

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 03, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Kanya Panjabi says there is no sexual abuse in television industry

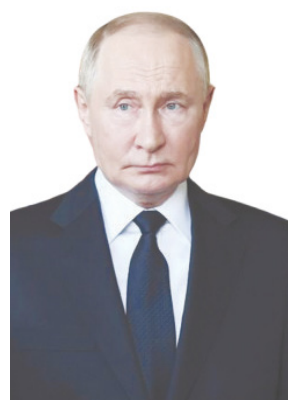


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Mamata Banerjee cites Unnao, Hathras, in statement on Kolkata rape

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Russian President Putin visits Mongolia, defying international warrant for arrest



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BRIEFLY

Rusted Mortar shell destroyed in controlled explosion in Samba

SAMBA/JAMMU, Sep 3 (Agencies): The Border Security Force on Tuesday destroyed a rusted mortar shell found in a border village in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. BSF troops noticed the mortar shell in an open field during patrolling at Chachwal village in the Ghagwal sector around 8 am, they said. The mortar shell was safely destroyed in a controlled explosion around 8.45 am, the officials added.

Mother-son duo from Punjab injured in Srinagar gas cylinder blast

SRINAGAR, Sep 3 (Agencies): A man and his mother were injured in a gas cylinder blast in Elahi Bagh area of Srinagar on Tuesday morning, officials said. An official said that the blast occurred this morning, leaving two Punjab residents injured. He said that soon after the incident the duo was shifted a nearby hospital for treatment with condition of the man stated to be critical. They have identified as Sarwa Dev and her son Rakesh Kumar from Punjab. Police have taken cognisance of the matter.

MeT Predicts Weather Improvement in JK, Rain on September 6-7

SRINAGAR, Sep 3 (Agencies): Weatherman on Tuesday predicted improvement in weather in next few days even as it forecast a spell of light to moderate rain at scattered places on September 6-7 in Jammu and Kashmir. There has been considerable rainfall at few places in Jammu and Kashmir during last 24 hours till 0830 a.m. today with Kathua recording 66.6mm, Udhampur 65.0mm, Bhandarwah 44.2mm, Bahihal 36.6mm, Jammu 36.6mm, KKatra 32.2mm.

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Rahul Gandhi to Kick Off Congress's JK Poll Campaign with Twin Rallies

SRINAGAR, Sep 3 (Agencies): Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi will address two public rallies in Ramban and Anantnag districts on Wednesday, kickstarting the Congress' campaign for the Jammu and Kashmir assembly polls being held after a gap of 10 years.

At the conclusion of the 134-day-long Bharat Jodo Yatra, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addressed a news conference in Srinagar on January 29, 2023. KL Image: Bilal Bahadur

These rallies are part



of the campaign for the party's candidates contesting in the first phase of the elections on September 18.

Besides Rahul Gandhi, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka

Gandhi Vadra are among the 40 star campaigners of the party in the upcoming three-phased Assembly polls.

Polling to elect 90 members of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly will be held on Septem-

ber 18, 25, and October 1.

"Rahul ji will kickstart the party's campaign from tomorrow. He will address two public rallies in Ramban and Anantnag districts in support of Congress candidates on Wednesday," Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) chief Tariq Hamid Karra told PTI.

The Congress and the National Conference have entered into a pre-poll alliance for the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, being held for the first

time since the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution in August 2019.

Karra said Rahul Gandhi will arrive in Jammu from Delhi on Wednesday and then fly to the Gool area of Ramban district to address a rally in the afternoon.

He will campaign for former Jammu and Kashmir unit chief of the party Vikar Rasool Wani, who is contesting from the Banihal assembly constituency. Polling for the seat will be held in the first phase on

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JS Johar appointed Nodal Officer for 2024 General Elections grievances



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 3: The Home department of J-K government on Tuesday appointed Jatinder Singh Johar, as Nodal Officer, for coordinating and furnishing of reports in respect of grievances received from Election Commission during the

upcoming Assembly elections.

In an order, the govt said, "Based on the consultation with PHQ in the Coordination meeting held in Home Department on 02.09.2024, sanction is hereby accorded to the appointment of Jatinder Singh Johar, IPS, AIG (Crime & Complaints) PHQ, J&K as Nodal Officer, for coordinating and furnishing of reports in respect of grievances received from Election Commission of India, during the General Elections to Legislative Assembly in the UT of J&K, 2024."

Kharge, Rahul hold meeting with AICC Secretaries, Joint Secys to strengthen organisation



NEW DELHI, Sep 3 (Agencies): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chief Rahul Gandhi held a meeting with AICC secretaries and joint secretaries here on Tuesday during which ways to strengthen the party organisation were discussed.

Kharge and Gandhi met the leaders at the

AICC headquarters and sought their feedback on strengthening the organisation and expanding the party's support base, sources said.

The meeting comes days after a major organisational rejig under which the party appointed several new secretaries and joint secretaries while shuffling the states of some

office bearers.

In a post on X, Kharge said the Congress will reach out to every Indian.

"We chaired a meeting of the newly appointed AICC Secretaries and Joint Secretaries. We are determined to strengthen our organisation, involve each voice and keep speaking truth to power," the Congress president said.

Kharge has appointed All India Congress Committee (AICC) secretaries and joint secretaries for various states and union territories.

These office bearers are associated with the party's general secretaries and in-charges in the

Turn to page 9

11 lives lost in August militancy-related incidents in Jammu Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Sep 3 (Agencies): The month of August saw a significant increase in militancy-related incidents in Jammu and Kashmir, resulting in casualties on both sides.

The joint forces faced a challenging month, with encounters breaking out in various parts of the erstwhile state.

The data reveals that a total of 4 security personnel, including an Army Captain, and a

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J-K polls: Cong leader threatens to contest as Independent against Omar Abdullah

SRINAGAR, Sep 3 (Agencies): In an unexpected turn of events, the Congress district president of J&K's Ganderbal district on Tuesday threatened to fight as an Independent candidate against National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah if denied candidature by the party.

Omar Abdullah is fighting the Assembly elections from the Ganderbal constituency while Gujarat leader, Mian Meher Ali is fighting the election as the NC candidate from the Kangan (ST) constituency of the district.

Both Kangan and Ganderbal are two Assembly constituencies in central Kashmir's Ganderbal

district.

As per the pre-poll alliance, the NC will fight from 52 seats and Congress from 31 seats in the J&K Assembly elections.

On Tuesday, Congress district president (Ganderbal), Sahil Farooq threatened to stand as an independent candidate against Omar Abdullah if the Congress doesn't give him the party mandate.

"If we can fight a friendly contest on five seats, why not in Ganderbal as well? I am willing to contest the upcoming Assembly elections under the party's banner if a friendly contest between the Congress and NC is

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Govt orders transfers, postings in Finance Department

JAMMU / SRINAGAR, Sep 3: The government of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday ordered transfers and postings of 27 officers in the Finance Department with immediate effect.

In the interest of administration, the following transfers / postings / additional charge assignments, of the Members of J&K Accounts Service, are hereby ordered with immediate effect, read an official order.

Mohd Yousuf Najar, AO, Verinag Tourism Development Authority with additional charge of Kokemag

Tourism Development Authority shall await orders of adjustment in the Directorate General of Accounts and Treasuries J&K.

Javed Iqbal Hakim, AO, Deputy Commissioner Office Kulgam with additional charge of Aharbal

Tourism Development Authority and Municipal Council Kulgam is transferred and posted as AO, District Fund Office Pulwama against available vacancy.

Mushtaq Ahmad Mugul, AO, Pahalgam Tourism Development Authority with additional charge of

KPDCL Bijbehara is transferred and posted as AO, Sr. Superintendent of Police Awantipora.

Omer Javaid, AO, Deputy Commissioner Office, Shopian with additional charge of Municipal

Council Shopian is transferred and posted as AO, Pahalgam Tourism Development Authority vice Mushtaq Ahmad Mugul.

Mohammad Maqbool Kumar AO, Senior Superintendent of Police, Pulwama with additional charge of Municipal Council Pulwama is transferred

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MBA MOTORS

MERCEDES - BMW - AUDI

DEALS IN SALE, PURCHASE, REPAIRING AND SERVICING OF USED CARS AND ORIGINAL SPARE PARTS

NAGROTA, JAMMU (J&K) +91-9086207123

10TH DAY & 11TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Gayatri Devi** Wife of Lt. Sh Hari Ram at our residence VPO Chak Rakwalan, Tehsil and District Udhampur.



SMT GAYATRI DEVI

10TH DAY will be performed on 04-09-2024 (Wednesday) and **KRIYA** will be performed on 05-09-2024 (Thursday) at 8:30 AM to 12 Noon at Village Chak Rakwalan Tehsil and District Udhampur.

FROM
MAGOTRA FAMILY CHAK
PH: 8803580648, 9419158084

10TH DAY KRIYA

We are deeply saddened to inform you that our beloved **Sh. Ashok Kumar Koul** S/o Niranjan Nath Koul, Originally resident of Battapora, Shopian, at present 59/2, Shantipuram, Lower Rop Nagar, Jammu attained Moksha on 27-08-2024.



SH. ASHOK KUMAR KOUL

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 5-09-2024 (Thursday) at Muthi Ghat (Near Directorate of School Education), Jammu at 8 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Sarojini Koul - Wife
Son & Daughter-in-law
Atul Koul & Megha Koul
Brother & Bhabhi
Rajinder Koul & Bimla Koul - 9419148372.
Pinki Koul - Bhabhi
Subash Koul & Veena Koul - Brother & Bhabhi - 6005926919
Shivani Koul & Ishaan Koul - Daughter & Son-in-law
Arpit Koul & Sakshi Koul - Son & Daughter-in-law
Esha Koul - Daughter
Ranjeet Thakur - 9622087649
Yuvaan Koul & Eva Koul - Grand Children
IN GRIEF: Pandita's, Wanchoo's, Lahori's

OBITUARY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **USHA KOUL (BHANI)** DO LT. SH. DINA NATH BHAN OF BAGH JOGI LANKAR RAINAWARI SRINAGAR (KASHMIR) AND PRESENTLY AT C-10/10, JHANVI ENCLAVE, BANGALORE KARNATAKA-560076 ON 26TH AUGUST, 2024 (26.08.2024)



USHA KOUL (BHAN)

GRIEF STRICKEN
SMT. PHOOLA KOUL (KENVUE) (SISTER)
SMT. MANA KOUL (SISTER)
SMT. KUNA RAINA (SISTER)
(BROTHER & SISTER-IN-LAW)
SH. BABLOO & SMT. BABLEE BHAN
(BROTHER-IN-LAWS & SISTERS)
SH. RAMESH & SMT. SARLA MUNSHI
SH. KULDEEP & SUNTA KOUL
ALL NEAR & DEAR ONES
MOB.: 9953516441, 9560474009, 9980701152, 9419303938, 9469808616, 9810181379

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Dr Bansi Lal Pandit** resident of BL- 22 Shalimar Bagh, Delhi who left for his heavenly abode on 29th August 2024. **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 6th September 2024 at Nigambodh Ghat (Kashmiri Ghat) New Delhi at 9:00 AM.



Dr Bansi Lal Pandit

Pandit Parivar
9311656918, 9968604386

FIFTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Jija Ji Sh. Vinod Verma (Raju)** S/o Lt. Sh. Thakur Dass Verma R/o Ward No. 5, Chenani Udhampur on 31-08-2024.



Sh. Vinod Verma (Raju)

FIFTH DAY will be performed on 04th September, 2024 (Wednesday) at 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon at Mahajan Hall, 1st Floor, Shalimar, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Brother-In-Law & Sister-In-Law
Sh. Joginder Puri & Smt. Renu Puri
Contact No.: 94191-32676, 70066-72676

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With Profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the untimely and sad demise of our beloved father **Sh Pran Nath Tickoo (Budshah)** S/o Late Ganesh Dass Tickoo (Budshah) on 29/8/2024 originally from Narparistan Banna mohalla srinagar presently at Kendriya Vihar Sec 56 Gurgaon Haryana.



Sh Pran Nath Tickoo

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Chota Haridwar on 6th sept 2024.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt Sarla Tickoo - (Budshah)- Wife
Sons
Sudhir Tickoo (Budshah)
Rishi Tickoo (Budshah)
Shashi Tickoo (Budshah)
Nabud Badam Shuhul (Grand Children)
Dida we luv u lot... **9910777059 (M) 9818401135 (M)**

REST IN PEACE

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SMT PRAKASH SHARMA (RETD. LEC.)** WIFE OF LATE SH SHIV DASS KHAJURIA RO PABA GALI, LITTLE SCHOLARS MODERN ACADEMY.



SMT PRAKASH SHARMA

DAY OF PASSING: 24/8/2024
TENTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON MONDAY 26/24 AT MAHAJAN HALL NEAR SITLA MANDIR AT 11 AM.
KRIYA ON TUESDAY 3/9/24 AT DEVIKA GHAT AT 11 AM.
UTHALA WILL BE PERFORMED ON WEDNESDAY 4/9/24 AT 4 TO 5 PM AT MAHAJAN HALL.

IN GRIEF
SONS & DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW
SH RAVI KANT AND SMT SHASHI PRABHA
SH RAJIN KHAJURIA AND SMT URMIL KHAJURIA
DAUGHTERS & SONS-IN-LAW
SMT SHASHI KIRAN AND LATE SH B D SADOTRA
SMT NEELAM VAID & SH D K VAID
SMT MANJU AND SH PARMOODH ARYA
GRAND SON & GRAND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
MR NIPUN AND MRS MANSHA
GRAND DAUGHTER & GRAND SON-IN-LAW
MRS SUMALINI AND MR ANSHUMAN
MRS PRIYANKA AND MR RAHUL
MRS PALAK AND MR MOHT

LOVING GREAT GRAND SON:
SARANG KHAJURIA
9419160573, 9419992777
ALLIED AGENCIES

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Moti Lal Mattoo** S/o Lt. Nand Lal Mattoo originally R/o Natipora Srinagar at present 46/47 B, Block-A, Vipin Garden, Dwarka North Near Fakkad Baba Ashram, New Delhi on 27th Aug. 24.



Sh. Moti Lal Mattoo

The **10TH DAY KRIYA** shall take place on 5th Sept. 2024 at Shree Gouri Shankar Mandir, new Palm Vihar, Block-T, Sector-109, Gurugram at 7:00 AM.

KRIYA ASSEMBLY will be performed on 5th Sept 2024 at our residence at 11:00 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Brothers & Sister-in-law
Sh. C.L. Mattoo & Smt. Santosh Mattoo
Sh. B.L. Mattoo & Smt. Nancy Mattoo
Sisters & Brothers-in-law
Sh. P N Kaul & Smt. Dulari Kaul
Sh. C L Bhat & Smt. Rajni Bhat
Sh. M K Munshi & Smt. Jyoti Munshi
Sh. D N Bhat & Smt. Phoola Bhat
Ms. Muni Bhat

Mob. No.: 8383995727, 9717182841

TENTH DAY & KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the untimely and sad demise of our beloved father **Shri Rakesh Kumar Dubey** S/o Joginder Raj & Manorma Dubey on 28-08-2024 in our residence. 1/128 Indra Vihar Patoli, Jammu.



Shri Rakesh Kumar Dubey

Tenth Day - 5/9/2024 at 11:00 AM.

Kriya - 6/9/2024 at 12:00 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Nitu Sharma - Wife
Abhishek Dubey - Son
Bhanu Dubey - Son
Ambika Dubey - Daughter
9622346123 (M)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the untimely and sad demise of our beloved Father **Shri Bhushan Lal Shah** S/o Late Dina Nath Shah originally resident of Chhatrabal Srinagar & at present Kausambi Ghaziabad on 31st August.



Shri Bhushan Lal Shah

Tenth Day Kriya will be held on 9th September 2024 at Mutednagar Ghaziabad Ghat at 09 am.

Assembly at residence B-67 S1 3rd floor opposite Annapurna Society Kausambi Ghaziabad at 11:30.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Babli Shah (Wife)
Jai Kishori Khat (Sister)
Son's & Daughter in law's
Ankush & Bhavna Mattoo Shah
Ankur & Neha Natang Shah
Daughter & Son in law
Payal & Amit Suri
Mobile: 9 899 106730, 9654052187, 9910333252, 9873057701

10TH DAY & 11TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Gayatri Devi** Wife of Lt. Sh Hari Ram at our residence VPO Chak Rakwalan, Tehsil and District Udhampur.



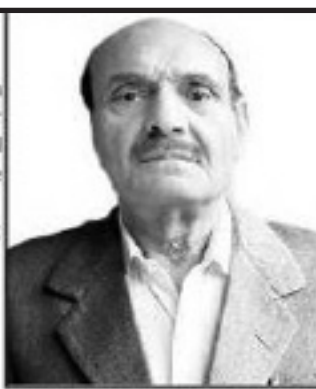
SMT GAYATRI DEVI

10TH DAY will be performed on 04-09-2024 (Wednesday) and **KRIYA** will be performed on 05-09-2024 (Thursday) at 8:30 AM to 12 Noon at Village Chak Rakwalan Tehsil and District Udhampur.

FROM
Son & Daughter-in-law
Sh. Mast Ram Magotra & Smt. Chanchla Devi
Sh. Suraj Prakash Magotra & Smt. Sushma Devi
Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Swarna Devi & Sh. Kaka Ram Sharma
MAGOTRA FAMILY CHAK **PH: 8803580648, 9419158084**

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we are saddened to inform you all about the sad demise of our beloved father **Shri Pushkar Nath Kotru** S/o Late M.N Kotru R/o R.N Mandir Habba Kadal Srinagar (KMR) A/P H.No 42 - A Lane No 1 Sharika Nagar Gole Talab Tillo, Jammu.



Shri Pushkar Nath Kotru

TENTH DAY will be performed on Friday 06th September 2024 at 8.30 am at Muthi Ghat Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN.
Smt Usha Kotru (Wife)
Smt Maya Kotru (Bhabhi)
(Son and Daughter in law)
Rajesh Kotru and Ratni Kotru
Rakesh Kotru (Son)
Sahil Kotru and Anshu Kotru (Son and Daughter in law)
Shubam and Jyanshu (Grand Children).
Mobile - 9906070368, 6006183305, 7298002471.
MOURNING FROM MALUN SIDE will also be held at the same place.

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother, **Smt. Usha Rani** W/o Late Sh. Janki Nath Pandita, originally from Maljar (Ganpatyar), Srinagar at present 1094, GH-5&7, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi on August 26, 2024 in Delhi.



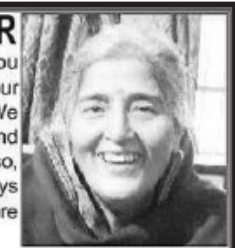
SMT. USHA RANI

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be held on 4th September 2024 at 9am at Ghat Samaypur Badli Bridge (near Temple), Bawana Road, Sector -16 Rohini, Delhi.

ASSEMBLY of relatives and friends will be held at 10:30am at 160, Nagin Lake Apartments, Paschim Vihar Ph-I, Peeragarhi, New Delhi.
SHE LEAVES BEHIND GRIEF STRICKEN FAMILY:
Sons and Daughter-in-Laws
Ashoney & Rajni Pandita
Sunil & Late Smt. Sunita Pandita
Daughter and Son-in Law
Daisy & Tej Shari (Sydney, Australia)
Grand children (with spouse)
Fiche & Kimi, Shiveen & Nikita, Vikram, Oshin & Arjun, Sameer
Great Grand child: Nora
May she rest in peace and forever keep smiling from above. Om Shanti Om
Mobile: 8076162362

MASWAAR & VEHERWAR

One year has passed away since you left us in deep grief & sorrow for your eternal journey to heavenly abode. We feel your presence everywhere and every moment because you gave us so much to remember. You will always remain in our heart because in there you are still alive.



Late Smt Rattna Warikoo

MASWAR & VEHERWAR of our beloved **Smt Rattna Warikoo** D/o Late Smt Kamla & Mohan Lal Bhan of Bana Mohalla Srinagar and W/o R J Warikoo R/o Indra Nagar Udhampur will be performed on 4th & 5th Sept 2024 at our present residence House No. 2, Lane 4 Sect 1 Durga Nagar, Jammu.

Deeply Remembered by:
SAMAST WARIKOO, BHAN, RAINA, KASHKARI AND TIKOO PARIVAR

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With Profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **SMT VEENA KOUL (THATHI)** W/o LATE SH. SHIBAN LAL KOUL ORIGINALLY OF ZAINA KADAL (SRINAGAR- KASHMIR) & OF BUTA NAGAR ENCLAVE PALOURA JAMMU and presently at # C-1010 JHANVI ENCLAVE BANGALORE KARNATAKA-560076 on 26TH AUGUST -2024 (26.08.2024)



SMT VEENA KOUL (THATHI)

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 4TH SEPTEMBER 2024 (04.09.2024) at SRIRANGAPATNAM MYSORE

GRIEF STRICKEN
SHASHOK KOUL & SMT REETA KOUL (BROTHER-IN-LAW & SISTER IN LAW)
SH SACHIN & SMT SUMAN KOUL (SON-IN-LAW & DAUGHTER)
SH SUNIL KOUL & SMT SONI KOUL (SON & DAUGHTER - IN-LAW)
SH SUNNY KOUL & SMT MEGHA SINGAL (SON & DAUGHTER - IN-LAW)
SAMAST KOUL PARVAR
ALL NEAR & DEAR ONES
MOB#9535224301
9781601028

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to convey that our beloved **Smt. Asha Bhat** (W/o Bhushan Lal Bhat), originally from Gund Gushi, Kupwara; A/p F-144, Sector - 2, Durga Nagar, Talab Tillo, Jammu; attained Nirvana on 26th August 2024.



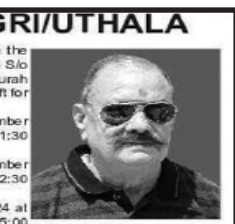
Smt. Asha Bhat

10th Day Kriya will be performed on 4th September 2024; 9:00 am at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education Jammu.

Grief Stricken
Sh Bhushan Lal Bhat - Husband
Son's and Daughter-in-Law's
Sandeep and Anika Bhat
Surinder and Reena Bhat
Sushog and Asmi Bhat
Grandchildren: Bhavik, Vandita & Myra
Contact No.: 9622307652, 7351003510, 7889722504, 73870 54731

KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Mr Kulbir Singh** S/o Late Th. Sobha Singh Slatia (Matri Gola, Gura Slatia) at present 22- Kacchi Chawli Jammu who left for his heavenly abode on 22nd of Aug 2024. Kriya will be performed on Tuesday 3rd of September 2024 at our residence 22-Kacchi Chawli Jammu at 11:30 A.M.



Mr Kulbir Singh Slatia

Rasam Pagri shall be performed on 4th of September 2024 at Mahajan Hall Shalimar Road Jammu at 12:30 P.M.
Uthala shall be performed on 4th of September 2024 at Mahajan Hall Shalimar Road Jammu from 4:00 - 5:00 P.M.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Mrs Mohan Slatia - Wife (Retired Senior Teacher) P No. 914942043
Daughter-in-laws and Sons
Mrs Vijay Slatia and Mr Harnet Singh Slatia
Mrs Neeraj Slatia and Mr Rakesh Singh Slatia (J&K Bank)
Brother and Sister in Law
Mr Mishu Singh Slatia and Geeta Devi
Sister and Brother-in-law
Mrs Sunita Devi and Mr Kalyan Singh Bhatra
Sister in law
Mrs Anushka Samyol (Wife of Late Colonel Mohan Singh Samyol)
Grand Children - Soniya, Tanya, Chhandy and Aditya
P No. 9858031922, 7894609238

MASWAR/WAHARWAR

ONE YEAR HAS PASSED SINCE YOU LEFT FOR ETERNAL JOURNEY. YOUR PRESENCE WILL REMAIN ALWAYS IN OUR LIFE.



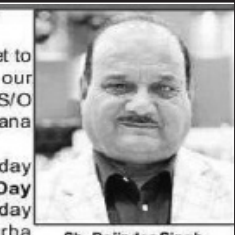
SH. SUBASH CHANDER GANJOO

THE **MASWAR/WAHARWAR** OF OUR BELOVED **SH. SUBASH CHANDER GANJOO** S/O LATE JIA LAL GANJOO WILL BE PERFORMED AT OUR RESIDENCE AT H.NO.61 SECTOR-6 LOWER ROOPNAGAR MUTHI CAMP JAMMU ON 4TH SEPTEMBER 2024 & 5TH SEPTEMBER 2024.

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:
SMT. SURYA SATHE (WIFE)
SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
MR. SUNIL GANJOO & MRS. PRIYANKA GANJOO
SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
MR. SUNIL GANJOO & MRS. DAYA GANJOO
BROTHERS & SISTER IN LAW
LATE SH. KALASH GANJOO & SMT. DAYA GANJOO
SH. ASHOK GANJOO & LATE ARUNA GANJOO
SH. RC GANJOO & LATE NEELAM GANJOO
SH. HR SHARMA & SMT. LALITA SHARMA
SISTERS & BROTHER-IN-LAW
SMT. LALITA SHARMA & LATE. SH. RAMESH LAL SHARMA
SMT. VEENA BHARDWAJ & DR. SAT PAL BHARDWAJ
SMT. MONICA KARRI & LATE. SH. SATISH KARRI
GRAND CHILDREN: MANVIK GANJOO, TAPANA GANJOO
7006632236, 9419186401

10TH DAY/13TH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform you the untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Rajinder Singh Rakwal** S/O Sh. Bhagat Singh R/o Gurha Brahmana Patoli on 24.08.2024.



Sh. Rajinder Singh Rakwal

Tenth Day will be performed on Monday 02.09.2024 at 11:00 AM and **13th Day** will be performed on Thursday 05.09.2024 at our residence Gurha Brahmana Patoli.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Soorma Rakwal - Wife
Sh. Valshi Singh Rakwal & Pallavi Jammal (Son & Daughter in law)
Sh. Sandeep Singh Jammal (TSO) & Dr. Shalini Rajput (Daughter & Son-in-law)
All Brothers & Bhabhis
Grand Children
Samarth, Rishwan & Aviraj
Phone No. 606045776, 9419165568, 9419136532
M/S Shiva Brick Kila
M/S Bawa Dev Traders Gurha Patoli Brahmana

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Gulchain Singh Charak Urges immediate action to save Gole Ghar building from decay

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sept 3: Gulchain Singh Charak, President of Dogra Sadar Sabha, Jammu and Kashmir, and a former Minister, has voiced grave concerns over the deteriorating condition of the prestigious Gole Ghar building located at the Mubarak Mandi complex.



The historic structure, a symbol of Dogra heritage, has suffered significant damage due to the recent heavy rains, which have exacerbated its already perilous state.

During a recent visit to the site, Charak conducted an on-the-ground assessment of the building's condition. His inspection revealed that the Gole Ghar, once a proud emblem of the region's rich cultural legacy, is now in a state of

severe disrepair. Charak highlighted that the Gole Ghar was historically significant, having been a site where the National Flag was hoisted, visible from as far as Sialkot, now in Pakistan. The structure's current decay threatens to erase this vital part of Jammu's heritage, according to Charak.

In addition to the concerns about the Gole

Ghar, Charak drew attention to the perilous condition of the slopes of Mubarak Mandi, particularly those visible from the backside near Circular Road. He warned that ongoing landslides, triggered by heavy rains, pose a significant risk of further damage to the structures in the complex if prompt action is not taken.

Charak expressed frus-

tration over the lack of progress in the restoration efforts of the Gole Ghar. He recounted his own efforts during his tenure as a Cabinet Minister, including the installation of temporary cranes and the recommendation to construct temporary pillars to support the structure. Despite these measures, he lamented that no substantial progress has been made due to what he described as a casual approach by the authorities responsible for heritage preservation.

With palpable resentment, Charak called on the government to take immediate and effective measures to safeguard this crucial heritage site. He warned that if urgent steps are not undertaken, the entire building complex could face imminent collapse.

Furthermore, Charak addressed a separate but related issue concerning the preservation of important artifacts and confidential documents. Reports have indicated that these materials, currently housed in the Archives of Jammu at the Mubarak Mandi Complex, are slated to be transferred to the Union Territory of Ladakh. Charak argued that these documents, preserved since the era of the Dogra rulers, should remain in Jammu to retain their historical context. He proposed that while original files should be retained in Jammu, photocopies could be sent to Ladakh for record-keeping purposes. Charak emphasized that shifting these fragile files poses a significant risk to their preservation.

Aditi Sharma resigns from BJP, Aligns with Dr. Farooq Abdullah in Srinagar

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sept 3: In a significant political development, Aditi Sharma, a well-known and influential figure in Jammu & Kashmir politics, has resigned from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and officially joined the National Conference (NC). The formal announcement took place today in Srinagar, in the esteemed presence of the party president, Dr. Farooq Abdullah.



Aditi Sharma's decision to join the National Conference marks a major shift in the political landscape of the region. Known for her strong grassroots connections and popularity among the people of Jammu & Kashmir, her move is expected to strengthen the NC's position significantly.

While addressing the gathering, Dr. Farooq Abdullah welcomed Aditi Sharma into the party, expressing confidence that her inclusion will

bring renewed energy and focus to the NC's efforts in the state. He also highlighted the critical role that seasoned and dedicated leaders like Aditi Sharma will play in shaping the future of Jammu & Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, Aditi Sharma shared her reason for leaving the BJP, citing a desire to work more closely with a party that truly understands and represents the aspirations of the people of

Jammu & Kashmir. She expressed her commitment to furthering the vision and values of the National Conference and contributing positively to the region's development.

This move is expected to create ripples across the political spectrum in Jammu & Kashmir, as Aditi Sharma's departure from the BJP comes at a crucial time, with upcoming elections and significant political challenges on the horizon.

All political parties neglect Rajput community in J&K: AIREM

Decides to field community leaders as independent candidates in Assembly election



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 3: In a press conference held at the Press Club Jammu, Yashpal Manhas, Chairman of the All India Rajput Ekta Manch (AIREM), expressed deep concerns over the continued neglect of the Rajput community by all political parties in the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

He highlighted that for the past 50 years, Rajput leaders have worked diligently in all constituencies for various political parties, contributing to their growth and success.

However, despite their significant efforts, these leaders have been systematically overlooked when it comes to granting party mandates in assembly elections.

Manhas pointed out that the Rajput community has consistently been denied a fair share of representation, with political parties choosing to give mandates to outsiders instead of deserving Rajput candidates within the constituency.

This exclusion has created a growing sense of dissatisfaction and frustration within the community, leading to calls for a more assertive stance in future elections, he said.

In a bold move, Manhas announced that if this trend of marginalization continues, the Rajput community will take matters into their own hands by fielding their leaders as independent candidates in the upcoming assembly elections.

He emphasized that the community is no longer willing to be sidelined and will actively seek to ensure that their voices are heard and their interests are represented in the legislative process.

Manhas also stressed that the Rajput community has been an integral part of Jammu and Kashmir's history and culture, contributing significantly to its social, economic, and political fabric. Despite this, they have been consistently overlooked in key political decisions, particularly in the allocation of assembly

mandates. This exclusion, he argued, is not only unfair but also detrimental to the democratic process, as it deprives a significant section of the population of proper representation.

He appealed Rajput Biradaris to field their own leaders as independent candidates in the upcoming assembly elections to secure the representation they deserve.

The Chairman's remarks were met with strong support from those in attendance, who echoed his sentiments and vowed to rally behind Rajput candidates in future elections. The community leaders present at the press conference expressed their determination to break the cycle of neglect and ensure that the Rajput community is given its due recognition in the political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

In conclusion, the All India Rajput Ekta Manch has sent a clear message to political parties in Jammu and Kashmir: the Rajput community will no longer tolerate being ignored or marginalized.

The press conference was attended by several prominent figures from the Rajput community, including Surinder Singh Pawar, Varinder Singh, Tersam Singh, Pawan Singh, Balvinder Singh, Vijay Singh Bhau, Nikhil Manhas, and others.

TNWS hails Commissioner JMC for starts fogging drive in Trikuta Nagar



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 3: Dr. Devansh Yadav Commissioner JMC Jammu along with Dr. D. J Raina & Health officer JMC Dr. Vinod Sharma accompanied by their anti Malaria team visited Trikuta Nagar Welfare Society (TNWS) main market, T. N. Colony Jammu to start the anti dengue fogging drive & Awareness program in Jammu city.

Rajinder P. Kakkhar President TNWS welcomed the JMC Commissioner and his team to choose colony to start the fogging drive and Awareness program.

The Commissioner JMC has issued clear cut directions to health wing of JMC to put in place the sufficient number of men & machinery so that every nook and corners of the Trikuta Nagar colony and Jammu city can be covered in respect of fogging to avoid the chance of dengue cases should be prevented in Jammu. The commissioner JMC

appreciated the efforts of Trikuta Nagar society team, health wing of JMC and anti malaria team of Jammu to launch of such fogging drives for the safety & security for residents of Trikuta Nagar colony & Jammu city.

Team TNWS Jammu assured the commissioner JMC Jammu for full Cooperation and support to JMC in eradicating the menace of dengue and other services provided by JMC in near future and thanks the visiting officials on behalf of Trikuta Nagar residents to starting such drive in our colony Er. Ashok Kumar Arora, Advocate Harshvardhan Gupta, Vijay Gupta, Sandeep Sharma and Amarjeet Singh also participate in the Awareness program for distribution of Pamphlet of dengue precautions in the main market shopkeeper and resident's of Trikuta Nagar Colony Jammu. Secretary, TNWS Jammu.

BJP's pin pointed attack on NC

In 2014, Omar offered unconditional support, agreed for full term BJP CM: Rana

Top News Report

JAMMU Sep 3: In a pin pointed attack on former Chief Minister of J&K, Omar Abdullah, the BJP on Tuesday said that in 2014 Omar met senior most leaders of the BJP and RSS at Delhi and offered unconditional support to BJP for government formation in J&K and also agreed for a full term BJP Chief Minister.

This sharp attack on Omar Abdullah came from none other but a former senior National Conference (NC) leader, Devendra Rana, during a press conference at Jammu today.

R P Singh, BJP National Spokesperson, Arun Gupta, J&K BJP Spokesperson & BJP War Room Incharge and Dr Pardeep Mahotra, J&K BJP Media Incharge were also present on the occasion.

Rana said that today Omar is saying that all political parties of Kashmir are part of BJP and are close to it whereas the "reality is completely opposite".

Rana said, "Now, you (Omar) are saying that Ram Madhav is close to PDP but the truth is that you repeatedly approached top BJP and RSS leaders for forming government in J&K".

Rana further reminded

Omar that he was the union minister in Vajpayee government but today he is saying that NC has nothing to do with BJP. Rana said, "In 2014, when NC had 15 MLAs, Omar went to Delhi and met senior most leaders of the BJP and also knocked the doors of

former Chief Minister, Mufti Mohd Sayeed, Omar Abdullah again started approaching top BJP and RSS leader at Delhi offering unconditional support to the BJP for government formation in J&K and also agreeing for a full term BJP Chief Minister.



RSS leaders including Home Minister Amit Shah and the then J&K Incharge, Ram Madhav and offered unconditional support to the BJP for forming government in J&K".

Omar also agreed for a full term Chief Minister of the BJP in J&K, Rana said.

"I also accompanied Omar that time and he (Omar) offered on the table unconditional support to the BJP for forming government in J&K and also even extended unconditional support for a full term Chief Minister of the BJP in J&K," Rana said.

Rana said that the BJP, however, rejected the proposal of Omar Abdullah. Rana further said that after this rejection by the BJP, Omar repeatedly kept on approaching the BJP top leadership and also knocked the doors of RSS for government formation in J&K.

"NC wanted to be in power in J&K at any cost," Rana said, while adding that after the death of

"Farooq Abdullah was at Katra at that time and told Omar Abdullah to meet BJP and RSS leaders at Delhi and offer unconditional support to BJP for forming government in J&K," Rana said, adding, "The BJP rejected NC's offer at that time also"

Rana said that today Omar is saying that all political parties of Kashmir are part of BJP except NC. "NC is just trying to build narrative by saying that NC has nothing to do with BJP," Rana said adding, "rather than fooling people NC should draw future roadmap for the betterment of people."

He also accused NC saying that it talks about releasing jailed stone pelters which shows that NC wants unrest in J&K. "Have they forgotten 2009 and 2010?" Rana questioned.

He also said that BJP will never allow NC to play with sentiments of Hindus as it has mentioned in its manifesto to rename Shankaracharya as Takht-e-Suleman.

KPC condemns, rejects certain demands by AIKS, GKPD, Vichar Manch

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 3: The Kashmiri Pandit Conference (KPC) and its allied organizations have unequivocally rejected and condemned the recent demands put forth by the All India Kashmiri Samaj (AIKS), Global Kashmiri Pandit Diaspora (GKPD), and Vichar Manch, as highlighted in their press communiqué dated September 2, 2024.

These demands, which seek clarity and a so-called "road map" from the mainstream political parties of Kashmir regarding the return and rehabilitation of the displaced Kashmiri Pandit community, are deemed misguided and highly objectionable by the KPC.

Kundan Kashmiri, President KPC denounced the approach of AIKS, GKPD, and Vichar Manch for seeking assurances from the very political entities responsible for the community's devastation.

These are the same forces that either stood by or remained silent during the horrors of the forced exodus of Kashmiri Pandits.

To now request these entities to determine the future of the displaced community is considered an insult to the collective memory of Kashmiri Pandits, who have suffered immense trauma and loss since the onset of the turmoil in the Kashmir Valley.

The KPC, along with like-minded organizations, remains steadfast in its commitment to a just and rightful solution for the displaced community. Kundan asserted that the only acceptable road map for the rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits involves resettlement at a single consolidated location within the Kashmir Valley, preferably near the borders of Jammu.

This demand is seen as essential not merely for convenience but for

the survival, dignity, and safety of a community that has been uprooted from its homeland. KPC rejects any notion of returning to previously scattered locations in the Valley, citing ongoing insecurity and painful memories of persecution.

Furthermore, the KPC President vehemently opposed the demand for the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission as suggested by AIKS, GKPD, and Vichar Manch. Such a proposal is viewed as an attempt to dilute the gravity of the community's plight and to equate victims with perpetrators, thereby distorting the narrative of their suffering.

Instead, KPC and its allies call for the immediate passage of a "Genocide Bill" in Parliament. This bill would formally recognize and address the ethnic cleansing and forced exodus of the Kashmiri Pandit community. It must be accompa-

nied by a robust judicial probe into the numerous atrocities inflicted upon the community, including deaths, destruction, looting, and arson that occurred during the turmoil starting in 1989-90. The truth of the ethnic cleansing must be brought to light, and justice must be served to those who orchestrated and enabled the persecution.

Additionally, the KPC President demanded that a rehabilitation bill for Kashmiri Pandits be brought to Parliament and passed at the earliest, as per the wishes of the community.

The Kashmiri Pandit community, through the KPC and its allied organizations, stands united and resolute in its demand for a dignified and secure resettlement in a consolidated location within the Kashmir Valley. The struggle will continue until this goal is achieved.

KCPS students shine at district level netball c'ship

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 3: Netball team of KCPS shone at the district level Netball Championship organized by Netball Association of J&K at sports complex, Bhagwati Nagar, recently.

The boys' team bagged 12 gold medals and 8 bronze medals whereas the girls' team bagged 10 silver medals. Kceans displayed remarkable agility, strategic gameplay, and extraordinary talent on the court, earning praise and admiration from spectators and competitors alike. The boys' team was adjudged 'The Emerging Team of the Tournament'.

Principal Amarendra Kumar Mishra expressed

immense pride in the students' achievement and stated that they have once again proven themselves to be true champions on and off the field. He further added that their hard work, passion for the sport, commitment to excellence and support from the coach-Shrishta have resulted in this well-deserved victory. It is a testament to school's commitment to holistic approach to the development of its students.

Chairman Raju Chowdhary, Vice Chairman Arjun Chowdhary, MD Arti Chowdhary, Principal Amarendra Kumar Mishra and Vice Principal Sanjay Pandey congratulated the team for their excellent performance in the event.

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Catalogue No.	Auction Start date/time	Name of work	
EAZR-PACKING-9	19.09.24 at 11.00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for packing of two wheelers and other parcel packages at FZR.	
EAZR-MS24-8	19.09.24 at 11.00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for Peaceful/Relaxed Zone by installation, operation and maintenance of Body Repair chairs at Jalandhar City & Pathankot Cantt and Water Vending Machines (WVMs) at Phillaur, Ferozpur Cantt, Pathankot Cantt & Jalandhar City Railway Station.	
EAZR-DH24-5	22.07.24 at 11.00 Hrs.	1) Allotment of contract for Commercial Advertisement rights on exterior of Overhead Water Tank at Sujanpur, Sainawal, Pathankot, Jalandhar City, Amritsar Railway Station. 2) Allotment of contract for Commercial publicity rights through static media at Level crossings adjoining to Chhina, Patti, Jaitpur, Bata, Verka, Bhagtwalia, Nakodar, & Miskhu Railway Station.	
EAZR-Ph24-4	19.09.24 at 12.30 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for operation and maintenance of Normal Pay & Use Ticket blocks (near Booking office, RMS Building and in new 2nd class waiting hall near Parcel office) at Railway Station Ludhiana.	
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EDITORIAL

Reviving Trust in Public Institutions

In recent years, there has been a noticeable erosion of trust in public institutions globally, including in India. The pillars of democracy—judiciary, executive, and legislative bodies—have come under intense scrutiny. Scandals, inefficiency, perceived biases, and a disconnect from the common citizen's needs have all contributed to a growing skepticism among the populace. The challenge before us is not only to restore faith in these institutions but also to strengthen them for the future.

Several factors have contributed to this crisis of confidence. Corruption scandals have rocked the foundations of public trust, with high-profile cases involving politicians, bureaucrats, and even members of the judiciary. The slow pace of justice, often seen in the form of long-pending cases and delayed reforms, has only exacerbated public frustration.

A loss of trust in public institutions has far-reaching consequences. When citizens feel disconnected from or disillusioned by their leaders and the mechanisms of governance, it breeds apathy and cynicism. Voter turnout declines, and civic engagement diminishes, weakening the very foundation of democracy.

Moreover, when public institutions are perceived as ineffective or corrupt, it creates a fertile ground for populist leaders who promise quick fixes and often bypass institutional checks and balances. This can lead to authoritarian tendencies, threatening democratic norms and values.

Public institutions must operate with greater transparency. This includes clear communication of decisions, timely disclosure of information, and a robust system for holding officials accountable for their actions. The introduction of technology in governance—such as e-governance platforms—can help streamline processes and reduce corruption.

The judiciary needs to be empowered and reformed to handle cases more efficiently. Fast-track courts for corruption cases, a reduction in the backlog of pending cases, and ensuring the independence of the judiciary are critical steps in restoring faith in this institution.

The media must recommit to impartial and fact-based reporting. This involves resisting the lure of sensationalism and the pressures of political affiliations. Media literacy programs can also help citizens discern credible news from propaganda, reducing the influence of misinformation.

Encouraging greater public participation in the democratic process is essential. Citizens need to feel that their voices are heard and that they have a role in shaping policies. This can be achieved through regular public consultations, citizen assemblies, and initiatives that promote active civic education.

Political parties should prioritize internal democracy and transparency. Campaign finance reforms are also necessary to reduce the influence of money in politics and to ensure that elected officials are accountable to the people, not special interest groups.

Rebuilding trust in public institutions is not an overnight task. It requires sustained effort from all sectors of society—government, media, civil society, and citizens alike. However, it is a crucial endeavor, for without trust, democracy cannot thrive. As we move forward, let us commit to strengthening the integrity, transparency, and responsiveness of our institutions, ensuring they serve the people effectively and justly.

The kabaddi politics of census and caste

By: Shikha Mukerjee

The election of more representatives from communities that have been historically discriminated against by the upper caste elite does not necessarily change the prospects of all individuals from the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes or Other Backward Classes. A regular audit of how all the rest are doing from time to time is necessary for equity, equality and justice. This is the nuts and bolts of the pressure on the Narendra Modi government to get the long-postponed census of India's population done with an add-on census of castes, because the nation needs to know who is better off and who has remained worse off, despite reservations and the quota system for admission into educational institutions and government jobs. Also Read - Aakar Patel | Why Modi bhakts, 'influencers' of the Right, are so angry as world changed Advertisement Having campaigned in 2014 that he was a representative of OBCs and was therefore looked down upon by the upper caste-led Congress, Mr Modi should want to know how the rest of his brethren have fared during his 10 years and three months in power. It is a matter of conjecture that as a result all OBCs are therefore doing better in the race to catch up with the upper castes. It is equally pertinent to point out that not all Yadavs or Mauryas or Marathas or members of the Soren community are as powerful, well connected and privileged as some families within these castes and tribal groups. Also Read - Kishwar Desai | Amid smoker fury, PM faces pub 'ban'; Maggie's portrait retires from No. 10 The Modi government has not announced a date for the start of the national census. Nor has it committed to the caste census demanded not just by the Con-

gress and its partners in the Opposition INDIA bloc, but by coalition partners of the BJP — Nitish Kumar of the Janata Dal (United), Chirag Paswan of the Lok Janashakti Party and N. Chandrababu Naidu of the Telugu Desam Party. The longer Mr Modi puts off announcing the start of the census-caste census, his resistance will become more indefensible, politically problematic and frankly absurd. Also Read - Sanjaya Baru | Time to restore balance in India-China relations That is not to argue that the Congress with Rahul Gandhi leading the charge on the demand for raising the ceiling for reservation or quotas for SCs, STs and OBCs is entirely coherent either. He is not. He, on behalf of the Congress, and several BJP partners, have demanded the inclusion of Muslim Dalit and OBC sub-castes in the proposed revision. On the details, Rahul Gandhi has been uninspiringly vague. Also Read - Shashi Warriar | Of politics, lies and citizenly expectations Getting Mr Modi to backtrack and admit to a mistake on lateral entry to mid-level and top-level jobs in the Central government's bureaucracy that did not specify how many of the 45 jobs on offer were reserved under the quota system was a big political gain. Instead of picking up momentum by unveiling plans for how more opportunities would be created to level the very tilted playing field, Rahul Gandhi ad-libbed: "We will conduct a caste census and the 50 per cent cap on reservations, which I don't accept, will be removed... First, we should have the data before us regarding the participation of different castes in various institutions... Talks of reservation are always held but they never get a chance." He seemed not to understand that he too was only talking and by doing so losing the chance to amplify how to change a system that has

created a privileged few, leaving behind the underprivileged many. It does not take meticulous research to understand this part of the Indian reality. For India's political leadership, the toughest question is how to begin altering embedded caste inequality. The judiciary's prescription of identifying the most underprivileged from within the categorisation of underprivileged through the listing of SCs, STs and OBCs has been rejected by Dalit organisations, accusing the remedy of artificially creating a creamy layer, when the issue is historic discrimination and ridding India of this malaise. Neither the Congress, its INDIA bloc partners individually or collectively nor the partners of the National Democratic Alliance and the BJP have answers. Each side is poised to take the plunge but afraid to do so, like two teams of kabaddi players unwilling to start the game. The reluctance is understandable for many reasons, including the short term one of the political cost of failing to satisfy the overwhelming majority of Indian voters, both the socially underprivileged and the upper castes. The BJP's response to Rahul Gandhi's meaningless observation on a caste census was to rake up his caste identity and accuse the Congress of working to divide the country. The latest salvo by Tokhan Sahu, Union minister from Chhattisgarh, about the Congress and Rahul Gandhi is revealing: "Now they are conspiring to divide the country in the name of caste census. Those who raise the de-mand... should tell which caste they belong to." And then there is bad luck. The toppling of the newly-built Shivaji statue in Rajkot on the eve of the politically crucial Maharashtra elections is a misfortune and blunder rolled into one. With a high-pitched ongoing agitation for Maratha reservations that

complicates the caste equations which the Mahayuti alliance needs to get right, the broken idol of its icon is a reminder of how the BJP toppled the MVA government. To assuage wounded Maratha sentiments, already divided between the loyalists of Ajit Pawar, Sharad Pawar and Uddhav Thackeray, Mr Modi rushed in to publicly apologise, describe Shivaji as a deity, worshipped by all. Policy-making and foolproof implementation to dismantle the entrenched upper caste with access to status, power and networks of privilege that are exclusive to them by levelling the field for Dalits, SCs, STs and OBCs in general, and the worst-off sub-castes in particular, is very different from winning elections by micro-management of sub-caste support within the reservation via quota system. The census, as Rahul Gandhi should have pointed out, is urgent for the other category of historically discriminated: wo-men. For women and the other gender, the injury cuts across caste differences. Without the national census, the half-hearted pledge to reserve 33 per cent of seats in state legislatures and the Lok Sabha cannot even get started. Rahul Gandhi is concerned that not one Miss India has ever been selected from among SCs, STs and OBCs. He should have checked to see how many women have made it to the very male-dominated state and Central bureaucracy, the police and other public sector institutions, including the top echelons of the education system. Dismantling discrimination through reservation as affirmative action requires addressing issues of caste and gender. Leaving out one and focusing on the other is actively strengthening patriarchy and its capacity to make women almost invisible. This is an injustice that urgently needs political advocates.

Why Modi bhakts, 'influencers' of the Right, are so angry as world changed

By: Aakar Patel

Like many of you I have avoided social media content produced by those referred to as "right wing influencers", more colloquially called "bhakts", but referred to in this column as RWIs. There was no occasion to do so in the period after 2014, because we already had the government beating its own drum. Why listen to the melodies of those participating in the chorus? But after the BJP lost its majority on June 4, 2024, I felt I should examine how the Prime Minister's most dedicated ambassadors were responding. So, much of the past week has been spent in watching this content and what follows is a collection of reflections on it. Also Read - Shikha Mukerjee | The kabaddi politics of census and caste Advertisement First, it is important to note that the major figures among them are not large in number, many are anonymous and the most popular among them often struggle to get a fraction of the views that people like Ravish Kumar and Dhruv Rathee get. The reasons for this appear to me to be two things. One, that at the core they repeat the government's claims (on things like its performance and delivery), and so their base audience is limited. Why should one listen to sycophancy second-hand when the primary source is available? The other is that they seem to be always angry or sulking, and that does not make for particularly watchable con-

tent. Also Read - Kishwar Desai | Amid smoker fury, PM faces pub 'ban'; Maggie's portrait retires from No. 10 The second thing, and this is unfortunate, is that the RWIs remain even in the first week of September quite shattered with the results of June 4. Supporters of another party, any other party, would be delighted to have retained office and kept all the ministers. But the RWIs require the master to have total domination of the sort that 240 seats cannot give him or, by extension, them. They are baffled at the result and unable to contextualise it because all the "New India" stuff and the rest of it has vanished overnight. Also Read - Sanjaya Baru | Time to restore balance in India-China relations The third thing is that the RWIs are convinced that it was conspiracies by the Opposition's social media teams that led to the loss of the BJP's majority. In particular, the two things that were spread as fake news were that the BJP would end reservations and change the Constitution. Indeed, it is extraordinary the extent to which they seem to think that narrative and the media affect voting patterns. Their belief is that if this "fake news" had received a firm response from the BJP, it would have won 300-plus seats again, if not more. Also Read - Shashi Warriar | Of politics, lies and citizenly expectations It should be noted that these creators are themselves anti-reservation. This is because they are urban upper caste people protecting

their class interests. It does not appear that they are conscious of the fact that they, Narendra Modi's bhakts, speaking angrily against reservations, would likely to affect voters. Their sentiment is also targeted at an individual named Amit Malviya, who apparently runs the BJP's social media, but I could not understand why they were angry at him. The fourth thing is that they have a dislike of turncoats that the BJP has taken into the party, in states like Maharashtra and elsewhere. Here one must agree with them that it has harmed the BJP, but their sentiment is driven as much by a rejection of corruption as by a desire for ideological purity. This is linked to another aspect, which is their hatred of any talk of inclusion and secularism by the BJP. The party president, J.P. Nadda, spoke during the campaign of the BJP not needing the RSS, of the BJP not being synonymous with saffron and following "sabka saath". This has not gone down well. The fifth thing is that the RWIs appear to feel personally humiliated at all the U-turns the Narendra Modi government has taken since the Lok Sabha results. They have not registered the fact that the decade of top-down ideological government has concluded and a new form of working will need to be found by the Prime Minister. On matters like the Waqf Bill and on lateral entry, they are particularly agitated. The sixth thing is that Mr Modi's image remains intact with them. Per-

haps they see this setback as a passing phase, but it is hard after having gone over hours and hours of their content to find any criticism of the Prime Minister or his manner of functioning. Actual issues, like employment or inflation, do not seem to them to be important. They have only praise for his ability to govern. Corporate capture of politics and the media and nepotism inside the BJP also do not seem to register with the RWIs. Perhaps that is one reason for their bafflement: that the election result was voter rejection of Mr Modi, his performance over the decade and his guarantees for the future does not appear to have crossed their mind. The seventh and final thing is that they are quite rabid. And this is not only because of their views but also their words. The language they use for the minorities, for marginalised communities and so on is nasty. Their worldview is dark and does not accommodate any middle ground, compromise or moderation. I have come away from the experience with disappointment at how shallow the RWI environment is. Intellectually, it is stunted and does not offer to the viewer or listener (or reader) anything particularly useful. It does not and will not be able to offer support to the Prime Minister as he navigates a new path of inclusion. Indeed, the RWIs will likely add to his troubles as he tries to do something fresh while his devotees ache for an era that has passed.

Advocate Uma Kapahi-a beacon of women empowerment and social justice

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 3: Advocate Uma Kapahi, a young and dynamic lawyer from Jammu, is rapidly becoming a prominent figure in the field of law, driven by her unwavering commitment to women's empowerment and social justice. At just 25, she has already made remarkable strides, blending her legal expertise with a deep sense of purpose to uplift marginalized communities and ensure access to justice for all. Born and raised in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, Uma's journey began at Presentation Convent School, where she laid the foundation for her future career in law.

She pursued a BALLB from KC Law College under Jammu University, marking the beginning of her professional journey. However, it was her personal life that took a significant turn with her marriage,



a change she believes was destined.

While her father was always a source of encouragement, urging her to study hard and aim high, it was her husband's unwavering support that truly empowered her to follow her

passion.

This support gave her the confidence to make a meaningful impact, not just in the courtroom but in society at large. Uma's work extends far beyond her legal practice.

She has long been associated with a politi-

cal party, using her platform to advocate for women's rights and social justice. Her dedication to free legal services, particularly for women and economically weak sections, has made her a trusted voice for those who often feel unheard.

As an empaneled lawyer with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), she conducts seminars and workshops across various institutions, spreading legal education and raising awareness about rights and duties, especially for marginalized communities. Her commitment to service is driven by a personal understanding of the struggles women face.

Uma provides pro bono services because she has witnessed firsthand the pain and injustice experienced by women, who often feel unjustified, and struggle to contest their cases due to economic constraints.

Her mission is to restore faith in the justice system and ensure that everyone, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to be heard.

Advocate Uma Kapahi's inspiring journey is a powerful reminder that true empowerment lies in using one's skills and knowledge to uplift others. Her story, marked by perseverance, dedication, and an unyielding sense of purpose, continues to inspire those around her.

As she forges ahead, Uma Kapahi is not just making her mark in the legal field—she is paving the way for a more just and equitable society, one case at a time. --- This press release highlights Uma Kapahi's remarkable journey and her contributions to women's empowerment and social justice. It aims to inspire and showcase her as a role model for young women everywhere.

GGM Science College organises Lecture on Environmental Conservation



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 3: The Nature Club, NSS Units and SVEEP of GGM Science College recently organised a lecture on "Redefining Living: The journey towards a Sustainable Lifestyle" to enhance awareness and understanding of environmental challenges among students and faculty.

The event was held under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal, GGM Science college. He highlighted the critical importance of environmental conservation and emphasised the role educational institutions play in shaping future leaders who are conscious of their environmental impact.

He commended the efforts of the Nature Club, NSS Units and SVEEP cell for their

initiative and encouraged students and staff to integrate sustainable practices into their daily lives to contribute to a healthier planet.

The lecture was delivered by Prof. Preeti Dogra, Head, Department of Environmental Sciences at GDC Jindrah. She provided valuable insights into the significance of environmental conservation and practical steps individuals can take to protect natural resources.

The session saw enthusiastic participation from students, who engaged actively in discussions, gaining a deeper understanding of sustainable practices and conservation efforts.

The event began with a welcome address by Dr. Sumiksha Thakur, Convener, Nature Club.

The organisation and coordination of the event was led by members of

the Nature Club, including Dr. Arti Sharma, Dr. Preeti Verma, Dr. Anil, Dr. Arti Heer and Prof. Kiran Bala along with NSS Programme Officers Dr. Rahul Kait, Dr. Neha Sharma and Dr. Chaman all, Convener SVEEP cell. Their collaborative efforts ensured the smooth execution of the event and highlighted the college's commitment to environmental stewardship.

The formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Arti Sharma, who expressed appreciation to the speaker, participants, and all those involved in making the event a success.

This initiative is part of GGM Science College's ongoing efforts to encourage sustainable practices and engage students in meaningful activities that contribute to environmental conservation.

KDP Wing of DPAP appeals for voting in favour of DPAP candidates in assembly elections

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 3: In a joint statement issued by KDP Wing of DPAP through its President Sanjay Dhar, Chairman Piaray Lal Pandita, General Secretary Raj Kumar Ticku, Youth President, Naveen Gosani and Vinkle Kitroo Unit President Trt Nagrota have appealed the Kashmiri Displaced People, P.M Package Employees and Kashmiri Hindus still living in Kashmir to exercise their votes in favour of the DPAP nominated candidates in Assembly Elections commencing on September 18, 2024 (Phase First) for Rajpora -Gh.Nabi Wani (Neeloor), Devser-Mohd Amin Bhat, Dooru-Advocate Mohd Salim Paray, Anantnag (west)-Bilal Ahmed Deva, Anantnag-Mir Altaf Hussain all having Election Symbol "Bucket".

The leaders have as well appealed to the Valley voters of these Constituencies to cast their votes in favour DPAP Candi-

dates for overall development as was adopted by the Ex-Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad during his good Chief Minister-ship with a short span of tenure and to overcome the poverty, providing of employment and empowerment of women folk.

The Leaders have expressed that main focus of this Party for displaced Kashmiri People in the manifesto is for resettlement, Rehabilitation back in Valley with a compensatory and dignified return, as all these Nominated Candidates have been repeatedly floating a demand to vote in their favour for fighting to rehabilitate back the Displaced people in Valley with a dignified return.

The Leaders have further expressed that no candidate of any other party has appealed to Vote in their favour neither have committed any clause of resettlement in their manifesto, which clarifies that without Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad Sha-hibs Party, is having sym-

pathetic consideration with the Displaced Kashmiri Community.

The Leaders have reminded the installation of Camp Colonies, Employment Package, proposed by only Shri Azad Shahib and the visit of DPAP Chairman Shri Gh.Nabi Azad in Jagti twice after formation of the Party and the visit of only our Party Candidate in all Camps during Parliamentary elections.

The Leaders have appealed the Displaced Community Voters to pine faith in the candidature of DPAP with a hope of ray to fight in the Coming Assembly for working out of a concrete policy of resettlement and Rehabilitation.

The Leaders have expressed that Kashmiri Displaced People Wing is having full faith in the DPAP Leadership to get our Community 34 year genocidal suffering mitigated and the KDP Wing is working on ground for the betterment of Displaced Kashmiri Community.

Sajjad Ahmad Kichloo and Pooja Thakur receives enthusiastic welcome: Ved Raj

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Sep 3: Sajjad Ahmad Kichloo Former Home Minister and Pooja Thakur DDC Chairperson, the National Conference candidate from the Kishtwar Constituency and Nagseni Paddar Constituency Candidate a warm and enthusiastic welcome from the residents of Paddar today.

The J&K National Conference JKNC Youth President Nagseni Paddar Constituency Ved Raj Khajuria said the Paddar villagers turned out in large numbers, expressing their overwhelming support and faith in the National Conference (NC).

During his visit, Sajjad



Kichloo and Pooja Thakur engaged with the local community, listening to their concerns and assuring them of his commitment to addressing their issues. The positive reception and strong backing from the people of Paddar Constituency underscore the growing momentum behind Sajjad Kichloo and Pooja Thakur candidacy as the election campaign intensifies.

Sunil Sharma is responsible for rising unemployment in Kishtwar: Kamlesh

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Sep 3: Former Sarpanch Halqa Panchayat Pochhal and J&K National Conference Women's Wing General Secretary Kishtwar Kamlesh Kumari said the BJP Candidate Constituency Paddar Sunil Sharma is being blamed for the worsening unemployment situation in Kishtwar District.

He ignored the common working unemployed and gave jobs to some select BJP workers in Hydro Electric Power Project companies. In these Power Projects, the Power Projects management gave jobs to the same persons who were recommended by



Sunil Sharma. 27,000 youth were supposed to get jobs in these Power Projects, but only 3,000 got jobs. Elsewhere, Sunil Sharma installed machinery through his supporters, due to which unemployment in Kishtwar has increased to such an extent that every youth has become a victim of despair and hopelessness.

DPS Jammu students win medals in 5th J&K UT Yogasan Sports Championship



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 3: Students of Delhi Public School (dps) Jammu brought laurels to the school and their parents by winning gold, silver and bronze medals in different age group categories in 5th J&K UT Yogasan Sports Championship organized by Yoga Association of J&K held at Brahma Kumaris Meditation Centre, Jammu on September

1, 2024. They had also received merit cum participation certificates.

Divyesh Sharma (VI-A) won Gold medal in U-14 age category; Aadhya Gupta (IV-B) won Silver medal in U/8-10 age category; Nishita Meeniya (IV-G) won Silver medal in U/8-10 age category; and Anishka Gupta (IV-E) bagged Bronze medal in U/8-10 age category.

All the students were trained under the expert

guidance of Veena Chib, School Yoga Teacher.

The management DPS Jammu, President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC- Dr. Ritu Singh, Director- S.S. Sodhi along with Principal-DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chabra and staff congratulated all the winners, their parents and coach, Veena Chib for their achievement. Further, they also extended their best wishes to them for all their future endeavours.

Malik anguishes with alarming rise in drug menace

Urges authorities to take urgent steps to curb menace

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 3: Expressing anguish over the alarming rise in Drug menace and its trafficking in Jammu and Kashmir, Adv. Malikzada Mohammad Shahzad Legal advisor Muslim Rashtriya Manch(MRM) J&K and Ladakh UTs and President "Social Welfare Organization Of India" has observed that

the picturesque valleys of Jammu & Kashmir long known for their natural beauty, are now grappling with the persistent problem of drug abuse and trafficking.

"This growing menace is not only eroding the social fabric of the region but also threatening the well-being of its youth. The situation has reached a critical point, demanding immediate and coordinated action from all segments of society," Malik Said. He added that the Urgency of the Situation can be gauged with the escalation in drug-related activities which has been swift and severe.

Quoting recent reports, he said that a significant increase in the availability and use of narcotics across various districts is worrisome to every one.

"The easy access to drugs coupled with the growing influence of drug



cartels, is devastating communities, particularly targeting vulnerable populations like the youth," he asserted adding further, "This surge in drug abuse is not just a health issue; it is a societal crisis. It leads to an increase in crime, domestic violence and other social problems". He however, cautioned that the future of an entire generation is at stake and if left unchecked, the repercussions could be catastrophic for the region".

He emphasised on the Role of Society and Community Leaders in this challenging scenario. "the role of society, especially colony heads and community leaders becomes crucial. It is imperative that these leaders maintain close and continuous communication with the police and other concerned authorities. By doing so, they can help identify and monitor sus-

picious activities in their neighbourhood, making it harder for drug suppliers to operate," he suggested.

He opined that Community leaders must also engage in awareness campaigns to educate people about the dangers of drug abuse. "By fostering a strong community spirit and a sense of collective responsibility, they can encourage residents to report any drug-related activities to the authorities without fear of reprisal," he added.

He further observed that the police and law enforcement agencies are on the frontlines of this battle against the drug menace. However, they cannot fight this war alone. They need the active support and cooperation of the public to effectively combat drug trafficking and bring suppliers to justice.

"Regular meetings between community leaders and the police can help in sharing valuable information coordinating actions and strategizing the best ways to tackle the problem. Such collaborations can also lead to the establishment of more robust surveillance systems, ensuring that every corner of the community is under watchful eyes," he argued.

Aryan community delegation calls on CEC, LAHDC

Top News Report

LEH, Sep 3: The Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson was called on by the delegation of Aryan community of Darchhiks, Garkhone, Dha-Bema and Hanu comprising of their Nambarid; President Aryan Buddhist Association; Aryan Youth Foundation, Garkhone; Temple Association Darchhiks and BJP contested candidate from Silmo constituency.

The delegation submitted the memorandum requesting for the unification of Aryan villages



in the newly created Sham district and also the detailed discussion was taken on various other important matters in which Chairman CEC Gyalson enquired some key issues from the villagers.

In addition to that, the delegation also requested H'CEC Gyalson for the establishment of the subdivision status to Aryan valley and the creation of councillor posts to Aryan valley among others.

Son of the soil

Punjabi actor Babbu Maan, who is returning to the silver screen with the film *Sucha Soorma*, says social media should not lead youngsters away from their culture and roots

The wait is over — Punjabi singer-actor Babbu Maan is making comeback after four years! We do not know if the movie, *Sucha Soorma*, will do wonders for Punjabi cinema, like Shah Rukh Khan's comeback film *Pathaan* did for Bollywood, but the fans are excited to see him back.

As Babbu appeared for the trailer-release event at Bestech Square Mall, Mohali, on Monday, he was his regular witty self in the same hairstyle that we have known him for since *Mittran Di Chatri* and *Pehla Peg*. Alongside Babbu was the director, Amitoj Mann, and other cast members. "This period film is about love, heroism, friendship, traditional sports and action," revealed Amitoj, who had also directed Babbu's Punjabi debut film *Hawayein* in 2003. Little wonder then, Babbu said, "Before reading the script, I said yes to the film because of our friendship, which goes back long years."

Babbu, who was happy to see how stars like Guru Randhawa were making a mark globally, said during the time off from films he was busy watching kabaddi and cheering the team. "Hun mein vapis raid paun aaya



hai. (Now I am back to 'raid')," he quipped.

As the trailer was played not once but twice, Amitoj revealed, "We are doing a period film. More than the script, the making of the sets and depicting the timeline was crucial for its success. In that period, everything was loud, from dialogues to action sequences, so we have kept it that way."

Based on the life of folk legend Sucha Singh and what led him to become a dacoit, in *Sucha Soorma*, Babbu would be seen in the titular role. Regarding social media, he said, "I don't

relate to social media when it comes to promoting yourself or your work. Yes, there are benefits of the Internet, phone and these social media platforms, but anything is a curse when forced down your thought. These corporates and multinational companies think ten years ahead of us. Every nursery kid is eating with a phone in hand. It's ruining our culture and leaving us misinformed." The actor even quipped that if every star on social media was charged Rs 10,000 for going live, there wouldn't be anyone left to go live! "Similarly, if an

app is launched to find genuine likes or clicks on your music video, everyone will know how many have been faking 10 lakh as 10 crores views! It's a sham," he said.

Through movies that especially tell stories about Malwa region of Punjab, Babbu said he was trying to educate the people of Punjab about the rich folklore, history and real-life heroes. "Sucha Soorma is one such step in the direction. If the film works, we will bring more projects that help propagate Punjabi culture and language. In the fast pace world when metaverse is making cities, it's important to bring stories of our heroes through cinema. Because syllabus books in schools are busy making us learn about John Keats in third standard! Who will talk about Bawa Balwant?" he questioned.

Saga Studios and Seven Colors are together presenting this film, which also stars Sameksha Oswal, Suvinder Vicky, Sarabjit Cheema, Mahabir Bhullar, Gurinder Makna, Gurpreet Toti, Gurpreet Ratol and Jagjeet Bajwa. It will release on September 20.

Firing outside Punjabi singer AP Dhillon's Canada house, Lawrence Bishnoi gang claims responsibility



Gunshots were reportedly fired outside Punjabi singer and rapper AP Dhillon's house on Victoria Island in Canada's Vancouver.

Meanwhile, the Indian intelligence agencies are trying to probe whether it has any connection with the firing incident which had taken place outside Bollywood actor Salman Khan's

residence, in Mumbai, in April this year.

Agencies are looking at the possible connection between the two incidents, after Lawrence Bishnoi's gang took the responsibility of the firing instance which took place outside Dhillon's house in Victoria, Canada.

According to media reports emanating from

Canada, a video, which cannot be independently verified, shows a man outside Dhillon's house and firing several rounds of shots during late night hours.

Intelligence sources said that Salman Khan had appeared in a music video with Dhillon and with Bishnoi's gang claiming responsibility of Sunday's firing incident outside the Punjabi singer's house in Canada, they are probing the connection between the Canada incident with the firing incident outside Khan's house earlier this year.

In April, two motorcycle-borne persons had opened fire outside Khan's residence at the Galaxy Apartment in Mumbai's Bandra area and fled the spot.

The Mumbai police had declared jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi and his younger brother Anmol Bishnoi as "wanted accused" in connection with the incident.

Boman Irani's directorial debut *The Mehta Boys* to premiere at the Chicago South Asian Film Festival

The *Mehta Boys*, which marks the directorial debut of actor Boman Irani, is slated for a world premiere at the 15th Chicago South Asian Film Festival on September 20.

Irani, known for films such as the *Munna Bhai* franchise, *3 Idiots*, and *Khosla Ka Ghosla*, also serves as the writer and producer of the Prime Video Original film. He has written the project in collaboration with writer Alexander Dinelar Jr, best known for the 2014 Oscar-winning film *Birdman*.

"The *Mehta Boys*, starring Irani and Avinash Tiwary, is based on a father and son at odds with each other, who find themselves compelled to spend 48 hours together. The film follows their tumultuous journey and offers a nuanced exploration of the complexities often inherent in a father-son relationship," read the official synopsis.

The screening at the Chicago gala will be followed by a conversation featuring Irani along



with Dinelar Jr, actors Tiwary and Shreya Chaudhry, as well as producer Danesh Irani and executive producer Ankita Batra.

Irani and Dinelar Jr will also conduct a masterclass on the writing process of *The Mehta Boys* on September 21. An Irani Movietone

LLP and Chalkboard Entertainment LLP production, the film also stars Puja Sarup. It is produced by Vikesh Bhutani and Shujaat Saudagar.

The Chicago South Asian Film Festival is set to commence on September 19 and conclude on September 22.

'In music lies true bliss'

SPICMACAY founder Kiran Seth, in Chandigarh, urged youngsters to focus on ancient Indian arts

Making a moving call for youth to focus and cultivate patience, Kiran Seth, founder of the Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music And Culture Amongst Youth (SPICMACAY), captivated his audience once again as he came calling to Chandigarh on Monday. "Our ultimate aim is not to promote classical music, but to help people become better in their respective fields," said Seth, who is on a three-day visit to the City Beautiful.

The Padma Shri recipient has been teaching at IIT Delhi for over four decades. SPICMACAY is his passion project, which during the last 47 years is working towards promoting Indian classical music, dance, folk forms, yoga, meditation, traditional handloom, handicrafts and more amongst youth.

"With a phone in our hands, we are finding it even more difficult to control our mind, which flits from one thing to another. An exposure



to classical arts has proven to help improve one's concentration," said Seth. He elaborated with examples, "Mathematical genius Albert Einstein played the violin, our very own Missile Man Abdul Kalam the veena, while number theorist Manjul Bhargava the tabla. It has long been established that classical music helps build concentration." Another thing he wanted the youth to have is dhairya. "I have been teaching for four decades. Now

students are surely brighter, but lack focus. Classical arts can help them build concentration and patience. In music lies true bliss." His six-month solo cycling yatra from Kashmir to Kanyakumari has left him in awe of our country all over again. "We are blessed to be living in a country that's so rich in natural resources and culture, but we are slowly degrading everything."

SPICMACAY has been doing exceptional work and getting a rous-

ing response from the students all over the country. From Punjab, they have picked up Bhangra and Malwai Giddha. Legendary folk singer and sarangi maestro from Punjab, the late Sharif Idu, too had been a part of SPICMACAY programme. His organisation has long been involved in addressing issues of female foeticide and drug prevention. "We have the artistes prepare their presentations around these themes and launched successful signature campaigns," said Sumit Taneja, who has been a volunteer for over 15 years. Seth ensured that the volunteers present with him — Dr Shakuntala Lavasa, Dr Kamal Gogna, Amulya Shukla, Sumit Taneja and Nalin Taneja — shared their experience too.

SPICMACAY has a series of events planned in Himachal Pradesh in the coming year and over a hundred schools in Chandigarh keep their annual date with the

artistes. While, along with thousands of volunteers, Seth is making a monumental effort for a long 47 years, he is yet to reach the masses. Seth explains, "Classical arts have their effect slowly. But, today, due to Instagram, Facebook and other social media platforms, which provide immediate gratification, people don't have the patience to wait. He, however, added, "Not everyone has to be a musician, but even listening to music can help immensely."

Seth would spend the next two days in the city, meeting heads of education institutions and volunteers. He signed off with the resounding words, "Saraswati — the Goddess of knowledge — has now been replaced by Lakshmi — Goddess of wealth. People think money would make them happy, but that's not the case. Only gyan (wisdom) can bring true happiness. And, our ancient arts and heritage are a key to it."

Kamya Panjabi says there is no sexual abuse in television industry

Kamya Panjabi recently shared her opinion on women's safety in the entertainment industry. The actor claimed, while sharing her experience, that there is no sexual abuse in television industry.

In an interview with agency, she stated that the TV industry is currently the 'safest' place for women.

Kamya Panjabi says TV industry is very clean. Kamya, while reflecting on the work culture in Hindi television, said, "Television has been very clean. I don't know what used to happen in the past but now it is very clean. There is no such filth here. People aren't forced or blackmailed here. There is no

casting couch. If you fit a role, you have talent, you will be selected for the show. I feel television is the safest place in the entertainment industry. Sexual abuse does not happen here. Whatever happens, because there is mutual consent. Nobody is telling anyone to sleep with them in the promise of a role."

She also pointed out, "Some actors are womenisers but if you stop it, if you make it very clear, such things do not happen. Nobody is being forced to do this. Aisa nahi hai ke aapko haath lagaya jaaega aur aap uncomfortable feel karoge (Nobody is going to make you feel uncomfortable by touching you



without your consent). If you tell them, 'Hello, I don't like it', you will not be touched. We

have seen actors who get crazy for girls but nobody forces nobody. I know of some people

who say that such things have happened to them. But again, if a girl does not want, it will not happen. It does not happen in the television industry. I don't know about films or OTT but it does not happen in TV."

Kamya Panjabi's acting career

Kamya made her acting debut with *Sssh...Koi Hai*. She later worked in daily soaps like *Kehta Hai Dil*, *Piya Ka Ghar*, *Astitva...Ek Prem Kahani*, *Woh Rehne Waali Mehlon Ki* and *Banoo Main Teri Dulhann*. The actor also participated in the celebrity reality show *Bigg Boss 7*.

Kamya is currently seen in the TV show *Ishq Jabariya*.

'IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack' controversy: I&B Ministry summons content head of Netflix

As the web series "IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack" — detailing the 1999 hijack of an Indian Airlines plane — streamed on Netflix, the use of "pseudo names" of the Pakistan-based hijackers in the depiction has led to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting summoning the content head of Netflix.

The incident has not only turned into a political controversy, but has also led to questions around the need to have a regulatory body like the Central Board of Film Certification that okays film for release in theatres. So far, content on OTT platforms like Netflix is not okayed by a body but is under self-regulation of the content creator. However, it has a grievance addressing mechanism.

The controversy arose after several users on X alleged that the real names of the hijackers should have been used in the conversation depicted aboard the plane. Actually, the names under question match with a press release issued by the Home Ministry on January 6, 2000. It names the hijackers as Ibrahim Athar from Bahawalpur, Shahid Akhtar

Sayed, Sunny Ahmed Qazi and Mistri Zahoor Ibrahim, all from Karachi, and Shakir from Sukkur city. The MHA had said: "To the passengers of the hijacked plane, these five hijackers came to be known Chief, Doctor, Burger, Bhola and Shankar, respectively."

Sources said the pseudo names were then released officially as any passenger or crew of the hijacked plane who could testify would do that only on the basis of pseudo names.

The real names of the hijackers were not known to the 154 on board the ill-fated flight. BJP IT Cell chief Amit Malviya said the hijackers acquired aliases to hide their Muslim identities. "Filmmaker Anubhav Sinha legitimised their criminal intent by furthering their non-Muslim names. Decades later, people will think Hindus hijacked IC-814," Malviya posted on X. Mukesh Chhabra, the casting director of the series said the terrorists used "nicknames or fake names" to address one another. "They used to call each other by those fake names," Chhabra said.

Time ripe for India-Singapore bilateral relations to rise: S Jaishankar

S Jaishankar said India and Singapore's bilateral ties "have been extremely strong in the last two decades".

NEW DELHI, Sep 3 (Agencies): Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's arrival on an official visit to Singapore, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Tuesday said the time is ripe for the two countries to take their bilateral relationship to the next level.

"Given the transformation underway in India and the changes in the world, they need to become more contemporary. In many ways, that is why Prime Minister Narendra Modi has chosen to visit Singapore so early in his third term," The Straits Times quoted Mr Jaishankar as saying in an interview.

He said that India and Singapore's bilateral ties "have been extremely strong in the last two decades".

Just like Singapore had an opportunity in 1992 and then again in 2006, it should seize the moment and fully utilise the new landscape, the minister said.

"Sometimes, to be honest, I feel that impressions at your end are somewhat dated," Mr Jaishankar pointed out.

"In India, we are using the achievements of the last decade as the springboard to accelerate national growth and modernisation," the minister said.

Beyond the bilateral ties, there is also the issue of closer collaboration in a volatile and uncertain world. "In this regard, we must recognise that ours is a partnership based on a high degree of trust and understanding," the minister said.

"These characteristics enable us to share assessments and explore our convergences," he added.

The prime minister has always had a special sentiment for Singapore and that leadership connect will matter more than ever before, underscored Mr



Jaishankar who has served as India's High Commissioner to Singapore and has a very good understanding of the city-state.

Responding to a question as to where India would like to take the bilateral relationship, the minister said: "We have come a long way since then. As I pointed out, the time is ripe to move to the next level of our ties, reflecting current realities in both countries, as well as the state of the world." Where Singapore's approach to India is concerned, it could start with the appreciation of the last decade of growth, recovery from Covid and the country's rapid digitalisation, while also taking into account the advances in infrastructure, the focus on manufacturing and the availability of talent, the minister said.

These issues were also discussed at the India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable last week -- a preparatory to PM Modi's visit to the city-state.

"I would particularly single out those technologies promising for the future such as semiconductors, green technologies and electric mobility. We also need to collaboratively think about the future of connectivity and energy flows," Mr Jaishankar stressed.

The minister also drew on the

Covid experience to flag India's relevance to food and health security, saying: "As regards the global scenario, we have built on the 'Act East' policy to now have a full-fledged Indo-Pacific commitment." Mr Jaishankar said there is a new equilibrium in the making and India will certainly play its part. "This is very much in the interest of Singapore and ASEAN." "In an era where we will witness deficits in regard to global commons, our relationship can make a bigger difference," he said.

The minister also commented on a perception that India's principal focus in its extended neighbourhood is now the Gulf, not ASEAN. "I would not take an 'either-or' approach. Certainly, in the last decade, India's ties with Gulf nations have really taken off." "Earlier governments used to view them more narrowly from the perspective of trade, energy and diaspora. In contrast, the Modi government's policies have extended to investments, technology, security and connectivity," he pointed out.

"We definitely feel that the contributions of our community are more strongly recognised (in the Gulf). Both the economic and demographic complementarities are today coming into much

greater play.

"But because of this, I would not draw any conclusions in regard to Asean. In fact, our ties have deepened as well in this very period." Mr Jaishankar underscored the fact that India -- the most populous country and currently the fifth-largest economy -- will necessarily have multi-directional engagements. "The world is not a zero-sum game for us." The minister also elaborated on Singapore being once the springboard of India's 'Look East' policy.

"Obviously, Singapore, which was at the core of our 'Look East' policy, has an equally central role in the 'Act East' policy as well. If you look at the new domains that reflect this evolution, Singapore's partnership in security, connectivity, technology and sustainability is evident." The 'Act East' policy is certainly very active for a variety of reasons, he stressed, adding that Southeast Asia itself has much untapped potential and its demographics and growth prospects make it a long-term partner.

"Imagine for example what a change the Trilateral Highway (plan to connect India with Myanmar and Thailand) can make when completed," he pointed out.

"It is also a relationship which is indispensable for India's Indo-Pacific engagement. I would confidently predict a bright future.

PM Modi will travel to Singapore on Wednesday.

He said he looked forward to meeting President Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, Senior Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong in Singapore.

Modi will also meet leaders of Singapore's business community.

Mamata Banerjee cites Unnao, Hathras, in statement on Kolkata rape



KOLKATA, Sep 3 (Agencies): Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee - whose government is under fire over the rape and murder of a doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Hospital - launched a fierce defence of the state's police force Tuesday, pointing to equally horrific instances of assault on women in other states.

She referred to the rape of a 20-year-old Dalit woman in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras in 2020 and the rape and barbaric slaughter of a college student in Bengal's North 24 Parganas district in 2013, as well as the rape of a child last week at a government-run hospital in Rajasthan's Jaipur.

"In the Kamduni case (the North 24 Parganas rape) we demanded capital punishment... but the matter is pending in the Supreme Court (where an appeal has been filed after the Calcutta High Court acquitted one accused and commuted the death sentence of two others). No one talks about what happened in Unnao (and) the victim of Hathras did not get justice..." she said.

There are "abnormally high crime rates against women in states like UP and Gujarat... and there is no justice there but in Bengal women will get justice in courts," she thundered in the Assembly, as she also demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, as well as chief ministers of all states "unable to implement effective legislations to safeguard women".

The mention of Mr Modi and Mr Shah triggered loud protests from BJP lawmakers, to which Ms Banerjee asked, "What if I raise slogans against PM and Home Minister as you raise against me..."

Ms Banerjee's sharp comments came as her Trinamool tabled a new law, which will make rape a crime commensurate with murder for which punishment will be death or life in jail. She said the "historic" new law - called the Aparajita law - will ensure fast-tracked investigations and stricter punishments.

The name of the new law has been seen by many as an homage to the young woman who was raped and murdered in North 24 Parganas; according to reports her name was Aparajita.

The Aparajita law will "plug loopholes" in laws passed by the centre, the Chief Minister said, taking a swipe at its much-vaunted set of three new criminal laws. Rape is a curse against humanity (and) social reforms are required to stop such crimes..." she said, urging Governor CV Ananda Bose, who has also taken pot shots at the Trinamool on the RG Kar Hospital case, to sign the bill without delay.

And, in a pointed remark at the BJP - which has been relentless in targeting her but has offered support, of a sort, on this legislation - she called on the opposition to also urge the Governor.

"We want justice from the CBI... CBI should hang the criminal," Ms Banerjee said.

The bill was passed shortly after the Chief Minister's speech, but not before the BJP's Suwendu Adhikari, her former aide and now the Leader of the Opposition, criticised it as being tabled in haste.

He said the BJP would support the bill, but also demand accountability from Ms Banerjee.

"We will support... but why did you bring this in haste? We could have sent it to a committee (for further study). We want punishment for the culprits. We will not seek division... but the state government will have to ensure the bill is made effective at the earliest," Mr Adhikari said.

The CBI is investigating this case pursuant to a direction from the Calcutta High Court, which ruffled political feathers by overruling the Chief Minister and summoning the central agency.

This was a day after Ms Banerjee gave Kolkata Police a week's time.

Since then Ms Banerjee has been demanding results from the CBI, which made its first arrest late last night; Dr Sandip Ghosh, the former Principal of the RG Kar Hospital, was arrested after two weeks of questioning. Dr Ghosh, though, was arrested over allegations of financial irregularities.

The CBI also arrested three others, including a security guard. But the only arrest, so far, connected to the rape and murder has been by Kolkata Police, who arrested a civilian volunteer, Sanjoy Roy.

9 Naxalites killed in encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh

DANTEWADA, Sep 3 (Agencies): Nine Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Bastar region of Chhattisgarh on Tuesday, a senior police official said.

The gunfight broke out around 10.30 am in the forest along the border of Dantewada and Bijapur districts when a joint team of security forces was out on an anti-Naxal operation, Inspector General of Police, Bastar Range Sundarraaj P told agency.

Personnel belonging

to the District Reserve Guard (DRG) and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were involved in the operation, which was launched based on inputs about the presence of Naxalites belonging to its west Bastar division unit, he said.

The intermittent exchange of fire lasted for a long duration, following which the bodies of nine Naxalites clad in 'uniform' were recovered from the spot, he said.

Besides, a huge cache of weapons was also seized from the encounter site, he said.

Security personnel were reported to be safe and the search operation was still underway in the area, he added.

Bastar region comprises seven districts, including Dantewada and Bijapur.

With this incident, 154 Naxalites have been gunned down by the security forces in different encounters in Chhattisgarh so far this year, the police said.

Drone attacks on civilians an "act of terrorism": Manipur Chief Minister

IMPHAL, Sep 3 (Agencies): Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Tuesday condemned the drone bomb attacks on civilians as acts of terrorism and vowed a firm response.

Taking to X, Mr Singh expressed his outrage, stating, "Dropping bombs on civilian populations and security forces using drones is an act of terrorism, and I condemn such cowardly acts in the strongest terms." Singh's comments followed two separate drone bomb attacks in Koutruk and Senjam Chirang in Imphal West district, which resulted in the deaths of two persons, includ-

ing a woman, and injuries to 12 others.

"The Manipur state government takes such unprovoked assaults with the utmost seriousness and will respond decisively to combat these forms of terrorism targeting the indigent population," Mr Singh said.

He emphasized, "We denounce all forms of violence, and the people of Manipur shall unite against hate, division, and separatism." The use of drones in these bomb attacks marks the first instance of "hi-tech weapons" being employed in the state.

While drones had previously been used by warring groups for surveillance and tracking militants, this represents a significant escalation, an official told agency.

On the attack at Koutruk, the official said "police responded promptly." "There was mobilisation of armed miscreants in many places which had seen intense conflict in the past. When the attack started in Koutruk, immediately IGP, DIG and SP and other police forces rushed to the area to counter the situation. Retaliatory firing and combing operations along with

Army and central forces were conducted," a police statement said.

It said police head quarters also gave instruction to all senior formations and all district SPs to remain vigilant, alert all forces in their respective districts and conduct joint operations by coordinating with central forces.

The Manipur government has ordered the state police to conduct combing operations and sanitisation in areas bordering Imphal West district where two persons were killed and 12 others injured in an attack by suspected militants.

Tharoor slams govt over 'reluctance' to appoint oppn leaders to key parliamentary committees

NEW DELHI, Sep 3 (Agencies): Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Tuesday hit out at the government over its "reluctance" to give the opposition chairpersonship of important parliamentary committees, and said it only reflects its growing insecurity, rather than any accumulation of wisdom or confidence after 10 years.

The remarks by the four-time Thiruvananthapuram MP came over a media report which said the department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees have not been constituted because of disagreements between the government and Opposition, on control of these panels.

In a post on X, Thar-

oor said it is disappointing that the government appears to have no idea of the purpose of Parliamentary committees, which are to provide an additional layer of scrutiny and accountability for the government without the political grandstanding often associated with publicly-televised sessions of Parliament itself.

"To attempt to deny opposition parties any say in matters of national importance and sensitivity, is to defeat the very logic of having such committees at all," the former Union minister said.

"It is striking that in 2014, when they first came to power, the then BJP government, in keeping with the existing practice, gave the



Congress the chairmanship of both the External Affairs Committee (myself) and the Finance Committee (Veerappa Moily), even though we only had 44 MPs" he said.

"Today, we have 101 MPs and they are reluctant to give us any important committee?" he added.

This suggests a deplorably changed mentality on their part and only reflects their growing insecurity, rather than

any accumulation of wisdom or confidence after 10 years in government, Tharoor said.

Incidentally, in the entire history of Parliamentary committees, External Affairs was always headed by an opposition MP until, for the first time in 2019, a BJP MP was asked to take it over, he said.

"What signal does this send to the outside world, where we have always presented a united face on foreign

policy?" Tharoor said. Last month, the Lok Sabha Secretariat issued a bulletin announcing the constitution of parliamentary committees.

The Public Accounts Committee, Committee on Public Undertakings, Committee on Estimates, Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Joint Committee on Office of Profit and Office on Welfare of Other Backward Classes have been constituted without an election this time.

The Lok Sabha speaker is yet to constitute the department-related standing committees which keep an eye on the functioning of various Union ministries and departments.

Eight devotees killed, 10 injured in Haryana road accident

CHANDIGARH, Sep 3 (Agencies): Eight people were killed and 10 others injured after a truck hit a stationary vehicle carrying devotees in Haryana's Jind district, police said on Tuesday.

The accident occurred past midnight in Bidharana village on the Hisar-Chandigarh national highway when the devotees were travelling from Kurukshetra district to a temple at Gogamedi in Rajasthan.

The truck, bearing a Rajasthan registration number, was loaded with wooden logs when it hit the stationary vehicle.

SHO of Sadar Narwana police station Kuldeep said, "The truck rammed into the light commercial vehicle



in which the group of devotees was headed to Gogamedi.

At the time of the incident, the devotees had taken a brief halt and their vehicle was stationary."

"Eight people, including two women and a 15-year-old boy, have died in the incident while 10 are injured," he told agency.

The police officer said the injured were taken to hospitals at Narwana in

Jind and later referred to Agroha in Hisar.

The injured are out of danger, he added.

A case has been registered and the truck has been impounded, police said.

A relative of an injured person, who reached Narwana Civil Hospital after the accident, said the truck hit the vehicle from behind.

Many among the dead and injured were relatives, he said.

129 killed in Congo jailbreak attempt, most of them in stampede

Makala, Congo's largest penitentiary with a capacity for 1,500 people, holds over 12,000 inmates, most of whom are awaiting trial

KINSHASA, Sep 3 (Agencies): An attempted jailbreak in Congo's main prison in the capital left at least 129 people dead, most of them in a stampede, authorities said on Tuesday.

A provisional assessment showed that 24 inmates were shot dead by "warning" gunshots as they tried to escape from the overcrowded Makala Central Prison in Kinshasa early Monday, Congolese Interior Minister Jacquemin Shabani said on the social platform X. "There are also 59 injured people taken into care by the government, as well as some cases of women raped," he said, adding that order has been restored at the prison, part of which was burned in the attack.

Makala, Congo's largest penitentiary with a capacity for 1,500 people, holds over 12,000 inmates, most of whom are awaiting trial, Amnesty Inter-



national said in its latest country report. The facility has recorded previous jailbreaks, including in 2017 when an attack by a religious sect freed dozens.

Gunfire inside the prison started around midnight on Sunday into Monday morning, residents said. A senior government official earlier said only two deaths were confirmed during the incident, a figure disputed by rights activists.

Videos that appeared to be from the prison showed bodies lying on the ground, many of them with visible injuries. Another video showed inmates carrying people who appeared to be dead into a vehicle.

There were no signs of forced entry into the prison, which is located in the city centre, 5 kilometers (3 miles) from the presidential palace.

The attempted escape was

plotted from inside the prison by inmates in one of the wings, Mbemba Kabuya, the deputy justice minister, told the local Top Congo FM radio.

In the hours that followed the attack, the road to the prison was cordoned off while authorities convened a panel to investigate the incident.

Makala — among other prisons in Congo — is so overcrowded that people often die from starvation, activists say. Scores of inmates have been released this year as part of efforts to decongest the prisons.

Justice Minister Constant Mutamba called the attack a "premeditated act of sabotage", adding that those who "instigated these acts of sabotage ... will receive a stern response".

He also announced a ban on the transfer of inmates from the prison and said authorities will build a new prison, among other efforts to reduce overcrowding.

Tropical storm Yagi sets off floods, landslides in Philippines, leaves 14 dead

MANILA, Sep 3 (Agencies): A fierce storm was blowing out of the northern Philippines Tuesday after leaving at least 14 people dead in landslides, floods and swollen rivers, disaster-response officials said.

Tropical Storm Yagi swept past Paoay town in Ilocos Norte province into the South China Sea with sustained winds of up to 75 kilometers (47 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 125 kph (78 mph), according to the weather bureau. It was forecast to strengthen into a typhoon as it barrels northward over the sea toward southern China. Storm warnings remained in most northern Philippine provinces, where residents were warned of the lingering danger of landslides in rain-soaked mountain villages and floodings in the farming lowlands of Luzon, the country's most populous region.

Locally called Enteng, Yagi enhanced seasonal monsoon rains and unleashed downpours across Luzon, including in the densely populated capital region, metropolitan Manila, where classes and government work remained suspended Tuesday. At least 14 people died in landslides, floods and swollen rivers in northern and central provinces, including in Antipolo, a popular Roman Catholic pilgrimage city and tourism destination west of Manila where at least three

residents, including a pregnant woman, died in a hillside landslide that buried shanties and four others drowned in creeks and rivers, Antipolo's disaster-mitigation officer Enrilito Bernardo Jr. told agency by telephone.

Four other villagers remained missing after their house was swept away in the deluge, Bernardo said.

Thousands of travelers were stranded on Monday after sea travel was temporarily halted in several ports and 34 domestic flights were suspended due to the stormy weather.

A training ship, MV Kamilla — which was anchored in Manila Bay off the Navotas port in the capital — was hit by another vessel that veered out of control due to rough waves. Kamilla's bridge was damaged and it later caught fire, prompting its 18 cadets and crewmembers to abandon the ship, the Philippine coast guard said.

A passing tugboat rescued 17 of those who abandoned the ship and one swam to safety, the coast guard said.

About 20 typhoons and storms batter the Philippines each year. The archipelago lies in the so-called "Pacific Ring of Fire," a region along most of the Pacific Ocean rim where many volcanic eruptions and earthquakes occur, making the Southeast Asian nation one of the world's most disaster-prone.

Bus crashes into students and parents in eastern China, killing 11 and injuring 13, police say

BEIJING, Sep 3 (Agencies): A bus crashed into a group of students and their parents at a school in eastern China early Tuesday, killing 11 people and injuring 13, police said.

The students and parents were at the gate of a middle school in Tai'an city in the eastern province of Shandong just before 7:30 a.m., the Dongping county police department said in a posting on social media.

Six parents and five students were killed, it said. One of the injured was in serious condition while the others were listed as stable, the department said.

The driver was in police custody and the incident was under investigation, it said.

The bus was specially customized for transporting students, it said. It did not say who was responsible



for operating the bus. Many schools contract out such services to private companies or individuals.

School safety, including overloaded school buses and poorly designed buildings, has long been a problem in China.

In 2017, a dozen people, including 11 kindergarten pupils, were killed when a school bus crashed and burst into flames in a tunnel in the eastern Chinese city of Weihai, also in Shandong province. The driver, six Chinese children and five South Korean children were

killed. It remains unclear whether the crash was deliberate or the result of unsafe driving.

China has cracked down heavily on transportation dangers, adding training and vehicle inspections.

China also has suffered numerous cases in recent years of attacks on school children, often using knives or homemade explosives.

The suspects were generally found to be bearing grudges and seeking revenge over personal matters or against society more generally.

Russian President Putin visits Mongolia, defying international warrant for arrest

ULAANBAATAR (MONGOLIA), Sep 3 (Agencies): Russian President Vladimir Putin was visiting Mongolia on Tuesday with no sign that the host country would bow to calls to arrest him on an international warrant for alleged war crimes stemming from the invasion of Ukraine.

The trip is Putin's first to a member country of the International Criminal Court since it issued a warrant for his arrest about 18 months ago. Ahead of his visit, Ukraine called on Mongolia to hand Putin over to the court in The Hague, and the European Union expressed concern that Mongolia might not execute the warrant.

A spokesperson for Putin said last week that the Kremlin wasn't worried.

His visit puts Mongolia in a tough spot. Members of the international court are bound to detain suspects if an



arrest warrant has been issued, but Mongolia is a landlocked country highly dependent on Russia for fuel and some of its electricity. The court doesn't have a mechanism to enforce its warrants.

The Russian leader was welcomed in a ceremony in the capital city's main square by an honour guard dressed in vivid red and blue uniforms styled on those of the personal guard of 13th century ruler Genghis Khan, the founder of the Mongol Empire.

He and Mongolian President Ukhnaa

Khurelsukh walked up the red-carpeted steps of the Government Palace and bowed before a statue of Genghis Khan before entering the government building for their meetings.

The International Criminal Court has accused Putin of being responsible for the abductions of children from Ukraine, where the fighting has raged for 2½ years.

On Monday, the European Union expressed concern that the International Criminal Court warrant might not be executed and said it has shared its concern with

Mongolian authorities. "Mongolia, like all other countries, has the right to develop its international ties according to its own interests," European Commission spokeswoman Nabila Massrali said.

But she added, "Mongolia is a state party to the Rome Statute of the ICC since 2002, with the legal obligations that it entails."

More than 50 Russians outside the country have signed an open letter urging the government of Mongolia to "immediately detain Vladimir Putin upon his arrival". The signers include Vladimir Kara-Murza, who was freed from a Russian prison in August in the biggest East-West prisoner swap since the Cold War.

Putin, on his first visit to Mongolia in five years, will join a ceremony to mark the 85th anniversary of a Soviet and Mongolian battle victory over a Japanese army

that had taken control of Manchuria in northeastern China.

Thousands of soldiers died in months of fighting in 1939 over the border's location between Manchuria and Mongolia.

Putin has made a series of overseas trips in recent months to try to counter the international isolation he faces over the invasion of Ukraine. He visited China in May, made a trip to North Korea and Vietnam in June and went to Kazakhstan in July for a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

Last year, he joined a meeting in Johannesburg by video link after the South African government lobbied against him showing up for the BRICS summit, a group that includes China and other emerging economies. South Africa is an International Criminal Court member.

Pope Francis reaches Muslim-majority Indonesia to start Asia-Pacific tour

The Pope disembarked in Jakarta in a wheelchair to an honour guard, greetings by Indonesian officials, including the religious affairs minister, and a traditional bouquet from two children.

JAKARTA, Sep 3 (Agencies): Pope Francis arrived in Muslim-majority Indonesia on Tuesday to kick off a four-nation tour of the Asia-Pacific that will be the longest and farthest of the 87-year-old's papacy.

The head of the world's 1.3 billion Catholics touched down in Jakarta for a three-day visit devoted to inter-religious ties, and will then travel to Papua New Guinea, East Timor and Singapore.

The 12-day tour will test the pontiff's increasingly fragile health, but he is often energised by being among his flock and he emerged from the 13-hour flight smiling and waving.

"I thank you for coming on this journey, thank you for the company. I think it is the longest one

(flight) I have done," he told reporters aboard his chartered plane after landing, according to an agency journalist.

He disembarked in Jakarta in a wheelchair to an honour guard, greetings by Indonesian officials, including the religious affairs minister, and a traditional bouquet from two children.

The pontiff was then picked up from the red carpet by a civilian Toyota car, choosing a modest vehicle over one of the luxury typically used by world leaders. He smiled and waved as he left for the Vatican's diplomatic mission in Jakarta.

The pope was due to have a relaxing day in Jakarta on Tuesday following the long flight from Rome, then meet President Joko Widodo on Wednesday in the

first major set piece of his visit to the world's most populous Muslim-majority country.

Catholics currently represent fewer than three per cent of the population of Indonesia — about eight million people, compared with the 87 per cent, or 242 million, who are Muslim.

But they are one of six officially recognised religions or denominations in the secular nation, including Protestantism, Buddhism, Hinduism and Confucianism. On Thursday, Francis will meet representatives of all six at Istiqlal Mosque, the largest in Southeast Asia and a symbol of religious co-existence.

It is linked via a "tunnel of friendship" to the cathedral across the road, where Christians in recent days have



been taking selfies with a life-sized cutout of the pope.

He will then host a mass and deliver a sermon at Indonesia's 80,000-seater national football stadium.

Joint declaration Despite Indonesia's official recognition of different faiths, there are concerns about growing discrimination, including against Christians, with

local Catholics hoping the pope will speak out.

But Michel Chambon, a theologian and anthropologist at the National University of Singapore, said the pope would press a wider message he had already delivered in other Muslim-majority countries, from Iraq to Bahrain, Turkey and Morocco.

The visit "is not really aimed at Catholics in

Indonesia" but is intended to highlight the global importance of Islamic-Christian dialogue, he told agency.

That message was already being felt by some in Jakarta.

"When there's an event like this, we enjoy it because when it's our religious events, they (Catholics) also show tolerance to us," said Raggi Prathita, a 34-year-old Muslim who has been selling customised Pope t-shirts. "We all respect each other."

The country's religious affairs ministry has also hailed the visit as a symbol of Indonesia's religious diversity.

At the Istiqlal Mosque, Pope Francis will sign a joint declaration with its grand imam that will focus on "dehumanisation", notably the spread

of violence and conflict, as well as environmental degradation, according to the Indonesian bishops' Conference.

Francis has repeatedly urged the world to do more to combat climate change and mitigate its effects — including rising sea levels, which threaten Jakarta.

Indonesia has experienced terrorist attacks over recent decades, including bombings on the resort island of Bali by Islamist militants in 2002 that left 202 people dead.

Security has been stepped up for the pope's visit, with roads around key sites where he is scheduled to visit being re-routed or closed.

Fragile health His trip to Indonesia is the third ever by a pope and the first since John

Paul II in 1989.

Originally planned for 2020 but postponed due to the Covid pandemic, the visit takes place just three months before his 88th birthday.

The Argentine now routinely uses a wheelchair to move around, underwent hernia surgery last year and has been plagued by respiratory issues.

He has not travelled abroad since visiting Marseille in France in September last year, having cancelled a planned address at United Nations climate talks in Dubai two months later.

He will be travelling to Indonesia with his personal doctor and two nurses, but Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said this is normal, saying no extra precautions were in place.

DPS Jammu solemnizes Investiture Ceremony 2024-2025

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 3: Delhi Public School (DPS) Jammu solemnized its 26th Investiture Ceremony with full zeal, zest and enthusiasm. The theme for the Investiture Ceremony 2024-25 was 'Sankalp se Siddhi ki aur-Lead to Inspire.' The Guests of Honour for the event were the prestigious alumni of DPS Jammu- Archit Puri (Batch 2006-07), Nandan Gupta (Batch 2017-18), Aman Talla (Batch 2007-08), Sahaj Sabharwal (Batch 2019-20).

Also present on the occasion were, Parents of the student cabinet, Principal, staff and students of the school. The ceremony commenced with the welcoming of the dignitaries and the parents, followed by a mellifluous group song 'Insaan ho Insaaniyat ke kaam hi karna' by the school choir.

The adorning and swearing in of the members of the student council of DPS Jammu was a solemn ceremony, conferring authority to the prefectorial board comprising of 108 young leaders, who were elected after scrupulous interviewing and selection. The ceremony was a representation of the reliance and confidence that the school consigns in the newly invested office bearers.

The badges and sashes were adorned on the young shoulders by the school management, the chief guests, Princi-



pal and other dignitaries present on the occasion.

The Dipsites also enthralled the audience with a mesmerizing poetry of footsteps, which was a blend of Bharatnatyam and Kathak.

Enhancing the elegance of the occasion, the DIP-SITES graced the stage with a mesmerizing jugalbandi of Rajasthani folk music, accompanied by the table rhythms of Gunnat Singh (VII) and the melodious harmonium tunes of Uday Krishna (VIII) which not only added an extra layer of artistic splendour to the event but also resonated with the essence of our cultural heritage.

It was a proud moment for all the parents of the newly elected cabinet members to witness their children being invested with great responsibilities while embarking on a new journey as leaders.

Principal-DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chhabra, in her address, delineated the school's vision and philosophy and lauded the pivotal role of all three founding pillars of the school management—

Ajatshatru Singh-President RCT, Pro-Vice Chairperson, Dr. Ritu Singh, and Founder Director, S.S. Sodhi in bringing the school to the heights it has achieved over the past quarter century. She also appreciated the contributions of the teaching and non-teaching staff, members of the core school administration, as well as all past Principals and Administrators for their vital roles in laying the strong foundation of the school.

She further acknowledged the unwavering support of the parents in the school's progress. Further, she administered the oath to the newly inducted Student Cabinet 2024-25, wherein the students pledged to uphold the school's motto, 'Service Before Self,' with loyalty, honesty, and dedication. The magnificent spectacle of the young leaders on stage, donning their mantle of accountability and taking the oath of responsibility, was truly graceful and enthralling.

The speeches by the Head Boys-Prasann Sharma & Momin Adnan

and the Head Girls-Mayra Nargotra & Samiksha Rai reaffirmed the diligence and dedication with which the new student council would function and motivated the newly elected members to take up their task with zeal and enthusiasm.

A march past of the newly elected Student Council, holding the house flags in their hands was carried out in perfect synchronization with the beat of the School Band and the School Anthem.

The fluttering of the five house flags: Chenab, Ganga, Jhelum, Tawi & Yamuna lent a jubilant ambience for the vibrant students.

The formal Vote of Thanks was presented by Ms. Meenu Gupta, Headmistress, wherein, she expressed gratitude to all attendees, faculty members, parents and students for their presence and support.

The whole programme was compered by Diva Anand (XII-H) & Ayn Bhola (XI-A) along with Tanzeel. The ceremony ended with the National Anthem followed by the group photograph.

President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro-Vice Chairperson, Dr. Ritu Singh, and Director, S.S Sodhi extended their best wishes to the newly elected members of the Student Cabinet, their parents and blessed the children on the path of their duties successfully.

MP Gulam Ali Commends Sheetal Devi's Achievements

Top News Report

NEW DELHI/JAMMU, Sep 3: Senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, has extended his heartfelt congratulations to para-athletes Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar for their outstanding performance at the ongoing Paris Paralympics. The duo clinched the Bronze medal in the Mixed Team Compound Open Archery event, bringing immense pride to the nation.

"At just 17 years old, Sheetal Devi, hailing from the Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir, has already carved a name for herself in the world of para-archery. Her accomplishments on the global stage have been nothing short of extraordinary", the MP Er. Gulam Ali Khatana said in his statement, and added, "In the 2022 Asian Para Games, Sheetal showcased her exceptional talent by winning two gold medals and one silver medal, a feat that earned her the prestigious Arjuna Award.



Today, with this latest victory at the Paris Paralympics, she has once again demonstrated her unwavering dedication and skill."

Khatana praised the athletes for their exemplary team spirit, which played a crucial role in securing the Bronze medal for India. "Congratulations to Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar on winning the Bronze in Mixed Team Compound Open Archery. Sheetal, the daughter of our soil, has brought laurels not only for Jammu and Kashmir but also for the entire country. She has demonstrated remarkable dexterity and determination, qualities that have made her an inspiration to countless young athletes," said Khatana.

He further added, "India is delighted by this feat. Sheetal's journey is a testament to the resilience and potential of our youth, particularly those from Jammu and Kashmir. Her success serves as a beacon of hope for aspiring athletes across the region and the country. The nation stands united in celebrating this incredible achievement."

Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, known for his commitment to the welfare and development of Jammu and Kashmir, has always

been a strong advocate for promoting sports and supporting athletes from the region. He believes that sports have the power to unite communities, foster a spirit of excellence, and empower individuals to overcome challenges. "Sheetal Devi's victory is a shining example of what can be achieved when determination meets opportunity. It is a proud moment for Jammu and Kashmir, and I hope her success will inspire many more young talents from the region to pursue their dreams in sports," he remarked.

The BJP leader also acknowledged the efforts of coaches, support staff, and the families of the athletes, whose encouragement and guidance have been instrumental in their success. He reiterated his commitment to working towards creating more opportunities and facilities for budding athletes in Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring they have the resources and support needed to excel at the highest levels.

As the nation continues to celebrate the achievements of its para-athletes, Er. Gulam Ali Khatana's words of praise and encouragement reflect the immense pride and joy felt by every Indian.

Rural India skill enhancement program launched

CHANDIGARH, Sep 3 (Agencies): Rural India Skill Enhancement (RISE) program was launched in Haryana by Syngenta on Tuesday. The program will provide 1 lakh youth to prepare them for agriculture related livelihood opportunities.

Speaking during the occasion, company global CEO Jeff Rowe said, "We are intensely focused on improving water use efficiency, increasing productivity of degraded land and increasing carbon stor-

age in soil." Rowe also participated in drone spraying demonstrations and complemented Haryana's farmers, especially women drone pilots, for embracing new technologies with such ease and passion.

According to Susheel Kumar, Country Head and Managing Director Syngenta India, "Syngenta is at the forefront of driving digital applications in agriculture, and among others, its Cropwise digital platform is an all-in-one farming solution. We

are intensely focused on improving water use efficiency, increasing productivity of degraded land and increasing carbon storage in soil."

Rowe also highlighted that as the world's most local agricultural technology partner, Syngenta strives to transform agriculture through tailor-made solutions that support and enable farmers across the world to adopt regenerative agricultural practices, for the benefit of farmers, society and our planet.

FROM PAGE 1

Rahul Gandhi to Kick Off Congress's JK Poll Campaign with Twin Rallies Kharge, Rahul hold meeting with AICC Secretaries, Joint Secys to strengthen organisation

September 18. Gandhi will then fly to the Dooru area of Anantnag district, where he will address another rally in support of Congress General Secretary and former minister Ghulam Ahmed Mir, who is contesting the Dooru assembly segment.

The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha will return to Delhi in the evening from Srinagar, he said.

Karra exuded confidence that Gandhi's campaign will give a new impetus to the party's public outreach during the elections and improve its poll prospects.

Ghulam Ahmed Mir, Vikar Rasool Wani, and former Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Peerzada Mohammad Syed are contesting in the first phase of the elections.

According to the seat-sharing pact reached by the National Conference (NC) and Congress, the former will contest 51 seats and the latter 32 seats. The two parties will have friendly contests on five seats and they left one seat each for the CPI(M) and the Panthers Party.respective states. Pranav Jha and Gaurav Pandhi, who are Coordinators in the office of the Congress president, were made AICC secretaries.

While Vineet Punia, who is an AICC secretary in the party's communication department, was given the same responsibility, Ruchira Chaturvedi was appointed secretary in the department along with him.

Two former MLAs of Rajasthan, Danish Abrar and Divya Maderna, were also appointed secretaries for Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh respectively.

Former president of All India Mahila Congress Netta D'Souza, former NSUI president Neeraj Kundan and Naveen Sharma would work as AICC secretaries along with Venugopal.

Manoj Tyagi and Sushant Mishra were appointed joint secretaries in the administration.

A party leader said those working in the organisation and who have been loyal to the party had been rewarded in the rejig.

The meeting comes ahead of assembly polls in Haryana and Jammu and Kash-

mir and then followed by Maharashtra and Jharkhand later this year.

11 lives lost in August militancy-related incidents in Jammu Kashmir

CRPF Inspector, lost their lives in the line of duty. Additionally, a civilian was killed, and another sustained injuries. Besides, 4 soldiers and a Village Defense Guard member also suffered injuries in militancy-related incidents.

On the other hand, the joint forces neutralized at least 5 militants, including an unidentified militant killed in a shootout in Sopore. Among these 5 militants, 3 were infiltrators. The joint forces also foiled several infiltration bids along the Line of Control (LoC) in Tanghdar and Machil Sectors of North Kashmir.

Encounters broke out at various locations, including Kokarnag, Udhampur, Doda, Kupwara, and Rajouri. BSF personnel also killed an alleged intruder in the Samba region.

The month saw a total of 9 encounters, with multiple locations witnessing the exchange of fire between militants and joint forces.

In brief, the month of August in Jammu and Kashmir witnessed 11 human casualties which included an intruder, 3 soldiers, a civilian, 2 militants, a CRPF officer, and 3 infiltrators.

J-K polls: Cong leader threatens to contest as Independent against Omar Abdullah

permitted in the Ganderbal constituency similar to the arrangements in other constituencies," Sahil Farooq said.

He, however, added that if his party does not allow such a contest, he will consider running as an independent candidate, though he will remain a loyal Congress worker.

He has expressed dismay over what he calls 'continuous neglect' of local leaders in Ganderbal.

"I am loyal to the party, but the people of Ganderbal are facing hardships," he said. Farooq alleged that Ganderbal has always been kept out of the decision-making process with outsiders often being imposed on the constituency.

"Why is Ganderbal always forced to accept outsiders? Our local leaders have never been given a fair chance. If the Congress leadership does not make a decision

by this evening, I will proceed to contest independently, but my commitment to the Congress party will remain unchanged. I am doing this for my downtrodden people."

He wanted the Congress leadership to give him a chance to represent Ganderbal in a friendly contest.

If he finally chooses to stand as an independent candidate against Omar Abdullah, that decision could affect the dynamics of the electoral alliance between the NC and the Congress.

Govt orders transfers, postings in Finance Department

and posted as AO, Deputy Commissioner, Office Shopian vice Omer Javid. He shall also hold the charge of AO, Municipal Council Shopian.

Tariq Ahmad Shah, AO, Deputy Commissioner Office Srinagar is transferred and posted as AO, Sr. Superintendent of Police Budgam vice Abdul Lateef Malik. He shall also hold the charge of AO, Municipal Council Budgam in addition to his own duties till further orders.

Mohammad Iqbal Mir AO Doodpathri Tourism Authority is transferred and posted as AO, Development to AO, KPDCB Bijbehara.

Shamim Ajaz, AO, Senior Superintendent of Police, Sopore with additional charge of Municipal

Council Sopore shall await orders of adjustment in the Directorate General of Accounts and Treasuries J&K.

Mushtaq Ahmad Mir, AO, Sr. Superintendent of Police, Ganderbal with additional charge of Municipal

Council Ganderbal is transferred and posted as AO, Deputy Commissioner Office Anantnag vice Mir Hilal Ahmed. He shall also hold the charge of Verinag Tourism Development Authority and Kokenag Tourism Development Authority in addition to his own duties till further orders.

Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Rather AO, Deputy Commissioner Office Dandipora with additional charge of

SSP Office Bandipora is transferred and posted as AO, Sr. Superintendent of Police. Gandcrbal vice Mushtaq Ahmad Mir. He shall also hold the charge of AO, Municipal Council Ganderbal in addition to his own duties till further orders.

Abdul Rashid Shah, Accounts Officer Municipal Council Bandipora shall hold the charge of J/O Sr.

Superintendent of Police Bandipora in addition to his own duties till further orders. Bashir Ahmed Sheikh, AO, Deputy Commissioner Office. Ganderbal is transferred and posted as AO Treasury Officer Sumbal.

Zahoor Ahmad Khan, AO, DFO Srinagar with additional charge AO Joint Director

Funds Organization Kashmir is transferred and posted as AO. Deputy Commissioner Office Ganderbal vice Bashir Ahmad

Sheikh. He shall also hold the charge of Manasbal Tourism Development Authority and Sonamarg Tourism Development Authority in addition to his own duties till further orders.

Mohd Yasin Soft, AO Wular Manasbal Tourism Development Authority with Additional charge Treasury Sumbal shall await orders of adjustment in the Directorate General of Accounts and Treasury J&K.

Zahoor Ahmad War, AO, (Prob). Sonamarg, Tourism Development Authority is transferred and posted as AO (Prob.). Sr. Superintendent of Police Sopore vice Shamim Ajaz. He shall also hold the charge of AO, Municipal Council Sopore. in addition to his own duties till further orders.

Ursila Tabasum, AO (Prob.), J&K Cable Car Corporation LTD shall hold the charge of AO.

Gulmarg Tourism Development Authority in addition to her own duties till further orders.

Nazir Ahmad Sofi, I/C AO (Treasury Officer), Treasury Beerwah is transferred and posted as I/C AO. Div. Commissioner Kashmir vice Showkat Imran.

Imtiyaz Ahmad Mir, I/C AO Deputy Commissioner office, Pulwama shall hold the charge of AO

Municipal Council Pulwama and AO. Sr. Superintendent of Police Pulwama in addition to his own

duties till further orders. Mr. Hilal Ahmed, I/C AO. Deputy Commissioner Office. Anantnag is transferred and posted I/C AO. Deputy Commissioner Office Kulgam vice Javed Iqbal Hakim. He shall also hold the charge of AO, Aharbal Tourism Development authority in addition to his own duties till further orders.

Mushtaq Ahmad Dar I/C AO Senior Superintendent of Police Kulgam shall hold the charge of AO,

Municipal Council Kulgam in addition to his own duties till further orders.

Abdul Lateef Malik, I/C Accounts Officer, SSP Budgam with additional charge of Municipal Council

Budgam is transferred and posted as I/C AO, Dy. Director Audit and Inspections Kashmir against available vacancy.

Mohd Iqbal Rather I/C Accounts Officer Yousmarg Tourism Development Authority. is transferred and posted as I/C AO, Deputy Commissioner Office Srinagar vice Tariq Ahmad Shah.

Nazir Ahmed Zargar, I/C AO State Taxes Srinagar. is transferred and posted as I/C AO, Yousmarg Tourism Development Authority vice Mohd Iqbal Rather. He shall also hold the charge of Doodpathri Tourism Development Authority in addition to his own duties till further orders.

Javid Ahmad Wani, I/C Accounts Officer Municipal Council Baramulla with additional charge of SSP Office Baramulla is transferred and

posted as I/C AO, Deputy Commissioner Office Kupwara. He shall also hold the charge of AO, Municipal Council Kupwara and Lolab-Bangus Tourism Dev. Authority, in addition to his own duties till further orders.

Abdul Rashid Malik, I/C AO, Municipal Council Kupwara with additional Charge of Deputy

Commissioner Office Kupwara is transferred and posted as I/C AO, Sr. Superintendent of Police, Baramulla. He shall also hold the charge of AO, Municipal Council Baramulla in addition to his own duties till further orders.

Mohd Akbar Dar I/C AO, Gulmarg Development Authority is transferred and posted as I/C AO, Deputy Commissioner Office Bandipora vice Gh. Mohi-udDin Rather.

The Officers shall be deemed to have been relieved with immediate effect.

No leave of any kind due shall be granted till the election process is not over, except in extreme exigencies which shall be decided by the concerned Leave Sanctioning Authority where the officer is transferred or posted, the order added.

MeT Predicts Weather Improvement in JK, Rain on September 6-7

Kokernag 24.6mm, Qazigund 21.9mm, Batote 17.8mm, Pahalgam 16.5mm, Gulmarg 9.0mm, Kupwara 4.5mm and Srinagar 2.9mm, a meteorological department official said.

Regarding the forecast for next 24 hours, he said, generally cloudy weather with light to moderate rain/thundershower was expected at many places till late afternoon today and "gradual improvement thereafter".

As regards Wednesday and Thursday, he said, generally dry weather was expected along with brief showers at isolated places.

"A spell of light to moderate rain at scattered places is expected on September 6-7," he said, adding, "Generally dry weather with brief showers at isolated places was likely between 8-15 September."

The MeT office also issued advisory about intense showers at few places and said that the same may lead to "flash floods/landslides/mudslides/shooting stones over few vulnerable places."

There is possibility of hailstorm with gusty winds at isolated places, he said, "Trekking, tourists and local travellers are advised to plan accordingly."

Regarding minimum temperature, he said, 17.8°C, Qazigund 15.6°C, Pahalgam 13.7°C, Kupwara 16.1°C, Kokernag 14.7°C, Gulmarg 9.4°C, Jammu 22.0°C, Banihal 16.6°C, Batote 16.5°C, Baderwah 15.6°C and Kathua 25.0°C.

NC always remain on forefront in ensuring equitable development of J&K: Bimla Luthra

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Sep 3: Bimla Luthra, former MLA and State Vice President of the Women Wing, Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), chaired a women's convention at Village Badali, District Udhampur.

The event was organized as part of the party's preparations for the ensuing Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

A large number of women from various parts of the district attended the convention, demonstrating their support for the National Conference.

In her address, Bimla Luthra threw light on the key achievements of the



National Conference during its regimes in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

She emphasized that the National Conference has always worked tirelessly for the welfare of the people, with a particular focus on the upliftment of women.

"The National Confer-

ence has been at the forefront of ensuring equitable development in Jammu and Kashmir. It is the only party that can address the unique needs and aspirations of our people," Luthra remarked.

"Our manifesto reflects our deep commitment to the women of Jammu and Kashmir. We are pledging

Rs 5,000 for the elderly female of each household of EWS, Provide 1 lakh jobs for the J&K Youths, 200 free electricity units for domestic consumption, free travel for women in state transport, and One LPG cylinders per month to each households of EWS," she added.

Sunil Verma District President Udhampur Urban highlighted various initiatives launched during the National Conference's tenure, benefiting women and the wider population.

He expressed confidence that only the National Conference can lead Jammu and Kashmir towards a prosperous and peaceful future. He also outlined key promises

made in the party's manifesto for the upcoming polls, which include significant provisions for the empowerment of women.

Joginder Kour, District Vice President Jammu Urban Women wing JKNC urged the people to support and vote for National Conference candidates in the upcoming Assembly elections, with an aim to bring positive change and ensure that the party's pro-people policies are implemented.

Among those who were present, Gurmeet Singh, Amarnath, Capt Rattan Singh, Manmohan Verma, Ch Abdul Rashid, Capt Nand Lal Verma, Ashok Sharma, Akash Verma, Mohini Devi, Razia Akhtar and Savitri Devi.

Apni Party holds election rallies at Marh Assembly Constituency



Top News Report

MARH, Sep 3: Apni Party has intensified its election campaign in Marh Constituency in favour of the candidate, Bodh Raj Bhagat, also Party's J&K President SC Wing.

As per a press release, the Party leaders held a series of meetings at Suhanjana in Marh

assembly constituency in support of the Party candidate, Bodh Raj Bhagat.

One of such meetings was organized by the Provincial Vice President of the Women Wing, Neelam Gupta in support of the Party candidate.

The meeting was also attended by Provincial Vice President, Ex-MLA Faqir Nath, Provincial

Vice President of the Women Wing, Neelam Gupta, Senior District President Jammu District Urban, Vaibhav Mattoo, Dalbir Singh, and others.

The leaders sought vote and support of the people in favour of Bodh Raj Bhagat, explaining the welfare schemes that would be implemented if the Party forms the Govt in Jammu and Kashmir.

Career Guidance Workshop organized in CSU



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 3: A one day workshop on "Career Guidance and Life Visioning" was organized under the joint aegis of Central Sanskrit University, Shri Ranbir Campus, Kot-Bhalwal, Jammu and DHI Academy, Bengaluru.

On this occasion, the keynote speaker, Kavya Ananth, founder of DHI Academy, gave detailed information to the students about various areas of career, self-confidence, goal setting, guidance, identifying one's own shortcomings and removing them.

She said that goals are not big or small, if a person has self-confidence then even the biggest goals can be achieved. If there is lack of self-confidence, then even small goals cannot be achieved.

During the interaction with the speakers, students also asked a lot of questions and got their

answers. Besides, she also cleared the doubts and removed the apprehensions of the students regarding the selection of other subjects along with Sanskrit subject for the preparation of Civil Services. Special speaker of the day, Vinay R. highlighted about the obstacles and opportunities related to career guidance in the student life.

He said that before selecting any course, the candidate should know about the job opportunities, companies offering the job, salary, required skills and how long the career opportunity can be maintained.

Campus Director Prof. Shreedhar Mishra said that organising such kind of workshops for career guidance and counseling is commendable.

Such an event will make it easier for the children as well as parents who are less aware to choose their career. This will be very beneficial for them in

shaping their future.

The workshop was inaugurated by lighting the lamp by the guests. The invocation was done by Dr. Anayamani Tripathi of the Veda Department.

Welcoming the guests, Prof. Satish Kumar Kapoor said that the career related knowledge given to the student makes the students' future bright and strengthens the students' academic level and thinking. He said that it is the main duty of the university to provide education related to the career advancement, future education and employment trends to the students at the appropriate time.

Technical support in the program was given by Dr. Ashish Kumar, Akhil Sharma, Tirupati Bala, and Manoj Abrol. On this occasion, Dr. Rishiraj, Dr. Pramod Kumar Shukla, Dr. Ratan Kumar, Dr. Rajkumar, Dr. Gopal Verma, Dr. Yogendra Kumar Dixit, Dr. Pradeep Dixit, Dr. Pradeep Mishra, Dr. Kamal Kishor, Dr. Shweta Sood, Dr. Sarvesh Tripathi along with other teachers and students of the campus were present in large numbers.

Dr. Madan Kumar Jha thanked the guests. The program was efficiently conducted by Dr. Bipin Bihari Dubey.

SVEEP Awareness program held at Khanyar to boost voter participation



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Sep 3: An awareness program aimed at promoting electoral participation was held today at the Government Girls Higher Secondary School Khanyar, under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative. The event, designed to enhance voter awareness and encourage maximum turnout in the upcoming assembly elections, was attended by students, local citizens, and other stakeholders.

The program was supervised by Aijaz Ahmad Shah, Returning Officer for the 20-Khanyar constituency, Syed Shahid Hussain Shirazi, Assistant Returning Officer for the 20-Khanyar constituency, and Waheeda

Sheikh, Principal of the school and the SVEEP Nodal Officer.

A rally, led by Syed Shahid Hussain Shirazi, Waheeda Sheikh, and Naib Tehsildar Khanyar Shah Asif Mohammad, was held from the school premises to the main chowk in Khanyar. The event focused on engaging the youth and first-time voters, highlighting their crucial role in the democratic process.

During the program, officials provided detailed information about the election process and emphasized the importance of exercising the right to vote. They urged all eligible voters to participate actively in the forthcoming elections, reinforcing the significance of each vote in shaping the future of the region.

Veteran KP leader H.N. Jattu passes away

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 3: The Kashmiri Pandit (KP) community mourns the loss of one of its most esteemed and firebrand leaders, H.N. Jattu, President of the All India Kashmiri Pandit Conference (AIKPC), who passed away in the early hours today at his residence in Faridabad.

Jattu, known for his unwavering dedication and fiery advocacy for the rights of the Kashmiri Pandit community, leaves behind a legacy of resilience, activism and compassion.

Jattu's contributions to the Kashmiri Pandit community can never be forgotten.

A formidable leader, he played a key role in several significant movements, including the historic Parmeshwari Agitation,

which was instrumental in advancing the cause of displaced Kashmiri Pandits.

His relentless efforts also facilitated the establishment of businesses in and around New Delhi, providing livelihood opportunities to countless members of the community.

In response to Jattu's passing, an emergency meeting of the AIKPC's executive members was convened, presided over by the Working President, Kuldeep Kashmiri.

During the meeting, Kuldeep Kashmiri expressed profound grief over the loss, stating, this is a monumental loss for the community. Jattu's absence will leave a void that can never be filled.

The meeting was attended by key figures of the organization, including General Secretary M.K. Raina, Comrade Mohan

Lal Raina, Youth Wing President Ravinder Koul, M.L. Misri, Shibani Koul, Ramesh Raina, Ashok Bhat, Bansilal Bhat & Bharat Kachroo.

The attendees paid tribute to Jattu's legacy, highlighting his pivotal role in the community's struggles and his tireless work to secure a better future for displaced Kashmiri Pandits.

The meeting concluded with a Shanti prayer for the departed soul and the extension of heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

H.N. Jattu's passing marks the end of an era, but his legacy will continue to inspire generations to come. The community stands united in this moment of grief, honoring the life and contributions of a leader who dedicated his life to the service of others.

BJP OBC Morcha launches Nukkad meetings in Jammu East

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 3: The BJP OBC Morcha has commenced a series of Nukkad (street corner) meetings in Jammu East, starting with an initial meeting in Ward No. 17.

The program, held at New Plot, was spearheaded by Rakesh Pandey, Mandal President OBC, and saw significant participation from BJP leaders and activists.

The meeting was graced by Chaman Kapoor, Mayor of Manali, Himachal Pradesh, and Braham Jyot Satti, Incharge BJP OBC Morcha for Jammu and Kashmir UT. Key figures including Ashok Salgotra (Dist President OBC Morcha), Perveen Badyal (Vice President OBC), Ajay Mehra (Mandal Vice President OBC), Subash Prajapati (Senior BJP Leader), Madan Gopal Toni (Senior BJP Leader), Robin Kumar (Mandal President SC Morcha), and several prominent women leaders also attended.

During the event, leaders interacted with local residents and emphasized the BJP's commitment to public welfare and its proactive stance on local issues. They assured attendees that the BJP is dedicated to advocating for Jammu's interests and serving its people.

Chaman Kapoor highlighted various central government schemes aimed at OBCs, such as the Sukanya Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana, and MSME loan schemes, particularly beneficial for women. He underscored how BJP's policies have transformed Jammu and Kashmir, making it more accessible and attractive destination for visitors



since 2014.

Braham Jyot Satti spoke about the BJP OBC Morcha's dedication to serving all segments of society and its ongoing social initiatives across Jammu and Kashmir. He recalled the party's role as a frontline warrior during the COVID-19 pandemic, providing essential services while other parties remained inactive.

Satti also urged the public to take advantage of the numerous government schemes available to assist those in need, reinforcing the BJP's commitment to serving the community and promoting the nation's interests.

JU to celebrate Foundation Day with major milestones, new initiatives: VC

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 3: The University of Jammu is set to mark its Foundation Day with a celebration of significant achievements and the introduction of new initiatives that highlight its dedication to academic excellence, cultural preservation, and innovative education.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai shared the University's impressive accomplishments, noting its rise in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF-2024), where it secured the 50th position in the University Category and 23rd among State Public Universities. He also highlighted the Business School's success, ranking 18th in The Week's Government B-School category, solidifying its reputation as a leading management institution.

In a bid to protect and promote the rich cultural heritage of the Jammu region, Prof. Rai introduced "Jammuriyat," a thematic series designed to preserve, celebrate and disseminate local traditions. This initiative not only aims to safeguard Jammu's culture but also to strengthen the University's connection with the community.

Prof. Rai also spoke about "Goonj-2024," an initiative aimed at encouraging the holistic development of students through



a combination of cultural, sports, and academic activities. He emphasized the impact of the newly implemented Samartha ERP system, poised to enhance efficiency and transparency across the University's administrative processes.

Highlighting the University's collaborative efforts, Prof. Rai informed about the partnerships with key organizations such as the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, the FICCI Ladies Organization J&K and Ladakh Chapter, and the Airports Authority of India. These collaborations aim to advance electoral awareness, empower women, and provide students with unique internship opportunities. Additionally, new agreements with BSE Institute Limited and Growbyte IT Providers Pvt. Ltd. will further develop skills in finance and technology.

On the infrastructure front, Prof. Rai noted the completion of several major projects, including the Innovation Tower, a new facility for the Department of Journalism & Mass Media, and the Madan Mohan Malaviya Teachers' Training Centre.

The University has also embraced sustainability, implementing eco-friendly initiatives like the digitization of campus flora, the introduction of e-vehicles, and the creation of vertical gardens from recycled materials. He also shared the upcoming project of a lecturer hall complex to be constructed in the University.

In the academic arena, the University has launched the "GYANAN-JALI Journal," a pioneering publication for language scholars. Additionally, the Dhanwantri Library now features a QR Code System to enhance resource accessibility for both students and faculty.

In a significant academic development, Prof. Rai announced the upcoming introduction of a range of undergraduate programs under the "Design Your Degree" initiative. This program, aligned with the NEP 2020, offers students the flexibility to tailor their academic journey according to their interests and career goals.

To commemorate the Foundation Day, the University will also launch its monthly newsletter "Jammu University

Times", an initiative of the Media Cell of the University, which will provide updates on the University's activities, achievements, and events, serving as a key resource for the University community.

Others who spoke during the event included Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies who spoke of the path breaking research initiatives, including Research Policy and Research Manual, among others. Prof. Anju Bhasin, Dean Academic Affairs shared the increased integration of technology in the academics of the University through LMS, Prof. Parkash C. Anthal, Dean Student Welfare

acquainted the media about the evolved format of the flagship programme of Display Your Talent taking it to zonal level for more participation by remote colleges. Prof. Rahul Gupta, Registrar spoke about the various initiatives and achievements by the University marking its presence in the National Academia.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks from Prof. Garima Gupta, Head, Department of Journalism and Media Studies. Among others present included Prof. Dushyant Rai, Dr. Suvidha Khanna and Dr. Pradeep Bali. The event was well conducted by Mansi Mantoo Media Officer JU.

Rekha Mahajan urges BJP cadre to launch intensive door to door campaign

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 3: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) prominent leader Rekha Mahajan, today called upon party workers to mobilize youth support for the BJP in the assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting saw the presence of National Vice President Mahila Morcha Pooja Kapil Mishra, Prabhari Jammu South Ayodhya Gupta, BJP leader Brijeshwar Singh Rana, Ex District President Munish Khajuria, District Vice President Vikram

Sharma, District General Secretary Akash Chopra. The meeting was organized by Mandal President Bikram Sandhu in Jammu South.

Rekha Mahajan emphasized the importance of strengthening the party's grassroots presence and engaging with voters to ensure a resounding victory of BJP. She encouraged BJP cadre to increase door-to-door outreach and voter engagement, organize public rallies, meetings, and public events to showcase party achieve-

ments. She asserted that BJP workers to utilize social media platforms to spread the party's message and vision and also activate booth-level committees to ensure maximum voter turnout in assembly polls.

Rekha Mahajan expressed confidence in the party's prospects, citing its commitment to development, good governance, and the welfare of the people of J&K. She urged party workers to work tirelessly to ensure a historic win for the BJP in the upcoming

elections. She expressed unwavering confidence in the party's prospects for the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections. She asserted that the BJP will form the government in J&K with a resounding victory, riding on the wave of unprecedented development, good governance, and people-centric policies. Rekha Mahajan cited the party's commitment to empowering the youth and marginalized communities, fostering inclusive growth and development of all segments of society

and ensuring transparency and accountability in governance including strengthening national security and integrity under the banner of PM Modi leadership.

BJP leader Rekha Mahajan attributed the party's impending victory to its dedicated cadre, visionary leadership, and the trust reposed by the people of J&K. She urged party workers to work tirelessly to ensure a historic win for the BJP and also chalk out the strategy in the presence of senior leadership.

Difference Between Captains Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma And MS Dhoni? R Ashwin Hits Bullseye

Indian cricket team off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin opened up about the major differences in captaincy styles of MS Dhoni, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli.

NEW DELHI, Sep 3 (Agencies): Indian cricket team off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin opened up about the major differences in captaincy styles of MS Dhoni, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli. Ashwin has played under all of their captaincy and was part of the team's significant achievements in the past decade. There have been many comparisons between the three India captains in the recent past but Ashwin pointed out a major area where Rohit is quite different from both Virat and Dhoni. He said that Rohit is much more tactical than the other two.

"2-3 things are nice about Rohit's captaincy. He always keep the environment of the team light. He makes an effort to keep it light. And he stays very balanced and tactically he is strong. Both Dhoni and Virat were also tactically strong but



Rohit works more on the tactics," said Ashwin in an interview with Vimal Kumar.

Ashwin also revealed that ahead of any major match or series, Rohit sits with the Indian cricket team analytics team and charts out a proper strategy involving specific plans for certain cricketers.

"If there is any big match or series coming up, Rohit sits with

the analytics team and coach and prepares for it, like what's the weakness of a particular batsman, what's the plan of a bowler. That's his strength but he always keeps the environment of the team light and backs the players. If he selects a player in the XI, he backs them 100%. I have played most of my career with these three captains," he added.

Earlier, Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) fielding coach Jonty Rhodes addressed the speculation building around India captain Rohit Sharma joining the franchise for the next Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 season.

As the mega auction for the IPL 2025 season inches closer, uncertainty over Rohit's future continues to loom around him. In recent times speculations over Rohit potentially moving away from Mumbai Indians continue to grow rapidly.

"I mean, there's the balance of teams, who's in the side. I love watching Rohit Sharma bat, but I'm not saying he must come in and replace, and then suddenly we change our setup. So whatever, as I said, whatever happens, who is ever there? I'll be doing my best to support," he told agency.

Jos Butler in doubt for England vs Australia T20Is after calf-injury



LONDON, Sep 3 (Agencies): England's T20I series against Australia may be without their skipper, Jos Butler, as he faces a setback in his recovery from a calf injury. Butler has been sidelined since England's semi-final defeat to India at June's T20 World Cup. The injury, initially sustained in July while preparing for the Hundred, ruled him out of the tournament and has continued to hinder his return to competitive cricket.

Lancashire Lightning coach Dale Benkenstein revealed to BBC that Butler re-aggravated his calf injury during rehab, which has ruled him out of the side's upcoming T20 Blast quarter-

final clash against Sussex Sharks on September 4. Butler had been eager to make his comeback in time for this crucial fixture, but the latest setback has dashed those hopes.

"We've had some bad news on his recovery...He had an injury he was recovering from, and he's sort of tweaked it again. He's not only just out of our T20s, but I think he's even struggling to make the international ones. He was very keen to play for us," Benkenstein said.

Despite this, England remains optimistic about Butler's availability for the upcoming T20I series against Australia, which begins on September 11. The team is not overly concerned about his fitness and is hopeful that he will recover in time to lead the side throughout Australia's eight-match white-ball tour.

In Butler's potential absence, England's white-ball side might see the likes of Sam Curran or Phil Salt step up as the main contenders to lead the side. Butler's absence would be a significant blow to England, as his leadership and explosive batting at the top of the order are crucial for the team's success. As the countdown to the series continues, all eyes will be on Butler's recovery progress, with England fans and management alike hoping for positive news in the days ahead.

Rohan Bopanna-Aldila Sutjiadi pair enters US Open mixed doubles semis

NEW YORK, Sep 3 (Agencies): Veteran Indian tennis star Rohan Bopanna and his Indonesian partner Aldila Sutjiadi entered the semifinals of the US Open mixed doubles with a hard-fought win over Australian Matthew Ebden and Barbora Krejickova of the Czech Republic in New York.

The eighth seeded Indian-Indonesian pair registered a 7-6(4) 2-6 10-7 win over fourth seeds Ebden and Krejickova in the quarterfinal that lasted one hour and 33 minutes on Monday night.

Bopanna and Sutjiadi had earlier defeated Australian duo of John Pears and Katerina



Siniakova of the Czech Republic 0-6 7-6(5) 10-7 in a second-round match.

Bopanna and Sutjiadi will play American pair of Donald Young and Taylor Townsend in the semifinals.

The 44-year-old

Bopanna had already crashed out of the men's doubles competition after he and his partner Ebden, seeded second, lost 1-6 5-7 to the 16th seed Argentine combination of Maximo Gonzalez and Andres Molteni in the third round.

"You will shame yourself if you don't score 10000 runs": Harbhajan Singh recalls Virat Kohli chat

NEW DELHI, Sep 3 (Agencies): One of the finest batters of his generation, Virat Kohli wasn't always the sort of batter he is at present. Born in Delhi, Virat had a sort of flamboyance to his game when he first started playing but has gradually emerged as a more mature player who knows how to pace his game, depending upon the situation he is batting in. Those who played with him during the early days, see the sort of difference Kohli has brought about in his game. One such cricketer is Harbhajan Singh who was an established name in the Indian team when Virat played his first few games.

"I remember this one incident. Viru [Virender Sehwag] had gotten



injured I supposed. [Ajanta] Mendis was getting everyone out. He comes in; young guy, free energy. He batted and scored a fifty. He asked me 'Paaji, how did I play?' I said, 'Very well'. He then said 'Paaji, I shouldn't have gotten out, should have smacked him more'.

Loved the attitude," Harbhajan said about Kohli during a chat on Taruwar Kohli's podcast.

While Kohli has gone on to break some of the biggest records in the game, his journey hasn't been all smooth. Harbhajan revealed that even Kohli had doubts about his career after

a few unsuccessful outings, and had to be given course correction by the Turbonator.

"If I tell you something about his Test cricket, at the very beginning. We were in West Indies. On that tour, Fidel Edwards (former West Indies quick) had troubled him a lot, getting him out either LBW or against the short ball. He was getting out time and again, so obviously was very disappointed. He had self-doubt, and questioned 'If I am good enough?' I told him 'You will shame yourself if you don't score 10000 runs. You have the capability of scoring 10000 runs in Test cricket. And if you don't, it'll be because of your own fault'. After that, what Kohli has

done is a once-in-a-lifetime exception," said Bhajji.

"I have seen him change. His diet, his mindset - 'That I don't want to be just an ordinary player. I want to be someone who people will know for a long time'. The stubbornness I saw in myself, Kohli has a lot more of it. I want to be that guy winning games and scoring hundreds for India. He was scoring hundreds back-to-back in Australia. It was the first time India chasing 400 runs... and they are going after it. We may lose but we'll fight. That attitude of keep going, that's what makes you a player. Kohli has left an everlasting impact on Indian cricket," he added.

US Open: Sinner bests Tommy Paul to seal quarterfinal, Beatriz scripts history

NEW YORK, Sep 3 (Agencies): Jannik Sinner secured his place in the US Open quarterfinals by defeating USA's Tommy Paul in a thrilling Round of 16 clash, winning 7-6, 7-6, 6-1. This victory makes Sinner the only player this season to reach the quarterfinals or better in all four Grand Slams, showcasing his remarkable consistency.

The match between Sinner and Paul was a high-intensity battle that kept the Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd on

the edge of their seats. Both players demonstrated exceptional skill, trading powerful shots and showcasing impressive court movement. The first two sets were tightly contested, with neither player willing to give an inch. Both sets required tie-breakers to determine the winner, reflecting what was an evenly matched contest to say the least.

It wasn't until the third set that Sinner, the World No. 1, truly asserted his dominance. Tommy Paul, who had fought



valiantly in the first two sets, seemed to lose his composure, allowing Sinner to capitalize and close out the match with a decisive 6-1 victory. This win sets up an exciting quarterfinal clash between Sinner

and World No. 5 Daniil Medvedev on September 4, promising another thrilling encounter.

Beatriz secures Brazilian history

On the same day, Beatriz Haddad Maia made history by becoming the

first Brazilian woman to reach the US Open quarterfinals. She defeated Denmark's Caroline Wozniacki at the Louis Armstrong Stadium in a hard-fought match, winning 6-2, 3-6, 6-3. Both players displayed incredible power and determination, but it was Haddad Maia who emerged victorious, maintaining her composure in crucial moments.

Haddad Maia will now face Karolina Muchova in the quarterfinals, as she continues her historic run at the US Open.

'Sixer King' Priyansh Arya calls Virat Kohli his favourite, wishes to play for RCB



NEW DELHI, Sep 3 (Agencies): Delhi's rising star Priyansh Arya recently grabbed the spotlight for his blitz at the Delhi Premier League as he smashed six sixes in an over. Arya, who dons jersey No.18, called Virat Kohli his favourite player and his idol. The star India batter has always managed to wow the young generation of cricketers, who aspire to contribute towards Indian cricket like him. Arya was no different as he opened up about his admiration towards Kohli's aggressive style and his aim to emulate the same. He also expressed his desire to play for RCB in IPL.

"Virat Kohli is my favourite, want to play for RCB. My favourite

team is RCB, admire Virat Kohli a lot, I like his aggression. I also like to play aggressive cricket. He is my idol," Priyansh told agency. The 23-year-old wanted to contribute towards helping RCB lift their 1st ever IPL title as the coveted trophy remained elusive of the franchise for more than 17 years.

Priyansh hit six sixes in an over. Arya took the DPL by storm with his breathtaking hitting and is currently the top run-scorer with 602 runs across nine innings. He became the latest entrant in a rare 6 sixes in an over club while playing for South Delhi Superstarz against North Delhi Strikers. The left-handed batter took on left-arm spinner Manan Bharadwaj in the

12th over with a barrage of sixes. He went on to score his 2nd century of the tournament as he piled up 120 runs from 50 balls.

"I had this thing in mind that if a left-arm spinner comes on to bowl, I will attack him. After the fourth six, I started to believe that I can hit six sixes and will go for that. Ayush backed me and told me to go for the kill," he revealed.

The record-breaking stand

The captain of Delhi Superstarz Ayush Badoni was his partner in crime as he scored 165 off 55 balls and shared a record-breaking stand of 286 runs with Arya. Their stand helped the team rack up 308 runs on the board and in reply, North Delhi could only score 196 runs.

"Badoni's quite relaxed and doesn't talk much, just tells us to express ourselves. The team's environment is calm, coaches talk about the positives rather than negatives. The mindset is to win the trophy," he added.

"That's not the case always": Indian umpire's blunt take on Dhoni review system

NEW DELHI, Sep 3 (Agencies): One of the sharpest brains in Indian cricket, MS Dhoni is a man known for his tactical brilliance, game awareness, and astute strategies. When it comes to the Decision Review System (DRS), Dhoni barely gets his decisions wrong. His accuracy over DRS calls from behind the stumps saw the technology being renamed on his name as 'Dhoni Review

System'. But, Indian umpire Anil Chaudhary has claimed that though Dhoni is close to accuracy, him getting the DRS calls right isn't always the case.

"That's not the case always (Dhoni being right), sometimes it's the other way around, but he's close to accuracy. He has a lot of ideas about the game," umpire Chaudhary told Shubhankar Mishra during a chat on the lat-

ter's YouTube channel. Chaudhary also held high praise for young Indian wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant for the way he has improved as a keeper over the last few years.

"Rishabh Pant has also improved a lot from earlier days. It's all about experience - you look at the replays and then reassess your calls," he added.

"Wicketkeeper has got the best spot to keep an

eye, they're still and can follow the ball's trajectory. In fact, best umpires sometimes base their decisions on the movement of wicketkeepers because they follow the ball," he said.

Coming back to Dhoni, Chaudhary said that the former India captain could go on to become a good umpire if he is ready to spend seven hours inside the cricket stadium.

"He's (Dhoni) close

to accuracy. Lot of the times he stops others from appealing. He can become a good umpire provided he's ready to be inside the ground for seven hours," he said.

While the decision to become an umpire is purely theoretical, at present, it isn't even known if Dhoni would be seen wearing the Chennai Super Kings jersey again as a player in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 season.

IIT Delhi Faculty Delivers Key Lecture on Bioprocess Optimization at SMVDU's School of Biotechnology

Top News Report

KATRA, Sep 3: The School Biotechnology, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University organized a Guest Lecture under the DBT-PGT Program on the topic "Modelling Simulation and Optimization of Bioprocesses" delivered by Visiting Faculty, Prof. Ashok Kumar Srivastava, from Department of Biochemical Engineering and Biotechnology, IIT Delhi. Prof. Srivastava spoke about the importance of simulation and optimization of Bioprocesses and its relevance in the field of Biotechnology and further elaborated on the design of bioprocesses for efficient metabolite production using microbial cultures, plant cells and animal cells. Prof. Srivastava, is a Ph.D. from McGill University, Montreal, and has been a faculty member in Biochemical Engineering & Food Technology Department HB Technological Institute, Kanpur for 10



years and subsequently worked at Department of Biochemical Engineering & Biotechnology, IIT Delhi for almost 30 years. He is an eminent scholar and recipient of several awards & scholarships; National Overseas Scholarship award of MHRD, New Delhi for Ph.D. studies (1985-1990), UNESCO fellowship award (6 months) Delft University, The Netherlands, "Biotechnology Overseas Associate ship" Germany & New Zealand to name a few. During his talk, he highlighted the significance of process parameter optimization, such as temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, and agitation, in enhancing microbial



growth and product formation. He deliberated on how process optimization is important to streamline operations and maximize resource utilization in project management to improve overall output, waste reduction, and minimization of errors. He elucidated how simulation can be used for designing and modelling of indigenous bioreactors for maximizing yields. The audience actively participated with their view points and doubts which were appreciated by the speaker for their relevance and enthusiasm. He also appreciated the efforts of the Department, which is going in the right direction towards achieving excellence with the kind

of achievements it has attained in its short span in terms of research publications and presentations made by the student and scholars during his visit to the various labs. Dr. Raju Shankarayan, Assistant Professor, School of Biotechnology, formally introduced the guest speaker who had been his mentor and Professor at DBEB, IIT Delhi during his Ph.D. programme at IIT Delhi. All the D.Y.D., Undergraduate, Postgraduate students, Ph.D. Scholars and Faculty Members of Biotechnology, were greatly benefited from the lecture and the display of Virtual Labs he has created at IIT Delhi. The event concluded with the vote of thanks given by Dr. Sha-

rada Potukuchi, Associate Professor, School of Biotechnology which was made possible by the financial assistance granted under DBT PG Teaching Program (Project RP-132) coordinated by her. She also thanked Dr. Ratna Chandra, Head, Biotechnology; Dr. Sunil Kumar Wanchoo, Dean, Faculty of Sciences who facilitated administratively for conduct of the Lecture. Honourable Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Pragati Kumar congratulated the organizing team and emphasized upon conduct of such lectures by eminent experts in future also for the benefit of the students. The School of SoBT regularly organizes expert lectures and workshops in leading research and technology areas to ensure that the students of B.Tech, B.Sc., M.Sc. and Ph.D. programs are kept abreast of the latest research in the field of Biotechnology under various externally funded schemes.

BJP Promises Universal Employment in J&K if Formed

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 3: Hinduist BJP leader Gurujee Raju Chandel, while talking to journalists in Jammu today, said that why do Congress, PDP, NC remain silent on the massacre and continuous killing of Kashmiri Pandits and their return home and why do they sit silently, today the public will have to answer and the public needs to take account from them. These parties are constantly advocating terrorism and terrorists and talking about giving compensation to terrorists, giving martyr status to terrorists, today the Hindu Sanatan people of Jammu Kashmir want an answer from these leaders whether they are with the Kashmiri Pandits and the people of Jammu Kashmir or with Pakistan. They will have to give this answer in these assembly elections. For the last 75 years, PDP, NC and Congress have been in power in Jammu Kashmir. The government has been in power and they have looted the people and the state with both hands. Today all the unemployed children who are on the streets are the gift of the Maha Thugbandhan parties. The Bharatiya



Janata Party has always given employment to the unemployed. The Maha Thugbandhan parties and their leaders have snatched jobs from the youth here. Even today, corruption cases against the leaders of the Maha Thugbandhan parties are going on in the CBI and the ED. They have spread corruption to such an extent that they have recruited fake people by taking bribes in the name of jobs. They have done land scams in the name of Roshni Act. They have sold government forest land. There are many other examples. If we make a list of them, the entire newspaper will be filled today. The time has come to show these corrupt people the way out and to bring the BJP to power. Only then will the problems of the youth of Jammu and Kashmir be solved and they will get jobs. Today it is the gift

of the Modi government that has built so many terminals, AIIMS hospitals in Kashmir, AIIMS hospital in Jammu too. This is a great achievement for Jammu and Kashmir. Till date, these Maha Thugbandhan leaders have not done anything for the welfare of Jammu and Kashmir. There was no progress inside and during the time of Modi government, Jammu Kashmir has received such a big gift and is going to get more in future. In the coming times, foreign companies are coming to Jammu Kashmir, in which children from Jammu Kashmir used to go abroad for jobs, now due to Modi government, many foreign companies are bringing their companies to Jammu Kashmir and the children here will get jobs in Jammu Kashmir.*

Shri Chandel said that now our youth do not need to go abroad for jobs, they will get jobs in Jammu Kashmir itself, for this it is necessary that the people should vote in large numbers to give a chance to the Bharatiya Janata Party to bring a strong government in Jammu Kashmir and bring the BJP government to power.

Nag Panchami to be celebrated in J&K on Sunday: Rohit Shastri

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 3: Nag Panchami, a significant festival dedicated to the Serpent God (Nag Devta), will be celebrated in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, September 8, 2024. This follows the guidelines from Mahant Rohit Shastri, Jyotishacharya and President of the Shri Kailash Vedic Sansthan Trust.



Nag Panchami is observed on the Panchami Tithi (fifth day) of the lunar month. This year, the festival coincides with the Rishi Panchami during the Shukla Paksha (waxing phase of the moon) of the Bhadrpada month. Shastri emphasized that worshipping Nag Devta on this day or any Panchami is beneficial and aligns with the sacred customs of the region.

Nag Panchami holds deep spiritual significance as it reinforces respect for all living beings, particularly serpents, which play a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance. Snakes have been revered in Sanatan Dharma for centuries, and the festival teaches the importance of protecting rather than harming these creatures.

For those unable to visit a temple, worshipping Nag Devta at home is encouraged. Devotees can use an idol of Nag Devta or make one from pure clay for the puja. Offerings such as coconut, milk, dakshina (donations), sweet roti (bread), flowers, and garlands can

be made at the serpent's burrow or a symbolic representation of it. The mantra "Om Kurukullaye Hum Phat Swaha" is chanted to mitigate the effects of snake venom and protect against snake bites.

Additionally, on Panchami, it is advised not to dig the ground. This tradition is based on astrological beliefs, particularly concerning Rahu-Ketu (nodes of the moon). Special puja to Nag Devta on this day can be particularly beneficial for those with unfavorable Rahu-Ketu positions in their horoscope. For individuals fearful of snakes, seeking progeny, having accidentally killed a snake, or frequently dreaming of snakes, worshipping Nag Devta is considered especially auspicious.

The festival involves drawing the image of Nag Devta on the wall, often in the entrance or kitchen area, and performing the puja with sacred items. A square box is drawn using charcoal and ghee, with small snake figures inside. Some families also create a serpent image with sandalwood paste on the door. Post puja, Brahmins are typically fed, and donations are made to those in need.

HDFC Bank and JLR India Sign MoU for Auto Financing

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 3: HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector bank and JLR India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for auto financing. The Bank will now be JLR's preferred vehicle financier. This will bring a host of benefits for consumers such as special financing schemes, exclusive offers/ events, and priority services / engagements.

By leveraging the combined strengths of both brands, the aim is to provide customers with seamless financing options and a modern luxury car buying experience. The MoU which encompasses offerings for the entire range of JLR models, was signed by Rajan Amba - Managing Director JLR India and Arvind Vohra - Group Head, Retail Assets HDFC Bank. Present on the occasion were other senior executives from HDFC Bank including Akhilesh Kumar Roy - Business Head, Auto Loans & Inventory Finance HDFC Bank.

The services will be available across all JLR exclusive showrooms and dealerships.

Speaking on the development, Arvind Vohra, Group Head - Retail

Assets, HDFC Bank said, "We are excited about this partnership with an iconic and aspirational automotive brand like JLR. The Bank will leverage its robust execution capabilities to offer a seamless customer experience."

Rajan Amba, Managing Director, JLR India said, "Our dealer partners are integral to our business, and we are pleased to be able to develop solutions to help them in ease of doing business."

"Together, we aim to further grow the market and offer our portfolio to an increasing set of clients. To that effect, we are excited to partner with HDFC Bank for this financing program, which will further strengthen the access of our dealer partners to increased working capital. By integrating HDFC Bank's expertise and extensive reach, we aim to offer our clients a tailored range of financial choices that cater to their individual needs."

Akhilesh Kumar Roy, Business Head, Auto Loans & Inventory Finance HDFC Bank, said, "The coming together of the two organisations will elevate the car buying experience. Customers will now enjoy a host of tangible and intangible benefits."

Skoda Auto India launches all-new Slavia Monte Carlo

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 3: Skoda Auto India has launched the all-new Slavia Monte Carlo edition in India. Taking the sport theme further, the company also introduced an all-new Sportline range within the Kushaq and Slavia line up and announced a path-breaking offer for these cars upping the value and choice quotient for Indian customers.

Commenting on the new introductions, Mr. Petr Janeba, Brand Director, Skoda Auto India said, "The Monte Carlo badge has a strong connect with customers, reflecting the spirit of sport and victory. I am happy to share that we launch the Slavia Monte

Carlo today. This is part of our strategy to grow the Skoda brand in India, which is one of the largest markets for us outside Europe. This special car will have a strong appeal with customers looking for unique, subtle and sporty aesthetics, projecting a discrete sense of style. It is homage to our 112 years in Rallye Monte Carlo, 129 years of rich heritage, and 24 years in India. We have also introduced two new trims - Slavia Sportline and KushaqSportline -- reflecting our intent to keep the range evolving and contemporary, offering greater choice and value to customers. The Sportline is perfect for customers who seek the sporty aesthetics of the

Monte Carlo at a more accessible price point. Together with the new Monte Carlo and Sportline offerings, we look forward to substantially growing the Skoda family in India."

The anniversary offer - As the launch of this all-new range marks the 112th anniversary since the company's debut at Rallye Monte Carlo, Skoda Auto India have lined up benefits for customers buying the sport-inspired Monte Carlo and Sportline range of the Kushaq and Slavia. The first 5,000 customers booking any of these four cars will receive benefits of ₹30,000. The offer is operational immediately and will be valid until September 6, 2024.

Consultative Discussion on State Policy on Older Persons of Ladakh held

Top News Report

LEH, Sep 3: A Consultative Discussion on State Policy on Older Persons of Ladakh with the theme, 'Working Towards an Age Friendly Ladakh' was held today at HelpAge India, Shey where Chairman/CEC, LAHDC, Leh, Tashi Gyalson presided as the chief guest.

The consultative discussion began with an inaugural address by the Guest of Honour Commissioner Secretary, Social and Tribal Welfare, UT Ladakh, Padma Angmo.

The panel discussion witnessed viewpoints



from concerned stakeholders, experts and community representatives. These included Director, Social and Tribal Welfare, UT Ladakh, Tashi Dolma; Councillor, Thiksey, Stanzin Chosfai and Former Chief Secretary, J&K, Chewang Phuntsog. The

panel highlighted the need for a state policy for the older persons of Ladakh and included discussion points like reimagining eldercare, working towards and age friendly Ladakh, what kind of facilities elderly in Ladakh need.

The draft formulation

discussion included filed level experiences and suggestions by community representatives and data and research insights on elderly issues by HOD, Department of Social Work, Ladakh University, Dr Jigmat Deachen. Additionally, Director MIMC, Leh, Venerable Bhikkhu Sanghasena and President, PAGIR, Tsewang Dorjey presented their inputs on catalytic role of local civil societies in eldercare.

Chief guest, CEC Tashi Gyalson in his address highlighted the importance and need for a policy for the elderly of Ladakh and thanked the

panelists for their valuable inputs in drafting a much-needed state policy for the elderly. Further, he assured the full support of LAHDC, Leh and underscored the upcoming schemes by the Council towards providing for the elderly. Additionally, he suggested that all the stakeholders can work in a collaborative manner to provide for the elderly so that there is maximum efficiency which will help in providing the best facilities to the elderly.

Later the respected panelists were felicitated by the CEO, HelpAge India, Rohit Prasad.

Government Women Polytechnic organizes Certificate Distribution Program



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 3: Government Polytechnic for Women, Jammu organized Certificate Distribution Program for the Vishwakarma who have successfully completed their training in various Trades/Job Roles.

Er. Suket Gupta, Principal, Govt. Polytechnic for Women, Jammu distributed the certificates and congratulated them and

also wished them best for their future endeavors.

The Program was followed by an insightful lecture focusing on financial literacy and loan facilities for Vishwakarma Certificate holders.

The session aimed to delve into essential financial management skills and the availability of loan options tailored for certificate holders seeking to enhance their

business ventures or further their education.

The lecture, delivered by Ramesh Raina, LDM SBI, provided practical advice and resources to empower attendees with the knowledge necessary for effective financial planning and securing loans.

The program was successfully conducted and Coordinated by Kamal Kumar, SPOC Vishwakarma Scheme.