the browser history of the laptop but there was no indication that the

deceased student had accessed any illegal website, he further said. "We don't know whether it was deleted...but anyway a detailed scientific probe is needed to bring out the truth," he said.

The police have already launched an investigation and would soon collect more details from the boy's parents who shifted to another house following his demise, the officer added.

## 10-Year-Old Boy Mauled To Death By Leopard In UP

BIJNOR, Sep 29 (Agencies): A 10-year-old boy was mauled to death by a leopard in a village here while returning home from a nearby shop, police said on Friday.

The boy was attacked by the leopard while he was returning home around 8 pm on Thursday.

People standing nearby raised an alarm and the animal fled, Station House Officer (SHO) of Afzalgarh police station Pankaj Tomar said.



He was taken to a hospital in Dhampur, where the boy succumbed to injuries, the police officer said.

Deputy District Magistrate Mohit Kumar and Police Range Officer

Bharat Sonkar pacified the villagers and assured them that compensation would be provided to the victim's family while efforts would be made to trap the animal.

## 8-year-old dies in wall collapse due to rains in Karnataka's Bidar



BIDAR, Sep 29 (Agencies): An eight-year-old girl died after a wall of her house collapsed following heavy rainfall in Karnataka's Bidar district, police said on Friday.

According to the police, Sandhyarani Sanjukumar Kamble sustained severe injury on the head after the wall of the house at Bajolaga village in Bhalki taluk crashed on her on Thursday evening.

She was rushed to a nearby hospital but she was declared brought dead, a senior police officer said.

"It was raining heavily on Thursday evening. A wall of the house collapsed on the eight-year-old girl resulting in severe head injury and she succumbed," he said.

## There's something dangerous happening in America now: Joe Biden

WASHINGTON, Sep 29 (Agencies): In a stark warning about the ongoing existential threats to US democracy, President Joe Biden said "there's something dangerous happening in America now".

In an address in Arizona to honour his late friend Republican Senator John McCain, the President said: "There's an extremist movement that does not share the basic beliefs of our democracy: The MAGA movement."

Using the acronym for former President Donald Trump's political movement, "Make America Great Again", Biden went on to say that "there's no question that today's Republican Party is driven and intimidated by MAGA Republican extremists", CNN reported.

"Their extreme agenda, if carried out, would fundamentally alter the institutions of American



democracy as we know it."

The warnings came a day after seven candidates sparred on Wednesday during the second Republican presidential debate, which Trump skipped.

This was the first time Biden publicly called out his predecessor's antidemocratic behavior since the latter was criminally charged for his attempts to sub-

vert the 2020 election results.

He said the former President was guided by "vengeance and vindictiveness" and not by the "Constitution or decency".

"Trump says the Constitution gave him the right to do whatever he wants as President... I've never heard presidents say that in jest," CNN quoted Biden as saying.

He also referred to Trump's recent suggestion that chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Mark Milley could be executed, saying that Republican silence on the comment was "deafening".

"We should all remember: Democracies don't have to die at the end of a rifle. They can die when people are silent, when they fail to stand up."

Also, during his address, the President called McCain, whom Biden was friends with for decades, a "brother" and announced funding to construct the McCain Library.

Biden's remarks came at a moment of political uncertainty, as he faces persistent questions about his age, disapproval of his handling of the job and an indictment of his son, Hunter.

House Republicans also held their first hearing in an impeachment inquiry into the President.

## Russia says 11 Ukrainian drones destroyed overnight

MOSCOW, Sep 29 (Agencies): Russia claimed on Friday that it had destroyed 11 Ukrainian drones overnight, though one UAV dropped explosives on a substation, cutting the local power supply, a regional governor said.

"Eleven Ukrainian unmanned aerial vehicles were destroyed by air defence systems on duty, one of them over the territory of Kaluga region and 10 over Kursk region," Russia's defence ministry said on the messaging platform Telegram.

Kursk governor Roman Starovoyt said that the region bordering eastern Ukraine was "massively attacked" by Ukrainian UAVs.

In Belaya village, less than 25 kilometres (16 miles) from the border, "a Ukrainian drone dropped two explosive devices on a substation", he said on Telegram.

"One of the transformers caught fire. Five settlements and a hospital were cut off from power supply. Fire crews rushed to the scene," he added.

"Power will be restored as soon as it is safe to do so."

The governor warned citizens that "due to the danger of self-destruction of downed UAVs, it is forbidden to touch their debris, approach them or take photographs".

Russia earlier said it had destroyed two

Ukrainian drones on Thursday evening over the neighbouring Belgorod region.

The defence ministry said the first drone was "thwarted" at about 5:00pm (1400 GMT), while a second was brought down around four hours later.

The Belgorod and Kursk regions, south of Moscow, border eastern Ukraine. Kaluga region is closer to the Russian capital.

Since Ukraine launched its counter-offensive in early June, Russia has weathered waves of drone attacks that have sporadically damaged buildings, including in Moscow.

Russian officials have downplayed their significance.

## Elon Musk livestreams from Texas 'unfiltered' situation of migrants from US-Mexico border

TEXAS, Sep 29 (Agencies): Amidst the ongoing migrant crisis in the US, billionaire Elon Musk visited the Texas border with Mexico and live-streamed his tour of the area to give people a sense of the real situation of the migrant crisis, reported Fox News.

"Went to the Eagle Pass border crossing to see what's really going on," Musk posted on the X app.

Musk, wearing a black cowboy hat, live-streamed on his platform and said that he was going to go around and speak with officials and "eyeball the situation to get the real story." "This is real-time, unfiltered," he said. "What you see is what I see" Musk said.

The SpaceX founder and CEO has displayed major interest in the ongoing crisis at the border.

He has also posted about the migrant situation frequently on his social media platform 'X', Fox News reported.

Earlier on Tuesday, he said that he had spoken with US Representative for Texas Tony Gonzales and discussed the



ongoing crisis. In the conversation, Gonzales confirmed it was a "serious issue".

Being an immigrant himself, Musk said, he is "extremely pro-immigrant". However, he explained that there needs to be expanded immigration that allows hardworking and honest people to legally come to the US, but not allow immigrants who are going to break the law, reported Fox News. During his visit to the southern border in Eagle Pass, Texas on Thursday, he raised one of the fears that the flow of illegal immigrants into the country could lead to the collapse of social services, just as New York City was buckling under the pressure of migrants being bused

there from Texas.

Moreover, after Musk's livestream, he was flooded with comments. One user said, "Good to see Elon having to do the job of the MSM and of the politicians who are literally paid to do this but refuse." Several users loved and praised that Musk was live streaming from the border town, according to Fox News.

Earlier this week, Mexico made an agreement with the United States to deport migrants from its border cities to their home countries and take several actions, CNN reported.

As part of the agreement, Mexico agreed to "depressurise" its northern cities, which border El Paso, San Diego and Eagle Pass, Texas, where the mayor has declared a state of emergency. They will also implement more than a dozen actions to prevent migrants from risking their lives by using the railway system to reach the US-Mexico border, according to Mexico's National Migration Institute.

## More than 70% of Nagorno-Karabakh's population flees as separatist government says it will dissolve

YEREVAN, Sep 29 (Agencies): More than 70% of Nagorno-Karabakh's original population has fled to Armenia as the region's separatist government said it will dissolve itself and the unrecognized republic inside Azerbaijan will cease to exist by year's end after a three-decade bid for independence.

By Friday morning 84,770 people had left Nagorno-Karabakh, according to Armenian officials, continuing a mass exodus from the region of ethnic Armenians that began Sunday. The region's population was around 120,000 before the exodus began.

The moves came after Azerbaijan carried out a lightning offensive last week to reclaim full control over the breakaway region and demanded that Armenian troops in Nagorno-Karabakh disarm and the separatist government disband.

A decree signed by the region's separatist President Samvel Shakhramanyan cited a Sept. 20 agreement to end the fighting under which Azerbaijan will allow



the "free, voluntary and unhindered movement" of Nagorno-Karabakh residents to Armenia.

Some of those who fled the regional capital of Stepanakert said they had no hope for the future.

"I left Stepanakert having a slight hope that maybe something will change and I will come back soon, and these hopes are ruined after reading about the dissolution of our government," 21-year-old student Ani Abaghyan told The Associated Press on Thursday.

During the three decades of conflict in the region, Azerbaijan and separatists inside Nagorno-Karabakh, alongside allies in Armenia, have accused the other of targeted attacks, massacres and other atrocities, leaving

people on both sides deeply suspicious and fearful.

While Azerbaijan has pledged to respect the rights of ethnic Armenians in the region, most are now fleeing as they do not believe the Azerbaijani authorities will treat them fairly and humanely or guarantee them their language, religion and culture.

After six years of separatist fighting ended in 1994 following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Nagorno-Karabakh came under the control of ethnic Armenian forces, backed by Armenia. Then, during a six-week war in 2020, Azerbaijan took back parts of the region in the south Caucasus Mountains along with surrounding territory that Armenian forces had claimed earlier.

Nagorno-Karabakh was internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan's sovereign territory.

In December, Azerbaijan blockaded the only road connecting Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia, alleging the Armenian government was using it for illicit weapons shipments to the region's separatist forces.

Armenia alleged the closure denied basic food and fuel supplies to Nagorno-Karabakh. Azerbaijan rejected the accusation, arguing that the region could receive supplies through the Azerbaijani city of Aghdam — a solution long resisted by Nagorno-Karabakh authorities, who called it a strategy for Azerbaijan to gain control of the region.

On Monday night, a fuel reservoir exploded at a gas station where people lined up for gas to fill their cars to flee to Armenia.

At least 68 people were killed and nearly 300 injured, with over 100 others still considered missing after the

blast, which exacerbated fuel shortages that were already dire after the blockade.

On Thursday, Azerbaijani authorities charged Ruben Vardanyan, the former head of Nagorno-Karabakh's separatist government, with financing terrorism, creating illegal armed formations and illegally crossing a state border. A day earlier, he was detained by Azerbaijani border guards as he was trying to leave Nagorno-Karabakh for Armenia along with tens of thousands of others.

Vardanyan, a billionaire who made his fortune in Russia, was placed in pretrial detention for at least four months and faces up to 14 years in prison. His arrest appeared to indicate Azerbaijan's intent to quickly enforce its grip on the region.

Another top separatist figure, Nagorno-Karabakh's former foreign minister and now presidential adviser David Babayan, said Thursday he will surrender to Azerbaijani authorities who ordered him to face a probe in Baku.

## Donald Trump, In Campaign Mode, Attempts To Back Off Abortion

WASHINGTON, Sep 29 (Agencies): Donald Trump never misses a chance to remind voters that he was the one to appoint three justices to the US Supreme Court who voted to ditch the federal right to an abortion.

But ask the 77-year-old what he thinks personally about abortion, and his position starts to shift, the self-declared "most pro-life president in American history" well aware of what a headline stance might cost him at the polls.

Trump was evasive when asked repeatedly this month about introducing nationwide bans or limits on abortion -- as some of his Republican challengers have proposed.

"It could be state or it could be federal, I don't frankly care," the former president and current Republican front-runner said.

A few days later, he firmed up his position, saying he believed in exceptions for abortion bans including in cases of rape, incest or when the mother's life was in danger.

After all, he said, "without exceptions, it is very difficult to win elections."

The overturning of Roe v. Wade in June 2022 was the culmination of decades of Republican strategy, the gutting of fed-

eral abortion rights also kicked off a national backlash -- even among conservative voters who still wish for some access to abortion.

Two months after the Supreme Court decision, voters in Republican-dominated Kansas rejected a referendum that would have paved the way to ban the procedure in the state.

Republicans have seen further electoral disappointments in New York, Wisconsin and Ohio. And while Republicans won the House of Representatives in the 2022 midterms, their slim victory was blunted in part by women and young voters mobilized to protect abortion.

"I think Trump understands that the (Supreme Court) decision is not popular, nor is the mainstream Republican position on abortion," political scientist Kyle Kondik told AFP.

"So Trump is looking ahead to the general election and trying to give himself some room to maneuver on the issue... But it's not going to be hard for Democrats to tie him to the unpopular (court) decision."

It wouldn't be the first time Trump held -- or at least professed -- a softer opinion on abortion.

In a 1999 interview, the real-estate magnate declared "I'm



very pro-choice."

But he now needs to win over the country's evangelical electorate, who delivered him to office in 2016 and remain a key part of his base, according to public opinion polling.

While the end of Roe means that abortion regulation has returned to the state-level, most of Trump's Republican opponents have been pushing for federal restrictions.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, the number two in the Republican race, banned abortions after six weeks in his southern state -- before most women know they're pregnant.

Trump called the Florida ban a "terrible mistake."

"I reject this idea that pro-

lifers are to blame for midterm defeats," DeSantis declared at Wednesday's Republican debate.

Instead, he argued that Trump -- who skipped the shouting match in light of his commanding lead in the polls -- "should be here explaining his comments, to try to say that pro-life protections are somehow a terrible thing."

The Democratic Party has not only enjoyed the Republican infighting, but also made abortion a central part of its campaigns.

In conservative Kentucky, where the governorship is up for grabs this year, a striking ad puts pressure on Trump.

In it, a woman raped by her stepfather as a child blasts the state's abortion restrictions, saying that telling "a 12-year-old girl she must have the baby of her stepfather, who raped her, is unthinkable."

Kevin Munoz, a spokesman for Joe Biden's reelection campaign, is betting the Supreme Court decision will still be fresh in voters' minds.

"Since Roe was overturned, Americans have rejected MAGA Republicans' anti-abortion extremism," he said in a statement. "And they'll do it again in 2024."

## "Carefully Consider" Tech Investment Ban: China Asks US



SINGAPORE, Sep 29 (Agencies): China's international trade council has formally asked the United States to "carefully consider" rules that ban or restrict U.S. investments in China's tech sector, state television reported on Friday.

U.S. President Joe Biden signed the executive order last month which prohibits

or restricts investments in Chinese entities involved in semiconductors and microelectronics, quantum information technologies and certain artificial intelligence systems.

State television said the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, which is supervised by the Ministry of Commerce, said the order sets "vague

and broad restrictions" on investors and transaction types, and does not differentiate between military and civilian purposes.

"That not only gives rise to transaction risks and compliance cost... but also damages the highly inter-dependent global industrial chain," the chamber added.

Biden's order was aimed at protecting national security and preventing U.S. capital from aiding China's military.

U.S. financial firms asked to meet a Sept 28 deadline to provide input, are also pushing for greater clarity on the proposed new rules which they say are too vague and put the onus of compliance on investors.

The rules are expected to be implemented sometime next year.



## Maneka Gandhi gets Rs 100-crore notice for 'ISKCON sells cows to butchers' remark

KOLKATA, Sep 29 (Agencies): The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (Iskcon) has sent a Rs 100 crore defamation notice to BJP MP Maneka Gandhi over her statement that the religious organisation sells cows to butchers for slaughter. The Iskcon has termed her allegations "completely unfounded" and said the devotees were "deeply pained" by the remarks.

"Today we have sent a Rs 100 crore defamation notice to Maneka Gandhi for levelling completely unfounded allegations against Iskcon. The worldwide community of Iskcon devotees, supporters, and well-wishers are deeply pained by these defamatory, slanderous, and malicious accusations. We will not leave any stone unturned in our pursuit of justice against the fallacious propaganda



against Iskcon," Vice President of Iskcon Kolkata, Radharaman Das, said.

He further said, "Maneka Gandhi speaks about the Anandapur Gaushala, what is strikingly interesting is that our bhakhts and members have not seen her visit that particular gaushala."

"How can she without going to the place speak of that place?" he added.

He also emphasised that many BJP leaders and leaders cutting party lines have condemned her statement and said that in seven days, she has to reply to their notice, adding, "if she doesn't apologise, the defamation suit

will be filed worth Rs 100 crore."

Days ago, a video of Gandhi went viral in which she could be heard saying that Iskcon is the "biggest cheat in the country, which sells cows from its gaushalas (cowsheds) to butchers."

She accused Iskcon of establishing Goushalas and earning "unlimited benefits" from the government in the form of vast lands.

The BJP MP further charged that she recently visited an Iskcon Gaushala in Andhra Pradesh and did not find "even a single cow in good condition there". "There were no calves in the Gaushala, which means all of them were sold off," Gandhi alleged.

These allegations were strongly refuted by Iskcon which called them "unsubstantiated and false".

## Lanka, Bangladesh have their 'Nijars' in Canada; back India on extradition of fugitives

NEW DELHI, Sep 29 (Agencies): Both Sri Lanka and Bangladesh have made common cause with India on the issue of Canada providing safe havens to fugitives from law -- including mass murderers and drug traffickers -- from their countries.

"The same thing they did for Sri Lanka, a terrible, total lie about saying that Sri Lanka had a genocide. Everybody knows there was no genocide in our country," said Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ali Sabry on India accusing Canada of providing safe havens to gangsters and separatists.

Canada's Tamil Diaspora had backed the LTTE in the '83-'09 civil war and was allegedly instrumental in financing shiploads of weapons to fight the government forces. The Sri Lankan government also bristles at Canadian PM Justin Trudeau marking May 18 as the "first Tamil Genocide Remembrance Day".

"Some of the terrorists have found safe haven in Canada. The Canadian

PM has this way of just coming out with some outrageous allegations without any supporting proof," added Sabry in New York.

Bangladesh is also cut up with Canada for providing sanctuary to Noor Chowdhury, the self-confessed killer of Sheikh Mujibur Rehman. Dhaka has repeatedly sought his extradition and feels that Canada comes up with excuses each time to deny its request. As was the case with slain Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, his status in Canada is shrouded in mystery. He has been staying in Canada for a long time but it is not clear whether he is a citizen of that country.

Both countries have also pulled up Ottawa for honouring a Ukrainian military veteran who fought for the Nazis.

In New Delhi, Sri Lankan High Commissioner Milinda Moragoda has supported India's stand because "we have endured, and we have suffered. And as a country that has gone through that, (the) tolerance for terrorism is zero."

## Only Congress listening to people's sufferings, BJP turns deaf ear: Bhalla

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 29: Prominent personalities of Sainik Colony including Thakur Jai Singh, Subash Singh, Dalip Singh, RS Reen, Satish Singh, Kuka, Suriender Singh Latti, Radhey Sham, Arun Singh Sunny, Ch.Sukhdev Singh, Manu Jamwal, Babbu Dutta along with their hundreds of supporters under the leadership of JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla extended wholehearted support to Congress for all forthcoming elections saying that BJP has made life of all sections of society miserable.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla called on people of J&K to lend unwavering support to the Congress. He stressed the importance of the upcoming Elections and encouraged people of J&K to mirror their steadfast support during forthcoming elections. He cautioned against neglecting the duty to vote, pointing out that every uncast vote is an indirect gain for the BJP. He firmly asserted that the nation's stability and peace depend on the Congress taking the reins of power. He



highlighted Congress's track record of formulating development plans with the people's interests at the forefront.

Describing labour class people as back bone of the development and economic progress of the country, Bhalla said that party is committed for their welfare. He said "Congress is committed for the welfare and to protect the rights of labour class people of the country." He said that Congress party has its existence in more than six lakh villages across the country and represents all sections of the society and is always committed to protect the rights of the working class who are the back bone of the India's economic progress and overall development of

the country. He said that UPA government had brought land mark legislation to the benefit and protect the rights of labour class in the organized and unorganized sector. He said that all beneficiary labour laws were applied in J&K during the Congress regime.

Bhalla asked party men to take care of aggrieved people and ensured their support to them to accelerate the economic development and equal participation of labour class in the economic activities. He said Congress is the only party which listens to the problems of the people. He also said the people J&K are determined to teach the BJP a lesson in the upcoming elections. He said that the people's issues

must be addressed in a time bound manner by those who have the power to do so. Bhalla said the Government of India (Gol) has failed to address the legitimate aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "The BJP government has failed to live up to the spirit of accommodation and reconciliation towards the realisation of the legitimate political aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he said, adding, "Today democracy in J&K is facing onslaughts from no other than the ruling party itself."

Bhalla said that all the people have their issues, which are related to their day-to-day problems, some societal and other developmental issues.

## Tamil actor Vishal alleges corruption in CBFC's Mumbai office, Centre orders inquiry

NEW DELHI, Sep 29 (Agencies): The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Friday ordered an immediate inquiry into Tamil actor Vishal's allegations that he had to pay Rs 6.5 lakh to the CBFC's Mumbai office for the screening and certification of the Hindi version of his film "Mark Antony".

Vishal levelled the allegations of corruption against the Mumbai office of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) in a post on microblogging site X on Thursday.

In a post on Friday, the ministry said the government had zero tolerance for corruption.

"The issue of corruption in CBFC brought forth by actor @VishalKOfficial is extremely unfortunate. The government has zero tolerance for corruption and strictest action will be taken against anyone found involved."

"A senior officer from the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has been deputed to Mumbai to conduct an inquiry today itself," the I&B ministry tweeted on Friday.

The ministry also urged people to cooperate and



share information about "any other instance of harassment by CBFC".

Official sources said Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur has directed maximising use of technology to ensure transparency in slotting and implementation of faceless systems wherever possible.

Vishal's sci-fi film "Mark Antony", directed by Adhik Ravichandran, was released in Hindi on Thursday. The movie also features S J Suryah, Ritu Varma, Sunil, Selvaraghavan and Abhinaya.

In his post on X, Vishal made an appeal to Prime Minister Narendra

Modi and Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde to investigate the "scam" that transpired at the CBFC's Mumbai office.

"Due to some technical issues, we applied for the Hindi censor certificate online at the last minute. But we were taken aback by what happened at the CBFC office in Mumbai."

"On Monday, when my person visited the office, there was an option given to us—to pay Rs. 6.5 lakh for the certification the same day. We were left with no other option. We were asked to pay Rs 3 lakh first, just for the screening. The rest Rs 3.5 lakh

were for the certificate," the actor had claimed.

Vishal also claimed that a woman official told their team that it was a common practice at the CBFC where filmmakers would pay money for receiving censor clearance.

"Those who want the certificate in 15 days, they have to pay Rs 4 lakh. We had no other option, so we paid the money in two installments and I got the certificate. Today, my film was released in north India. But this is very saddening."

"If this is the case in government offices, I really request higher authorities to look into this matter," the actor claimed.

In a statement, Indian Film and Television Directors' Association (IFTDA) expressed concern over the allegations made against CBFC officials and demanded a CBI enquiry.

"If any official is found guilty serious action should be taken against the perpetrator of this crime of extortion... This is a dangerous trend which will be the reason for bringing bad name to CBFC," IFTDA president Ashoke Pandit wrote in a letter to Thakur.

## FROM PAGE 1

### Over 2500 dead, missing as 186,000 people cross Mediterranean to Europe in 2023

Tunisia which marks a 260 per cent rise from last year, whereas, more than 45,000 had tried to cross from Libya, she said.

Moreover, these figures presented by UNHCR were similar to those shown by Par Lijert, director of the International Office for Migration (IOM), Al Jazeera reported.

Lijert told the Security Council, "Recent IOM data demonstrates that from January to September 2023, more than 187,000 individuals crossed the Mediterranean in pursuit of a better future and the promise of safety."

He further said, "Tragically, during this same period, IOM recorded 2,778 deaths, with 2,093 of them occurring along the treacherous central Mediterranean route."

"Yet, despite its clear dangers, in 2023, there has been an increase in arrivals to Greece along this route of over 300 per cent, while the number of arrivals in Spain has remained steady, primarily through the Atlantic route to the Canary Islands as compared to the numbers recorded at the same time last year," he said.

IOM also saw a significant rise in arrivals to Italy, with more than 130,000 in 2023 compared with some 70,000 in 2022, reported Al Jazeera.

### 52 killed, 58 injured in suicide blast near mosque in Pakistan's

### Balochistan

it had carried out Friday's attack. Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti called the attack a "very heinous act". In July, more than 40 people were killed in a suicide bombing in northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province at a religious political party's gathering.

### Dengue outbreak hits Jammu

Reasi. Pertinently, 2 dengue deaths were reported in two days and both were from Udhampur District of Jammu region.

A 52 year old man, Charan Dass, from Udhampur district died due to Dengue yesterday at GMC-Jammu.

Last year, over 8200 people were tested positive for Dengue, which was the all-time high in Jammu region.

There is still around a month left during which this vector could affect people and there is every possibility that cases may rise in the coming days, officials said.

### People celebrates Eid-Milad-Un-Nabi at Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar

The members of the IMF along with thousands of Muslims participated in the mass prayers organized on the occasion. Later the members of the Indian Minorities Foundation participated in the religious procession which was taken out to mark the celebrations for the day.

While participating in the panel discussion, Dr Faizi said, "Prophet Muhammad Sahab through his teachings has always preached the message of peace, harmony, brotherhood, unity, and equality. His teachings forbid any form of discrimination amongst individuals based upon religion, community, or any other factor, and consider all humans as equals."

Dr. Faize further added that, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas' has ensured the benefits of government policies and development reaches to every section of the society especially the marginalized and socially deprived people which is also the basis of Prophet Muhammad's teachings."

He appreciated the work being done by the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi to uplift the Pasmanda community and provide equal opportunities to all communities.

Eid-i-Milad-ul-Nabi, also known as Mawlid or Eid-e-Milad, is celebrated with enthusiasm by Muslims across the world.

One of the most essential parts of Eid Milad-un-Nabi is to celebrate the life of the Prophet, his teachings, sufferings, and his character, as he even forgave his enemies. Muslims celebrate the occasion by wearing new clothes, offering prayers, and exchanging gifts.

### Two Punjab residents arrested with drugs in Kulgam

kg of poppy straw-like contraband substances were recovered from them. The duo was identified as Balwinder

Singh, a resident of Shairiwala Ludhiana, Punjab, and Harvinder Singh, of Walipor Khurad Ludhiana, Punjab.

A case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act has been registered at police station Qazigund, and an investigation has been taken up, police added.

Police have urged the masses to, if they witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere near, contact the nearest police establishment or dial 112 to curb the menace of drugs in society.

### DG CRPF visits Kashmir to assess Operational readiness

DG Thaoson by the CRPF personnel. DG also inaugurated the "Shaheed Mukesh Lal Meena Barrack", a solemn tribute to the brave heroes who have made supreme sacrifices in the line of duty.

During an insightful "Sainik Sammelan", he applauded the unwavering dedication of CRPF officers and Jawans, commending their steadfast commitment to the nation's security, the spokesman said.

The visit culminated on a warm note as Thaoson joined the personnel for a convivial meal at Badakhana in 180 Bn.

"Such moments of camaraderie reinforce the bonds that define the strength and unity of the CRPF."

Thaoson's visit reaffirmed the CRPF's unwavering commitment to the security and well-being of the nation. It also served as an opportunity to acknowledge the dedication and sacrifices of the CRPF personnel stationed in the region, the spokesman said.

### Delhi jewellery heist: Two held in Chhattisgarh; 18.5 kg gold and diamond ornaments, Rs 12.5 lakh recovered

Rs 12.5 lakh in cash from him, Singh said. Investigation revealed that the jewellery were stolen from a store in New Delhi, he said, adding a team of the Delhi police has also arrived in Chhattisgarh and further investigation into the matter is underway. Mahaveer Prasad Jain, the owner of the jewellery showroom in Delhi, told reporters, "We are thankful to the police. We have seen the pictures of the recovered items and identified those as the ornaments have tags on them. We do not know the arrested persons."

According to the Delhi Police, at least three people were involved in the burglary, which was one of the biggest in the national capital. The criminals broke into the shop, made a hole in a strong room and decamped with ornaments worth more than Rs 20 crore as well as Rs 5 lakh in cash earlier this week.

The shop, Umrao Singh Jewellers, in south Delhi's Bhogal, had several CCTV cameras but they were damaged around Sunday midnight, the police said.

The owner closed the shop on Sunday around 8 pm and when he opened it on Tuesday around 10.30 am, he got to know about the incident. The shop remains closed on Monday.

## Sensex, Nifty end higher as volatility dips; Pharma, metal stocks gain

The S&P BSE Sensex rose 320.09 points to 65,828.41, while the NSE Nifty 50 settled 114.75 points higher at 19,638.30.

NEW DELHI, Sep 29 (Agencies): Benchmark stock market indices ended higher on Friday, backed by strong gains in pharmaceutical and metal stocks.

The S&P BSE Sensex rose 320.09 points to 65,828.41, while the NSE Nifty 50 settled 114.75 points higher at 19,638.30. Broader market indices also registered a strong recovery as volatility dipped sharply.

All sectoral indices gained sharply except Nifty IT, which ended the day on a weak note. Nifty Pharma and Nifty Metal were the top gainers among sectoral indices, rising 2.66 per cent and 1.90 per cent, respectively.

Heavyweight indices like Nifty Bank and Nifty



Financial Services also ended the day with strong gains.

The top 5 gainers on the Nifty 50 were Hindalco, NTPC, Dr Reddy's, Hero MotoCorp and Tata Motors. On the other hand, the top drags were Adani Enterprises, LTIM, Infosys, HCL Tech and Nestle India.

Among individual stocks, Hindustan Zinc rose over 5 per cent after the company disclosed plans to create separate entities for its zinc and lead, silver, and

recycling business divisions.

Shares of Hindustan Zinc's parent company, Vedanta Ltd., also rallied nearly 7 per cent amid reports of a possible merger of its businesses.

Other than that, shares of Jet Airways rose 5 per cent as the Jalan-Kalrock Consortium announced that it had completed infusing Rs 350 crore into the airline and expects to restart operations from next year.

## 'Banks ready to implement 20% TCS on foreign tour packages from Oct 1'

NEW DELHI, Sep 29 (Agencies): The government is all set to implement a higher tax collection at source (TCS) rate of 20% on spending above Rs 7 lakh for foreign tour packages under the liberalised remittance scheme (LRS) starting from October 1.

As per a top Finance Ministry official, this time the banks have not flagged any concern regarding the implementation of higher TCS. "Earlier, the banks were not able to implement the required technology to collect higher TCS on overseas payments. But after we extended the deadline, they got enough time to do the trials and all geared up for the same," a top Finance Ministry official said. Another banking official echoed the same and said that the banks are ready with the system for higher TCS

collection from October 1 and they will be able to deal with the teething troubles.

Currently, funds transferred abroad under the Reserve Bank's LRS attract a 5% TCS on amounts exceeding Rs 7 lakh. The government in Budget this year increased the rate of TCS to 20% on overseas tours and any other cases (except for educational and medical expenses). Individuals will have the option to claim credit for the TCS amount paid while filing income tax returns for the applicable assessment year. These changes were initially announced in the Budget 2023-24, and the implementation of higher TCS rates was initially scheduled for July 1. However, the Finance Ministry later deferred the implementation to October 1.

On expenses exceeding Rs 7 lakh for medical

treatment and education will continue to attract only 5% TCS. Individuals availing loans for overseas education, a lower TCS rate of 0.5% will continue to be levied on amounts above the Rs 7 lakh threshold.

Under the scheme, individuals can remit up to \$2.5 lakh annually overseas without requiring approval from the RBI. Remittances exceeding this limit would need approval from the RBI. It's important to note that earlier, using an international credit card for expenses incurred abroad was not subject to TCS as it fell outside the purview of LRS. Now it comes under the purview of LRS. In the previous financial year, remittances under the LRS surged from \$12.68 billion in 2020-21 to \$19.61 billion in 2021-22. In the following year, remittances exceeded \$24 billion.

## Air India completes acquisition of its first A350 aircraft through GIFT City

NEW DELHI, Sep 29 (Agencies): Air India on Friday said it has completed the acquisition of its first A350-900 aircraft by way of a finance lease transaction with HSBC through the GIFT City.

This is also the first wide-body aircraft to be leased through the GIFT City, the country's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC). In a release, the airline said the transaction was facilitated by its wholly-owned subsidiary AI Fleet Services Ltd (AIFS) and is also the first financing transaction from the orders for 470 aircraft that were made earlier this year.

Tata Group-owned Air India, which has embarked on an ambi-



tious transformation plan, expects the first A350-900 aircraft to arrive in India by the end of this year.

According to the release, the airline has successfully acquired India's first Airbus A350-900 aircraft through a finance lease transaction with HSBC.

"This landmark transaction marks the beginning of our aircraft leasing business from GIFT IFSC, as AIFS will be the primary Air India Group

entity for wide-body aircraft financing, playing a pivotal role in the future aircraft financing strategy for us and our subsidiaries," Air India's Chief Commercial & Transformation Officer Nipun Aggarwal said.

International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) Executive Director Dipesh Shah said it has been working with the stakeholders to develop regulatory enablers for aircraft leasing and

financing.

"The steps taken by Air India by establishing a finance company for the purpose of aircraft leasing and financing at IFSC will go a long way in developing IFSC as a preferred destination for aircraft leasing and financing in India as well as globally," he added.

The airline has ordered six A350-900 planes and five of them are scheduled for delivery through March 2024.

Apart from these, the airline's firm orders for 470 new aircraft include 34 A350-1000s, 20 Boeing 787 Dreamliners, 10 Boeing 777Xs, 140 A320 neos, 70 A321 neos and 190 Boeing 737MAXs.

Air India signed pur-

chase agreements to acquire these aircraft with Airbus and Boeing in June this year.

Currently, Air India has a fleet of 116 planes, including 49 wide body aircraft.

The total includes 27 B787-8s, 14 B777-300s, 8 B777-200LRs, 14 A319s, 36 A320 neos, 13 A321 ceos and 4 A321 neos.

Meanwhile, Tata Group is in the process of consolidating its airline business as part of which AIX Connect is getting merged with Air India Express and Vistara will be merged with Air India.

Vistara is a joint venture between Tata and Singapore Airlines, which holds a 49 per cent stake in the carrier.

## Jet Airways: Jalan-Kalrock says completing Rs 350 crore payment; plans to start airline in 2024

NEW DELHI, Sep 29 (Agencies): The Jalan Kalrock Consortium (JKC), the new proposed promoters of Jet Airways, on Friday said that it has completed an additional infusion of 100 crores, reaffirming commitment to a successful resurgence of airline which was grounded in April 2019.

The consortium said that its strategy to revive the airline remains unaltered. The new promoters aims to re-establish

the operations of the airline up and running in 2024.

With this infusion, JKC said it has now fulfilled its total financial commitment of Rs 350 crore equity as per the court-approved resolution plan, and all commitments by JKC now stand fulfilled to take control of the airline.

Last month, the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) had extended the time till September



30 for JKC to pay a sum of Rs 350 crore to the lenders of the bankrupt Jet Airways.

JKC had emerged as the winning bidder

for the airline, which stopped flying in April 2019 and later underwent an insolvency resolution process. The ownership transfer of

the airline is yet to take place amid continuing differences between lenders and consortiums. The new lease of hope for the revival of the airline comes after the committee of creditors of Jet Airways had in July told the Supreme Court that the Jalan-Kalrock's resolution plan approved by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) is not working and called for the liquidation of the grounded airline.

## Sony-Zee merger likely to be delayed by few months: Report

NEW DELHI, Sep 29 (Agencies): The merger between Culver Max Entertainment (Sony Pictures Networks India) and Zee Entertainment Enterprises (Zee) is expected to be delayed, said Japan's Sony Group in a statement on Friday.

"This transaction was expected to be completed by the end of the first half of fiscal year 2023, but based on the current state of preparation, we expect completion within the next few months," Sony said in a



statement.

Initially slated for completion by the end of September 2023, the merger's timeline has been extended due to legal complexities involving Zee.

The National Company

Law Tribunal (NCLT) had granted approval for the merger back in August, dismissing objections raised by various creditors against Zee.

However, recent developments have thrown the merger into disarray.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) imposed restrictions on Punit Goenka, preventing him from serving on the boards of four Zee Group companies, including Zee Entertainment. Moreover, Goenka has been barred from holding directorship positions in any entities formed as a result of the merger.

Zee Group had initially announced the merger with Sony's India unit in 2021. Still, it encountered significant delays due to Sebi's interim

order restricting Punit Goenka from directorships in any listed company.

While Sebi acknowledged Goenka's future role as managing director following the merger, concerns remain about his involvement with ZEEL, pending an investigation into alleged fund diversion.

The ongoing Sebi investigation is likely to further prolong the merger process, with a final decision expected only after Sebi concludes its inquiry.

## This innovative technology could help patients with advanced heart failure

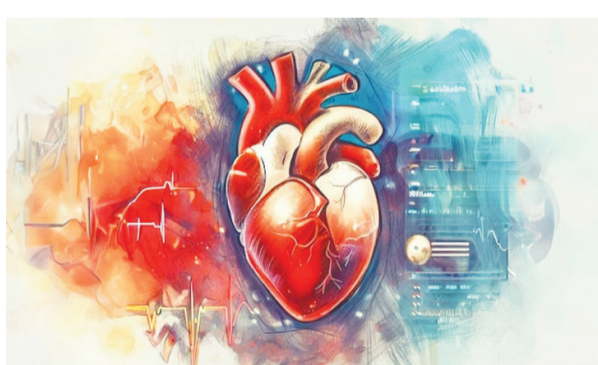
In India alone, where heart failure prevalence was estimated at 1.3 million to 4.6 million in 2022, this innovative technology could change the landscape of cardiac care.

NEW DELHI, Sep 29 (Agencies): As India continues to see a rise in the burden of cardiac disease, a new technology could be a game changer.

The Left Ventricular Assist Devices (LVADs), mechanical devices that are implanted in patients with advanced heart failure, helps heart pump blood more effectively and could benefit patients with advanced heart failure as they await donors.

In India alone, where heart failure prevalence was estimated at 1.3 million to 4.6 million in 2022, this innovative technology could change the landscape of cardiac care.

LVADs are designed to serve as a bridge to transplantation or even offer a long-term solution, known as destina-



tion therapy, for those ineligible for heart transplants due to donor shortages.

Dr. Z S Meharwal, who heads the Adult Cardiac Surgery program at Fortis Hospital said that patients who receive these devices often experience a significantly improved quality of life, regaining the ability to perform everyday activities.

"For those awaiting a donor heart, LVADs act as a lifeline, extending their survival while on

transplant waiting lists. Furthermore, the latest 3rd generation LVADs have broadened the pool of eligible patients, making this life-saving treatment accessible to individuals who may not qualify for transplantation," he added.

However, despite their promise, LVADs also come with challenges such as surgical risks, potential infections, and the need for ongoing care and monitoring. In LVAD technology

and patient management have significantly improved outcomes and reduced complications.

Fortis Hospital in its analysis said that patients who underwent successful LVAD implantation are now living normal lives.

However, experts also emphasise that LVADs are not suitable for all heart failure patients. Rigorous preoperative evaluations determine eligibility, and the procedure is costly, surpassing the expenses of heart transplants due to the high cost of the pump.

A dedicated, experienced medical team is essential, guiding patients and their families to minimise postoperative complications. Regular follow-ups remain crucial for ongoing care and monitoring.

## Over 2 lakh deaths in UP due to cardiovascular diseases caused by air pollution

LUCKNOW, Sep 29 (Agencies): Nearly two lakh people in Uttar Pradesh are dying every year due to cardiovascular diseases (CVD) caused by air pollution.

Cardiologists in the state capital have voiced their concern, especially, in the context of India where a hefty majority of the 45 per cent CVD deaths take place in the productive age group (40-69 years).

The issue has been deliberated in detail at various platforms, including the World Heart Federation besides the Cardiologists Society of India as 'air pollution is an uncontrollable risk factor'.

According to reports, over 3.5 million people in the world are dying of heart disease and strokes linked to air pollution, suggests data from the World Heart Federation.

Another dataset indicates that 31 per cent of these deaths were taking place in India. This translates into a



loss of some 11.5 lakh persons each year.

CVDs are a group of disorders of the heart and blood vessels, including coronary heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, peripheral arterial disease, rheumatic heart disease, congenital heart disease, deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism.

Explaining how air pollution affects the heart, faculty at Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Prof Satyendra Tewari said: "Tiny particles (in the polluted air called particulate matter) travel into the

bloodstream when one breathes. Sustained and prolonged exposure tends to damage the inner walls of the blood vessels causing them to become narrower and harder. This may raise one's blood pressure, increase chances of clot formation and derail the normal rhythm of the heart (and cause arrhythmia). All the three conditions may lead to heart attack, brain stroke or trigger heart failure."

Specialists also expressed concern over the trend and emphasized on the need for studying the local and regional patterns.

Senior consultant, cardiology, Apollomedics Super specialty Hospital, Dr (Col) Ajay Bahadur said, "CVDs due to air pollution, be it indoor or outdoor or due to heavy metals, is an underestimated cause. Scientific evidence is crucial to bring about the required policy changes."

Faculty at Lari Cardiology, Prof Rishi Sethi advised people to remain mindful of the problem and work on their overall health.

"Indications are that in case one already has a heart disease, even short-term exposure to air pollution may increase the risk of heart attack and stroke. Therefore, those with the condition must monitor themselves well," he said.

Experts from alternative medicine advised people to take up breathing exercises such as pranayama to cleanse their lungs and blood circulation system.

## “Suryakumar Yadav Hasn't Done Anything Big Yet”: Sunil Gavaskar's Big World Cup Warning

Sunil Gavaskar had a clear verdict over Suryakumar Yadav finding a spot in the India playing XI for Cricket World Cup 2023.

NEW DELHI, Sep 29 (Agencies): Suryakumar Yadav had a brilliant run of form for the Indian cricket team during the recently concluded ODI series against Australia. It came as a relief for the explosive batter whose selection for the Cricket World Cup 2023 was met with some doubt from both experts and fans. However, he was back at his explosive best as he scored two half-centuries to guide his team to a series win. While his form has improved in the recent past, legendary India opener Sunil Gavaskar was not convinced with his showing in the ODI format and he had a blunt verdict over his inclusion in the World Cup playing XI.

“Suryakumar hasn't done anything big yet in ODI cricket. He only bats in those final 15-20 overs where he utilises his T20 abilities which undoubtedly is important as well. But Hardik, Ishan and Rahul can all do that same job as well. So Iyer is confirmed for No. 4. Suryakumar



will have to wait and if he does get a chance at No. 4 he has to score a big hundred and show that he can also score a ton as well.”

India have predictably named veteran off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin as a replacement for injured spin bowling all-rounder Axar Patel in their

15-member squad for the upcoming Cricket World Cup.

Axar had sustained a quadriceps tear and is not expected to recover anytime soon, forcing the Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee to name the 37-year-old Ashwin, who took four wickets in the two ODIs during the recently concluded

series against Australia, in the squad.

“Axar Patel has failed to recover in time for the World Cup after sustaining a left quadriceps strain during India's Asia Cup Super Four encounter against Bangladesh. The spin-bowling all-rounder missed the final of the Asia Cup as a result,” ICC stated in a media release.

“Veteran spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has been named his replacement, who was impressive on his return to ODI cricket in the recently concluded series against Australia where he picked up four wickets in two games,” the release further stated.

India's Cricket World Cup squad: Rohit Sharma (c), Hardik Pandya (vc), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Ravichandran Ashwin Ishan Kishan, Suryakumar Yadav.

## Palak, Esha gold-silver in 10m air pistol makes it a historic day for India at Asian Games



HANGZHOU, Sep 29 (Agencies): Two teen-aged dreamy-eyed shooters, Palak Gulia and Esha Singh, set ablaze the shooting range by powering to a gold-silver finish in 10m air pistol event for India at the Asian Games here on Friday.

In one of the most trail-blazing efforts seen by Indian shooters, the duo challenged each other

for the top podium finish until 17-year-old Palak clinched the gold medal and Esha the silver to swell the country's tally in the sport to 17 -- six of them gold.

Pakistan's Talat Kishmala settled for a bronze after giving a tough fight to Esha.

This is the first major individual medal for Palak in an international competition after she

came on the shooting scene just last year. She shot 242.1 in the finals for an Asian Games record.

Esha, who had won the individual silver in 25m pistol on Wednesday and was part of the triumvirate that won the 10m air pistol team silver along with Palak and Divya TS earlier on Friday, settled for silver, scoring 239.7.

The unprecedented success of Indian marksmen continued in the 50m rifle arena as well with the men's 3-positions team, comprising the young trio of Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar (591), Swapnil Kusale (591) and Akhil Sheoran (587), overcoming the Chinese challenge with a world record score of 1,769 to take the top podium finish.

## England Cricket Team Arrives In Guwahati Ahead Of World Cup Warm-up Match vs India

GUWAHATI, Sep 29 (Agencies): Ahead of their ICC Cricket World Cup warm-up match against India, the defending champions England arrived at Guwahati on Friday. Spin all-rounder Moeen Ali, spinner Adil Rashid, batter Joe Root and some members of coaching/support staff were captured making their way to the team bus. Also, Indian batter Shubman Gill also arrived at the Guwahati airport at around the same time as England players. India will take on England in their WC warm-up match on Saturday at Barsapara Cricket Stadium, Guwahati.

Then, they will play the Netherlands on October 3 in Thiruvananthapuram in their second warm-up match. England's second warm-up game will be against Bangladesh in Guwahati on October 2.

India will kickstart their World Cup campaign against Australia in Chennai from October 8.

On the other hand, England will kickstart their title defence against New



Zealand from October 5 at Ahmedabad, in a repeat of the 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup final.

India squad: Rohit Sharma (c), Hardik Pandya (vc), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Ishan Kishan, Surya Kumar Yadav.

England squad: Jos Buttler (c), Moeen Ali, Gus Atkinson, Jonny Bairstow, Harry Brook, Sam Curran, Liam Livingstone, Dawid Malan, Adil Rashid, Joe Root, Ben Stokes, Reece Topley, David Willey, Mark Wood, Chris Woakes.

## Yuvraj Singh reveals key advice Sachin Tendulkar gave the team during 2011 World Cup

NEW DELHI, Sep 29 (Agencies): Yuvraj Singh revealed the key advice Sachin Tendulkar gave during the 2011 World Cup campaign to shut out the noise from outside.

In the 2011 Cricket World Cup, India emerged as champions, marking their second World Cup win after their victory in 1983.

Yuvraj Singh and Sachin Tendulkar played pivotal roles in India's triumphant campaign. Yuvraj Singh was declared the man of the tournament, having scored 362 runs, including one century and four fifties, and taking 15 wickets. His performance was instrumental in leading India to victory, earning him four Man of the Match awards.

Tendulkar also made significant contributions. Despite scoring only 18 runs in the final match, he amassed a total of



482 runs throughout the tournament, finishing as the second leading run-scorer. This was Tendulkar's last World Cup, and his contributions were recognized by his teammates, who dedicated their victory to him.

India didn't have a perfect campaign during the World Cup 2011 as they lost their group game against South Africa. The media would then become criti-

cal of the players after the loss and Yuvraj revealed the advice Tendulkar gave to shut out the noise.

As quoted by Hindustan Times, the former all-rounder said that Tendulkar told the team to stop listening to the media and use headphones while going through crowds in the airports. Yuvraj said that the team agreed with Tendulkar's suggestion and

it worked in the end.

“Now, distraction is a bit more because that time there was no social media. There was distraction with media and people. We were trying to focus on the game, and in the world cup, we had lost to South Africa - a game we should have won. The media started to go berserk. Sachin sat down with the team and said, 'we need to stop watching television, stop reading the papers. Use our headphones when we are going through crowds in airports. Just focus on the world cup'. The team agreed, we just followed that and it really worked,” said Yuvraj.

“Because there's anyway so much pressure. Problem with India is that, people think only Indian team will win. It's a big World Cup, there are so many good teams out there, and we got to be really focussed on your tasks at hand.”

## India bags fifth gold in shooting at Asian Games

HANGZHOU, Sep 29 (Agencies): Medals continued to rain for India in the shooting arena here with the country clinching a gold in men's 50m rifle three-positions team event with a world record, while the Esha Singh-led women's 10m air pistol trio bagged a silver at the Asian Games on Friday.

The men's 50m rifle 3-positions team, comprising the young trio of Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar (591), Swapnil Kusale (591) and Akhil Sheoran (587), overcame the Chinese chal-

lenge with ease with a score of 1,769 to take the top podium finish, while the hosts were a clear six points adrift with 1,763 points.

South Korea was a distant third with 1,748 points.

Aishwary and Swapnil shot superbly to make the individual finals as well and are placed first and second after the qualification round.

Akhil, despite finishing fifth with 587 in qualification, will miss out on the eight-team finals as only two shooters per country are allowed in the indi-



vidual medal round.

India has so far amassed 15 medals at the shooting range, of which five are gold.

Teenager Esha led the front as she guided the Indian women's 10m air pistol team to a silver medal.

## Squash: Indian women's team signs off with bronze at Asian Games



HANGZHOU, Sep 29 (Agencies): The Indian women's squash team signed off with a bronze medal after going down fighting to Hong Kong in the semifinals at the

Asian Games here on Friday.

The trio of veterans Joshna Chinappa, Anahat Singh and Tanvi Khanna went down 1-2 to Hong Kong.

Joshna was the only Indian who won her match as she defeated world number 24 Tze Lok Ho 3-2 (7-11, 11-7, 9-11, 11-6, 11-8) to level the tie after Tanvi went down meekly (3-0) to Sin Yuk Chan in the opener.

Playing against a high-ranked and experienced opponent Lee Ka Yi, the 15-year-old Anahat tried her best.

The teenager saved eight match points as she went from 10-2 to 10-10 in the third game but eventually lost the final (0-3) 8-11, 7-11, 10-12 and the tie.

## Ashwin replaces injured Axar Patel in India's World Cup squad

NEW DELHI, Sep 29 (Agencies): India have predictably named veteran off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin as a replacement for injured spin bowling all-rounder Axar Patel in their 15-member squad for the upcoming ODI World Cup, ICC announced.

Axar had sustained a quadriceps tear and is not expected to recover anytime soon, forcing the Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee to name the 37-year-old Ashwin, who took four wickets in the two ODIs in the recently concluded series against Australia, in the squad.

“Axar Patel has failed to recover in time for the World Cup after sustaining a left quadriceps strain during India's Asia Cup Super Four encounter against Bangladesh. The spin-bowling all-rounder missed the final of the Asia Cup as a result,” ICC stated in a media release.

“Veteran spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has been named his replacement, who was impressive on his return to ODI cricket in the recently concluded series against Australia where he picked up four wickets in two games,” the release further stated.

The writing was there on the wall when Axar failed to recover on time for the third ODI against Australia in Rajkot. Ashwin travelled with the Indian team to Guwahati where they will play the first warm-up game against England on Saturday, September 30.

India World Cup squad: Rohit Sharma (c), Hardik Pandya (vc), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Ravichandran Ashwin Ishan Kishan, Suryakumar Yadav.

## Asian Games 2023: Saketh Myneni, Ramkumar Ramanathan win silver in tennis men's doubles

HANGZHOU, Sep 29 (Agencies): Saketh Myneni and Ramkumar Ramanathan won the silver medal in the tennis men's doubles in the Asian Games 2023. On Friday, September 29, they lost to the Taiwanese pair of Jason Jung and Yu-Hsiou Hsu 6-4, 6-4 in the gold medal match at the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre Tennis Centre Court.

The Indian duo conceded a break of serve in the fifth game and that turned out to be a decisive factor in the



context of the opening set. At 3-5, Myneni and Ramanathan held their serve to stay alive, but

Taiwan closed out the set in 35 minutes.

At 4-4, India were on their way to making a

comeback. But thereafter, Myneni and Ramanathan dropped their serve as Taiwan went 5-4 up.

In the end, Jung and Hsu closed out the set in 37 minutes and won the match in an hour and 12 minutes.

Taiwan was dominating to the extent that they did not give India a single chance of breaking their serve.

Taiwan had an impressive win percentage of 86.67 from their first serves (26 out of 30). India, on the other hand,

won 31 out of 35 first serve points.

The difference was created by the difference in second serves. Taiwan won 77.78 percent of points (14 out of 18) while India had an underwhelming 38.09 (8 out of 21).

Later in the day, India have a chance to advance to the gold medal match as Rutuja Sampatrao Bhosale and Rohan Bopanna will be up against Taiwan's Yu-Hsiou and Hao-ching Chan in the semi-final of the mixed doubles.

## Mountaineering Association of J&K sends team to 27th North Zone Sport Climbing Championship

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 29: A 12-member team representing the Mountaineering Association of J&K, along with an official, embarked on their journey to Delhi today to participate in the 27th North Zone Sport Climbing Championship. The championship is scheduled to take place at the Indian Mountaineering Foundation and Climb Central in Delhi from 1st to 3rd October 2023. The team has been officially recognized and endorsed by the J&K State Sports Council.

Led by Shilpa Charak, a senior and accomplished sport climber of J&K, the team includes 8 boys and 3 girls, competing in five categories: Men, Women, Junior Boys, Sub Junior Boys, and Sub Junior Girls. While one climber each has been selected in the Men's and Women's categories, the Junior Boys and Sub Junior Boys categories consist of 4 and 3 climbers, respectively. The Sub Junior Girls category is represented by 2 climbers. The selection of the team was based on the climbers' performances in the J&K UT Sport



Climbing Championship, District competitions, and their performance during coaching camps.

The following is the complete list of climbers selected for participation in the North Zone Championship.

Men : Arun Deep Singh  
Women : Shilpa Charak

Sub Junior Boys: 1. Kafeel UI Haq of Pulwama 2. Aryan Rauthan of Army Public School, Damana, Jammu. 3. Ankit Singh of St. Xavier Sr. Secondary School, Jammu.

Junior Boys: Kashish Bharti of Udhampur. 2. Saksham Slathia of Sprawling Buds ICSE School, Jammu. 3. Prince Thakur of National Academy High

School, Udhampur. Sub Junior Girls: 1. Ayaana Bhagat of Sprawling Buds ICSE School, Jammu. 2. Jeevika Verma of St. Xavier Sr. Secondary School, Jammu

The almost new look team is a blend of experience and fresh talent. Whereas Shilpa Charak and Arun Deep are experienced climbers who have won innumerable medals at the Zonal and national level all the other climbers are very talented but shall be competing at the zonal level for the first time. The team is expected to perform well.

Whereas Shilpa Charak shall be the coach cum player Syed Abdul Mohsin, Joint Secretary of Kashmir

division of Mountaineering Association of J&K, is the manager of the team. The team has been sponsored by J&K Sports Council.

After the North Zone competition a 26 member team of IMF North Zone Committee shall be selected for participation in the National (Inter Zonal) Climbing Championship to be held in the last week of October.

Earlier, the members of Mountaineering Association of J&K and Tawi Trekkers J&K led by Anil Goswami, former Home Secretary of India and Ashwani Sharma a former MLA, gave an emotional send off to the team.

Other dignitaries present on the occasion

included Ram Khajuria, Sr. Vice President; Sumit Khajuria, Vice President; Shawetika Khajuria, General Secretary of Mountaineering Association of J&K; Prof. C K Khajuria, Principal, Govt Degree College, Katra, a former General Secretary of Mountaineering Association of J&K; Rakesh Goswami, President, Jammu District Mountaineering Association; Anukampa Sharma, General Secretary Udhampur District Mountaineering Association; Vice Principal of St. Xavier Sr. Sec. School, Barnai Mridhu Padha; Principal of National Academy High School, Udhampur and Seema Kharyal, a senior member of Tawi Trekkers J&K.

## 165 vehicles purchased for SDMs, Tehsildars without posting of drivers

JAMMU, Sep 29 (Agencies): Amazing it may sound to many but it is true that even after purchasing about 165 Bolero and some other vehicles for the Sub Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) and Tehsildars including those placed in the newly created administrative units across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir recently, no provision of the drivers was kept or posted for the operation of these Government vehicles.

Official sources said that while at some places officers are driving these official vehicles themselves, many have engaged private drivers and paying them salary from their own pocket. It added that J&K Government purchased about 165 vehicles including majority of them Bolero and Swift D'zire (Diesel) vehicles for the movement of Tehsildars, Sub Divisional Magistrates in the field. After the creation of new administrative units, many officers were without vehicles. For field movement, these officers were using their own vehicles.

Some of the aggrieved officers told the 'Excelsior' on the condition of not being quoted that they were provided vehicles by the Government few months ago but unfortunately, no drivers were provided to them for the operation of these vehicles. They said some of the vehicles are being driven by the officers themselves and they are facing lot of difficulties as they have to attend so many telephone calls of the senior officers and the public representatives.

Some of the Revenue officers, were asked to hire drivers at their own but no provision of salary of the private drivers has been kept. In many cases, Tehsildars and SDMs are paying salary to the drivers from their own pocket. Sources revealed that when new administrative units were created, the provision of staff was kept along with post of driver. But even after 5-6 months of the purchase of these vehicles, no posts of drivers were filled up or even referred for the recruitment agency.

ers. In Udhampur there are seven Tehsils, but in five Tehsils there are no drivers while SDMs of Dudu and Basantgarh do not have drivers to operate their vehicles. Similarly, in Rajouri districts there are 13 Tehsils and nine Tehsildars are without drivers. Same is the condition in district Jammu where 21 Tehsils exist. Only five of them have the drivers while 16 Tehsils and four other officers/SDMs do not have the drivers to operate their vehicles. In Kathua district, there are 16 Tehsils including remote Bani Sub Division. Only five old Tehsils have the drivers while rest of the Administrative Units do not have the drivers.

Reports from Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban, Reasi, Poonch and Samba districts further revealed that same problem is being faced by the SDMs and Tehsildars in the new units.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar when contacted said that for the operation of these vehicles arrangement of the drivers has been done. He claimed that in some areas they had additional drivers in DC offices and they were deputed to some areas. He did not confirm about referring the posts of drivers to the Service Selections Board but denied the claim that some officers were themselves driving these official vehicles.

Sources said that during 2013-14 about 669 new administrative units were created in J&K by the then Congress Government. These included 46 Sub Divisions, 135 Tehsils and 301 Niabets. Out of these Tehsils and Sub Divisions, majority of them do not have driv-

## BNI Jammu presents Milap Sportz 2023 kicks off today

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 29: The League will begin on Friday, September 29th 2023 and the Final will be played on Sunday, October 8th 2023 at M.A. Stadium at 12 pm.

Jammu has witnessed one of the finest cricketing sprits among business owners last year with Milap Sportz. And the same is back with more teams, more players and greater enthusiasm this year. Milap Sportz Winner 2023 trophy, Knockout Trophy and Super over Cup have been introduced this year for playing teams.

BNI Jammu presents Milap Sportz 2023, The first of its kind cricket league for entrepreneurs locally to promote

sports among business owners in Jammu. Total of 7 Chapter Teams are playing and competing each other namely Abundance, Benchmark, Inspire, Ace, Oscar, Vyapaar and Aarambh playing 6 league matches each and 30 matches in totality.

Milap Sportz chairman, Anubhav Aggarwal, said: "Sports has always been a great way to promote health, fitness, entertainment and building relationships among business owners. This Year, the format of tournament has been designed in a completely different way with back-to-back 4+2 Days of cricketing. The matches are being hosted at two iconic venues of Jammu city, Green Field Gandhi Nagar and M.A stadium,



Jammu. We are grateful to the J&K Sports Council, Jammu for offering us some spectacular locations and making it such a memorable experience for all."

Since we announced Milap Sportz, we have received nothing but unwavering support from the authorities and we invite fans and all cricket Lovers across the Jammu to come and watch Business Owners

in action," he added. Milap Sportz is looking forward to promote Cricket and make it a household name.

Dimpi & Raghav Gupta, Executive Directors BNI Jammu, said, "BNI is India's largest and most successful business networking organization. At BNI, we offer our members the opportunity to network, share contacts, and, most importantly, business referrals. We

at BNI Jammu is the community of 280+ Business Entrepreneurs who help each other to grow each other's business. He added, "Now, more than ever, business people need to network and build relationships to stay in business. BNI provides a structured and supportive system of giving and receiving business referrals.

The complete event was conceived by the Executive Committee of Milap Sportz 2023, and Executed by the Organising Committee of Milap Sportz 2023. Executive Committee Members- Abhimanyu Sharma, Raman Gupta, Sharang Kotwal, Akul Sharma, Gourav Gumble, Dheeraj Sharma and Tejas Bhardwaj. Organising Committee headed by

Tanvir Hussain with his team Kaushi Raina and Dinesh Kumar.

The Schedule is as Follows:

League Matches at Green Fields Ground, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu starting from 29th September 2023 to 2nd October 2023, 10 am to 4pm

Semi Finals and Finals at M.A. Stadium, Jammu on 7th October 2023 and 8th October 2023 respectively, 10 am to 2 pm

BNI Jammu on behalf of all members welcomes all of Jammutes to witness the thrill of cricket and network with more than 300+ business owners of Jammu city. The event shall be followed by Match Ceremony, Celebrations and lunch.

## E-Waste Collection Booth: A Joint Initiative by CBC & Department of Information & PR Doda

### TOP NEWS REPORT

DODA: Sep 29: In a remarkable collaboration aimed at fostering environmental sustainability, the Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India Field Office in Doda, today joined hands with the Department of Information & PR Doda, establish an E-Waste Collection Booth. This initiative received an enthusiastic response from the community, underscoring the collective commitment to responsible e-waste disposal.

The E-Waste Collection Booth, remains for two days on 29th & 30th of September 2023 and



served as a beacon of eco-consciousness in Doda as a part of ongoing campaign on "Swachta Hi Seva", offering residents a convenient avenue to dispose of their electronic waste responsibly. With the rapid advancement of technology, the proper disposal of electronic devices has become

a pressing concern to mitigate environmental hazards.

The citizens of Doda demonstrated their environmental responsibility by actively participating in this initiative. By depositing their old electronic gadgets at the collection booth, they not only contributed to reducing electronic

waste but also set a noteworthy example for the community at large.

To recognize and appreciate the individuals who took a step towards a greener future, certificates of Eco-Responsibility were awarded to those who deposited their e-waste at the booth. This gesture aimed to encourage more people to participate and embrace sustainable practices in disposing of electronic waste.

Vikram Uppal incharge Central Bureau of Communication, Doda Circle, expressed his gratitude to the people of Doda for their active involvement in the E-Waste Collection Booth initiative. He said, "We are thrilled

to see such a positive response from the community. It's heartening to witness the commitment of our citizens to preserving the environment.

We hope this initiative inspires others to adopt responsible e-waste disposal practices."

The Central Bureau of Communication and the Department of Information & PR Doda remain committed to advancing initiatives that promote environmental sustainability and community welfare. This joint effort underscores the power of collaboration in creating positive change and driving awareness about the importance of responsible e-waste management.

## Sustainable Success of a Bank Depends on customer goodwill: SBI RM

### TOP NEWS REPORT

JAMMU, Sep 29: In assuming his role in Jammu, KJ Raina, SBI RM RBO 2 Jammu, highlighted the intrinsic connection between a bank's sustainable success and the goodwill it fosters with its customers. Raina pointed out that the State Bank of India has successfully nurtured a substantial reservoir of goodwill among its customers nationwide. He emphasized the bank's commitment to staying at the forefront of technological advancements to cater to evolving customer needs while also giving due attention to fundamental aspects of service delivery.

Raina stressed the importance of treating



customers with respect, simplifying banking processes, and ensuring accessibility and flexibility in service. He highlighted the bank's well-established customer redressal mechanism, designed to swiftly address concerns and grievances. Raina underscored the significance of customer feedback in continually improving service delivery. He emphasized

that, as custodians of public trust, banks must focus on maximizing stakeholder value through efficient product and service delivery.

Raina encouraged open lines of communication between the bank and its customers, recognizing the symbiotic nature of their relationship and the need for cooperation to further strengthen this bond. Additionally, Raina took the opportunity to raise awareness about the growing threat of cyber fraud incidents. He urged people from all walks of life and regions to educate themselves about these risks and exercise caution to protect themselves from falling victim to such scams.