

TOP NEWS OF J&K

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BRIEFLY

After Ganderbal, Omar Abdullah files nomination from Budgam



SRINAGAR, Sep 5 (Agencies): National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah on Thursday filed his nomination papers to contest the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls from Budgam.

"Omar Abdullah filed his nomination for the Budgam constituency for the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls," an NC spokesperson said here.

Abdullah was accompanied by senior NC leaders Aga Ruhullah Mehdi, Aga Mehmood, party treasurer Shammi Oberoi and provincial secretary Shaukat Mir.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister will contest the polls from two constituencies. He filed his papers from the family bastion of Ganderbal on Wednesday.

The 90-member Jammu and Kashmir Assembly is scheduled to go to polls in three phases on September 18, September 25 and October 1, and the counting of votes will be taken up on October 8.

We will fight for restoration of Article 370, Statehood: PC



SRINAGAR, Sep 5 (Agencies): Stating that they are committed to fight for the restoration of Article 370, Article 35A and statehood, Peoples Conference (PC) on Thursday promised a judicial commission to probe electoral rigging of 1987.

In its election manifesto, which was released by the party president Sajad Gani Lone and senior leaders today, the party said that it is committed to fight for the pre-2019 constitutional position for J&K.

"It will support all" **Turn to page 9**

Teachers true architects of nation: Lieutenant Governor

SRINAGAR, Sep 5 (Agencies): Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday paid tributes to teachers on occasion of Teachers' Day, saying the community is the true architect of the nation who shapes the destiny of the country.

The Lieutenant Governor paid tributes to the great educationist and former president Dr S Radhakrishnan on his Janm-Jayanti, and said



his life and works continue to inspire generations. "Greetings and warm

wishes to all teachers on Teachers' Day. I express my gratitude for their dedication to the growth of humanity. Tributes to the great educationist & former President, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Ji on his Janm-Jayanti. His life & works continue to inspire generations," Office of LG J&K said in a post on X.

"Teachers are the true architects of the nation" **Turn to page 9**

Fire breaks out near Bahu Plaza, Jammu



JAMMU, Sep 5 (Agencies): A fire broke out in the Bahu Plaza in Jammu on Thursday, prompting a swift response from the fire

and emergency services.

Fire tenders rushed to the Gupta Tower as thick plumes of smoke billowed from the second

floor of the building, which houses numerous private offices.

Though the cause of the fire is yet to be determined, authorities confirmed that all individuals inside the building were safely evacuated.

There were no immediate reports of injuries, and emergency personnel, along with the police, were on-site to manage the situation and ensure a smooth evacuation. **Turn to page 9**

BJP J&K Chief Ravindra Raina files his nomination from Nowshera assembly constituency

JAMMU, Sep 5 (Agencies): Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir chief Ravinder Raina filed his nomination paper for the assembly polls from Nowshera constituency on Thursday.

Ahead of filing nominations, Raina said that there was a strong wave of BJP in the entire Union Territory.



"There is a strong wave of BJP in the entire Jammu and Kashmir. **Turn to page 9**

Be it Jammu, Kashmir, Nowshera or any other area, you can see that thousands of BJP workers are participating in this election campaign with great enthusiasm and passion. I hope that when the voting takes place here, the BJP government will be formed with a huge majority. BJP is moving towards a **Turn to page 9**

Congress Chief Karra files nomination from Central Shalteng

SRINAGAR, Sep 5 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Congress president Tariq Hameed Karra on Thursday filed nomination papers from the Central Shalteng Assembly constituency. He urged the people to vote wisely asserting that it was not just an election after 10 years, but a "once-in-a-lifetime



opportunity to shape Jammu and Kashmir's destiny for the next 100 years". **Turn to page 9**

The 69-year-old Karra, a former Jammu and Kashmir minister, also defended his party's alliance with the National Conference for the polls, saying it was to fight against "dictatorship" and to "reclaim what is rightfully ours".

Thursday was the last day for the filing of nomination papers for **Turn to page 9**

J&K Govt accepts Er. Rashid's brother's voluntary retirement

SRINAGAR, Sep 5 (Agencies): The J&K government has accepted the application for voluntary retirement of Er. Rashid's brother, Khurshid Ahmed Sheikh.

Quoting an official order, news agency reported that the School Education department said that it has accorded sanction to voluntary retirement of Khurshid Ahmed Sheikh, who was working in a school in his native area of Mawar.

As per the order, Khurshid's voluntary retirement is effective from September 01, 2024.

Khurshid is likely to be AIP's candidate from Langate segment. He would be locked in a direct contest with Peoples Conference candidate Irfan Panditpuri in the segment.

While Rashid won Langate segment in 2008 and 2014, Irfan defeated the AIP chief by an impressive margin in 2020 district development council (DDC) polls.

1 person killed, 3 others injured in Rajouri road accident

JAMMU, Sep 5 (Agencies): At least one person was killed while three others were injured after a vehicle carrying them skidded off the road in the Gambhir Mughalan area of Rajouri district on Thursday.

Officials said that a Tata mobile bearing registration number JK12A9878 was coming from Poonch and moving towards Rajouri when suddenly its driver lost control of his vehicle and skidded off the road and went into the river.

In this incident, one person was killed while three others were **Turn to page 9**

J&K, its people not slaves of New Delhi: Dr Farooq



SRINAGAR, Sep 5 (Agencies): National Conference (NC) presi-

dent Dr Farooq Abdullah Thursday warned BJP led government at the centre, saying 'We are not slaves of New Delhi as people of Jammu & Kashmir are the real owners of the territory'.

Dr Farooq while commenting on BJP senior leader Ram Madhav's remarks that NC and others are using ex-militants in Assembly elec-

tions, said that they (BJP leaders) can resort to anything, and they can rake up such questions to create chaos.

"Let them ask how many employments they have given in last ten years. Have they been able to control rising inflation? They snatched everything from us, and now they are after our **Turn to page 9**

Pulwama Police arrests terrorist associate; hand grenade recovered



SRINAGAR, Sep 5 (Agencies): In a major breakthrough against terrorism, Pulwama

Police arrested a terrorist associate during a Naka checking at Karimabad crossing,

where the suspect was intercepted. The arrested individual has been identified as Arsalan Ahmad Sheikh, S/O Mushtaq Ahmad Sheikh, R/O Karimabad.

During the search, a hand grenade was recovered from the possession of the suspect. Investigations revealed that the accused had **Turn to page 9**

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EDITORIAL

TEACHER- AN
ARCHITECT OF FUTURE

Teachers' Day, observed annually on September 5th in India, is a day dedicated to acknowledging and celebrating the invaluable contributions of educators in shaping the future of individuals and societies. This significant occasion is marked by various events, ceremonies, and expressions of gratitude towards teachers who play a pivotal role in nurturing the minds and spirits of students.

The choice of September 5th as Teachers' Day is not arbitrary. It commemorates the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, an eminent philosopher, scholar, and the second President of India. Dr. Radhakrishnan's profound respect for education and his belief in the transformative power of teaching laid the foundation for this special day. Upon assuming the presidency, he requested that his birthday be celebrated as Teachers' Day, a tribute to his lifelong dedication to the profession. His legacy continues to inspire educators and students alike, embodying the spirit of teaching and learning.

Teachers' Day serves as a reminder of the profound impact educators have on society. Beyond imparting academic knowledge, teachers shape character, instill values, and inspire lifelong learning. They are the architects of future generations, guiding students through the complexities of life and helping them realize their potential. On this day, we acknowledge their tireless efforts, patience, and dedication.

The celebrations typically include a range of activities. Schools and colleges organize special events where students present performances, speeches, and skits dedicated to teachers. These events are designed not only to entertain but to express appreciation and gratitude. Students may also present gifts or cards to their teachers, symbolizing their respect and admiration.

Teachers are the unsung heroes who often work behind the scenes to foster intellectual growth and personal development. Their role extends beyond the classroom; they are mentors, counselors, and sometimes even parental figures. By creating a supportive and engaging learning environment, teachers encourage curiosity, critical thinking, and creativity. They adapt to the diverse needs of students, employing various teaching methods to ensure that every student has the opportunity to excel.

The impact of a teacher can be profound and long-lasting. Many successful individuals attribute their achievements to the guidance and support of their teachers. A teacher's influence can extend well beyond the classroom, shaping careers, and sometimes even influencing personal life choices. Their ability to inspire and motivate students often leaves a lasting impression that influences the trajectory of their lives.

While Teachers' Day is a time to celebrate, it is also an opportunity to acknowledge the challenges faced by educators. Many teachers work in conditions that are less than ideal, with limited resources and support. They often face large class sizes, outdated materials, and inadequate infrastructure. Despite these challenges, they remain committed to their profession and to the success of their students.

The profession of teaching requires a unique blend of skills, including patience, empathy, and resilience. Teachers often go above and beyond their formal responsibilities, providing additional support to students, engaging in professional development, and contributing to their communities. Recognizing and addressing the challenges they face is crucial in ensuring that they can continue to perform their roles effectively.

Teachers' Day is more than a celebration; it is a call to action. It is a reminder of the importance of investing in education and supporting educators. By valuing and supporting teachers, society invests in its future. This includes advocating for better working conditions, providing adequate resources, and fostering a culture of respect for the teaching profession.

Teachers' Day is a heartfelt tribute to those who dedicate their lives to the noble cause of education. It is a day to honor their contributions, recognize their sacrifices, and express our gratitude. As we celebrate, let us also commit to supporting and uplifting educators, ensuring that they have the resources and recognition they deserve. Teachers shape the future, and their role in creating a better world cannot be overstated.

Modi 3.0: How a 'strong leader' is on the retreat

By: Sunil Gatade

Narendra Modi is now on the retreat. Since becoming the Prime Minister for the third time, the "strong leader" is withering away, bit by bit. And it has not even been three months since he has been leading a coalition. The latest move to take a U-turn on the controversial "lateral entry" into the government is yet further evidence that Mr Modi is losing his ability to impose his decisions faster than anticipated. It is a shock for admirers and detractors alike that the Prime Minister, hailed by his supporters as the strongest leader India has produced since its Independence, is virtually in free fall. Also Read - Dilip Cherian | Kerala keeps it all in the family: Wife replaces husband as CS Advertisement With a section of the media now "Modi-fied" for diverse reasons, the collapse is not being shown or projected in the proper perspective. But that is not unexpected. In a way, it is better for his opponents. An easy victory makes a man complacent. The fact is that Mr Modi alone is to blame for such a pass as he has not come out of his larger-than-life persona despite the BJP shrinking in the political space and his charisma on the decline, as also the Hindutva card. Neither the rise of the forces of social justice with such vehemence was anticipated by Mr Modi nor the Congress Party taking up the cause with much gusto. The delay in holding Assembly polls in Maharashtra and Jharkhand, as also the 46 byelections, including 10 in Uttar Pradesh and one for the Lok

Sabha, does not show the BJP in high spirits. His instant apology over the collapse of the statue of Shivaji Maharaj shows that he has been painted into a corner. Mr Modi has never been a man of consensus. It helped the Modi myth to grow when the going was good. But his philosophy of "my way or the highway" has turned into a bane for the BJP in the era of coalitions. The tragedy is that the world's largest party understands the problem but is both unable and unempowered to mend the leader who has become bigger than the party. It is a sort of a Greek tragedy unfolding. As a BJP leader said informally, it is Mr Modi who has brought the BJP to power and if he is now squandering it, how can anyone complain? In contrast to this, the "Ek Modi sab pe bhari" syndrome is doing a lot of harm to the ruling establishment as any opinion contrary or divergent to the one taken by the leader is considered a sacrilege. The elders in the party have all been sent to the Margdarshak Mandal, unloved and uncared for. Anyone who is of any standing in the BJP appears to be unconcerned about helping Mr Modi as he has never come across as a leader with empathy. Also Read - Syed Ata Hasnain | Understanding nuances of elections in Kashmir All the people that Mr Modi has with him are subordinates and not real colleagues, and Mr Modi is not a benevolent boss. "Yes men" are usually known for being competent. Most of the media had been caged a long time ago in order to help the Modi myth to grow. The recent Budget Session of Parliament showed how the media was

kept in a glass cage for a day in the Parliament House complex, which led to a huge controversy. The buoyant Opposition parties have brought to the fore a new narrative, and the media too is now changing a bit to factor in the new reality. The silent burial of the controversial Broadcasting Bill is another signal of the retreat of the strong leader. There is not even a single photo frame over the past ten years in which the Prime Minister was seen in deep discussion with the Opposition on the way ahead for the nation. So much for the "sweet" ties with the PM's detractors. Opponents were never treated so shabbily as in the past ten years. The Emergency is the lone exception. With Mr Modi publicly showing, day in and day out, that he is still on the "strong leader" trip, the crisis for the BJP is bigger with each passing day. The first stage of course correction is the fact of accepting a change in the political reality. This has not happened. Also Read - M.P. Nathanael | Hema Committee report exposes the casting couch issue in film industry The party has no independent president to set right the problem and the one it has is known to be a Modi acolyte who is there because of the PM's blessings. Minus the PM, he is a big zero, and everyone knows it. Finding a full-time party president is itself fraught with danger but Mr Modi will have his man, but it will take its time. Whatever might be the perceptions outside the party, Mr Modi in the past decade has turned the RSS into a sitting duck. The RSS chief is happy that the BJP has grown so much under his watch. Leaving

aside the occasional advice he hands out to the political wing, Mohan Bhagwat does not look bothered. The veterinary doctor is pleased with himself. "Apni dukan theek chal rahi hai". Also Read - Spectacular Saudi Campaign Invites Indian travellers to Discover the Heart of Arabia Rahul Gandhi had opened more than a window of opportunity for the PM. Soon after the general election, he had extended his hand of cooperation to the PM, telling him that the mandate wants you to govern. The mantra of consensus could help everyone along, was the suggestion. Mr Modi is still the "angry young man" and leaves no opportunity to target the grand old party and its "dynastic culture". Ensuring that the Leader of the Opposition sits in the fifth row during the PM's address to the nation from Red Fort on Independence Day is the latest example of the PM despising the Opposition. With the Opposition INDIA grouping getting almost the equal number as the BJP in the Lok Sabha polls, Mr Modi is feeling the heat but is showing he is unruffled to protect his "strong leader" narrative vainly. The Opposition too is enjoying that it was taking down the strong leader, bit by bit. Now, dissidents in the BJP like Dr Subramanian Swamy are publicly saying that Mr Modi had better quit as the PM. "If Modi does not, as committed to the RSS' Pracharak Sanskaar, announce his retirement to the Margdarshak Mandal after his 75th birthday on September 17, then he will lose his PM's chair by other methods", is the latest that Dr Swamy has said on social media, signalling hard times ahead for the strong leader.

Kerala keeps it all in the family: Wife replaces husband as CS Columnists

By: Dilip Cherian

Couple goals. Kerala's power couple just made history in the most unexpected way! Dr V. Venu, the outgoing chief secretary, handed over the reins to his wife, Sarada Murlidharan, in a formal ceremony at the Thiruvananthapuram secretariat. Yes, you read that right — one chief secretary passing the baton to their spouse! It's a scene straight out of a family drama but with a bureaucratic twist. Also Read - Sunil Gatade | Modi 3.0: How a 'strong leader' is on the retreat Advertisement Both Venu and Sarada belong to the IAS batch of 1990, making them true partners in both life and service. Venu, being a few months older, has always had that slight seniority edge, now it's Sarada's turn to take the top spot in the state's bureaucracy. And it's not just a matter of protocol — this moment is one for the history books. Kerala is no stranger to dynamic husband-wife duos in government, but this is the first time a chief secretary has handed over the reins to their "better half". It's as if the state's top job was always meant to stay in the family. As Sarada steps into her new role, the couple's joint legacy is sure to be a topic of conversation, not just in

bureaucratic circles but across dinner tables too. Also Read - Syed Ata Hasnain | Understanding nuances of elections in Kashmir One can only imagine the banter at home — Venu reminding Sarada that he warmed the seat for her, and Sarada playfully pointing out that she'll now have the final say both in office and at home! Rajasthan babus to spearhead mission for global investment In the lead-up to the "Rising Rajasthan" global investment summit, scheduled for December 9-11 in Jaipur, a team of IAS officers is gearing up for a major cross-country and international mission. Their task is to attract investment and put Rajasthan on the global business map. This delegation will visit over 25 countries to connect with potential investors and build long-term relationships. Also Read - M.P. Nathanael | Hema Committee report exposes the casting couch issue in film industry Sources have informed DKB that this will not be just doing a meet-and-greet — the babus are expected to engage with representatives from foreign and domestic companies regularly. Their role, in many ways, mirrors that of diplomats, focusing on key regions like China, Japan, Russia, and the US, but with one big difference: they're coordinating

all this from Rajasthan. The idea is to create a network that can funnel investment straight into Rajasthan's lap, Also Read - Spectacular Saudi Campaign Invites Indian travellers to Discover the Heart of Arabia Chief minister Bhajan Lal Sharma is aiming big. The government's target is to double Rajasthan's GDP from \$184 billion to a whopping \$350 billion over the next five years. It's an ambitious goal, and that's precisely why they're pulling out all the stops with this investment summit. It's a different strategy from Tamil Nadu, where chief minister M.K. Stalin recently donned a business suit and travelled to the US to meet Silicon Valley honchos to sell the state as an attractive investment destination. Mr Sharma is banking on the Rising Rajasthan Summit to be the catalyst for this growth spurt. Will this strategy pay off? Only time will tell, but it's clear that the state is positioning itself as a serious economic player. Puja Khedkar: Why this UPSC case isn't over yet The Puja Khedkar case might have slipped off the front pages, but it's far from over. In fact, it's getting even more intriguing. You'd think she'd be keeping a low profile given the circumstances, but no — Puja Khedkar is coming out swinging. For those who

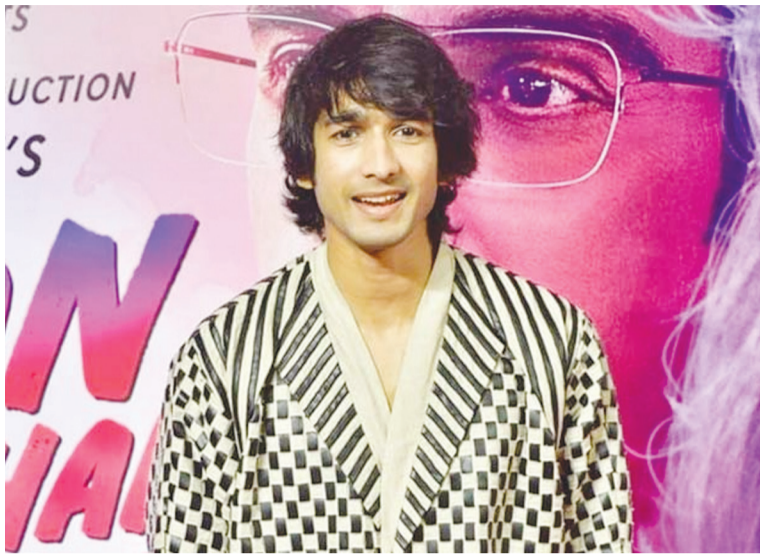
need a refresher, Ms Khedkar, a former IAS officer, had her candidature canceled by the UPSC over some pretty serious allegations of exam fraud. But she's not backing down. She's told the Delhi high court that the UPSC had no business cancelling her candidature in the first place. According to her, once she was selected for the civil services and appointed as a probationer, the only ones who could touch her were the folks over at the department of personnel and training (DoPT). She's leaning on Rule 19 of the CSE 2022 to make her case, arguing that the UPSC simply overstepped its authority. Let's not forget, though, why she's in this mess. The UPSC found her guilty of faking her identity and misusing her powers. They didn't just cancel her candidature — they banned her from all future exams and even filed an FIR against her. Yet, despite all this, Ms Khedkar recently managed to secure anticipatory bail and is now challenging the UPSC's decision in court. The plot thickens with UPSC's latest move. It has argued that Ms Khedkar's custodial interrogation is essential to uncover the full extent of the fraud, suggesting that she may not have acted alone. It's a legal drama that just keeps unfolding.

The boy who arrived

Shantanu Maheshwari, who has garnered praise for his performance in Auron Mein Kahan Dam Tha, will next be seen in films like Love in Vietnam and Crossfire and a web series, Campus Beach

Actor Shantanu Maheshwari infuses charisma and dedication in his craft. Known for his versatility, Shantanu's latest venture Auron Mein Kahan Dam Tha has garnered praise for his engaging performance and natural on-screen presence. When discussing what drew him to Auron Mein..., Shantanu opens up about his initial excitement about the project. "I remember this being the first time I checked who the director was," he recalls. "The story impressed me. It was fast-paced without the usual songs or love stories."

Shantanu's commitment to the role involved a rigorous process. "The audition process took multiple rounds over two months, followed by another two months of workshops," he explains. "This was crucial for building the chemistry and intensity, especially between young Vasudha (Saiee Manjrekar and young Krishna (Shantanu Maheshwari), which forms the film's core." The workshops, he notes, played a significant role in developing the intensity needed for the characters, ensuring that the performance aligned with the film's overall vision. "We needed to deliver a performance that complemented Ajay sir and Tabu ma'am." Addressing his chemistry with Saiee, he praises the environment encouraged during the preparation phase. "We were comfortable with each other from day one, and the workshops were incredibly helpful.



We did numerous exercises to delve into the scenes and refine our understanding," he says. Adding that the director's specific guidance helped them in shaping their performances, focusing on the importance of exploring different perspectives and layers in their roles.

To step into a role whose grown-up version is played by Ajay Devgn wasn't so easy either. "Initially, I felt a lot of pressure," he admits. "I began with watching Ajay sir's movies to understand his style. Eventually, I asked if I needed to copy certain things or emulate his mannerisms or the way he talks, but the director advised me to stay true to my own approach and that conversation gave me a lot of confidence and helped me understand that the goal was to get the character right and see it evolve into Ajay sir." Reflecting on his journey from

a dancer to an actor, Shantanu shares how his passion for dancing has always been complemented by his acting career. "My first project was actually an acting role where dancers were selected based on their potential to act," he explains. Although his idea was to take up a behind-the-scenes job, he discovered a deep-seated passion for acting. "I wanted to work behind the scenes, perhaps as a photographer or in a similar role. However, when I started acting, I decided to give it my all."

For those who think he is an actor and those who call him a choreographer, Shantanu is clear he is both. "It was quite frustrating for me because when I acted, people would say I forgot dancing, and when I danced, they said I forgot acting. I wondered, why can't I excel at both? I am equally passionate about both fields," he says.

Balancing is the key and it may be challenging but he does it. "I don't try to mix them up but rather balance them within my projects," he says, noting that maintaining this balance helps him understand rhythm better, essential for both dancing and acting. "For me, acting and dancing complement each other. After Gangubai, which became a significant breakthrough, people accepted me as an actor too."

As we talk about Gangubai and dance, he fondly recalls his experience of working on its songs. "The songs Meri Jaan and Jab Saiyaan hold special places for me. The one-shot sequence of Meri Jaan was particularly memorable. It felt like an international experience because that's how international choreographers work," he elaborates, praising Sanjay Leela Bhansali's direction and vision.

From past to present and future, as Shantanu continues to evolve in his career, he remains focused on taking on diverse roles and contributing to compelling stories. "I want to be part of good stories and give my 100 per cent to each project," he says. And he has several projects on the horizon, including the films Love in Vietnam and Crossfire, as well as a web series titled Campus Beach. While details remain under wraps, he is enthusiastic about the opportunities these projects present. "I'm happy and grateful that I have this freedom of choice right now," he says.

'Madam Sapna': Sapna Choudhary to unfold her life in new film



Filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt presented a film titled 'Madam Sapna', based on the life of dancer Sapna Choudhary. The film will take the audience through Sapna's life journey - from the modest lanes of Haryana to the prestigious stages of Cannes, tracing the rise of a small-town girl who became a national sensation.

'Madam Sapna' explores the incredible story of Sapna Choudhary, who overcame multiple challenges to

become a sensation. She survived a suicide attempt and endured a near-fatal gunshot and is now ready to open her life to her fans.

The film will capture the essence of Sapna's journey, from humble beginnings to her time in the 'Bigg Boss' house and beyond. More details on who will play Sapna will be unveiled later. The script for the film and shoot will begin soon.

In 2023, Sapna marked her Cannes debut. Opening up

about the same, she said, "Cannes is not just a dream, but a lifetime dream for any actress/actor, and I am thankful to God that today I could conquer this besides the facts of not even knowing English or any international languages, I am a proud Indian standing here at Cannes for my country and my State Haryana. People of Air France are so generous and accepting, I think acceptance is the biggest step towards change and humanity as well!"

Talking about her dream debut of walking the red carpet, Sapna shared, "It was an incredible experience to debut at the Cannes Film Festival. Walking the red carpet was surreal. The atmosphere was electric and I was thrilled to be there with so many other talented artists from around the world."

She further mentioned, "Being the first regional artist to achieve this milestone is a dream come true. I never anticipated it, but I am grateful for the opportunities that have come my way and because of the support of my fans and my team."

Copy that: Kareena Kapoor Khan plays a cop in The Buckingham Murders

Kareena Kapoor Khan, who is awaiting the release of her upcoming mystery thriller The Buckingham Murders, talked about what connected her to the role of a cop in the film.

The Jab We Met actress was in Mumbai for the trailer launch of her movie along with director Hansal Mehta and co-producer Ektaa R Kapoor.

"I think a mother's love has no language. It's a feeling. So, I think being a mother I understand that a mother's love has no specific language. It's in her eyes — her love, her pain, you can see it in her eyes. That's important," Kareena said. Speaking about how she balances her personal and professional lives, Kareena said, "I enjoy that hustle



of working and being a mother and wife at the same time." Kareena looked stunning as she arrived at the event wearing an all-black

pantsuit. In the film, Kareena essays the role of a grieving police detective tasked with tracking down a child murderer.

Teachers Day 2024| Sanjana Sanghi says 'school was the best time of my life'

Growing up, many of us view our teachers with a mix of awe and trepidation. Imagine the surprise when that formidable figure evolves into a cherished friend in adulthood. For actor Sanjana Sanghi, an alum of Modern School, Barakhamba, this transition is both heartwarming and profound.

On Teacher's Day today, we speak to the actor and Lata Vaidyanathan, the former principal of the school, who recalls her student, Sanghi, with nothing but admiration.

"Sanjana was that one kid in school one would want to encounter. She was so cheerful, in her speech, movement, and completely loved by the teachers. If there was somebody upset in the morning, just looking at her would cheer them up," Vaidyanathan, who last met Sanghi at the screening of 2023 film Dhak Dhak, reminisces. Hearing this praise, she can only respond with shy giggles, clearly touched by the sentiment.

The 28-year-old, who has appeared in films such as Dil Bechara (2020), Kadak Singh



(2023) and Woh Bhi Din The (2024), looks back at her school days with nostalgia. "Honestly, I have always hesitated to even bother Lata ma'am with anything, but I know in my heart that if I have my way, I would go to my school every single morning. It is still the best time of my life. A lot of the credit goes to Lata ma'am for the atmosphere she created for all of us," Sanghi says.

Sanghi's journey into the world of cinema began during her school years. Her acting career took off with Rockstar in 2011, a move strongly supported by

Lata. "It required her teachers to adjust to her shooting schedules, but Sanjana never gave anyone a chance to complain even then," says Vaidyanathan, adding, "Every child should pursue their dreams. I was the last one to know about Sanjana starring in Rockstar, but she had all the confidence and bearings to do it. She chose that profession, and the only thing I could do was support her." "I never heard a single complaint from her teachers whenever she would come back from her shoots; she handled it all. Maybe some things never reached me!"

Vaidyanathan laughs.

However, it wasn't all smooth sailing. Vaidyanathan fondly recalls Sanghi's mischievous side. "Sometimes she tried to hide things from me, knowing I might disapprove. However, she understood that any missteps would be addressed privately rather than publicly. Despite the occasional class bunking or lingering around, she was always responsible and never neglected her duties and responsibilities," adding, "And Sanjana is still the same she was as a small child."

Reflecting on the celebration of teachers, Sanghi questions why such significant contributions are acknowledged only one day a year. "There can't be just one day where you celebrate their contributions. Whenever I am going on stage somewhere or I feel nervous, I can still hear my teachers whisper in my ear like they would in school... you think of those moments that are so crucial. Days like these are just about celebrating the things you love. There are such vivid memories," she ends.

Naseeruddin Shah shares his experience of working with Pankaj Kapur in IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack

Veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah shared his experience of working with Pankaj Kapur in the series IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack.

He appreciated the acting skills of Pankaj Kapur, saying, "It is such a joy to work with him because he's unpredictable and you know that this is a person who's thoroughly done his preparation. And, I also make it a point to be completely prepared. It's like playing tennis where you envy his game and you also respect it at the same time."

Kapur also praised his co-actor and said, "Such kind words from somebody you deeply admire. When I'm working with him there's a sixth sense within me which is always ready to learn, to see what



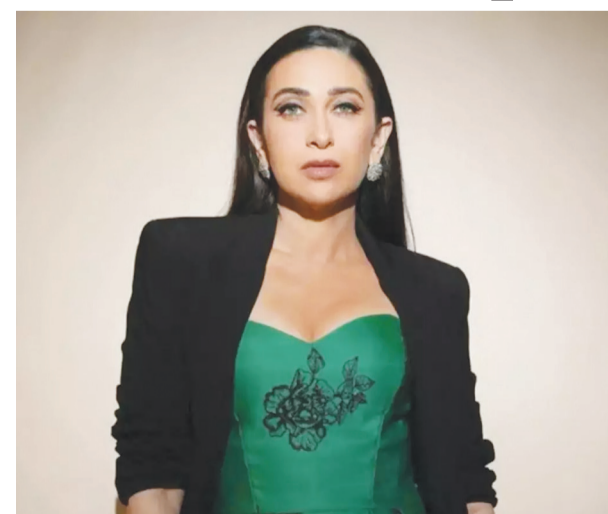
he is up to, what new I can learn from him because that's the kind of respect and awe I hold him in. He has said such beautiful words for me," Kapur said. He shared how it was to work with the director Anubhav Sinha, saying, "I have a

kind of soft corner for this gentleman... And when I got to know that these are the actors who are going to be part of it, it was, as Naseer Sahib said, a pleasure to be among all of them," Kapur added.

Karisma Kapoor refutes claims of acting restrictions on Kapoor women

Actor Karisma Kapoor recently refuted rumours regarding Kapoor women and how they weren't allowed to work, especially after marriage. Speaking on comedian Zakir Khan's show, Aapka Apna Zakir, Karisma said that there is no truth to such reports and said the women who didn't work did it voluntarily.

The actor said, "Yeh sab baatein hain ki mujhe allow tha yaa nahi tha. Jab meri mummy ki shaadi hui aur Neetu aunty ki shaadi hui, unka choice tha ki unko ghar basana tha, bachche karne the aur career achha tha unka. Unka choice



tha (All these discussions about whether I was allowed or not are just baseless rumours. When my mother and Neetu aunty got married, it was on their

own terms because they wanted to focus on starting a family and having children, as their careers were already well-established." "Similarly, Shammi

uncle and Shashi uncle's wives, Geeta Bali ji and Jennifer aunty, unhone kaam kiya shaadi ke baad. Toh aisa kuch baat hai nahi ki Kapoor family mein shaadi ke baad kaam nahi kar sakte yaa Kapoor ladki kaam nahi kar sakti (Geeta Bali ji and Jennifer aunty continued working after marriage. So, it's not true that in the Kapoor family, you can't work after marriage or that Kapoor women aren't allowed to work. There was no restriction of that kind)," Karisma concluded.

On the work front, Karisma was last seen in the Netflix thriller, Murder Mubarak.

Rahul Dravid to be appointed head coach of Rajasthan Royals for IPL 2025

He was the team's captain for two seasons in 2012 and 2013

NEW DELHI, Sep 5 (Agencies): Rahul Dravid — who masterminded India's T20 World Cup, 2024, triumph — is set to take over the role of head coach of Rajasthan Royals in IPL 2025.

Dravid, who is currently on a short career break since India's victory at Barbados in June, will soon start working with the franchise on important issues such as player retention ahead of the auction later this year.

"The discussions have reached the final stages and he will soon step into the role of head coach," a source close to the development told agency.

Kumar Sangakkara, who has been Royals' Director of Cricket since 2021, will continue his role



and is likely to be more hands-on with Barbados Royals (CPL) and Paarl Royals (SA20). Dravid has a long-standing

association with the team as their captain for two seasons in 2012 and 2013, before serving as mentor for two more years.

He then moved to Delhi Capitals in a similar role in 2016 and continued with the team till he assumed the role of the head of National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru. In 2021, he moved on from the NCA to take up India's head coach role from Ravi Shastri.

Now at Royals, Dravid will reunite with Sanju Samson, who is all set to be retained as RR captain for another season. Samson blossomed first under the 52-year-old.

Meanwhile, ESPNcricinfo reported that Vikram Rathour, who was batting coach of India during Dravid's tenure, could be roped in by the franchise as its assistant coach.

Indian-origin star, who played 53 T20Is for Ireland, battling for life



GURUGRAM, Sep 5 (Agencies): Indian-origin all-rounder Simi Singh, who has played 35 ODIs and 53 T20Is for Ireland, is currently battling for his life. The cricketer, who is suffering from acute liver failure, is currently in the ICU of a Gurugram hospital, according to a report by agency. The report further stated that the cricketer is waiting for a liver transplant that will be performed at the hospital. Simi, who was born in Mohali, played for Punjab at the U-14 and U-17 levels but failed to make the U-19 team. He decided to travel to Ireland for studying hotel management and in 2006, he joined Malahide Cricket Club in Dublin as a professional. He went on to become one of the leading cricketers for Ireland with 39 ODI wickets and 44 T20I

wickets. He has also scored an ODI century against South Africa in 2021.

Simi Singh's father-in-law Parvinder Singh opened up about the cricketer's condition.

"Some five-six months back, when he was in Dublin, Ireland, Simi developed a strange kind of fever which kept coming and going. He got himself examined there, but nothing conclusive came out in the check-ups. The medical professionals there said that they couldn't find the underlying cause and therefore they wouldn't start medication," Parvinder told agency.

"The process was getting delayed and Simi's health was deteriorating, so we decided to get him treated in India for 'better medical attention'. Simi flew to Mohali in late June, and after a few consultations with

various physicians his treatment started in PGI, Chandigarh in the beginning of July. There the line of treatment was taken for TB (tuberculosis) and antibiotics were given to him. Later, results came out that he didn't have TB."

"As his fever didn't subside, we took him to a private hospital in Mohali for a second opinion. There, we were told that Simi didn't have TB, but the course of the medicines - six weeks - had to be completed. Along with the TB medicines, steroids were also given to him. After that, his fever started increasing again and he developed acute jaundice. In the last week of August, we took him back to PGI where he was admitted to the ICU. But his health kept deteriorating and the PGI physicians detected that he had developed acute liver failure. They advised us to take Simi to Medanta, Gurugram, because there was a high probability of him slipping into coma after which a transplant wouldn't be possible. We came to Medanta on September 3," he added.

According to the report, Simi is now waiting for a liver transplant and his wife - Agamdeep Kaur - has agreed to donate one part of her liver.

T20 WC in Dubai will be once in a lifetime experience: Mughal

CHENNAI, Sep 5 (Agencies): With the 2024 ICC Women's T20 World Cup shifting from Bangladesh to Dubai and Sharjah, former UAE captain Chaya Mughal believes this could work as a boost for women's cricket in the region. While not many participating nations have extensive experience of playing in these conditions, she hopes the marquee event gives the players an experience of a lifetime.

"Having this opportunity in my county is huge," Mughal told this daily. "It is a great boost for girls here who want to pursue cricket at the highest level. Weather conditions-wise, October is going to be better. Around 4 or 5 PM, it does get better. So expect the weather not to be too harsh in the month. It will be a different experience for players in these conditions surrounded by the desert.

But I do hope this becomes one of the best experiences for all the players involved," she added.

Mughal highlighted that watching the top side compete for the trophy will provide a great experience for the young players from UAE. As an associate nation, the UAE hardly get an opportunity to compete against the top-ranked nations outside of Asia. She hopes players can make the most of this opportunity by observing the matches in person. "It could be a learning curve for the national team. You don't just learn by playing, you can learn plenty by sitting outside and observing the game. They can look at what the best teams, the likes of Australia, India and England, are doing at the international level to be the best. Players can observe the minute details that they can

miss out on while watching the game on TV."

With ICC's recent announcement regarding the 2026 edition of the WC, where 12 teams will participate for the first time, it will open the gate for teams other than full member nations. Mughal welcomed this decision. "This decision feels like these teams coming from associate nations belong at the highest level, they just need to play better cricket to get there.

They would have to go through a long qualification process to make it to the WC and once they get it, I know, the feeling for these players would be like, we have earned that place at the highest possible level. It is a great initiative from the ICC. Now, when they are practicing the whole year, they have this realistic aim: they can play in the WC," she signed off.

Sarah Storey wins 18th Paralympic Gold at 46, breaking age and disability barriers

PARIS, Sep 5 (Agencies): Sarah Storey, a British Paralympian, secured her 18th Paralympic gold medal at the Paris Paralympics 2024, reinforcing her status as a para-sporting legend. Participating in the Women's C5 Time Trial cycling event, she completed the race in 20 minutes 22.15 seconds, beating her opponent by 4 seconds. This victory was another milestone in a career that spanned over three decades, with a total of 29 Paralympic medals across both swimming and cycling.

Born with an underdeveloped left hand due to complications in the womb, Sarah's journey began in swimming at age 14 when she won medals at the 1992 Paralympics. Despite early successes, she faced personal challenges, including being bullied at school for her disability. The pressure led to an eating disorder that affected her health until her parents intervened, helping her focus on her athletic dreams.

By the 2000 Paralympics, Sarah extended her dominance in swimming. However, an ear infection in 2004 led her to make the difficult decision to retire from the sport. Instead of giving up, she switched to cycling in 2005. Her career took off, and by 2008, she had won two gold medals at the Bei-



jing Paralympics. Sarah's tenacity and adaptability allowed her to compete with able-bodied athletes as well as she broke barriers as well as numerous records.

Her personal life also flourished. Sarah married cyclist Barney Storey in 2007, and after the birth of her two children, she continued to excel. She won gold at both the 2016 Rio and 2020 Tokyo Paralympics.

Now 46, Sarah Storey remains a symbol of resilience and determination. Her philosophy of being her own biggest competitor drove her forward, constantly pushing her limits and breaking her own records. With 18 gold medals and countless accolades, she has left an indelible mark on Paralympic history.

Despite facing personal and physical challenges, including raising two children, Storey has consistently set new standards. The 46-year-old proved that she is her own greatest competitor.

Ugandan Olympian Rebecca Cheptegei dies after being set on fire by boyfriend

NAIROBI, Sep 5 (Agencies): A Ugandan Olympic athlete, Rebecca Cheptegei, died on Thursday after she was doused in petrol and set on fire by her boyfriend. Cheptegei, 33, died at a Kenyan hospital where she was being treated after sustaining 80 percent burns on her body. She participated in the marathon in Paris Olympics only last month.

Cheptegei was receiving treatment at the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret city after the incident on Sunday. The marathon runner and her boyfriend were involved in a heated argument over a land dispute before she was set on fire, according to AP news agency.

Trans Nzoia County Police Commander Jeremiah ole Kosiom, according to AP, said on Monday that Cheptegei's partner, Dickson Ndiema, bought a jerrican of petrol, poured it on her and set her ablaze during a disagreement on Sunday.



Ndiema was also burned and was being treated at the same hospital.

The Ugandan Athletics Federation confirmed Cheptegei's death in a post on X, formerly Twitter. It also condemned the 'domestic violence' and called for justice for the marathon runner.

"We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of our athlete, Rebecca Cheptegei early this morning who tragically

fell victim to domestic violence. As a federation, we condemn such acts and call for justice. May her soul rest in peace," the statement read. On Wednesday, the Ugandan Athletics Federation confirmed that Cheptegei was hospitalised in Eldoret after her Kenyan boyfriend set her on fire.

Cheptegei's parents said their daughter bought land in Trans Nzoia to be near the county's athletics training centres. A

report filed by the local chief stated that the couple was heard fighting over the land where the house was built before the fire started.

Rebecca began her athletic journey in 2010, initially specialising in middle-distance running. Over the years, she expanded her repertoire to include long-distance events, particularly the marathon.

She qualified for her Olympic debut in the marathon after setting a personal best of 2:22:47s at the Abu Dhabi Marathon in December 2022. She went on to represent Uganda in the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, finishing 44th in the women's marathon.

In addition to her Olympic appearance, Cheptegei has achieved notable success in various marathon events. She won the Padova marathon in Italy in 2022 with a time of 2:31:21s, marking her first major marathon victory.

Gracious in defeat, Medvedev calls Sinner 'one of the best' after US Open exit

Daniil Medvedev was gracious in defeat as he called Jannik Sinner one of the best players after the former US Open champion suffered an exit in the quarter-final. Sinner advanced to semi-final of the US Open 2024.

NEW YORK, Sep 5 (Agencies): The World No. 5 Daniil Medvedev was the only US Open Champion in the men's singles draw, who was up and running at Flushing Meadows after a series of shock exits in early rounds.

However, the 2021 US Open winner could not overcome the Jannik Sinner threat as he suffered a defeat in the quarter-final match at Arthur Ashe Stadium. Despite the loss, Medvedev was gracious in defeat as he opened up about his rivalry with Sinner and called him 'one of the best players in the world'.

He also said that having big match-ups like this pushes him to do better.

"It's tough. I mean, he's one of the best players in the world, by ranking the best one, and he deserves it. He's a tough player to play against. He feels the game well. He chooses the right shot at the right moment many times, and that's where I actually like to play players like this because that's where it gets very, you know, tight in a way where every point matters and then the breakpoint you're trying to think what does he do on this breakpoint and

how you can counter it," Medvedev told the US Open 2024 press.

Sinner vs Medvedev: Blockbuster rivalry It was a trifecta of Grand Slam meetings between Sinner and Daniil Medvedev this year and it was the Italian who prevailed for the 2nd time.

However, Medvedev who emerged victorious against Sinner in Wimbledon 2024 quarter-final was happy to face him more often at Grand Slam events.

"I feel like, yeah, all the matches were interesting in their own way, the crowd likes it, I think. Yeah, will be happy to



play more against him in Grand Slams," he added.

The World No. 1 Sinner brushed aside the anti-doping controversy to edge past the 2021 US



Open champion Medvedev. He won 6-2, 1-6, 6-1, 6-4 against the Russian, but the win was not easy at all. It was a topsy-turvy victory for Sinner who secured his

maiden US Open semi-final berth.

Medvedev, who was runner-up in US Open 2023 and in 2019, hit six double faults and sprayed 57 unforced

errors.

While Sinner was not at his most accurate, he was far superior on serve, closing out victory in two hours and 39 minutes.

However, Medvedev felt his battles have been tough against Sinner, against whom he also lost Australian Open 2024 final.

"Such rivalries pushes me"

"Lately tough one for me, but at the same time, honestly today, comparing to some matches I played with him last year when he started to beat me, I felt like I was doing the

right things. I just didn't manage to execute them well. So I feel like the match itself, like, he was doing the right thing and I was doing the right thing.

"So I feel like we both come out of this match thinking, okay, now I feel what he does. Well, the only thing is that I lost and he won. So he will be feeling better.

I like it. You know, to have big rivalries like this always pushes me to be better, and sometimes I lose; sometimes I win.

I will try to be better next time, and that's the only thing I can do."

