

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 06, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

One person dies, another injured in Qazigund road accident

SRINAGAR, Sep 6 (Agencies): At least one person was died while another got injured after the vehicle they were travelling in collided with a truck in Qazigund area of Kulgam, an official said on Friday.

Quoting an official, news agency KNO reported that the accident occurred in the Chaimulla area of Qazigund, along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, when a Tata Mobile vehicle collided with a truck.

He said that both persons sustained critical injuries in the accident. "One person died at Qazigund Hospital, while the other has been shifted to GMC Anantnag for special treatment," the official said.

The deceased has been identified as Hemraj, son of Mukhtar Singh, while the injured is Rajendra Singh, son of Noori Khan, both residents of Patlauni, Mathura.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the accident.

Poonch fire incident, CISF constable injured in accident

POONCH, Sep 6 (Agencies): A constable of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) was injured in an accidental fire during duty at a school here on Friday.

Official sources told that the constable, Manish Verma, suffered firearm injury in the accidental discharge of fire early morning, around 7a.m., at Jhalass Government Higher Secondary School in Haveli area in Poonch district.

Immediately, they said, the constable was shifted to hospital.

A police official told that cognizance have been taken with regard to the incident.

Rains lash parts of J&K, MeT predicts more till tomorrow

SRINAGAR, Sep 6 (Agencies): Rains lashed parts of Jammu and Kashmir even as weatherman here on Friday forecast more during next 24 hours and a fresh wet spell from September 15-16.

A meteorological

PM Modi, Amit Shah, Smriti Irani among 40 star campaigners for BJP in 2nd phase of J&K Assembly Polls



JAMMU, Sep 6 (Agencies): The Bharatiya Janata Party released its list of star campaigners for the second phase of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls.

The list of star campaigners includes party's prominent leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

The party has also chosen Union Ministers including J.P. Nadda,

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Nitin Gadkari, Manohar Lal Khattar and G. Kishan Reddy. Along with them, Himachal Pradesh LoP Jai Ram Thakur, Union MoS Jitendra Singh, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Rajasthan CM Bhajanlal Sharma, BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh, MP Anurag Thakur will also campaign for the party in the second phase of J-K polls.

The list of 40 star campaigners also includes former Amethi MP Smriti Irani. Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah will release the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) election manifesto for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections on September 6, as per party sources.

Mr. Shah is expected to arrive in Jammu around 2 p.m. on Friday, where he will release the manifesto at the BJP's media centre in the city.

According to party sources, on the first day of his visit, the Home Minister will meet with the core group of the State's BJP unit to review the party's election preparations and ground-level activities. On the second day, he will hold discussions with party leaders to ensure the success of the Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

The first phase of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections will see 219 candidates in the fray, with voting scheduled for September 18. This will be the first Assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370.

The second phase will be held on September 25, and third on October 1, with the results announced on October 8. The abrogation of

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Kharge, Sonia, Rahul, Priyanka on Congress's star campaigner list for J&K Assembly Polls



JAMMU, Sep 6 (Agencies): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, former party chiefs Sonia and Rahul Gandhi and AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra are among the star campaigners named by the party for the Jammu and Kashmir assembly polls.

Chief Minister Sukhvir Singh Sukhu and his deputy Mukesh Agnihotri are also on the list the Congress has submitted to the Election Commission for the second phase of the three-phase polls.

Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Tariq Hamid Karra, former J&K Congress chief Vikar Rasool Wani, senior leaders Salman Khurshid, Ajay Maken,

Syed Naseer Hussain, Rajani Patil, Rajiv Shukla and Manish Tewari are also part of the 40 leaders on the Congress list.

Kickstarting the party's election campaign in Jammu and Kashmir, Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said restoring J&K's statehood will be the first decision of the INDIA bloc when it comes to power at the

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14 Kashmiri Pandits file Nominations for JK elections, Six from Habba Kadal

JAMMU, Sep 6 (Agencies): So far, 14 Kashmiri Pandits have filed nominations to contest from the valley for the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, aiming to ensure the return and rehabilitation of their fellow community members, whose number run up to 3 lakh.

In anticipation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Kashmir visit, the politics is getting charged up for the Lok Sabha polls

Srinagar's Habba

Kadal assembly constituency has virtually turned into an electoral battlefield for the displaced Kashmiri Pandits.

A record six KPs out of the 14 have filed their nomination from the assembly segment, which goes to polls, along with 26 other constituencies in the second phase of elections, on September 25.

"As many as six candidates from the KP community have filed their nomination papers in

Habba Kadal. Of them, five have filed under recognised political parties, while two have filed as Independents. A total of 14 candidates have filed their nominations," an election department official told agency.

Ashok Kumar Bhat has filed his papers as the BJP candidate, Sanjay Saraf as the Lok Jan Shakti Party candidate, and Santosh Labroo will be contesting election as an All Alliance Democratic Party candidate.

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New Delhi wants to silence me by fielding candidates from jails: Omar Abdullah

SRINAGAR, Sep 6 (Agencies): National Conference (NC) vice president and former chief minister of J&K, Omar Abdullah Friday alleged that New Delhi was trying to silence him by fielding candidates from jails. He said the centre is hatching a deep conspiracy against the NC to keep it away from peoples' representation.

Omar, who was addressing a public meeting in central



Kashmir's Ganderbal, accused New Delhi of fielding candidates from jails against him. "Earlier I had a feeling that New Delhi is con-

stantly trying to keep me silent, but I didn't think they will resort to such level of fielding candidates lodged in jails. In Baramulla they fielded

a person (Er Rashid) against me who filed nomination from jail. He recorded his voice statement from jail, and got votes on emotional grounds, which led to my defeat in polls. But I didn't take it so seriously then. I thought it was his luck and my weakness. I didn't see it as New Delhi's agenda," Omar said.

He said, "When I decided to contest elections from Ganderbal seat, I heard one more

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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

Police take cognizance after family members of 'notorious criminal' share 'misinformation' on social media

SRINAGAR, Sep 6 (Agencies): Police on Friday said they have taken cognizance after the family members of a notorious criminal share "videos with false allegations and misinformation on social media".

"Srinagar Police takes cognizance against the family members of a notorious criminal namely Noor Mohammad Bhat of Nigeen police station and sharing videos with false allegations and misinformation on social media platforms," said a spokesman on X.

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FIFTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved daughter **Smt. Raman Sethi** W/o Sh. Dinesh Sethi who left for heavenly abode on 03rd September 2024.

Fifth Day will be performed on 07th September at Shiv Mandir, Janipur Colony (opposite to Janipur Quarters) at 11 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

**Bimla Devi Verma - Mother
Brother & Sister-in-law**

Muneesh and Palvi

Contact Number : 9999647202, 9797300577



Smt. Raman Sethi

**10TH DAY/KRIYA/ RASAM
PAGRI & UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Jwala Dass Talgotra** S/o Lt. Sh. Ram Lal who left for his heavenly abode on 29th August, 2024.

10th Day will be performed on 07-09-2024 (Saturday) at 11.00 am at H.No. 03, Lane No. 27, Rajpura Mangotrian, Jammu.
Kriya will be performed on 08-09-2024 (Sunday) at 12 Noon at H.No. 03, Lane No. 27, Rajpura Mangotrian, Jammu.

Rasam Pagri & Uthala will be performed on 09-09-2024 (Monday) from 3.00 - 4.00 pm at Om Palace, Shakti Nagar, Jammu.

Grief Stricken

Sahil Talgotra- Son
Arun Kumar & Neena Talgotra- Brother & Bhabhi

Daughters & Son-in-Law
Renu & Vinod Kumar
Anu & Anil Salana

Mannu & Rakesh Kumar
Shikha & Vineet Verma
Ruhli & Ankit Sharma

Mob.: 9419223538, 9419193035, 9419198194, 7051893375
R/o H.No. 03, Lane No. 27, Rajpura Mangotrian, Jammu
Jwala Tailors, Link Road, Jammu



Sh. Jwala Dass Talgotra

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow I Bushan Lal Bhat (LIC) S/o Late Smt. Kamla Wali & Late Sh. Shive Nath Bhat erstwhile of Wanpoh Anantnag and presently at HNo 72-A, Lane 2, Amar Colony, Camp Road, Talab Tilo Jammu regret to inform the sad demise of my beloved wife **Smt. Bimla Kumari** D/o Smt. Sham Rani and Late Sh. Ram Chandra Pandit of Bugam who left for heavenly abode on 31-09-2024.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Muthi Ghat (near Directorate of School Education) Jammu on 8.9.2024 (Sunday) at 9.00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Bushan Lal Bhat (Husband)

Daughter & Son-in-law

Smrita Bhat & Rajesh Khazanchi

Daughters-in-Law & Sons

Ruby & Rahul Bhat
Jillian & Nikhil Bhat;

SAMAST PARIVAR

Bhats; Khazanchis; Rainas; Panditas; Brars and Swisher families

Mob No 7051293251; 9419202397



SMT. BIMLA KUMARI

KRIYA AND UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved daughter **Dr. Divya Kohli** D/o Sh. Gulshan Kohli R/o 148/A, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu who left us for heavenly abode on 28th August, 2024.

Kriya will be performed on 7th of September, 2024 at our residence 148/A, Gandhi Nagar from 09:00 am onwards.

Uthala shall be performed on 7th of September, 2024 at Shiv Mandir Gandhi Nagar, opp. Church lane from 4:00 - 5:00 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

(Mother & Father)

Smt. Reva Kohli & Sh. Gulshan Kohli

Smt. Anita Kohli & Sh. Vijay Kohli (Chachi & Chacha)

Smt. Kiran Malhotra & Sh. Umesh Malhotra (Mami & Mama)

Bhasin's, Kochhar's, Sethi's, Kohli's, Malhotra's & All Relatives

Mobile number: 9419 119235



DR. DIVYA KOHLI

10TH DAY KRIYA

We are deeply saddened to inform you that our beloved **Sh. Amar Nath Tikku** S/o Arjan Nath Tikku, originally resident of Vill. Tahab, Pulwama Kashmir at present 157 Sect. 1st Lane B-10, Vinayak Nagar, Muthi, Jammu attained Moksha on 31-08-2024.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 09-09-2024 (Monday) at Muthi Ghat (near Directorate of School Education) Jammu at 8:30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN :

Smt Toshia Tikku - Wife 9796003159

(Son & D. In. Law)

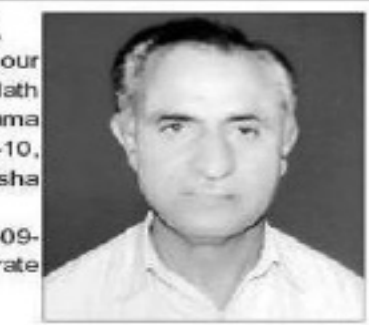
Ajay Kumar Tikku & Suman Tikku - 8492953435

Monika Zutshi (Daughter) 9871692747

Triloki Nath Tikku & Sujata Tikku - Brother & Bhabhi- 9796011504

Maharaj Krishan Tikku Brother - 9419769951

Rohini Tikku & Arpita Tikku, Kanika Zutshi (Grand Daughter)



Sh Amar Nath Tikku

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY/KRIYA

Our hearts are heavy with sorrow, and tears flow freely. No one can truly understand what it means to lose you.

We keep you close in our hearts, where you will stay, walking with us through our lives until we reunite once more.

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Shri H N Jattu** original resident of Ganpatyar, Srinagar and presently at A-2385 Greenfield Colony Sector 42, Faridabad. He left for heavenly abode on 3rd Sept 2024.

Prayer Meet (Shanti Paath) will be held at their residence on Sunday, 8th September 2024 at 4:00 pm.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Nigam Bodh Ghat, Kashmir Gate, New Delhi on Thursday, 12th September, 2024 at 9:00AM

GRIEF STRICKEN :

Kishore & Veena Jattu - Son & Daughter In Law
Surennder & Neerja Jattu - Son & Daughter In Law
Shakti & Raj Kumar Sharma - Daughter & Son in Law

Samast Parivar

Jattu's, Sharma's, Bhat's

Mobile Numbers : 9816027476 (Kishore Jattu) , 9818765995 (Vinay Jattu) , 9987507821 (Raj Kumar Sharma)



Shri H N Jattu

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform about the sad demise of our beloved father **Karamyogi, Sh Ashok Kumar Wali** originally from Gulgam Kupwara, presently residing at Pune on 2nd Sept. 2024.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 11th Sept 2024 at Alandi Pune at 10:00 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN :

Smt Shyama Wali (Wife)

Smt Sheetal and Nitin Srivastava (Daughter and Son-in-law)

Sh Alok and Nidhima Wali (Son and Daughter-in-law)

Nabhit Srivastava- Grandson

Myra Wali- Grand Daughter

Sheen Srivastava- Grand Daughter

Sh Inder Kishan and Baby Wali (Brother and Sister in law)

Pune Address- J 701 Park Titanium Park Street Wakad

Mob No. 8007072220



Sh Ashok Kumar Wali

UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Lt. Sh. Dinesh Chander Abrol** S/o Lt. Sh. Paras Ram Abrol R/o H. NO 178, Sector 1 Nanak Nagar Jammu on 04-09-2024.

UTHALA will be performed on 07-09-2024 Saturday from 3 PM to 4 PM at Shiv Mandir Nanak Nagar Sector 1, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt Shashi Abrol- Wife

Son & Daughter in Law

Kanav Abrol & Shivani Abrol

Daughter & Son in Law

Monika Sharma & Pankaj Sharma

Brothers & Sister in law

Sh. Kewal Krishan Abrol & Smt Aruna Abrol

Sh. Pardeep Abrol & Smt Achala Abrol

Grand Children: Pranjali, Vedansh, Aadhya

Carewell Medicine (Nanak Nagar), Abrol Traders (Jewel Chowk)

979499333, 700634365, 959686286



LT. SH. DINESH CHANDER ABROL

TENTH DAY

"A great soul serves everyone all the time. A great soul never dies. It brings us together again & again (you will be missed always)."

Tenth Day will be held at our residence Village Chinchora, Chinta Tehsil Bhaderwah on 7th of September (Saturday) 9 AM onwards.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Purna Devi - Wife

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Mr. Manjeet Bhagat & Mrs. Suresha Devi

Mr. Arjun Singh & Mrs. Sapna Devi

Daughter & Son-in-law

Mrs. Simmy Bhagat & Mr. Sudershan Kumar

Sister & JiJa Ji

Smt. Sumitra Devi & Sh. Amar Chand

And All Relatives

(Kumeedan Family)

Mob.No: 9858130575, 9906372456



SH. JAI RAJ (Retd. DYSSO)
Aug 22, 1953 - Aug 29, 2024

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 Chhabatal Srinagar & at present Kausambi Ghazabad on 31st August.

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

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

GRIEF STRICKEN

Babil Shah (Wife)

Jai Kishori Khat (Sister)

Son's & Daughter in Law's

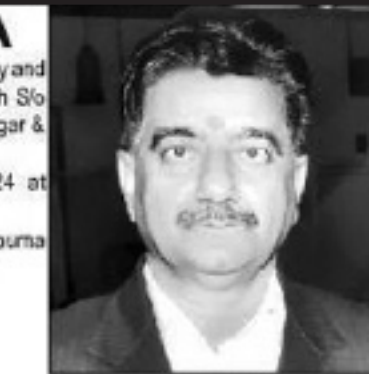
Ankush & Bhavna Mittoo Shah

Ankur & Neha Natang Shah

Daughter & Son in law

Payal & Amit Suri

Mobile: 9 899 106730, 9654052187, 9910333252, 9873057701



Shri Bhushan Lal Shah

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our Mother **Smt. Pushpa Devi** W/o Lt. Sh. Shyam Lal Sharma on 28 Aug 2024.

Tenth Day will be performed at our residence 175, Sector 4, Upper Roop Nagar, Jammu on 08-09-2024 (Friday) at 11:00 AM.

Kriya will be performed at our residence 175, Sector 4, Upper Roop Nagar, Jammu on 07-09-2024 (Saturday) at 12:00 PM.

Uthala will be performed at Brahman Sabha, Prade on 08/09/2024 (Monday) from 4 to 5 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Sons & Daughters in Law

Smt. Veena & Sh. Chander Mohan Sharma

Smt. Swarna & Sh. Vinay Kumar Sharma

Smt. Smiti & Sh. Ashwani Sharma

Daughter & Son-in-law

Smt. Indu & Sh. Narendar Kumar Sharma

Grand Son & Grand Daughter in Law

Chetan & Bhavna

Gourav & Esha

Kapil & Rishu

Grand Children

Sheetal, Tanu, Mohit, Aadhyo, Rohan, Sanit

Mahalaxmi Jewellers, Jain Bezar, Jammu

Mob: 941912688, 941928211, 941912702, 9419226101, 700677710



Smt. Pushpa Devi

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Tara Singh Bogal (Retd ZEO)** resident of Rahya.

10TH DAY will be held at 11 AM on 8.9.2024 (Sunday) at our residence Sarore Adda New colony near Govt High School.

GRIEF STRICKEN

SMT KAILASH DEVI (WIFE)

NARINDER SINGH & ANITA PATHANIA (SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW)

DAMINDER SINGH & NEERU SAMBYAL (SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW)

PARDEEP SINGH AND SONIA JASROTTIA (SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW)

NIRMALA DEVI & YASHPAL SINGH (DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW)

CONTACT: 8825018727, 7006470803, 7889648715



SH TARA SINGH BOGAL (RETD ZEO)

10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Rani Sharma** W/o Sh. Om Prakash Sharma R/o H. No 596-B, Nai Basti, Jammu.

TENTH DAY will be performed on Friday 6th Sept 2024 at 10.30 AM at Gurudwara, Near Our residence at Nai Basti, Jammu.

KRIYA will be performed at our residence on Saturday 07th of Sept 2024 at 11 AM.

UTHALA will be performed at Ram Darbar Mandir, Nai Basti Shastri Nagar on Saturday 07th Sept 2024 at 2.00 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Om Prakash Sharma - Husband

Son & Daughter in Law

Sh. Vinod Sharma & Smt Meenu Sharma

Brothers in Law & Sister in Law

Sh. Som Dutt Sharma & Smt Swarna Devi

Sh. Bal Krishan Sharma & Smt Neelam Sharma

Late Sh. Bodh Raj Sharma & Smt Lalita Sharma

Sh. Suresh Sharma & Smt Rekha Sharma

Brothers & Sisters in Law

Sh. Gopal Sharma & Smt Sharmista Sharma

Sh. Deepak Sharma & Smt Rachna Sharma



SMT RANI SHARMA

Daughters & Son in Laws

Smt Dimple Sharma & Sh. Suresh Sharma

Smt Manita & Sh Vinod Sharma

Smt Meenakshi & Sh. Rajeev Sharma

Smt Rajni & Sh. Rahul Sharma

Nandoi & Nanad

Sh. Parshotam Sharma & Late Smt Sheela Sharma

CONTACT NO: 7006511462, 7889670713

UTHALA/RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt.Chanderkanta Gupta** wife of Late Sh. Shri Niwas Gupta

UTHALA/ RASAM PAGRI will be performed on Saturday 07-09-2024 from 3pm to 4pm at Arya Samaj Mandir Rehari Colony Jammu.

Grief Stricken:

Brother in law and Bhabhi

Lt Sh Satish Chander & Janak Dhuri.

Sons and Daughter-in-law

Sh. Pardeep Gupta & Smt. Sweetsy Gupta

Sh. Late Parveen Gupta & Smt. Pooja Gupta

Daughters and Son-in-law:

Smt. Madhu Bala & Lt. Mohan Lal

Smt. Lt. Geeta Rani & Sh. Sham Gupta

Smt. Anju & Sh. Ravi Bhushan Gupta

Smt. Panki & Sh. Pardeep Arora

Smt. Shreemi & Sh. Sanjay Sood

Grand Sons & Grand Daughters

Sh. Sachin Gupta & Monika

Dr. Shashi Gupta & Anika Gupta

Sh. Gopal Krishna Gupta & Manvi

Smt. Shwani & Shalendra Gupta

Smt. Anjali & Parul Gupta

Smt. Aditi & Sachit Gupta

Vivek Pharmacy

Vivek Ayurvedic Pharmacy

Mob : 9797596112, 990615053

8903647900



Amit Shah arrives in Jammu On 2-day visit, to launch BJP's poll campaign

JAMMU, Sep 6 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah will launch the BJP's poll campaign and release the party's manifesto here during his two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir beginning Friday.

The Union minister's arrival in Jammu comes at a critical time for the BJP in the Union territory as the party faces growing challenges ahead of the assembly elections, with several leaders and workers protesting after being denied tickets. A few protesting leaders have also quit the party.

Shah was received at the airport by Union ministers G Kishan Reddy and Jitendra Singh, BJP



national general secretary Tarun Chugh and senior party leaders of Jammu and Kashmir. He will be meeting with the BJP leadership here to discuss poll preparations.

Shah will release the party manifesto at 4 pm at a hotel here, a BJP leader said. Later in the evening, he will chair a meeting with

BJP leaders and meet delegations of party workers.

Shah will officially launch the party's campaign from Jammu, where he is scheduled to address a rally on Saturday, the BJP leader said. The resentment within the BJP over its ticket distribution in the Union territory has prompted the party to launch a damage control exercise, deploying several top leaders, including Union ministers, to calm the situation over the past week.

The Jammu district, which has 11 assembly constituencies, holds significant importance for the BJP. The party secured nine of these

seats in the 2014 elections, contributing to its total tally of 25.

The launch of the BJP campaign from Jammu by Shah is aimed at reassuring the people of the region about the party's commitment to their welfare and development.

Security has been tightened in and around Jammu, officials said, adding that multi-tier security arrangements have been made at two venues in the Channi and Greater Kailash areas.

Preparations are underway for Shah's rally at Palora Top. Sanitisation operations have been conducted and area domination protocols are in place, the officials said.

BJP has reduced resolution of Kashmir issue to conducting Assembly Polls: Mehbooba

SRINAGAR, Sep 6 (Agencies): PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Friday said the BJP has succeeded in reducing the resolution of the Kashmir issue to the conduct of Assembly polls in the Union Territory.

"The BJP has succeeded in reducing the Kashmir issue — for which thousands have died, thousands were orphaned and we suffered losses of billions — to Article 370 and reduced Article 370 to the restoration of statehood and statehood has been reduced to polls," Mufti told reporters at the PDP office here.

The former chief minister was commenting on the growing chorus of political parties for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir after the Assembly elections are over.

"Some parties are rejoicing that elections are taking place and talk about restoration of statehood. It is akin to looking for shoes after amputating the feet. Kashmir is a core issue for the PDP for which we worked in the past. We talk of reconciliation. Limiting the issue just to statehood is an injustice to people," she added.



Asked about the pre-poll alliance between the National Conference and the Congress in Jammu and Kashmir, the PDP president said it was more of a seat-sharing arrangement for gaining power.

"It is not an alliance based on principles. It is a seat sharing for power. Look at the seat where the JKPC president (Tariq Hamid Karra) is contesting, what is happening in Tral. Wherever the NC has left the seat for the Congress, an NC leader is contesting as independent and they have the full support of NC cadres," she said.

Responding to the Congress' move to name Chaudhary Lal Singh a star campaigner for the polls, Mufti said it was a matter of policy for various parties.

"A tragedy took place during the NC regime at Shopian (2009). Instead of punishing the culprits, those who had lodged

the complaint were put behind bars," she said.

Referring to the Kathua rape and murder case during her regime, she said half a dozen persons are undergoing life imprisonment and two ministers were dropped from the Cabinet because they had participated in a rally taken out in support of the rapists.

"This is a matter of policy — the policy of the NC-Congress might be different on these issues. Omar Abdullah can answer this question better," she added.

On BJP leaders' claims of winning the polls, Mufti said the politics of the ruling party at the Centre is based on communal issues like Mandir, Masjid, love jihad etc.

"I am happy that people, especially in Uttar Pradesh, have taught the BJP a lesson. They lost the Ayodhya seat where the Ram Mandir was constructed but I feel the BJP still has not learned a lesson," she said.

On BJP leader Ram Madhav accusing the NC and the PDP of using surrendered militants for election campaign, the PDP leader said being a surrendered militant should not be used as a slur.

Reddy pays obeisance at Bawe Wali Mata Temple in Jammu, prays for peace & development in J&K



JAMMU, Sep 6 (Agencies): Union minister G Kishan Reddy visited the Bawe Wali Mata temple here on Friday and prayed for peace and development of the nation and Jammu and Kashmir, and incidence-free assembly elections in the Union Territory.

Reddy, who is the BJP election in-charge for Jammu and Kashmir, is camping in Jammu to

oversee the preparations and campaigning of the party across the region.

"I paid obeisance at the temple of Mata Kali. We prayed for peace and continued development here. We also sought the blessings for Modi ji to lead our country to new heights of glory," Reddy said.

He expressed hope that with the blessings of Mata Rani, BJP will lead

this development journey of Jammu and Kashmir.

Reddy said that Home Minister Amit Shah will release BJP's manifesto on Friday and launch the party's campaign from Jammu on Saturday.

The party's manifesto for Jammu and Kashmir will focus on improving conditions for women, youth, the needy, and farmers, he said.

He criticized the alliance between Congress and the National Conference, calling it an anti-development alliance and accused it of fostering militancy in the region.

"NC-Congress coalition is an anti-development alliance. It is an alliance of dynasties. It is an alliance of corruption. It is an alliance to promote terrorism", he said.

Sajad Lone to contest elections from Handwara and Kupwara; PC releases fourth list



SRINAGAR, Sep 6 (Agencies): Jammu & Kashmir Peoples' Conference (JKPC) on Friday announced its fourth list of candidates nominated to contest elections from Jammu and Kashmir.

As per the list party president Sajad Gani Lone has been nominated from Handwara and

Kupwara to fight Assembly elections 2024.

The list reads, Sajad Gani Lone — Handwara; Sajad Gani Lone — Kupwara; Imran Reza Ansari — Pattan; Adv Bashir Ahmad Dar — Trehgam; Irfan Pandithpori — Langate; Dr Naseer Anwar — Karnah; and Mudasi Akbar Shah — Lolab.

Former State Secretary & Spokesperson Rouf Bhat resigns from PDP

SRINAGAR, Sep 6 (Agencies): Former State Secretary and Spokesperson Rouf Bhat on Friday resigned from Peoples' Democratic Party.

Citing reasons in his resignation letter to party president Mehbooba Mufti, he said keeping in view the disgraceful attitude of the party towards sincere and dedicated workers who proved their worth in most difficult times where majority of leaders across all parties had confined themselves in the cocoons of slumber to save their skin with next to nil activ-



ity on ground, I find that the deliberate omission of sincere workers and adaption of parachute entrants from vested lobbies was a replica of mistakes of the past which has got this region to the position we are in now.

I feel deeply pained, aghast and disrespectful and find myself respect

tramped and leaves me with no option other than to resign from the basic membership of PDP, he said.

He added that my journey with the party has been one of immense learning and growth, and I'm grateful for the opportunities that have come my way during my tenure. I believe it is in the best interest for me to step aside from my role within the party.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the leadership, my colleagues, and supporters who have been a part of this journey, he added.

CCI delegation meets Labour Commissioner, discusses issue of mandatory observance of "Closed Day"

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 6: A delegation of CCI headed by Arun Gupta, its President today called on Labour Commissioner UT of J&K and discussed with him the issue relating to mandatory observance of "Closed Day" by Shops/ Establishments in UT of J&K.



During interaction Arun Gupta apprised the Labour Commissioner that the UT of J&K is a pilgrim / Tourist destination which is the main source of our economy.

The Pilgrims/Tourists used to visit the city of temples to buy the goods and eatables of their choice as such the business activities in this area cannot be restricted because by keeping our business establishments/ Shops open, we serve the visiting Pilgrims/Tourists.

He also mentioned that the Prime Minister of India while addressing the Media fraternity has clearly said that we have allowed to keep Shops/ business establishments

open for 24x7 days to boost the economy of our country. Besides, this after allowing FDI in retail sector to establish their outlets in India, these establishments are working throughout the week without observing any close day, even the local malls are also open throughout the week.

Arun Gupta also briefed the Labour Commissioner that every employee working in these shops/ business establishments is given weekly paid off.

However, as per our best information, if any employer asks some of his employees to perform duty on the paid weekly off day who are interested to do so, they are paid

extra salary of that day for performing their duties.

While reacting on the issues raised in the meeting, the Labour Commissioner assured that the trades and the areas which witness free flow of tourists and pilgrims shall be exempted from Mandatory observance of close day.

He asked the chamber to provide the list of areas and trades which are required to be exempted from the observance of mandatory close day.

The other office bearers who accompanied the delegation were Anil Gupta, Sr. Vice President, Rajeev Gupta, Jr. Vice President and Rajesh Gupta, Treasurer.

Govt constitutes sub-committee to finalise SOPs to avert border breaches in future

SRINAGAR, Sep 6 (Agencies): Government of Jammu & Kashmir has constituted a sub-committee to finalise the draft Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Border Protection Grid.

of J&K Police after such alerts.

The Committee has to identify a common platform for inter operability in the form of a common control room so that there is smooth flow of information thereby ensuring an efficient and robust mechanism in the transition zone (hinterland) between the border area and the NH44. It has also to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of all the stake holders.

The Committee comprises of ADGP, Hqrs, PHQ, J&K as Chairman; ADGP, Jammu Zone; Joint Director, IB; IG BSF, Jammu Frontier; Representative from office of the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu (Civil Administration) as members.

The Committee shall peruse the old and current data on the breaches that have occurred at the Border in order to arrive at comprehensive modus operandi to avert such breaches in future.

The Committee has to devise a mechanism to raise alerts by the BSF about "Potential Breaches", "Suspected Breaches" and "Confirmed Breaches" and the role

of J&K Police after such alerts.

The Committee has to identify a common platform for inter operability in the form of a common control room so that there is smooth flow of information thereby ensuring an efficient and robust mechanism in the transition zone (hinterland) between the border area and the NH44. It has also to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of all the stake holders.

It has to create a mechanism for regular interaction among all the stakeholders to take stock of the progress made in the cases of breach (s) and update appropriate provision in the SOP, if necessary.

The Committee shall finalize the draft SOP by or before 30.09.2024. The Chairman of Committee may co-opt any other officer/official who can contribute towards finalization of the draft SOP.

DPAP to bring development, employment for youth: Nizami

Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Sep 6: Chief Spokesperson DPAP, Salman Nizami on Friday addressed a public meeting in Nussu Qazigund reaffirming the party's commitment to development and securing the rights of the people, particularly concerning land ownership and job opportunities.

During his address, Nizami called for support for Bilal Deva the party's candidate from Anantnag West stating that Deva represents a new vision for development and progress in the region. Nizami stated that voting for DPAP would ensure that the people's voices are heard and their rights are safeguarded.

"Our vision is to uplift the poor and provide job opportunities to youth who are being involved in drugs due to unemployment," Nizami added.

Nizami criticised other regional parties and the BJP for failing to address the needs of the poor, stating, "People have tested the regional parties and even BJP; they did nothing for the poor people and only exploit-

ed people over religion, caste, and regional issues." He expressed concern over the laws implemented by these parties that according to him, have alienated the youth from the mainstream. He urged the public to support DPAP candidates, including Bilal Deva from Anantnag West, to usher in a new era of development in Jammu and Kashmir.

Army organizes Teachers' Day celebrations at Tender Feet School Keri

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Sep 6: In a heart-warming initiative, the Indian Army organized Teacher's Day celebrations at Tender Feet School, Keri, Sial Sui, Sagra, Potha Budhal and Salani in Poonch Rajouri and Reasi District.

The events were tribute to the invaluable contribution of teachers in shaping young minds and building the future of the nation.

The celebrations were marked by various activities involving students and teachers, emphasizing the importance of education and the crucial role of teachers.

Students showcased their talent through cultural performances, including songs, dances, and skits, which highlighted the essence of Teacher's Day and paid homage to their mentors.

The Indian Army,

through this initiative, aimed to strengthen its bond with the local communities and highlight its commitment to promoting education in the region.

The events concluded with a vote of thanks from the school authorities, who expressed their gratitude to the Indian Army for organizing such meaningful celebrations, underscoring the positive impact it had on the students and teachers alike.

Govt orders suspension of 1999-batch police officer with immediate effect

SRINAGAR, Sep 6 (Agencies): Government of Jammu & Kashmir Friday ordered suspension of 1999-batch police officer Fayaz Ahmad Lone with immediate effect, and attached him with Police Headquarters till period of suspension.

An order issued by Principal Secretary to the Government, Department of Home J&K reads, "In terms of Rule 31 of the Jammu and Kashmir

Civil Services (Classification Control & Appeal) Rules, 1956 and pending enquiry into his conduct, Shri Fayaz Ahmad Lone, (JKPS-1999), SSP, Staff Officer to IGP AP/IR Kashmir is hereby placed under suspension, with immediate effect".

The order further reads that the officer shall remain attached with Police Headquarters, J&K, during the period of suspension.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Notice for Shortlisting of PAD Items for Static Catering Establishments over Firozpur Division

For and on behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur invites applications on the prescribed form, from the manufacturers of the renowned eatable PAD items/ brands for the purpose of approval/shortlisting for Use/Sale/ Service at Static Catering Establishments located over Northern Railway, Firozpur Division. **Last date for submission of application is 03.10.2024 upto 15:00 hrs.** The detailed information and list of eatable PAD items are available on the official website of Northern Railway i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in. Please keep visiting the aforesaid website from time to time for getting updates regarding any modification, amendments etc. 2721/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

No.15-Med/Lab Investigation Dated 30.08.2024
Chief Medical Supdt. Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of the President of India, invites expression of interest on the prescribed form for the following work :-

1 Name of work	Expression of interest from reputed, registered and licensed diagnostic centres for empanelment for providing diagnostic services for patients of Divisional Hospital Firozpur and Health Unit Jammatwari.
2 Completion period	Two years from the Date of starting.
3 App. Cost of the work	N.A.
4 Earnest Money	N.A.
5 Cost of application form on cashless post	N.A.
6 Date and time availability & Place of procuring application form	Any working day from office of Chief Medical Supdt., N.Rly, Firozpur and can be had from the office of Chief Medical Supdt., N.Rly, Firozpur in from 02.09.2024 to 25.09.2024 up to 11.00 Hrs.
7 Place of submission of bids	Chief Medical Supdt., N.Rly, Divisional Hospital, Firozpur.
8 Date and time of submission of application form	Up to 11.00 Hrs on 25.09.2024 Opening of bids at 11.30 Hrs on 25.09.2024.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2695/24

EDITORIAL

ROLE OF
MSME SECTOR

The Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector plays a pivotal role in the growth and development of economies worldwide, particularly in emerging markets like India. MSMEs are critical for economic diversification, job creation, innovation, and social development. With a wide range of businesses falling under this category, the MSME sector contributes significantly to GDP, exports, and employment. Here are the key benefits of the MSME sector in detail:

One of the most significant contributions of the MSME sector is employment generation. Unlike large-scale industries, MSMEs tend to be more labor-intensive, requiring human resources for various tasks. This sector is a major source of employment, especially in rural and semi-urban areas, where it provides jobs to millions of people. MSMEs in manufacturing, trading, and services collectively contribute to creating diverse job opportunities. In India, MSMEs are the second-largest employment generator after agriculture, employing around 120 million people across sectors.

This characteristic of the MSME sector also helps reduce regional imbalances, bringing industrialization to rural areas and less developed regions. By providing jobs locally, MSMEs help reduce urban migration, alleviating pressure on urban infrastructure and reducing the socio-economic issues tied to large-scale migration to cities.

The MSME sector contributes significantly to the national GDP. In India, for instance, MSMEs contribute about 30% to the country's GDP. This contribution is vital for economic stability, as MSMEs are often more resilient to economic downturns and can recover quickly from economic shocks. The decentralized nature of MSMEs ensures a more equitable distribution of income and wealth, thus aiding in reducing economic disparities across regions.

MSMEs play a critical role in bolstering domestic consumption and output. They contribute to both the production of goods and services and the creation of demand by generating employment and income. This dual contribution helps fuel both the supply and demand sides of the economy.

The MSME sector is known for fostering entrepreneurship, as it provides a platform for aspiring entrepreneurs to establish their businesses with limited capital. This sector serves as a breeding ground for talent, new ideas, and innovation. Small enterprises are often more flexible, enabling them to adapt quickly to changing market trends and consumer needs. As a result, MSMEs are a major source of innovation, promoting new technologies, processes, and products.

Entrepreneurship within MSMEs is often accompanied by creativity and out-of-the-box thinking. Many groundbreaking innovations that disrupt industries originate from small businesses, which are unencumbered by the bureaucracy and rigid structures that often characterize larger enterprises.

The MSME sector significantly contributes to exports, particularly in developing countries like India, where approximately 45-50% of the country's exports come from MSMEs. Many small businesses manufacture goods for international markets, including textiles, handicrafts, automotive parts, leather products, and more. MSMEs are agile and can cater to niche markets, often producing customized products for foreign buyers.

MSMEs help diversify the export basket and reduce dependency on a few industries or markets. The sector also contributes to the localization of production, which helps in enhancing the competitiveness of domestic products in global markets.

MSMEs are essential for balanced regional development. Large industries are often concentrated in metropolitan and industrial hubs, leading to uneven economic growth across regions. MSMEs, on the other hand, are more dispersed across rural, semi-urban, and remote areas. By encouraging industrialization in less developed regions, MSMEs help bridge the rural-urban divide and ensure more equitable distribution of resources and wealth.

By contributing to local economies, MSMEs also promote local entrepreneurship, utilizing local resources and skills, thus stimulating self-sustaining growth in less-developed regions. This decentralization ensures that prosperity is not limited to metropolitan cities but spreads across the country.

MSMEs provide employment to a large number of marginalized and economically weaker sections of society, including women, minorities, and rural populations. Many MSMEs are owned and operated by individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, giving them a platform to improve their socio-economic standing. Women-led MSMEs, in particular, are growing rapidly and contributing to women's empowerment by offering them financial independence and career opportunities.

This inclusiveness of the MSME sector contributes to social stability by alleviating poverty, reducing inequality, and providing a sense of ownership and dignity to the marginalized sections of society. Moreover, the sector's focus on promoting handicrafts, traditional industries, and local craftsmanship helps preserve cultural heritage and provide livelihoods to artisans.

Recognizing the importance of the MSME sector, governments across the world provide various forms of support to facilitate its growth. In India, for example, numerous initiatives such as the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE), the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), and the MUDRA Yojana offer financial assistance, low-interest loans, and easier credit access to MSMEs.

Schemes like the "Make in India" initiative encourage MSMEs to expand their production capacities and contribute to the overall industrial output. Governments also offer subsidies, tax incentives, and skill development programs to ensure that MSMEs can thrive in competitive markets.

MSMEs have a higher degree of flexibility compared to large organizations. During economic slowdowns or disruptions like the COVID-19 pandemic, MSMEs have shown resilience and an ability to pivot quickly. Their smaller size allows them to make decisions faster, reconfigure their business models, and adapt to changing market dynamics. This resilience ensures that the sector remains a crucial pillar of economic recovery during crises.

Hunt for scapegoats won't improve future of B'desh Columnists

By: By: Indranil Banerjee

Bangladesh after the overthrow of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is reminiscent of a carnival on the morning after. The revellers are now left with the remains of the night. Will they be able to sweep away yesterday and start anew? The indications so far are not encouraging. The obsession, as in the case of most revolutions, is with the past regime and its presumed wrongdoings. The rabble which overthrew the previous government and chose Nobel Prize-winning economist Muhammad Yunus as interim head of the country appears solely focused on punishing former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who fled Bangladesh a month ago to evade mobs out to lynch her. Also Read - Dilip Cherian | Kerala keeps it all in the family: Wife replaces husband as CS Advertisement Sheikh Hasina's father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was also murdered in a coup in another August 49 years ago. Mujib, or Bangabandhu, as the founder of Bangladesh was popularly known, was a bitter opponent of the Islamists and pro-Pakistan elements responsible for the massacre of thousands of citizens during the country's liberation struggle. His assassination was engineered by sympathisers of the very Islamist and pro-Pakistan forces Mujib had fought against. His killing, accompanied by the massacre of almost his entire family, including his wife, brother and three sons, had so shaken the world that the then German Chancellor Willy Brandt had remarked: "Bengalis can no longer be trusted after the killing of Sheikh Mujib. Those who killed Mujib can do any heinous act." Also Read - Sunil Gatade | Modi 3.0: How a 'strong leader' is on the retreat Sheikh Hasina, unlike her late father, read the writing on the wall, and literally ran for her

life leaving everything behind in her grand official residence. An Air Force transporter piloted by a loyal crew flew her to New Delhi, a safe haven and exile. Back in Dhaka, her opponents enraged by her escape have been single-mindedly adding up the charges against her, which include 85 cases of murder. The new government holds her personally responsible for the admittedly brutal police crackdown on rioters during the agitations that led to her downfall. Also Read - Syed Ata Hasnain | Understanding nuances of elections in Kashmir The charges against her ignore the fact that the student rebels and their supporters had themselves perpetrated considerable violence, including destruction of police outposts and other public facilities. The headquarters of the state-run Bangladesh Television in Dhaka was set on fire and a jail attacked from where criminals and Islamist extremists were set free. Leading the criminal charges against Sheikh Hasina is the head of the interim government, Mr Yunus, who has reason to hate Sheikh Hasina. During her tenure he was slapped with almost 100 cases and earlier this year convicted of a crime related to the country's labour laws. He had also been charged with money-laundering and other dubious dealings. Not surprisingly, one of his first acts as the interim head of government was to drop all the cases against him without recourse to any judicial overview, and instead to institute criminal cases against Sheikh Hasina. The shoe clearly is on the other foot. The security crackdown against the uprising is reported to have cost 400 lives, including that of 32 children. While this is reprehensible and suggests the use of excessive force, the killing of at least 250 members of the minority community and others after the collapse of the Hasina government is equally

unacceptable. Also Read - M.P. Nathanael | Hema Committee report exposes the casting couch issue in film industry Several Awami League leaders have also been selectively eliminated. While the interim government is meticulously framing charges against the ousted Prime Minister, no investigation is underway to fix responsibility for the killings and mayhem unleashed after the coup, especially on the country's helpless minority Hindu population. The country's secular forces and its minorities have been further terrorised by the interim government's decision to legitimise powerful Islamist organisations like the Jamaat-e-Islami, which was banned by the previous government for its history of butchering thousands of Bangladeshis during the liberation struggle. Equally alarming was the release of Jashimuddin Rahmani, chief of Islamist outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team, who was in jail for abetting the killing of various secular bloggers and journalists, including Rajib Haider, who was hacked to death with machetes in 2013. All this is happening in the backdrop of an assault on the judiciary. Terrified by threats from the rabble, Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan and several other judges quit their offices last month, only to be replaced by justices handpicked by the interim administration. The judiciary, thus intimidated, has been reduced to the status of an accessory to the interim government, which holds supreme authority without a shred of legal or constitutional cover. Rather than seeking reconciliation and healing the wounds following the uprising, the interim government seems bent on heaping the blame of all the country's ills on the country's exiled Prime Minister and her party, the Awami League. Even the economic successes of the Hasina government are being portrayed as a big hoax.

Economist Debapriya Bhat-tacharya has been tasked to produce a "white paper" documenting the economic mismanagement under Sheikh Hasina's rule. This despite the fact that Bangladesh had witnessed the best economic phase in its history during her tenure. During 2009-2024, the economy had grown at an average rate of 6.3 per cent per annum, with GDP soaring from \$123 billion to \$455 billion. The per capita GDP also soared from \$841 to \$2,650 in the same period. Now the interim government is bent upon proving that this was all fictitious! Economist Bhattacharya recently claimed: "Data were manufactured. Data were suppressed. I call that data anarchy." Sadly, by distorting the past and reigning over a deeply divided country, little can be done to tackle the country's present economic problems, which include high inflation (over nine per cent), massive debt, both domestic and foreign, a deflating currency and slowing growth. The rising dollar, the Ukraine war and slowing foreign investment flows had exerted severe pressures on the Bangladeshi taka, which like many world currencies dropped against the dollar, thus pushing up import costs and prices while making debt servicing all the more costly. The interim government's strenuous efforts to make Sheikh Hasina the scapegoat for the country's economic woes is not going to turn the situation around. Nor will the interim regime's attempts to wreck relations with neighbouring India, its most important economic partner. Bangladesh is dependent on India for a variety of products, the most important of which are food items, including vegetables, meat on the hoof, rice, tea and much more. Bangladesh's search for scapegoats will yield little in the long run and instead condemn it to trundle towards an unremarkable future.

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

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 - Indranil Banerjee | Hunt for scapegoats won't improve future of B'desh 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 - Sunil Gatade | Modi 3.0: How a 'strong leader' is on the retreat 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 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 - Syed Ata Hasnain | Understanding nuances of elections in Kashmir 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 dif-

ference: 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 - M.P. Nathanael | Hema Committee report exposes the casting couch issue in film industry 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.

Italy based SMVDU Alumnus interacts with students

Top News Report

KATRA, Sep 6: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) launched its Alumni Talk Series with an enriching online event featuring Abhinav Chadha, a distinguished graduate from the Mechanical Engineering Department (Batch of 2014).

This inaugural session included opening remarks by Dr. Yugal Khajuria, Dean of International and Alumni Affairs aimed to inspire students by offering them valuable insights into professional development and global perspectives.

Abhinav Chadha, who has established a remarkable career in the consulting sector, shared his professional journey



from SMVDU to Italy and Akkodis.

His discourse covered critical aspects of career progression, the evolving landscape of engineering, and the importance of lifelong learning. His reflections on adaptability, resilience, and networking in a rapidly changing technological environment resonated deeply with the audience.

The event, held online, was met with enthusiastic participation from students across vari-



ous departments. An interactive session followed, where Chadha addressed queries related to job opportunities and higher education scenarios in Italy.

The session was adeptly moderated by Samranyee Shaurya Patel, a postgraduate student of Biotechnology, and Yuvraj Singh Pathania, both student coordinators of the Alumni Talk Series.

The talk concluded with a dynamic Q&A session,

where students engaged Chadha with insightful questions, reflecting their keen interest and depth of understanding. The exchange provided not only pragmatic advice but also served as a source of inspiration, motivating students to pursue excellence in their respective fields.

In the end Dr. Mir Irfan UI Haq, Associate Dean of International and Alumni Affairs, highlighted that this event marks the beginning of a series

of sessions designed to foster a robust and supportive alumni network at SMVDU.

He also informed that the series will continue to showcase inspiring stories from alumni, offering practical advice and empowering students by exposing them to a wide range of professional experiences.

Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor of SMVDU, conveyed his best wishes to the alumni, appreciating their efforts to stay connected with their alma mater and contribute to the growth of current students.

He emphasized the significance of such interactions in building a strong, supportive community that bridges the gap between education and professional success.

LPU awards PhD to Faisal Mushtaq Kichloo

Top News Report

DODA, Sep 6: Lovely Professional University (LPU), one of India's top-ranked universities, has awarded a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) to Faisal Mushtaq Kichloo for his outstanding research on the "Diversity of Macrofungi."

His work has made significant contributions to the field of mycology, including the identification of several novel species from around the world, India, and Jammu and Kashmir.

Faisal Mushtaq's hard work and extreme dedication have resulted in the publication of numerous research papers in reputed national and international journals. His publications have

gained recognition for their contribution to the understanding of fungal biodiversity.

Currently, multiple research papers authored by Mushtaq are either communicated or in the final stages of revision, further enhancing his impact on global and regional science.

Despite his demanding professional roles, Mr. Faisal Mushtaq successfully balanced his responsibilities as an Assistant Professor in the Higher Education Department at Govt. College for Women, M.A. Road Srinagar, with his research work.

In addition, he serves as the NSS Coordinator for Cluster University Srinagar, overseeing and monitoring all NSS activities across nine colleges

of the University.

His ability to manage academic duties and coordinate NSS programs, while pursuing high-quality research, demonstrates his remarkable dedication and time management skills.

His commitment to producing quality research is evident in his focus on identifying novel species and contributing to the global understanding of macrofungal diversity.

Mushtaq consistently prioritized rigorous scientific methodology, ensuring that his findings meet the highest academic standards, dedication to thorough research and his persistence in balancing academic and professional demands make his achievements all the more commendable.

BJP committed to development, peace and progress in J&K: Ashish Sood



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 6: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is gearing up to leverage advanced technology for effective digital outreach for Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Elections 2024.

Ashish Sood, National Seh-Prabhari BJP J&K, along with Election Vistarak Bikram Jit Singh Cheema, National Election Prabhari for IT & Social Media Chetan Singh Bragta, State IT Head Advocate Ishant Gupta, and State Co-Incharge Gaurav Balgotra, discussed strategies for connecting with the masses using digital platforms and technol-

ogy. The BJP team emphasized the party's technological preparedness to reach every household in J&K, ensuring that its message of peace, stability, and development is heard loud and clear across the region.

Ashish Sood launched a scathing attack on the Congress-NC alliance, accusing them of decades of mismanagement and neglect. "For years, the Congress-NC coalition pushed Jammu and Kashmir into a spiral of terrorism, corruption, and economic ruin. Now, they dare to point fingers at us while trying to bring back those dark days," said Sood.

He further added that the alliance is based on opportunism and self-interest, with no real agenda for the people of J&K. Their strategy, according to Sood, revolves around deceit because they cannot compete with the BJP's strong record of governance and progress.

Sood, while highlighting the BJP's achievements in the region, said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed unprecedented development. The Congress-NC alliance is trying to ignite anti-national feelings at a time when Modi's vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' is gaining momentum in J&K," Sood added.

He called upon the people to vote in favor of the BJP, ensuring that Jammu and Kashmir continues on the path of peace, stability, and growth.

He further said that the BJP is committed to creating a new era of development and prosperity for Jammu and Kashmir.

Shun dynastic politics to save democracy: SSP

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 6: Col SS Pathania, President Sainik Samaj Party (SSP), J&K UT expressed his grave concern on dynastic politics, prevalent in country and getting stronger day by day.

"Dynastic politics has serious adverse effects and puts lots of impediments in growth and evolution of our nation. Though it is in vogue in other democratic countries too, but not to the extent it has spread in our country. Dynastic politics has replaced the erstwhile 'Raj Tantra' where throne was inherited by the son of King, irrespective of merit. Post-Independence Prime minister and Chief ministers have assumed the role of King. To begin with Dynastic politics is undemocratic in nature and undermines its basic concept. It discourages meritocracy as power is vested in family members and deserving people do not grow



beyond a level. It leads to corruption, entrenchment of power, lack of accountability towards people, stifles internal democracy with in party create divisions and undermines people's trust." Pathania said adding that Congress, Samajwadi Party, BSP, Shiv Senna, UBT, DMK, NC, Akali Dal and PDP are some shining examples of might of dynastic politics in our country.

Pathania urged countrymen and people of JKUT to shun the dynastic politics and promote the true spirit and vibrancy of biggest democracy in the world.

GDC Thannamandi celebrates Teachers' Day with enthusiasm

Top News Report

THANNAMANDI, Sep 6: The National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Thannamandi, in collaboration with the Cultural and Literary Committee, organized a grand celebration to mark Teachers' Day.

The event, held under the guidance Principal Prof. Dr. Farooq Ahmed, was organized by Prof. Supriya Gupta, NSS Coordinator, and Dr. Abdul Haque Naimi, Convener of the Cultural and Literary Committee. Dr. M.B. Magray, retired Principal of the Higher Education Department, J&K was the Chief Guest of the event.

The celebration began with a welcome address by Dr. Naimi followed by symposium on the topic "The Evolving Role of Teachers in the Modern

Era," where students presented their thoughts and ideas about the changing role of teachers from traditional classroom teaching to that of a facilitator.

The symposium was judged by Dr. Ashaq Malik, Head, Department of Botany and Dr. Nazarul Islam, Head, Department of Islamic studies.

Rabia Sheikh, student of Semester 5th, bagged the first prize in the symposium, while Rubia Koser and Kamran Mumtaz secured the second and third positions, respectively.

The winners were awarded mementos and certificates, while all participants received certificates of participation. Students also showcased their talent through songs and poetry, paying tribute to their teachers.

The chief guest, Dr. M.B. Magray empha-

sized the significance of teachers in shaping the future of society.

The guest of honor, Mir Muzaffer, also shared his valuable insights. Dr. Nazakat Hussain, Principal In charge, also expressed his views on the changing role of teachers and principles that students should follow to achieve success. The event was hosted by students Rabia Sheikh and Mehtab Khan, who managed the stage with finesse.

Faculty members Prof. Asif Ajaz Lone, Dr. Gulshan Rashid Bhat, Dr. Sheraz Ahmed, Dr. Gohar Iqbal, Prof. Junaid Ahmed, Dr. Ather Aziz Raina, Prof. Fatima Parveen, Prof. rumi Dar, Prof. Rizwana Koser, and Prof. Nagina Koser and Shafiq Hussain from the department of Horticulture were also present to grace the occasion.

Expert talk on "Butterflies as Indicators of Environmental Health" held at GGM Science College



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 6: An expert talk was organized by Environment/E-waste committee of GGM Science College Jammu in collaboration with department on Zoology on the topic "Butterflies as Indicators of Environmental Health" under the guidance and patronage of Dr Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal of the college.

It was an engaging and insightful event held in ZLR of department of Zoology and attended by a sizable student body and the faculty.

The event started with the welcome address and brief introduction of the topic by Bal Krishan, Assistant professor of Zoology.

Dr. Shakha Sharma, assistant professor of Zoology at GCW Gandhi Nagar was the guest speaker on the occasion. In her opening remarks

the speaker highlighted the critical role butterflies play in assessing the health of ecosystems and their contribution to biodiversity. She displayed some exquisite slides of many local butterfly species in their native habitats and stages of life.

She covered several key points during her talk explaining that butterflies, often described as "bioindicators," provide essential clues about environmental changes due to their sensitivity to habitat degradation, pollution, and climate fluctuations.

These insects, which thrive in well-balanced ecosystems, are among the first species to show signs of ecological stress, making them important subjects for conservation research.

She underlined that by studying the populations of butterflies we can better understand the impact of human activi-

ties on the environment and take steps toward preserving biodiversity. The talk was even more significant in light of the ongoing butterfly month.

The programme was presided over by Head Department of Zoology, Prof. Lekh Raj.

The faculty members who participated in the programme included Dr. Narinder Kumar, Dr. Rahul Kait, Prof. Brinder Kumar, Dr. Rohit Bhardwaj, Dr. Jyotdeep Kour and Prof. Suram Singh. The planning and preparations for the event were executed under the supervision of Prof. Harmet Kour by the college Environment/E-waste committee comprising Prof. Bal Krishan, Dr. Arti Sharma, Dr. Sheetu Raina, Prof. Reetika Rani, Prof. Susheel Kumar and Dr. Ram Krishan.

The programme concluded with the vote of thanks by Prof Harmet Kour.

Voter awareness programme under SVEEP held at Himalyan Public High School Meer

Top News Report

PANCHARI, Sep 6: In preparation for the upcoming Assembly Elections 2024, the District Election Cell Udhampur organized a Voter Awareness Programme under SVEEP at Himalyan Public High School, Meer-Panchari.

The event, held under the supervision of Nodal Officer SVEEP, 59-West Udhampur, Rajesh Gorka. The programme featured a cultural segment and other activities where school students creatively highlighted the importance of voter awareness, emphasizing the need for informed and active participation in the electoral process.

Speaking on the occasion, the Nodal Officer, SVEEP said that the main objective of organizing this campaign is to strengthen our demo-

cratic system by creating awareness among the young and future voters about the importance of their vote and hence involving them in the electoral process is of utmost importance for vibrant democracy.

The Nodal Officer, SVEEP underscored the crucial role of youth in the democratic process, urging them and other citizens to ensure 100% voter turnout.

He highlighted the significance of active participation in elections as a vital contribution to the development of the region.

Later, 'Appreciation Certificate' Presented to School Principal, Staff & Students who participated during Historical Sankari Mela-2024 regarding Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) activities.

Chandra Pal welcome Pramod Gupta on appointment as Chairman of Municipal Corporation Zone

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 6: In a warm and grand ceremony, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) welcomed Pramod Gupta on his appointment as the Chairman of the Municipal Corporation.

The celebration was led by Chandra Pal Chandel, District President of the BJP Scheduled Caste Front, who, along with his supporters, extended a hearty reception to Gupta.

The event was graced by several prominent figures, including senior BJP leader Raju Chandel, the founder of the National Valmiki Army; Surendra Chandel; Moni Chandel; Sonam Parcha; BJP District Minister Shakuntala Chandel; BJP Senior Vice President Deepika Chandel; and other dignitaries.

During the ceremony, Chandra Pal Chandel honored Pramod Gupta with a traditional shawl. He expressed confidence



that under Gupta's leadership, the pending projects of the Municipal Corporation would soon be completed, leading to visible development throughout the area.

Senior Hinduist BJP leader Raju Chandel commended Pramod Gupta, highlighting his past contributions to the region.

He praised Gupta for his strong work ethic and dedication to development, noting that his efforts had already made a significant impact and would continue to do so.

Raju Chandel emphasized that Gupta's respect for all party workers and his enthusiastic approach to serving the community

were qualities that would drive future success.

Shakuntala Chandel, a senior minister, extended her blessings to Pramod Gupta, wishing him success and urging him to continue advancing development efforts.

She expressed her hope that Gupta would achieve even greater heights and bring further glory to the area through his ongoing work.

The ceremony underscored the collective support and optimism surrounding Pramod Gupta's new role, with all attendees expressing their confidence in his ability to drive positive change and development in the Municipal Corporation.

BJP has lost its political ground and relevance in Jammu: Rajesh Gupta

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 6: Jammu and Kashmir UT Bahujan Samaj Party General Secretary and candidate from Jammu East constituency, Rajesh Gupta here on Friday pledged to eradicate regional discrimination with Jammu.

Addressing a election meeting at New Rehari

he claimed that BJP has failed to address genuine issues of the people from Jammu region in absence of an elected government.

He said that BJP leadership has failed on all fronts in "Inflation, increasing unemployment etc apart from problems of farmers and border dwellers has made the situation in



Jammu worst." Rajesh Gupta said that BJP has lost its political

ground and relevance in Jammu due to its anti-people policies.

Gupta said that BJP got huge mandate in the last Assembly and Lok Sabha elections as well as the current Lok Sabha elections besides being the ruling party at the Centre and State being under direct Central rule, the entire responsibility lies

upon this party to address the basic issues of the people. But it has literally failed to address the genuine issues of the general public.

Others prominent who addressed the meeting were Gourav GurbakashUT Coordinator, Charanjeet Chalotra Vice president J&K UT Bahujan Samaj Party.

Kangana Ranaut heartbroken as she announces Emergency has been postponed

On Friday, Kangana Ranaut tweeted that her most-awaited project Emergency, which has been mired in controversies, has been postponed. The movie, in which the actor and BJP MP portrays former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, was initially slated for release on September 6. She thanked fans for their 'understanding and patience' as she shared the news with 'a heavy heart'. 'New release date will be announced soon'

Kangana took to X (formerly Twitter) and said, "With a heavy heart I announce that my directorial Emergency has been postponed, we are still waiting for the certification from censor board, new release date will be announced soon, thanks for your understanding and patience (folded hand emoji)." The film also stars Anupam Kher and the late Satish Kaushik.

Reactions to Kangana's new tweet

An X user reacted to Kan-



gana's announcement, tweeting, "No need to feel sad Kangana Ranaut. We are with you, whenever it releases we will be watching it for sure and will be supporting you no matter what!" Another said, "Don't get bogged down sister. Fight against people, injustice. Always with people who seek justice." Someone also said, "Release this movie Kangana, we are with you..." Some seemed to not mind the delay in the film's release. One tweeted, "Super disaster movie."

More about Emergency release delay

The film has been embroiled in controversies for some time now – it is facing backlash from several Sikh groups and not getting a green signal from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). The film, a biographical political thriller, delves into the life of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who imposed a 21-month emergency period from 1975 to 1977.

Kangana had revealed earlier that her political drama is still

awaiting certification from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). Despite earlier reports suggesting that Emergency had received clearance from the CBFC, Kangana had said the film's certification is currently on hold.

"There have been rumours circulating that my film Emergency has been certified by the Censor Board. This is not true. While our film did receive clearance from the CBFC, the certification was on hold due to numerous death threats against members of the censor board," Kangana had said.

"There is pressure being put on us to remove certain scenes, such as the assassination of Indira Gandhi, the Punjab riots, and more. Now, I don't know what else to show. What are we supposed to do—blackout the film during these scenes? This is unbelievable to me, and I am deeply sorry for the current state of thinking in this country," she added.

SRK highest celebrity taxpayer



Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan topped the list of celebrity taxpayers with advance tax payment of Rs 92 crore in 2023-24, followed by Tamil actor 'Thalapathy' Vijay at a distant second, according to a list compiled by Fortune India Magazine.

Fortune India's 'The Star Cast' list is based

on advance tax payments by celebrities and places film star Salman Khan in the third position and Bollywood icon Amitabh Bachchan in fourth place. Virat Kohli paid Rs 66 crore in advance tax in 2023-24 fiscal — making him the highest taxpayer among cricketers in the country. "Shah Rukh Khan

tops the list of celebrity taxpayers in FY24 while Tamil superstar Vijay moves ahead of the likes of Salman Khan, Amitabh Bachchan and Virat Kohli to emerge second," Fortune India said. Vijay paid an advance tax of Rs 80 crore, followed by Salman Khan (Rs 75 crore) and Amitabh Bachchan (Rs 71 crore). Many other well-known faces from the film and entertainment industry, including Ajay Devgn (Rs 42 crore), Ranbir Kapoor (Rs 36 crore), Hrithik Roshan (Rs 28 crore), Kapil Sharma (Rs 26 crore), Kareena Kapoor (Rs 20 crore) and Shahid Kapoor (Rs 14 crore) made it to the list.

From the world of cricket, MS Dhoni paid Rs 38 crore, while Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly paid Rs 28 crore and Rs 23 crore, respectively.

George RR Martin criticises House of the Dragon changes

The Game of Thrones author George RR Martin opened up about the issues he has with the changes made in the fantasy drama House of the Dragons. Martin shared his views in his blog, mentioning that the co-creator and showrunner Ryan Condal has made significant changes in his novel Fire & Blood's adaptation, which he is not happy about, as he feels that the alteration in seasons two, three and four can cause serious problems.

Although his post was deleted within hours, HBO also replied to it by issuing a statement. "In the show, Aegon and Helaena have two young children (the six-year-old twins Jaehaerys and Jaehaera). In the book, they have three —there's an even younger brother, two-year-old Maelor. In a



sprawling show with many characters for viewers to remember, having one less child seems like a rather routine adaptive choice. But, Martin notes, this is resulting in a 'butterfly effect' of consequences."

There are certain changes in season two like the 'Blood and Cheese' scene, two persons who were hired to murder Jaehaerys in front of his mother. But in the book the sequence was presented in a different way.

Martin elaborated

about the same, saying, "I still believe the scene in the book is stronger. The readers have the right of that. The two killers are crueler in the book. I thought the actors who played the killers on the show were excellent... but the characters are crueler, harder, and more frightening in Fire & Blood... I would also suggest that Helaena shows more courage, more strength in the book, by offering her own life to save her son." Martin is a co-creator of House of the Dragons.

Shilpa Shinde alleges sexual assault by filmmaker; had to seduce him in audition

Weeks, after the findings of the Justice Hema Committee report were made public, TV actor Shilpa Shinde said that she was once asked to seduce a filmmaker under the guise of an audition. In an interview with agency, Shilpa recalled the incident from the early days of her career and explained how she was 'very innocent' at the time and hence, agreed to do the scene.

"That person tried to force himself on me"

She said, "It was during my struggling days, around 1998-99. I cannot take names, but they told me, 'Aap yeh kapde pehno aur yeh scene karo (wear these clothes and do this scene)'. I didn't wear those clothes. In the scene, he told me he was my boss, and I had to seduce him. I was very innocent then, so I did the scene. That



person tried to force himself on me, and I got so scared. I pushed him away and ran out. The security staff realised what had happened and asked me to leave immediately. They thought I would make a scene and call for help."

"I agreed to do scene because he was also an actor"

Shilpa also recalled an encounter with the same producer years later as she refused to disclose his name. She said, "He was from the Hindi film industry. I agreed to do the scene because he was also an actor. I'm not lying, but I cannot take his name. His children are probably a little younger than me, and if I name him, they will suffer too... after a few years, I met him again, and he spoke to me kindly. He didn't recognise me and even offered me a film role. I

refused. He still doesn't remember me."

The actor, who rose to fame with Bhabhi Ji Ghar Par Hai, added that similar experiences have happened to many others in the industry. She said while 'some have run away' like she did, others have told her 'they've faced similar situations, even with well-known figures'. Shilpa also said that when people talk about sexual harassment, she strongly believes that one may have been approached, but they also have the 'choice to say no'.

Recently, many celebs, including Telugu actor Nani expressed concern over the findings of the recently-released Hema Committee report that detailed the rampant sexual abuse and deplorable working conditions faced by women in the Malayalam film industry.

L'Oréal Paris signs Alia Bhatt as global brand ambassador

L'Oréal Paris, the No.1 beauty brand in the world, has announced Alia Bhatt as new global brand ambassador. She joins the brand's diverse roster of spokespersons like Viola Davis, Jane Fonda, Eva Longoria, Kendall Jenner, Elle Fanning, Camila Cabello, and many others. The award-winning actress, producer and entrepreneur will star in the French beauty brand's campaigns starting this September.

One of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People of 2024, Alia Bhatt's repertoire of cinema spans languages and genres, which have won her awards and critical acclaim. A true multi-hyphenate, Alia embodies the core values of L'Oréal Paris, representing inclusivity and empowerment, sharing the transformative power of self-belief with women over the world.

"At L'Oréal Paris, we are honoured to welcome Indian actress Alia Bhatt to the family. I admire how Alia uses

her global platform and role as a producer to push for inclusivity in the film industry and to shed light on Indian cinema worldwide. Her commitment to care for people and planet makes her the perfect ambassador for female talent, entrepreneurship, and for the endless possibilities L'Oréal Paris seeks to open up by uplifting women's worth," said Delphine Viguiere-Hovasse, L'Oréal Paris Global president.

"I am thrilled to join the L'Oréal Paris family and stand alongside a community of strong, powerful women. As someone who has always been deeply interested in all things skin, I admire L'Oréal Paris for its pioneering innovations and commitment to excellence in the beauty industry. The brand's celebration of women's empowerment resonates deeply with me, as it strives to ensure every woman feels valued and empowered. I am excited to collaborate with L'Oréal Paris to make a positive impact in the



beauty industry and champion inclusivity for women," says Alia Bhatt.

Starring in a wide variety of roles with success, Alia Bhatt has managed that rare balance of critical acclaim and box-office love. In the last three years alone, every theatrical release of hers has featured in the top 10 films of the year by box office. Seeking to tell real and timeless tales, her production company, Eternal Sunshine Productions, launched in 2019. As a producer, she aims to create powerful storytelling to both entertain and move audiences, while pledging to foster inclusivity and representation in the entertainment industry. Her first film, Darlings, became the second most-watched non-English worldwide for two weeks. She followed it up with the widely acclaimed Amazon Prime Video series Poacher, directed by Emmy-winning director Richie Mehta and produced by QC, Richie Mehta, and Alia Bhatt.

Lady Gaga stuns everyone with stylish look, epic headpiece at Venice Film Festival



Lady Gaga once again stunned everyone with her stylish look at the Venice Film Festival.

The multi-hyphenate arrived for the premiere of her and Joaquin Phoenix starrer 'Joker: Folie à Deux' in a black flowy gown and dazzling headgear, reported People magazine.

Gaga looked stunning on the red carpet during the event. She graced the event along with her co-star Joaquin Phoenix, the film's director Todd Phillips, and her fiancé, Michael Polansky.

She wore a flowy black gown with a plunging neckline. However, what grabbed the eyeballs was her glittering

lace Philip Treacy headpiece.

The sequel to the 2019 film 'Joker' is set to release in theatres on October 4, 2024, after premiering at the Venice Film Festival.

The first 'Joker' movie won the Golden Lion at Venice in 2019.

The first Joker was a huge success, both critically and commercially. It was nominated for 11 Oscars, with Joaquin Phoenix winning Best Actor and Hildur Guðnadóttir winning for Original Score. It became the highest-grossing R-rated movie ever. In the sequel, Phoenix reprises his role as Joker, and Lady Gaga joins as Harley Quinn.

The supporting cast includes Brendan Gleeson, Catherine Keener, Jacob Lofland, and Harry Lawtey. Zazie Beetz returns as Sophie from the first film. The sequel is said to be a musical, building on Phoenix's dancing scenes from the original.

"My version of Harley is mine, and it's very authentic to this movie and these characters, and I don't want to give anything from the movie away," she said earlier on the red carpet of her Gaga Chromatica Ball screening. "I think it's really something you have to experience in the theatre," she added.

"This film has music, it has dance, it has amazing acting in it," she added. "I loved working with Joaquin, I loved working with Todd. What I will say is that I've never done anything like I've done in this movie before, so it's all going to be completely brand new and really fun," reported agency.

Conservation of water, environment part of India's cultural consciousness: PM Modi

He was virtually speaking at a programme marking the launch of the 'Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari' initiative in Surat, a step aimed at strengthening community involvement in water conservation.

SURAT, Sep 6 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday called the conservation of water and environment a part of India's cultural consciousness, pitching for the "reduce, reuse, recharge and recycle" mantra to save water.

He was virtually speaking at a programme marking the launch of the 'Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari' initiative in Surat, a step aimed at strengthening community involvement in water conservation.

"For water conservation, we have to work on the mantra of 'reduce, reuse, recharge and recycle'. We also need to adopt innovative techniques and the



latest technology to conserve water," said the PM.

PM Modi said India has just four per cent of freshwater

resources, and many parts of the country face a water crisis.

"In the last few days, various parts of India have seen rain fury, which was unprecedented," said the PM.

Stressing the need to save water, he said water and environment conservation is part of India's cultural consciousness.

The Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari initiative aligns with the ongoing 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain' campaign, reinforcing Modi's vision of collaborative water management to ensure long-term water security, according to an official statement.

"India's peace cannot be disturbed under any circumstances," says Defence Minister Rajnath Singh



LUCKNOW, Sep 6 (Agencies): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday responded to his earlier statement that "Armed Forces need to be prepared for war". The Defence Minister said that he gave that statement so that India's peace cannot be disturbed under any circumstances.

Highlighting India's message of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', Singh said that India has always advocated for peace but keeping in mind the today's geopolitical situation, India always needs to prepare for war to establish peace in India and world.

Speaking to media persons, Rajnath Singh said, "India is the only country in the world that has given the message of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. India has always advocated for peace and it will always. But today given the geo-

political situation, I told the army that to maintain peace in India and the world, we should always be ready for war. I said so that India's peace is not disturbed under any circumstances."

During his Lucknow visit, Union Minister Rajnath Singh also offered prayers at Khatu Shyam Mandir in the city.

On September 5, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh chaired the inaugural Joint Commanders' Conference (JCC) in Lucknow, emphasising the need for jointness and integration among the three services for future challenges.

He commended the Armed Forces for their invaluable contribution in safeguarding national interests and advancing the vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', and appreciated the efforts being undertaken for furthering jointness and

integration among the three Services.

In line with the theme of the conference, 'Sashakt aur Surakshit Bharat : Transforming the Armed Forces', Singh stated that India is a peaceloving nation and the Armed Forces need to be prepared for war in order to preserve peace.

He stressed upon the significance of evolving joint military vision and preparing for the type of challenges the country may face in future wars, while emphasising on synergised, swift and proportionate response to provocations.

Referring to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Hamas conflicts and the current situation in Bangladesh, the Defence Minister exhorted the Commanders to analyse these episodes, predict the problems that the country may face in the future, and stay prepared to deal with the "unexpected".

He emphasised on the need of a broader & deeper analysis by the top military leadership in view of the situation along the Northern border and the happenings in neighbouring countries, which are posing a challenge to peace & stability in the region.

SC dismisses RG Kar ex-principal's plea challenging HC order

NEW DELHI, Sep 6 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed a plea filed by former principal of Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital Sandip Ghosh challenging the Calcutta High Court order dismissing his plea to be added as a party to a petition alleging financial irregularities at the institute during his tenure.

On August 23, the high court ordered the transfer of the probe into the

alleged financial irregularities from a state-constituted Special Investigation Team (SIT) to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said as an accused Ghosh has no locus to impleaded in the plea.

"As an accused you have no locus to intervene in the PIL, where the Calcutta high court is monitoring the investigation," the bench said.

The murder and alleged rape of a junior doctor at the state-run hospital has sparked nationwide protests.

The medic's body with severe injury marks was found in the seminar hall of the hospital's chest department on August 9.

A civic volunteer was arrested by the Kolkata Police in connection with the case the following day.

The high court's August 23 order had come on a petition by former deputy



superintendent of the facility, Akhtar Ali, who had requested a probe by the Enforcement Directorate into alleged financial misconduct at the hospital during the

tenure of Ghosh.

The high court had also dismissed Ghosh's plea to be added as a party in the petition, holding that he was not a "necessary party" in the matter.

Major fire breaks out at Mumbai's Lower Parel commercial building

MUMBAI, Sep 6 (Agencies): The operation to douse the blaze at a commercial building in Mumbai has been going on for more than two hours after a fire erupted there on Friday morning, civic officials said.

There are no reports of any injury in the fire that broke out at the Times Tower building in the Kamala Mills compound of the Lower Parel area around 6.30 am, the officials said.

The authorities had initially said that the commercial building had seven floors. They later updated the information, calling it a 14-storey structure.

The level 2 (major) fire is confined to an electric duct between the third and seventh floors on the rear side of the building with a glass facade, a civic official said.

Firefighters used "chisel and hammer" to break the locks on the doors and enter the commercial building to battle the fire, he said.

Eight fire engines and other firefighting vehicles were sent to the spot, an official had said earlier.

The Kamala Mills compound, which has witnessed many major fires, is located next to the Parkside residential building.



Parkside residents said it was a "terrifying experience" to see plumes of flame and smoke rising close to their homes.

According to the residents, their security staff tried to control the blaze with their building's firefighting equipment before firemen arrived at the scene.

"Our emergency team used our hose pipes before the fire brigade could reach the spot," claimed one of the residents.

SC issues notice to Centre on RJD's plea against Patna HC verdict setting aside raise in quota limit

NEW DELHI, Sep 6 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Friday sought responses from the Centre and the state government on a plea of Rashtriya Janata Dal against a Patna High Court order setting aside the amended reservation laws in Bihar that had led to raising of quotas for Dalits, tribals and backward classes from 50 per cent to 65 per cent.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, Justice J B Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra took note of the submissions of senior advocate P. Wilson, appearing for RJD, that the plea needed to be decided.

"Issue notice and tag with the pending pleas," the CJ said.

On July 29, the top



court, while hearing other similar 10 pleas, had refused to stay the high court order that set aside the amended reservation laws in Bihar that enabled the Nitish Kumar government to raise quotas 50 per cent to 65 per cent.

The bench, however, had agreed to hear the petitions of the Bihar government against the verdict.

The state government has also moved the top court against the high court judgement.

In its June 20 verdict, the high court declared that the amendments, passed unanimously by the state's bicameral legislature in November last year, were "ultra vires" of the Constitution, "bad in law" and "violative of the equality clause".

A division bench of the high court had allowed a bunch of petitions challenging the Bihar Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services (for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes) (Amendment) Act, 2023 and the Bihar (in admission in educational institutions) Reservation (Amendment) Act, 2023, while "leaving the parties to suffer their respective costs".

In a detailed judgement running up to 87 pages, the high court had made it clear that it saw "no extenuating circumstance enabling the state to breach" the 50-per cent cap on reservations laid down by the Supreme Court in the Indra Sawhney case.

"The state proceeded on the mere propor-

tion of the population of different categories as against their numerical representation in government services and educational institutions," the high court had pointed out.

The amendments had followed a caste survey, which put the percentage of Other Backward Classes (OBC) and Extremely Backward Classes (EBC) at a staggering 63 per cent of the state's total population, while the SCs and STs were stated to have accounted for more than 21 per cent.

The exercise was undertaken by the Bihar government after the Centre expressed its inability to carry out a fresh head count of castes other than the SCs and STs, which was last held as part of the 1931 Census.

In major administrative rejig, Rajasthan government transfers over 100 IAS officers

JAIPUR, Sep 6 (Agencies): The Rajasthan government has transferred more than 100 IAS officers, including the divisional commissioners of Jaipur and Banswara, in a major administrative reshuffle.

According to a personnel department order late on Thursday, 96 Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers were transferred while 10 awaiting orders have got a new posting.

Additional Chief Secretary (Finance) Akhil Arora and Principal Secretary (Home) Anand Kumar, however, have retained their positions.

Arora was also the additional chief secretary in the finance department during the previous Congress gov-

ernment. Kumar has been in the home department since 2022.

Among those transferred in the reshuffle are the divisional commissioners of Jaipur and Banswara, besides the collectors of 13 districts, including Jaipur.

Shubhra Singh, who was posted as additional chief secretary (health), will take over as roadways chairperson.

There had been discussions about replacing her for a long time.

Gayatri A Rathore has been transferred from the tourism department and will take charge as principal secretary in the health department.

Bhaskar Sawant will be the principal secre-



tary of the public health engineering department.

Samit Sharma has been transferred to the animal husbandry department.

Shreya Guha, the additional chief secretary in the transport department, has been transferred to the rural development department.

Vaibhav Galaria, who

was the principal secretary in the agriculture department, will take charge as the principal secretary in the urban development and housing department.

He replaces T Ravikant, who has been posted as principal secretary in the mines and petroleum department.

Bhanu Prakash Eтуру, the chairperson of all three power companies

in the state, will take over as secretary in the tribal development department.

He has been replaced by Aarti Dogra as the discoms chief.

Dogra was posted in the Chief Minister's Office during the previous Ashok Gehlot dispensation.

Neeraj K Pawan, the Banswara divisional commissioner, has been appointed as administrative secretary in the sports department.

Rashmi Gupta will take charge as Jaipur divisional commissioner in place of Aarushi Ajay Malik.

Jitendra Soni, the new Jaipur collector, was given additional charges as collector of Dudu and Jaipur Rural.

Pollution in Ganga: SC stays NGT order directing criminal prosecution of Uttarakhand government officials



NEW DELHI, Sep 6 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Friday stayed an order of the National Green Tribunal directing criminal prosecution and punitive action against Uttarakhand government officials for failure to prevent the discharge of untreated sewage into the Ganga.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and

Sanjay Kumar issued notice to the Centre and posted the matter for hearing in the second week of December.

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) on February 9 had deprecated the Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board for remaining a "silent spectator" and not taking proper action to prevent the discharge of untreated sewage into

the Ganga. In a 151-page order, the tribunal had directed the Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board (UKPCB) to take punitive action against responsible government officers and heads of departments by initiating criminal proceedings against them.

"The UKPCB shall also recover Environmental Compensation (EC) for the past violation and will compute and impose environmental compensation for future violations. It shall submit a compliance report within two months," it had said.

17 children die after fire rips through primary school hostel in Kenya

The blaze in Nyeri county's Hillside Enderasha Academy broke out at around midnight, police said, engulfing rooms where the children were sleeping.

NAIROBI, Sep 6 (Agencies): At least 17 children died after a fire ripped through their primary school dormitory overnight in central Kenya, police said Friday.

The blaze in Nyeri county's Hillside Enderasha Academy broke out at around midnight, police said, engulfing rooms where the children were sleeping.

The primary school caters to some 800 pupils, aged between roughly five and 12.

"There are 17 fatalities from this incident and there are also others who were taken to hospital with serious injuries," national police spokesperson Resila Onyango told agency.

"The bodies recovered at the scene were burnt beyond recognition," she said.

Police said the average age of the victims was around nine years old.

Several others were injured, Onyango said, 16 of them seriously, and had been rushed to



a nearby hospital.

"More bodies are likely to be recovered once (the) scene is fully processed," she said.

The cause of the fire remains unknown, she said, but an investigation had been launched.

President William Ruto expressed his condolences for those killed.

"Our thoughts are with the families of the children who have lost their lives in the fire

tragedy," he said in a post on X.

"This is devastating news."

He said he had instructed officials to "thoroughly investigate this horrific incident", and promised that those responsible will be "held to account".

The school is located around 170 kilometres (100 miles) north of the capital Nairobi, in Nyeri county.

The Kenyan Red Cross said it was on the ground assisting

a multi-agency response team.

In a post on X, it said it was "providing psychosocial support services to the pupils, teachers and affected families".

Deadly blazes

There have been numerous school fires in Kenya and across East Africa.

In 2016, nine students were killed by a fire at a girls' high school in the Kibera neighbourhood of Nairobi.

In 2001, 67 pupils were killed by an arson attack on their dormitory at the Kyanguli Mixed Secondary School David Mutiso in Kenya's southern Machakos district.

Two pupils were charged with the murder, and the headmaster and deputy of the school were convicted of negligence.

In 1994, 40 school children were burned alive and 47 injured in a fire that ravaged the Shauritanga Secondary School for Girls in the northern region of Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.

Myanmar armed group says 11 civilians killed in junta air strikes

BANGKOK, Sep 6 (Agencies): Myanmar military air strikes in northern Shan state killed 11 civilians and wounded 11 more, a spokeswoman for an ethnic minority armed group battling the junta told agency on Friday.

The junta is battling widespread armed opposition to its 2021 coup and its soldiers are accused of bloody rampages and using air and artillery strikes to punish civilian communities.

"They bombed at two areas in Namhkam" town on Friday around 1:00 am local time (1830 GMT), Lway Yay Oo of the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) said.

The strikes killed 11 and wounded 11, she said, adding that the office of a local political party had been damaged.

The dead were five men, four women and two children, she said.

Namhkam is around five kilometres (three miles) from the border with China's Yunnan province, with TNLA fighters claiming control of the town following weeks of fighting last year.

Images on social media showed people sifting through rubble and carrying a young person who appeared to be wounded.

One video showed several destroyed buildings. Agency reporters geolocated that video to a site in Namhkam and said it had not appeared online before. Agency was unable to reach a junta

spokesman for comment.

Since last year the military has lost swaths of territory near the border with China in northern Shan state to an alliance of armed ethnic minority groups and "People's Defence Forces" battling to overturn its coup.

The groups have seized a regional military command and taken control of lucrative border trade crossings, prompting rare public criticism by military supporters of the junta's top leadership.

Earlier this week junta chief Min Aung Hlaing warned civilians in territory held by ethnic minority armed groups to prepare for military counterattacks, state media reported.

The junta also announced this week that it had declared the TNLA a "terrorist" organisation.

Those found supporting or contacting the TNLA and two other ethnic minority armed groups, the Arakan Army (AA), Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), can now face legal action.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the military deposed Aung San Suu Kyi's government in 2021 and launched a crackdown that sparked an armed uprising.

Conflict since the coup has forced more than 2.7 million people to flee their homes, according to the United Nations.

UN-backed experts seek wider arms embargo, 'impartial force' deployed to Sudan

GENEVA, Sep 6 (Agencies): U.N.-backed human rights investigators on Friday urged the creation of an "independent and impartial force" to protect civilians in Sudan's war, blaming both sides for war crimes including murder, mutilation and torture and warning that foreign governments that arm and finance them could be complicit.

The fact-finding team, in their first report since being created by the U.N.'s main human rights body last October, also accused the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, which are fighting Sudan's army, and its allies of crimes against humanity including rape, sexual slavery and persecution on ethnic or gender grounds.

The experts called for an expansion of an arms embargo on Sudan's long-respective western Darfur region to the entire country. The findings from the team mandated by the 47-country Human Rights Council come as more than 10 million people have been driven from their homes — including over 2 million to neighboring countries — and famine has broken out in one large camp for displaced people in Darfur. The conflict that erupted in April last year has killed untold thousands of people, and humanitarian groups are struggling to gain access to people in need. In December, the U.N. Security Council voted to end the world body's political mission in the country under pressure from the military leadership.

While the killings, displacements and forced starvation have been long known, the call for creation of an independent force marks the latest sign of desperation from rights advocates both

within the country and abroad to halt the bloodshed, displacement and food crisis. "Given the failure of the parties to protect civilians so far, the fact-finding mission recommends the deployment of an independent and impartial force with a mandate to protect civilians in Sudan," the team's report said.

The experts did not specify what might make up that force, nor did they say which countries might be complicit in the crimes through their backing of rival sides. Sudan's military has accused the United Arab Emirates of supporting the RSF, a claim the Gulf country has denied.

Neighboring Egypt is among the backers of Sudan's armed forces.

"The fact-finding mission considers that fighting will stop once the arms flow stops," the report said. It called for an immediate end to funneling weapons, ammunition and other support to any side, "as there is a risk that those supplying arms may be complicit in grave violations of human rights and humanitarian law." The experts focused on a period from January and August this year. They visited three neighboring countries and took testimonies from over 180 survivors, relatives and witnesses to the conflict that now has spread to 14 of Sudan's 18 states.

Earlier this month, talks in Geneva convened by the United States, Switzerland and Saudi Arabia made some headway in getting aid into Sudan, but mediators lamented the lack of participation of Sudan's armed forces. Egypt, the UAE, the African Union and the United Nations were also involved in the talks.

Israeli forces appear to withdraw from a West Bank camp after a major military operation

JENIN REFUGEE CAMP, Sep 6 (Agencies): Israeli forces appeared Friday to have withdrawn from the Jenin refugee camp in the occupied West Bank, after a more-than week-long military operation that has left dozens dead and a trail of destruction.

Overnight, Israeli armored personnel carriers were seen leaving the camp from a checkpoint set up on one of the main roads, and an Associated Press reporter inside the camp saw no evidence of any remaining troops inside as dawn broke early Friday morning.

Israel's military had no immediate comment but said it would issue a statement later in the day. It was not clear whether the apparent withdrawal was only a temporary measure to regroup forces.

Hundreds of Israeli troops have been involved for more than a week in what has been their deadliest operation in the occupied West Bank since the Israel-Hamas war began, employing what the United Nations called "lethal war-like tactics."

Their focus has been the Jenin refugee camp, a stronghold of Palestinian militancy that has grown since the Hamas attack on Israel that started the war in Gaza nearly 11 months ago. Fighting in Jenin accounts for



21 of 39 Palestinians who local health officials say have been killed during the Israeli push in the West Bank — most of whom, the military says, have been militants.

The fighting has had a devastating effect on Palestinian civilians living in Jenin.

Water and electric services have been cut, families have been confined to their homes and ambulances evacuating the wounded have been slowed on their way to nearby hospitals, as Israeli soldiers search for militants.

In the quiet morning Friday, Jenin residents took advantage of the lull to rummage through the rubble of destroyed buildings and take stock of the damage.

Twisted rebar protruded from the concrete of collapsed buildings, and walls still standing

were pockmarked by bullets and shrapnel.

During the operation, Israeli military officials said they were targeting militants in Jenin, Tulkarem and the Al-Faraa refugee camp curb recent attacks against Israeli civilians they say have become more sophisticated and deadly.

It was not immediately clear whether they were removing troops from the other two camps as well.

The war in Gaza began when Hamas and other militants staged a surprise attack on Israel on Oct. 7, killing around 1,200 people, primarily civilians. Hamas is believed to still be holding more than 100 hostages. Israeli authorities estimate about a third are dead.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed more than 40,000 Palestinians, according to the

Health Ministry in Hamas-controlled Gaza, which doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants in its count. The ministry reports that more than 94,000 more have been wounded since the start of the war.

Israel has been under increasing pressure from the United States and other allies to reach a cease-fire deal in Gaza, but Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insists on a demand that has emerged as a major sticking point in talks — continued Israeli control of the Philadelphi corridor, a narrow band along Gaza's border with Egypt where Israel contends Hamas smuggles weapons into Gaza. Egypt and Hamas deny it.

Hamas has accused Israel of dragging out months of negotiations by issuing new demands, including for lasting Israeli control over both Philadelphi corridor and a second corridor running across Gaza.

Hamas has offered to release all hostages in return for an end to the war, the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces and the release of a large number of Palestinian prisoners, including high-profile militants — broadly the terms called for under an outline for a deal put forward by U.S. President Joe Biden in July.

Zelenskyy meets top military leaders in Germany as the US announces additional aid to Ukraine

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Sep 6 (Agencies): Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy met Friday with top United States military leaders and more than 50 partner nations in Germany to press for more weapons support as Washington announced it would provide another \$250 million in security assistance to Kyiv.

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said the meeting of the leaders was taking place during a dynamic moment in Ukraine's fight against Russia, as it conducts its first offensive operations of the war while facing a significant threat from Russian forces near a key hub in the Donbas.

So far the surprise assault inside Russia's Kursk territory has not

drawn away President Vladimir Putin's focus from taking the Ukrainian city of Pokrovsk, which provides critical rail and supply links for the Ukrainian army. Losing Pokrovsk could put additional Ukrainian cities at risk.

While Kursk has put Russia on the defensive, "we know Putin's malice runs deep," Austin cautioned in prepared remarks to the media before the Ukraine Defense Contact Group met. Moscow is pressing on, especially around Pokrovsk, Austin said.

Recent deadly airstrikes by Russia have renewed Zelenskyy's calls for the U.S. to further loosen restrictions and obtain even greater Western capabilities to strike deeper inside Russia. However,



er, the meeting Friday was expected to focus on resourcing more air defense and artillery supplies and shoring up gains on expanding Ukraine's own defense industrial base, to put it on more solid footing as the final days of Joe Biden's U.S. presidency wind down.

Zelenskyy said he would continue to press for the long-range strike capability. "Strong long-range decisions by partners are needed to bring the just peace we seek

closer," Zelenskyy said Friday on Telegram.

Western partner nations were working with Ukraine to source a substitute missile for its Soviet-era S-300 air defense systems, Austin said.

The U.S. is also focused on resourcing a variety of air-to-ground missiles that the newly delivered F-16 fighter jets can carry, including the Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile, which could give Ukraine a longer-range cruise

missile option, said Bill LaPlante, the Pentagon's top weapons buyer, who spoke to reporters traveling with Austin.

No decisions on the munition have been made, LaPlante said, noting that policymakers would still have to decide whether to give Ukraine the longer-range capability.

"I would just put JASSM in that category, it's something that is always being looked at," LaPlante said. "Anything that's an air-to-ground weapon is always being looked at."

For the past two years, members of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group have met to resource Ukraine's mammoth artillery and air defense needs, ranging from hundreds of millions of rounds of small arms

ammunition to some of the West's most sophisticated air defense systems, and now fighter jets.

The ask this month was more of the same — but different in that it was in person, and followed a similar in-person visit Thursday in Kyiv by Biden's Deputy National Security Advisor Jon Finer as Zelenskyy shores up U.S. support before the administration changes.

Since 2022, the member nations together have provided about \$106 billion in security assistance to Ukraine. The U.S. has provided more than \$56 billion of that total.

The German government said Chancellor Olaf Scholz plans to meet Zelenskyy in Frankfurt on Friday afternoon.

Telegram CEO makes first public comments since French authorities targeted him



PARIS, Sep 6 (Agencies): Telegram founder and CEO Pavel Durov is promising stepped-up efforts to fight criminality on the messaging app, his first public comments since French authorities handed him preliminary charges for allegedly allowing the platform's use for criminal activity.

In a Telegram post, Durov defended himself against the French judicial investigation, suggesting that he personally shouldn't have been targeted.

"Using laws from the pre-smartphone era

to charge a CEO with crimes committed by third parties on the platform he manages is a misguided approach," the post said. "Building technology is hard enough as it is. No innovator will ever build new tools if they know they can be personally held responsible for potential abuse of those tools."

While insisting that Telegram is not "some sort of anarchic paradise," Durov said surging numbers of Telegram users "caused growing pains that made it easier for criminals to abuse our platform."

"That's why I made it my personal goal to ensure we significantly improve things in this regard. We've already started that process internally, and I will share more details on our progress with you very soon," he said.

SPPND GDC Samba organizes nutritious culinary event commemorating Rashtriya Poshan Saptah

Top News Report

SAMBA, Sep 6: To celebrate Rashtriya Poshan Saptah, the Ananda Happiness Centre, in collaboration with the Department of Home Science, organized an Intra College Cooking and Salad Making Competition on the theme "Swaad, Sehat aur Khushiyon ka Sangam."

This exciting event was held to promote healthy eating habits and highlight the importance of nutrition among students under the supervision of Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri, Principal of the college.

A total of 18 dishes were



prepared by the participants, which included 11 nutritious snacks and 7 refreshing salads.

The competition provided a platform for students to showcase their culinary skills while emphasizing the significance of combining taste, health and happiness in food

preparation.

The competition was divided into two categories: healthy snack making and salad making.

The creativity, presentation and nutritional value of each dish were judged by a panel of senior faculty of the col-

lege.

The winners of the Healthy Snack Making Competition were Prachi Sambyal for her delicious and nutritious Jowar Upma-1st Prize, Sonali Sharma for her innovative Stuffed Idlies-2nd Prize and Kasak Gupta for her classic and

healthy Dhokla-3rd Prize.

The winners of the Salad Making Competition were Kasak Gupta for her exquisite and vibrant salad 1st Prize, Kousar Bibi for her unique and flavorful salad 2nd Prize and Kamini for her refreshing and well-presented salad 3rd Prize.

The event was a grand success, highlighting the creativity and enthusiasm of the participants in creating nutritious and delightful dishes. The initiative aimed to encourage students to embrace healthy eating habits and understand the value of balanced nutrition in their daily lives.

Dimple leads protest demanding HM Shah to start Darbar Move this year, restore J&K state



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 6: Sunil Dimple, President of the Mission Statehood organization, led a protest rally in Janipur, emphasizing the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood and the implementation of the conditions set by the Instrument of Accession.

The rally, which featured hundreds of traders, called for several key actions from Home Minister Amit Shah. Dimple urged Home Minister Amit Shah to reinstate the Darbar Move this year, highlighting the economic difficulties traders are facing due to its suspension.

He called for a clear timeline on the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, stressing that this should be addressed in election rallies and the BJP manifesto.

Dimple emphasized the need to adhere to the conditions outlined in the Instrument of Accession. Debate on Jammu and Kashmir Issues: He extended an invitation to Home Minister Amit Shah for a debate on Jammu and Kashmir's issues and the decisions made on August 5, 2019, which led to the abrogation of Article 370.

Dimple pledged to continue the political and judicial struggle for the

restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, special status, Article 370, and the unification of Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh, and other regions, including PoK (Pakistan-administered Kashmir) and Gilgit-Baltistan.

The rally was supported by several prominent leaders, including Swarn Lal, Kala Singh, Arun Vema, Balu Kumar, Lohari Shaha, and Mohan Lal, among others. Their unified stance underscores the ongoing efforts to reinstate the region's former status and address grievances related to its governance and autonomy.

Hiked electricity tariffs, a disastrous step by J&K Govt: Sawhney



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 6: Former Minister J&K and ex-MLA Jammu East Yogesh Sawhney, in a statement on Friday, sharply criticized the Jammu and Kashmir government for increase in electricity tariff rates, calling it a "disastrous step" that exacerbates the financial strain on the common man. Amidst the many woes that people in Jammu are made to face, this served as another blow to their dreams and aspirations. These excessive tariff hikes come on top of the already contentious installation of smart meters, he said.

This move, according to Sawhney, demonstrates a blatant disregard for the economic hardship faced by small and medium businesses, as well as households across the Jammu region.

He added that the BJP at the centre and the

administration has never acted in the interests of the people of Jammu and it is very clear that the current regime is based on financial exploitation of the common people.

Speaking on the issue, the senior Congress leader explained that under the new tariff structure, the price for electricity has increased from Rs. 2.00 to Rs. 2.30 per unit for consumption up to 200 units. For consumption between 201 and 400 units, the rate has risen from Rs. 3.50 to Rs. 4.03 per unit.

Furthermore, for consumption above 400 units, the rate has been increased from Rs. 3.80 to Rs. 4.37 per unit.

Against the false promises of BJP, this is the harsh reality of Jammu today that people are struggling in every sense.

Sawhney decried these hikes as "shameful," emphasizing that they place an untenable

financial burden on residents already struggling under the weight of rising living costs and the additional expenses of smart meters.

The truth is that common people have nowhere to turn to, how will the middle class survive, said Sawhney.

"The administration's decision is a direct attack on the pockets of ordinary people and businesses in Jammu," Sawhney further stated. "With households and small enterprises already reeling from economic pressures, this tariff hike will only serve to deepen their plight. It is disgraceful that the government, instead of seeking ways to alleviate financial strain, chooses to impose more hardship. This action is a stark reminder of the administration's failure to prioritize the well-being of its citizens. It is high time to best interest of the people," he said.

FTII National President Dr. Sanjay Bansal meets Labour Commissioner to discuss issues

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 6: Dr. Sanjay Bansal, National President of the Federation of Trade and Industry of India (FTII) and a National Board Member of NTWB, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, held an important meeting with Charandeep Singh, Labour Commissioner, to address various issues concerning the labour department.

The meeting, which took place in a spirit of cooperation and progress, focused on resolving key matters affecting businesses and the labour community.

One of the major topics of discussion was the issue of the 'close day' regulation, which mandates businesses to remain closed on certain days.

Dr. Bansal raised concerns from the business community about the restrictions this regulation imposes, particularly for those who wish to operate without limitations.

In response, Labour Commissioner Charandeep Singh provided a positive outlook and assured that businesses would not face any difficulties in this regard. He further assured that



those business owners who wish to keep their shops open 24x7 will be granted the necessary permissions, offering greater flexibility to business operations across sectors.

The meeting concluded on a constructive note, with both parties expressing a commitment to ensuring that the labour department continues to support the growth and sustainability of businesses while maintaining fair labour practices.

The positive response from Shri Charandeep Singh has been welcomed by the FTII, as it paves the way for greater economic activity and employment opportunities.

Dr. Bansal expressed his gratitude for the Labour Commissioner's openness and willingness to address the concerns of the business community.

GDC Kathua organizes lecture on "Mental Health and Happiness"

Top News Report

KATHUA, Sep 6: The Department of English and the Department of Psychology, Government Degree College (GDC), Kathua under the able guidance of Principal Professor Seema Mir organized an informative lecture on "Mental Health and Happiness" in collaboration with 'The Art of Living Program,' a global educational and humanitarian organization on Friday.

The lecture aimed to promote mental well-being, stress management, and overall personal development among students, faculty and staff. A formal welcome address was delivered by Prof. Supreet Kour.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Seema Mir, Principal, GDC, Kathua laid stress on the need of good physical and mental health in today's fast-paced world where

stress and mental health are key concerns, especially for students. She also emphasized the growing importance of mental health in academic settings and overall physical well-being of an individual.

The key speakers for the event were Dr. Sulakshna Mengi, Chandini Arora, Anjani, Vinod Saini, and Dr. Anuja Jasrotia.

The lecture featured engaging sessions on breathing techniques, meditation, yoga, and mindfulness, offering participants tools to manage stress and anxiety while enhancing focus and productivity.

Led by expert instructors from The Art of Living, the lecture helped attendees experience relaxation and inner peace.

Participants expressed their enthusiasm for the workshop with a question and answer session and guidance on how to continue these practices

in daily life for long-term benefits.

A galaxy of senior faculty members, staff from various departments of the College and students attended the lecture with zeal.

NOTICE

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FROM PAGE 1

PM Modi, Amit Shah, Smriti Irani among 40 star campaigners for BJP in 2nd phase of J&K Assembly Polls

Article 370 led to the revocation of the State's special status and its bifurcation into two Union Territories in 2019.

Kharge, Sonia, Rahul, Priyanka on Congress's star campaigner list for J&K Assembly Polls

Centre if the Modi government fails to do so after the assembly polls.

Addressing rallies in the Dooru and Banihal assembly segments, Gandhi alleged that the lieutenant governor appointed by the Centre in Jammu and Kashmir was acting like a "21st-century king" and all benefits were being given to people from "outside" the UT.

The Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khera, social media department head Supriya Shrinete, Amethi MP Kishorilal Sharma, NSUI in-charge Kanhaiya Kumar and Indian Youth Congress chief Srinivas BV also figure on the list of star campaigners for the second phase of the polls.

The 90-member Jammu and Kashmir assembly will 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.

14 Kashmiri Pandits

file Nominations for JK elections, Six from Habba Kadal

Ashok Raina, Panaji Dembi, and Ashok Sahaib will fight as Independents.

Saraf, who has contested elections from the seat twice in the past, said his aim is to bridge the gap between communities and ensure the return of the community spread across the country, back to the valley.

"If I am elected as an MLA, I will work to ensure the return of KPs to the valley with respect, dignity, and security. This includes carving out places for them here. We should be ambassadors of peace," Saraf, contesting from his home constituency of Anantnag, told agency.

The six KPs in fray are banking on the support of the 25,000-strong migrant vote bank in Habba Kadal, traditionally, a National Conference stronghold.

Raman Mattoo, a KP, won the election in 2002 as an Independent candidate and became a minister in the Mufti Sayeed government.

In 2014, four KPs candidates contested from the seat, while in 2008, the number was a record 12. In the 2002 elections, out of 11 total, nine were KPs.

BJP's Vir Saraf, Apni Party's M K Yogi, and Dileep Pandita, an Independent, will seek election from Shangus-Anantnag segment. In all, 13 candidates are in fray from the segment.

Yogi, a former president of the powerful Martand temple committee and a former NC leader, alleged that no party has done anything for the Kashmiri Pandits.

"I will ensure that KPs are brought back through a return and rehabilitation policy. BJP did marketing and sold their pain but did nothing in the past 15 years," he told agency.

Other KPs in fray are — Rakesh Handoo from the Zadibal constituency in Srinagar, Dr Sanjay Parva from Beerwah constituency in Budgam, and Ramesh Wagnoo, an Independent, from Pampore.

Rosy Raina and Arun Raina are contesting as Republic Party of India and NCP candidates from Rajpora in Pulwama district.

Ashok Kumar Kachroo, the sole KP from Jammu, is contesting the election from Baderwah constituency as an All Alliance Democratic Party candidate.

Rosy Raina came to Kashmir five years ago and started working in South Kashmir after being elected as a Sarpanch.

"I have worked hard for the past five years as a Sarpanch. Because of my work, the youths are on my side. I am sure that I will win the election," she said.

"I want to create an environment where Kashmiri Pandits can move freely to any place without any fear," she said.

After unsuccessfully contesting the Lok Sabha polls from Baramulla and Anantnag, Arun Raina and Dileep Pandita are now contesting the Assembly polls from Rajpora in Pulwama district and Shangus-Anantnag.

Vikram Koul, head of KP volunteers, told agency, "We welcome the contest by community members. Political parties have even fielded them. We wish to see them in the Assembly."

He, however, added that the community has always had high hopes from political parties, but they did little for the community.

"For the past 30 years, the community lives as refugees in its own land. The return and rehabilitation policy was framed, but no government implemented it on the ground to take back over 3 lakh KPs to the valley and rehabilitate them," he said.

New Delhi wants to

silence me by fielding candidates from jails: Omar Abdullah

person (Sarjan Barkati) who is currently lodged in jail, has pronounced his wish to contest polls from Ganderbal seat. This struck my mind. A person who hails from Zainapora Shopian is wishing to contest polls where I'm contesting was surprised me. I smelled rat in it. When I discussed the matter with my party colleagues, we decided that I will contest from another seat (Beerwah, Budgam) but maintained to keep it hidden till nomination is filled. We made an announcement about this fact at the eleventh hour. We silently reached the office of Returning Officer where we completed formalities. Soon after I came to know another man lodged in jail has decided to contest polls from there. This is not a normal affair that people lodged in jails are being fielded against me in elections. It clearly shows that New Delhi doesn't want me to represent my people. They want to silence me, come what may," he said.

Addressing people, the NC vice president that he always talks about your emotions, snatched rights, respect, honour, dignity and feelings. "When I put my cap before you, I'm not talking of my cap because I consider your respect as my respect and dignity. If I am fighting with New Delhi, I'm not fighting it for myself, or my family, it is a fight for your rights which have been snatched in last five years. The conspiracies made by New Delhi will fail. I have full confidence on people of Ganderbal that you will use your votes wisely on polling day," Omar Abdullah said.

Police take cognisance

after family members share 'misinformation' on social media

format is not supported. He added that Noor Mohammad is involved in criminal activities like usury, extortion, kidnappings etc, posing a threat to public order and he has been detained under PSA due to multiple FIRs lodged against him by the public.

Rains lash parts of J&K, MeT predicts more till tomorrow

department official here told GNS that Srinagar received 4.2mm, Kupwara 3.9mm, Kokernag 5.6mm, Gulmarg 0.4mm, Jammu 4mm, Batote 1.1mm, Katra 4.8mm and Baderwah 4.0mm during 24 hours till 0830 a.m.

Regarding forecast, he said, generally cloudy weather with intermittent light to moderate rain or thundershower were expected at many places till forenoon of September 7.

From September 8-14, he said, generally dry weather with brief showers are expected at isolated places. "From September 15-16, fresh spells of rain and thundershower are expected mainly over Jammu Division and few places of Kashmir Division." In an advisory, the MeT said, thunderstorm, lightning, gusty winds, landslides, mudslides and shooting stones are expected over isolated places. Regarding minimum temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded as low of 18.0°C, Qazigund 13.6°C, Pahalgam 11.4°C, Kupwara 16.2°C, Kokernag 13.8°C, Gulmarg 11.2°C, Jammu 22.1°C, Banihal 16.6°C, Batote 16.6°C, Baderwah 14.6°C and Kathua 24.0°C.

BJP is only party that embraces all religions, classes: Priya Sethi

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 6: In a significant outreach program, BJP leaders visited the Namdhari Gurudwara at Ward No 19, Sant Market Jewel, Jammu.

The visit included paying obeisance and participating in a community engagement event.

The program was organized by Gurmeet Singh (Dimpy) and featured prominent figures such as Priya Sethi (former Minister), Chaman Kapoor (Mayor of Manali, Himachal Pradesh), and Braham Jyot Satti (State Incharge of BJP OBC Morcha).

The event saw the participation of several other BJP leaders including Anju Dogra (State Secretary of BJP), Savita Anand (District President of Mahila Morcha), Perveen Badyal (District Vice President of OBC), Subash Prajapati



(Senior Leader of BJP), Gulshan Prajapati (District Vice President of OBC), Madan Gopal Toni (Senior Leader of BJP), Rajesh Dogra (Mandal Vice President), Sardar Subedar Singh (Shakti Kendra Parmukh), Sardar Harjeet Singh (Shakti Kendra Parmukh), Chaman Angral (Mandal President of SC Morcha), and Swarn Singh (Ward President).

The program commenced with paying obeisance and joining the Satsang at the Gurudwara. Following this, the BJP leaders interacted with prominent Naamdhari figures and local resi-

dents, reassuring them of the party's commitment to public interests.

Priya Sethi underscored that the BJP is the only political party dedicated to addressing the needs of the public and voicing the concerns of Jammu.

Addressing the gathering, Priya Sethi reflected on the historical context of Jammu and Kashmir, noting the significant changes since 2014. She highlighted that while the region was plagued by terrorism a decade ago, the situation has improved dramatically under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. Sethi emphasized

that the BJP's ideology caters to all segments of society, contrasting it with other parties that focus on specific regions or classes.

She pointed out that many parties are making false promises to the public, whereas the BJP is committed to delivering on its promises and fulfilling basic needs. Sethi stressed that the BJP's inclusive approach sets it apart from others.

Chaman Kapoor elaborated on various schemes for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) run by the Central Government, urging the community to take advantage of these benefits. He praised the BJP's vision and its role in implementing major infrastructure projects like highways, ring roads, and railways, attributing these achievements to the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Braham Jyot Satti provided insights into beneficial schemes available for the needy, encouraging the public to utilize these resources. He stressed the power of the vote and endorsed the BJP as the party best suited to protect Hindu interests against international threats. Satti highlighted the efforts of the BJP OBC Morcha in organizing social tasks and serving humanity throughout Jammu and Kashmir, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted that while other parties were inactive, the BJP worked diligently on the ground to support the community during this challenging time.

The outreach program served as a platform for BJP leaders to reinforce their commitment to inclusive development and their proactive approach to addressing public needs.

Mahindra & Mahindra launches new range of CPCB 4+ Diesel Generators in Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 6: Mahindra Powerol Authorised GSP Power Projects today launched its CPCB 4+ Diesel Genset at Hotel Inn Riviera, Jammu, J&K. The product is also available for showcasing to customers.

CPCB 4+ Gensets are manufactured at GSP Power Projects' state of the art plant at Bari Brahmana, Jammu & Faridabad from 10KVA to 320KVA.

These Engines are designed at its R&D hub at Mahindra Research Valley in Chennai and manufactured at its plant at Pune and Nagpur. This new range of CPCB 4+ (10VA-320KVA) is the latest addition to Mahindra Powerol which is compliant to latest emission norms declared by Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change. These Gensets come equipped with the technologically advanced CRDI engines.

The CRDI engines are powered with superior & advanced Common Rail Diesel Engine (CRDe) technology. CRDe technology is future ready and best known for heavy



duty performance and fuel efficiency. It significantly reduces pollution by going beyond the standard emission norms.

CPCB 4+ norms are targeted to reduce the emissions by 90% of pollutants such as nitrogen oxides (NOx), particulate matter (PM), and hydrocarbons (HC). It is Eco-friendly & cleaner, benefits for health, advance technology, fuel efficient & cost savings to customers.

Today's launch marks the foray into the CPCB 4+ Diesel generators. It is Mahindra's constant endeavour to offer advanced and accessible technologies to the consumers, the all-new range of 10KVA-320KVA DGs with latest technology bears testimony to this philosophy. This future ready technology is set to deliver lesser emissions

and higher performance at a lower operating cost, thereby raising the bar in customer centricity.

Mahindra Powerol DG sets are supported by the widest service network in India. The network is very well equipped to provide immediate support to the customer. The team of experts can help to choose the most optimal and well-suited solution to help the customer in the least time possible

From Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., DGM-Sales - Alok Kumar Maurya, state Manager J&K - Mukesh Malhotra, Manager Govt Sales-Arun Kumar Choudhary & from GOEM-, GSP Power Projects, Jammu, J&K, Director-Swapan Grower, GSP Jammu Plant Head-Sanjay Upadhyay and Sales Manager- Satveer Singh were also present during the event.

Panthak Ekta Morcha projects issues for Sikh community ahead of Assembly Elections

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 6: In response to the announcement of upcoming Assembly elections in the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir, the Panthak Ekta Morcha (J&K), a coalition of various Sikh social organizations including Akal Purakh ki Fauz, Guru Granth Sahib Study Circle, Jammu, Supreme Sikh Organization, and several Sikh Youth Sabhas, convened a meeting on September 5, 2024.

Following this meeting, a press conference was held on Friday, to address several critical issues affecting the Sikh community, which is a minority group in the UT of J&K.

The Panthak Ekta Morcha demands the full implementation of the recommendations made by the Central Parliamen-



tary Committee of the All Party Delegation, led by Hon'ble Sh. Venkaiah Naidu (Ex-Vice President of India) in 2012. These recommendations pertain to the displaced persons of 1947.

The coalition calls for the allocation of 8 out of 24 seats reserved for PoK refugees to the displaced persons of 1947, ensuring a fair share for the Minority Sikh Community based on their population in the UT.

The Panthak Ekta Morcha seeks parity in

benefits for Kashmiri Sikh migrants with those provided to Kashmiri Pandits. This includes recruitment under the PMRY scheme, residential quarters, and reservations in educational institutions. The organization stresses that benefits should not be determined on a communal basis.

The community demands that the Anand Marriage Act be fully implemented in the UT of J&K. The current provisions are deemed insufficient, with only a regis-

tering authority appointed and no comprehensive rules enacted. The Sikh community seeks the promulgation of a complete Act and corresponding rules.

The Morcha called for the Ansari Commission Report on the anti-Sikh riots of 1989 in Jammu and other areas to be tabled in the upcoming Assembly session. They urge that the report be made public, its recommendations be implemented, and compensation be granted to the victim families.

The coalition demands that Punjabi be reinstated as an official language of the UT of J&K, a status it held before 1986. They also request the appointment of Punjabi teachers in government schools from the primary level.

The Panthak Ekta Morcha opposes the screening of the film

"Emergency," directed by Kangana Ranaut, in any cinema hall within the UT. They warn of strong protests if the film is screened.

The Morcha has decided to support Varinder Singh (Sonu), the PDP candidate from Bahu Constituency, in the forthcoming Assembly elections. They encourage Sikh voters in the constituency to support this candidate.

Sikh voters are advised to cast their votes for candidates who commit to addressing the aforementioned issues in the new Assembly and working for the Sikh community's welfare.

The Panthak Ekta Morcha aims to ensure that these critical issues are addressed by the elected representatives to foster greater equity and support for the Sikh community in Jammu and Kashmir.

BLSKS concludes National Nutrition Week with musical play "Poshan"



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 6: In celebration of National Nutrition Week 2024, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sanshan (BLSKS), in coordination with Sangam Tru Art Production, staged its 456th Friday Series Musical, "Poshan," at the Rehearsal Hall, Durga Bhawan, Janipur, Jammu. The theme for this year's observance is "Nutritious Diets for Everyone."

The musical play, written, produced, and directed by Dr. M.L. Dogra, former Regional Director of the Song and Drama Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, featured music composed by Raju Bajgal, Music Instructor at BLSKS. The event was inaugurated by V.K. Magotra, Former Regional Director of the Directorate of Field Publicity, Government of India. Other distinguished guests included Dr. Tara Singh Charak, Former Deputy Director of the Health Department, J&K Government; Romesh

Chander, Event Director at Shashvat Art Gallery; Dr. Anju Dogra from the J&K Health Department; and Mukesh Singh, Media Person, Jammu.

The program opened with a series of songs such as "Dhuud Maa Ka Bache Ko Pilayo," "Sun Sun Sehali Meri Sun," "Postik Khane Se Sab Bimari Bagjati Hai," and "Shud Khana Sabne Khana Chahida," performed by renowned BLSKS artists. The Chief Guest highlighted that nutrition is a crucial global health issue and emphasized the correlation between economic prosperity and food production. He acknowledged that malnutrition persists in both developed and developing countries, affecting various socio-economic groups. He advocated for the staging of similar plays across the state to enhance cultural awareness and inspire future generations to preserve the nation's composite culture.

Dr. M.L. Dogra, Chairman of BLSKS, spoke

about the significance of National Nutrition Week, celebrated annually from September 1 to 7. He underscored the importance of a balanced diet in promoting health and preventing illness, aligning with this year's theme of "Feeding Smart Right from Start." The government's initiative includes seminars and camps aimed at educating citizens on the benefits of proper nutrition from birth.

Usha Raina, Guru/Troupe Leader at BLSKS, discussed the United Nations' sustainable development goals related to nutrition, stressing the importance of balanced diets across different life stages. She noted the growing consumption of high-energy, fatty foods and the need for more fruits, vegetables, and whole grains in diets.

The musical play featured captivating performances by Rajni Gupta, Chahat Chadha, Sant Dass, Sanjeev Kumar, Sudesh Manhas, and students from the Music and Computer Institute. Master Deepak Kumar delivered the vote of thanks, marking the successful conclusion of the program.

The event was recorded and uploaded online to reach a broader audience, furthering the campaign's impact on nutritional awareness.

Aryans to organize Blood Donation Camp on Sep 9

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 6: The Blood Donation camp would be organized with the support Rajindra Hospital, Patiala at Aryans Institute of Nursing & Aryans College of Pharmacy, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh on September 9, 2024.

Dr. Harjinder Singh Bedi ADC (D), Patiala would inaugurate this drive.

The team including Doctors, Nurses and Technicians will conduct a thorough medical checkup of voluntary & eligible donors to donate blood. Medical guidance & prescription will be given to the students, parents, faculty members & local residents of nearby villages. The donors will also be given certificates and donor cards along with refreshments.

Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group while motivating the students said that Aryans Group is organizing blood donation & free health camp since last 18 years under its Corporate Social Responsibility. Kataria said that person can save 3 lives from 1 unit blood and these camps not only provide blood to the blood banks but also are a great boon to the thalassemia and leukemia patients who need blood infusions frequently.

Kamlesh Rani, Principal, Aryans Institute of Nursing said that such camps will kindle a spirit of social service in the students and community. While the free health checkup camp would help the local people to get their free checkup done and knowledge about their personal hygiene, care, medication etc.

Army holds painting competition Government School Sohal

Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Sep 6: The Indian Army, known for its unwavering dedication to the nation, celebrated Teacher's Day with a unique initiative aimed at promoting creativity and recognizing the importance of education.

A painting competition was organized by the Indian Army in Government school Sohal, Pallanwala, giving students a platform to express their thoughts on the role of teachers in shaping society. The event saw enthusiastic participation from children of different classes, with students showcasing their artistic skills.

The competition aimed to honour the crucial role that teachers play in nurturing young minds, much like how soldiers safeguard the country's future. It also encouraged students to think creatively and express their gratitude through art. The Indian Army remains committed to not only protecting the nation's borders but also fostering a sense of unity, patriotism, and creativity among the younger generation through such initiatives.

Dr Raina flags off Paidal Yatra to Vishno Devi

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 6: Prof. Narinder Singh Raina, MLA candidate of BJP from R.S Pura Constituency, flagged off Mata Vaishno Devi Paidal Yatra from Lalyal area of his Assembly constituency RS Pura Jammu South to the holy town of Katra. Hundreds of devotees chanting Bhajans, carried the Jyot in the form of procession with locals showering flowers, petals. Devotees from different areas of Lalyal and adjoining areas participated in the Yatra and will take blessings of Mata Vaishno Devi.

While flagging off the pilgrims, Prof. Narinder Singh wishing the yatra to be the harbinger of peace and tranquility and said that such pilgrimage help in fostering amity and brotherhood between various segments of the society in true spirit of pluralistic ethos of Jammu



and Kashmir. He hoped that the pilgrimage will culminate, after journey with religious fervour.

The pilgrimage will trek 72Kms from Lalyal area of R.S Pura and Jammu South Constituency on foot and reach the shrine. Various religious and social personalities were present during the flag off ceremony.

Geetu Aulakh, Sonam Aulakh, Ashoak Khauria and Team of Mahila Morcha Deppti Rawat National General Secretary Mahila

Morcha, Apoorva Singh National Vice President Mahila Morcha, Surekaji, Mitasharmaji, Dr Anju, Divya Jain, Rekha Mahajan.

Prof Raina took the blessings of Maa Vainho Devi for the upcoming assembly elections, later on in the day he took door to door campaign to areas of Gadigarh, starting from Kalika Mandir, Ajit Nagar. Later they had a meeting with Mahila Morcha Team of R S Pura and have public meeting with public of Jevan Nagar, Karan Bagh and Shiv Nagar.

This year four yogas are being formed on Ganesh Chaturthi: Amit Shukla

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 6: Ganesh Chaturthi, the festival dedicated to Lord Ganesha, is celebrated with great fervor as it marks the birth of the deity known for bestowing wisdom and removing obstacles. This year, the festival begins on Saturday, September 7, 2024, and will continue for ten days until the immersion of Ganesha idols on September 17, 2024. Vedic Acharya Amit Shukla highlights that this year's Ganesh Chaturthi is particularly significant due to the formation of four auspicious yogas: Brahma Yoga, Ravi Yoga, Indra Yoga, and Sarvartha Siddhi Yoga.

According to Acharya Shukla, Ganesh Chaturthi rituals start in the afternoon, with worship times set from 6:30 AM to 2:30 PM. Although the Chaturthi Tithi commences on September 6, 2024, at 12:08 PM, the Ganesh Utsav will begin on September 7 due to the Udayatithi. This alignment is crucial for the celebration's auspicious-



ness. Sarvartha Siddhi Yoga spans from 12:34 PM on September 7 to 6:03 AM on September 8. It is considered highly beneficial for undertaking new ventures and religious activities.

Ravi Yoga will be in effect from 9:25 AM on September 6 to 12:34 PM on September 7. Known for its positive energy, Ravi Yoga is a favorable time for performing important rituals.

Forming from 10:14 PM to 11:16 PM on September 6, Brahma Yoga is believed to enhance the spiritual and creative aspects of the festival.

Indra Yoga will occur from 11:16 PM on September 7 to 12:04 PM on September 9. It is associated with prosperity and divine blessings.

Acharya Shukla

emphasizes that Ganesh Puja is traditionally performed during the midday phase, aligning with the belief that Lord Ganesha was born during this time. Hindu timekeeping divides the day into eight prahars (phases), including forenoon, midday, afternoon, evening, Pradosh, Nishith, Triyama, and Usha. Lord Ganesha is installed and worshipped during the midday prahar, which is considered the most auspicious.

Additionally, there is a traditional caution against viewing the moon on Ganesh Chaturthi. According to Hindu mythology, looking at the moon during this time can lead to accusations of theft, as exemplified by the story of Lord Krishna and the Syamantaka Mani. To avoid this sin, devotees are advised to recite specific mantras.

The confluence of these auspicious yogas and the adherence to traditional practices will ensure a spiritually enriching Ganesh Chaturthi, filled with blessings and positive energies.

Pickleball Boom: The trendy, social sport is winning hearts in India too

NEW DELHI, Sep 6 (Agencies): Ajit Pal Singh, a software engineer from Noida, first discovered pickleball through an Instagram reel. The clip showed a game that looked like a mix of tennis and badminton, piquing his curiosity. A quick Google search later, he was hooked. Six months on, Singh and three friends became regulars at a popular pickleball centre in Noida, playing almost every weekend.

For early pioneers like Sunil Valavalkar and Manish Rao, spreading the word about pickleball in India was a challenge. But today, the game is rapidly capturing the attention of urban India, drawing in players aged eight to 80.

It's hard to escape the growing popularity of pickleball. You must have seen Andre Agassi or Leonardo Di Caprio playing pickleball. Even Novak Djokovic, who once hinted that pickleball posed a threat to tennis, was seen trying his hand at the sport at an exhibition event before the 2023 US Open. In India, the sport has found fans in Bollywood actors and sports icons alike.

It's no surprise: pickleball is among the fastest-growing sports worldwide, and India is no exception.

Rajat, a 23-year-old finance professional, was introduced to the sport by Singh. He now makes a 50km trip from Gurugram to Noida every weekend to play.

"It's less strenuous than tennis and a bit different from badminton," Rajat says. "The sound of the paddle hitting the ball reminds me of cricket. As a cricket lover, I enjoy it a lot. It's become a weekly affair."

Pickleball's simple learning curve, social nature, and low physical impact have contributed to its widespread popularity. Its accessibility makes it appealing across age groups, and it's being embraced both recreationally and competitively.

A PANDEMIC BOOM

The pandemic provided an

unexpected boost for pickleball. It proved to be a "blessing in disguise" for the sport. People gravitated to the sport during lockdowns due to its ease of setup and suitability for socially distanced play. It became a common sight in alleys and parking lots across cities.

In the United States of America, pickleball surged so much that tennis courts were repurposed for it, as four pickleball courts can fit into one tennis court. More courts meant more players and more revenue, catching the attention of investors and sports equipment manufacturers like Selkirk, which started sponsoring players.

India saw a similar boom after the pandemic. A pickleball tournament with prize money worth USD 100,000 was held as recently as August 2024. India has been hosting major tournaments and Indian pickleball players have begun to win medals in prestigious overseas competitions. An Indian Premier League-styled league for pickleball is also set to start by the end of 2024 or early 2025.

THE BASICS OF PICKLEBALL

- 1. Pickleball Equipment**
Paddle: A solid paddle, larger than a ping-pong paddle but smaller than a tennis racket, made of wood, composite, or graphite.
Ball: A lightweight plastic ball with holes, similar to a wiffle ball, which travels slower than a tennis ball.
- 2. Court Dimensions**
The court measures 20x44 feet, same for singles and doubles.
A 7-foot no-volley zone near the net, called the "kitchen", prevents volleys unless the ball bounces.
- 3. Gameplay**
Objective: Hit the ball over the net into the opponent's court without return.
The serve is underhand and must bounce before being returned.
The serving team can only score points; games go to 11 points, with a 2-point win requirement.
- 4. Serve and Return Rules**
Double-bounce rule: Both teams must let the ball bounce once



after the serve before volleys are allowed.

PICKLEBALL'S ORIGINS AND ARRIVAL IN INDIA

Pickleball originated in Bainbridge Island, Washington, in 1965. Three friends -- Pritchard, Bill Bell, and Barney McCallum-created the game using makeshift equipment, and it quickly gained local popularity.

In India, the credit for introducing pickleball goes to Sunil Valavalkar, the founder of the All India Pickleball Association (AIPA). Valavalkar first encountered the sport when he went to British Columbia as a Project Supervisor for an Indo-Canadian Youth Exchange Program of the Government of India in 1999. There, he was hosted by a sports enthusiast, Barry Mansfield and his family. It was Barry, who introduced him to the sport.

"I played pickleball every morning during my 110-day stay. It was fun," Sunil told IndiaToday.in.

But, for Sunil, the Eureka moment came only when he visited a tennis clinic during his trip to Cincinnati in 2006.

"From 2000 to 2006, I forgot pickleball. I switched over to tennis. But, in Cincinnati, I had an opportunity to visit a tennis clinic. The coach over there gave me instructions one day 'Sunil, sideways and swing'. That was the slogan I remembered that Barry also used while teaching me pickleball," he

said.

"Then I realised 'oh my god, this is quite similar to pickleball'. Tennis is a tough sport. On the other hand, pickleball is easy. It struck me that I should probably take this sport to the people in my community.

"I started playing tennis only after 35. My reflexes on a tennis court weren't that good. But, on a pickleball court, my reflexes were enough to play good shots. It gave me a lot of joy.

"While coming back from the 15-day trip to Cincinnati, I bought paddles, balls and a few promotional leaflets to India. From 2007, I seriously started promoting pickleball in and around my community in Mumbai," he added.

Upon returning to India, Sunil faced resistance. "It was a struggle. I taught my daughter and niece first and took them to demonstrate the sport in local clubs and parking lots," he said. "People were reluctant. Some even mocked me. That's when I decided to set up the All India Pickleball Association in 2008."

This decision was a turning point. The AIPA provided structure and legitimacy to the sport's growth in India, with Sunil working tirelessly to promote it.

PICKLEBALL'S UNIQUE APPEAL

What makes pickleball so special? Sunil believes it offers a level playing field that is rare in other sports.

"It can re-engineer society," he says. "It's more than just a sport. People often tell me they wish they had found pickleball earlier, as it would have made them fitter and emotionally balanced."

One such individual is Manish Rao, now the World Ambassador of the International Federation of Pickleball and Director of Franklin Sports India. Manish began playing pickleball after meeting Sunil in 2014, and the sport helped him get back into shape after a back injury had sidelined him from other sports.

"At first, I dismissed it. But in 2014, I finally gave it a try and loved it," Manish recalls. Now, he is one of India's biggest advocates for the sport. In 2017, he launched the Indian Pickleball Forum, and today he plays a crucial role in promoting professional pickleball in the country.

PICKLEBALL GOES PROFESSIONAL

What began as a recreational sport has transformed into a competitive one. When Manish organized an Open tournament in Mumbai in 2006, it had only three courts and around 100 players. There was no prize money-people played purely for the love of the game.

Fast forward to 2024, and the Monsoon Pickleball Championship in Mumbai offered a prize pool of USD 100,000. Nearly 800 players competed, and companies like Global Sports have been instrumental in supporting the sport's infrastructure and sponsorships. The India Open in Mumbai was a massive success with over 700 athletes from 12 countries competing in it.

Today, India boasts over 1,000 pickleball courts, with Mumbai and Ahmedabad as major hubs. Delhi-NCR and Chennai are quickly catching up. An estimated 10,000 players now participate professionally, with more 'closet players', taking the tally to 70,000 across the country, according to Manish.

Pickleball has also gained trac-

tion with corporate professionals who find it an enjoyable way to de-stress and socialize outside of work. The game's simplicity and community vibe have made it a hit.

A BRIGHT FUTURE

High-quality pickleball equipment, once hard to find, is now readily available in India, with brands like Selkirk, Franklin, and ProLite gaining popularity. Pickleball United has played a significant role in expanding the sport by offering affordable and one-of-its-kind courts (Rollout courts) and gear.

State associations are popping up, boot camps are being organised at schools, and tournaments with substantial prize pools are attracting more players. Manish estimates that pickleball is growing by 30 percent annually in terms of both players and courts.

While pickleball is frenetically moving towards the professional tour era, it has managed to retain the charm of being a community sport.

"There is more competition than community part now. But, still, 50 percent of our pickleball community is interested in recreation. We all must have heard that after 40-45, we don't make new friends. But, because of pickleball, everything has changed. We have a pickleball circle. You are called for pickleball lunch, and pickleball parties. We will be boring each other with pickleball stuff," Manish says.

Pickleball is riding a wave of euphoria. It's trendy, fun, and in the social media age, it's tailor-made for instant gratification. Even Indian men are keen on taking a trip to the kitchen, thanks to pickleball. Celebrities, both from Hollywood and Bollywood, along with corporate leaders, are embracing the sport.

With global appeal and growing momentum, don't be surprised if pickleball makes its way to the Olympics in the future with a collaborative effort from its multiple stakeholders. Imagine the Olympics in India in 2036, with pickleball on the roster!

Kapil clinches unexpected judo bronze as country's tally hits 25 medals | India placed 16th

PARIS, Sep 6 (Agencies): Kapil Parmar became India's first Paralympics medallist in judo with a bronze in the men's 60kg (J1) category as the country's inspirational para-athletes achieved their stated goal of 25 medals here.

The 24-year-old Parmar, who was making his Games debut, defeated Brazil's Elielton de Oliveira 10-0 in the playoff, dominating his opponent throughout the contest to clinch a historic podium finish.

India's medal count rose to 25, including five gold, nine silver and 11 bronze. The nation is placed 14th in the overall standings. In its pre-Games estimate, the Paralympic Committee of India had stated that it was hoping to win at least 25 medals from the quadrennial showcase.

That target has been met and the final count could well be higher even though the hopes of achieving a double-digit gold medal tally could remain unfulfilled.

Parmar's medal was among the least expected from the mega event. However, it was not entirely a surprise given that he won a silver medal at the Para Asian Games last year. The J1 category is reserved for visually impaired judokas.

Son of a taxi driver, Parmar's eyesight deteriorated progressively after he was electrocuted as a nine-year-old while trying to fetch water from a water pump in the fields



of his village in Madhya Pradesh.

He was discovered in an unconscious state by a fellow villager and was hospitalised in Bhopal. He spent six months in coma before making a slow and painful recovery.

What remained intact was his love for judo, a sport that he picked up while in school, and with the help of his coaches Bhagwan Das and Manoj, he entered para-sports.

But the limited financial means of his family meant that Parmar had to run a tea stall with one of his four brothers to support himself at one stage of his life. He trains at the Indian Blind and Para Judo Academy in Lucknow.

"I am currently world No. 1 and the top seed, so I had come with gold medal in mind. But it was not my day and had to settle for bronze. I am feeling proud to have won first para judo medal for the country," he said.

Simran ends 4th in 100m

Indian sprinter Simran was undone by a slow start as she finished fourth in the women's 100m (T12) final after clocking 12.31 seconds in the final.

Accompanied by her guide Abhay Singh, the 24-year-old reigning world champion from New Delhi had qualified second with a timing of 12.33s behind Germany's Katrin Mueller-Rottgardt in the second semifinal. Simran, who was born prematurely with visual impairment, was ranked third overall. However, despite marginal improvement in her timings, she could not finish inside the medal bracket. Cuba's Omara Durand clinched the gold with a season's best performance of 11.81s.

Heartbreak in archery Individual gold medallist Harvinder Singh and Pooja Jatyan looked good for a mixed team recurve bronze but it was not to be as the duo lost a shoot-off to Slovenia's Ziva Lavrinc and Dejan Fabcic 4-5 in the playoff.

It was an opportunity for Harvinder to script some more history after becoming India's first gold medallist in archery on Wednesday.

The Indians led 4-2 going into the final set but lost the plot thereafter, allowing the Slovenian combination to first draw level before closing the match in the shoot-off.

After Gautam Gambhir replaced Rahul Dravid as coach, Rishabh Pant reveals big change in team

NEW DELHI, Sep 6 (Agencies): The Gautam Gambhir era in Indian cricket started with the Sri Lanka Tour. While India won the T20I series, they lost the ODI series. Indian cricket team got a long break after that and will next be playing in a Test series against Bangladesh, starting September 19. That series will start Gambhir's real test. Rishabh Pant is going to be crucial cog in India's scheme of things in the coming years. Both Gambhir and Pant played their national level cricket for Delhi team. In an interview, Pant talked about the change in Indian cricket under Gautam Gambhir. "What is the biggest change that can happen under Gautam Gambhir and how it can take Indian cricket forward?"



the anchor asked Pant.

"I feel Rahul bhai was very balanced as a human being and as a coach. It could be both good and bad, because in cricket there can be positives. This is upon the individuals whether to focus on the positives and negatives, and it depends on where individuals want to focus. Gauti bhai (Gambhir) is more aggressive, he's very one-sided about the fact that you have to win. But you need to find the right balance and improve. This is the best part of international

cricket," Pant said on Jio Cinema.

Rishabh Pant warned against taking Bangladesh lightly in the upcoming two-Test series, and stressed on the need for India to keep improving themselves to stay ahead of the competition. Bangladesh, who recently blanked Pakistan 2-0 at Rawalpindi, will face Rohit Sharma's side in the first Test at Chennai from September 19 before moving to Kanpur.

India will play a total of 10 Tests within the

next five months as the series against Bangladesh will be followed by three Tests against New Zealand at home in October-November before moving to Australia for the five-Test Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

"Asian countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka perform well in Asian conditions because they are accustomed to the wickets," Pant told Jio Cinema.

"As the Indian cricket team, we focus solely on our own standards and how we can improve. Regardless of the oppo-

sition, we strive to play with the same intensity and give our 100 percent every single day," he said.

Pant said no series can be taken lightly with the margins between the teams decreasing in international cricket.

"Pressure will always be there because in international cricket, you can't take any series lightly. The margin between winning and losing is very small, and nowadays, the gap between international teams isn't much either," he said.

Pant said playing in the Duleep Trophy ahead of a long season of Test cricket will give the players quality match practice while young cricketers at domestic level will benefit from the presence of international stars.

Indian assistant coach, concussion sub: New ISL rules ahead of 2024-25 season

NEW DELHI, Sep 6 (Agencies): The Indian Super League (ISL) is set to introduce a new set of rules for the upcoming 2024-2025 season, marking a significant shift in the league's regulations. These changes, introduced by the ISL regulatory committee, are designed to address longstanding concerns from fans regarding refereeing decisions and the need for enhanced player safety.

The introduction of new rules such as con-

cussion substitutions and the ability to appeal wrongful red cards reflects the league's commitment to improving the quality and fairness of the competition.

New Rules and how they work
Mandatory Indian Assistant Coach:

The ISL has mandated that each club must have an AFC Pro-licensed Indian assistant coach as part of their staff. This coach will also take over as interim head coach if the head coach vacates his position. This rule is

intended to foster the development of Indian coaches and ensure continuity within teams.

Challenging Wrongful Red Cards:

Clubs will now have the right to challenge a referee's decision to issue a red card if they believe it was wrongful. This rule, implemented by the AIFF, aims to reduce the number of unjust suspensions and improve the overall fairness of the game.

Concussion Substitute: Teams will be allowed to make an extra substi-

tution if a player suffers a concussion due to a head impact. Additionally, the opposing team will also be granted an additional substitute. This measure is aimed at protecting players' health by ensuring that they do not continue playing after sustaining serious injuries.

Home-Grown Player Salary Cap:

Clubs can now exclude three of their home-grown U-23 players from the existing salary-cap rule. A player is considered homegrown if they

have been contracted with the same club for a minimum of three consecutive years. This rule is designed to encourage the development and retention of young talent within clubs.

As Indian football gears up for the new ISL season which is set to start from September 13, these changes represent a significant evolution in the ISL, reflecting the league's commitment to addressing fan concerns and enhancing the quality of the competition.

Aakash Jammu holds tree plantation drive

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 6: In a remarkable and inspiring initiative, the Jammu Gandhi Nagar branch of Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), a national leader in test preparatory services, organized a tree plantation drive to commemorate the outstanding achievements of its students in NEET, JEE Main, JEE Advanced, and various Olympiads in 2024. In recognition of the students' success, the branch planted 451 saplings in Trikuta Nagar Park, Jammu, located in front of the RBI building, symbolizing the number of students who successfully passed these prestigious exams.

The tree plantation drive witnessed enthusiastic participation from Aakash Jammu students, teachers, staff, and the chief guest, Rajesh Jasrotia, Station House Officer (SHO) of Trikuta Nagar Police Station. Commending Aakash's initiative, Jasrotia stated, "This initiative is a wonderful example of how educational institutions can play a pivotal role in shaping not only the future of their students but also that of the environment. By planting these saplings, Aakash has shown that nurturing knowledge and nature goes hand in hand for the betterment of society."



Parmeshwar Jha, Regional Director of Aakash Educational Services Limited, expressed pride in both the students' achievements and the tree plantation drive, saying, "Our students' accomplishments are a testament to their hard work and our teachers' dedication. By planting these 451 saplings, we are not only celebrating their academic success but also reinforcing our commitment to a greener, more sustainable future. Just as these saplings will grow into strong trees, our students will evolve into key pillars of society, contributing to the progress of the nation."

This initiative reflects Aakash's broader mission: to help aspiring doctors and engineers realize their dreams while also contributing to environmental sustainability. Just as Aakash builds its students' academic

and employees. Speakers at the meeting highlighted Ashraf Sheikh's role as UT President of NMOPS-J&K, emphasizing his consistent efforts in opposing the New Pension Scheme (NPS) and advocating for the reinstatement of the Old Pension Scheme for teachers and employees.

GDC Kathua organizes "Fireless Cooking Competition"

Top News Report



KATHUA, Sep 6: Department of Home Science Government Degree College (GDC), Kathua organized "Fireless Cooking Competition" on Friday to celebrate National Nutrition Week 2024.

The theme of the competition was Nutritious recipes for college students. The program was strongly supported by the Principal Prof. Seema Mir and HOD Home Science Prof. Neelam Bhagat. The competition was organized to raise awareness about nutritional and healthy eating habits among college students. Eleven teams comprising two students each participated in the competition and displayed food items in an artistic and aesthetic style.

Nutritious Thali prepared by Vishal and Shivika Semester-5th, Makhana Bhel prepared by Palak and Babli Semester-5th and Sattu Lemonade prepared by Diksha and Anu of Semester 5th adjudged first, second and third prizes respectively. The participants were judged by Dr. Shalini Sharma, HOD Biochemistry, Prof. Shivani Kotwal, HOD English, Prof. Shradha Anand Associate professor Department of Chemistry. The event was graced

by senior faculty members Prof. Sanjaky Kumar Karlopia, H.O.D. Geology, Dr. R.K. Manhas, Dr. Ambika Rajput and Prof. Rakhi Malhotra.

The competition was successfully conducted by the organizing team Prof. Neelam Bhagat HOD, Dr. Anamika Baru and Prof. Shivani Sawhney.

Principal Prof. Seema Mir acknowledged the efforts of all the participants and distributed prizes to winners. The event has provided a platform for the students to foster their creativity and decision-making skills and help them to explore their hidden talents and discover new dishes.

Arshia Talla of DPS Jammu shines in National Dance Championship

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 6: Arshia Talla (V-D), a student of Delhi Public School (DPS) Jammu brought laurels to the school and her parents by securing 3rd place in National Performing Arts Championship 2024 organized by Performing Arts Association of India held at Ayodhya (U.P) from 31st Aug to 1st Sept, 2024.

Arshia was among the 43 other participants from J&K wherein she had performed Garba (a traditional folk dance of Gujarat) in her final round and secured the 3rd place. She had also received Certificate of Appreciation and a Memento.

In addition to this, Aarvi Gupta (V-F) also participated in the same championship where she had performed Bharatnatyam free style fusion dance and received Certificate of Appreciation. Earlier too, they both had also performed at the state level.



The management of DPS Jammu, President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro Vice Chairperson, Dr. Ritu Singh, Director-S.S. Sodhi along with Principal-DPS Jammu,

Ruchi Chabra and staff congratulated Arshia, Aarvi and their parents for their achievements. They also extended their best wishes to both for all their future endeavours.

and employees. Speakers at the meeting highlighted Ashraf Sheikh's role as UT President of NMOPS-J&K, emphasizing his consistent efforts in opposing the New Pension Scheme (NPS) and advocating for the reinstatement of the Old Pension Scheme for teachers and employees.

The meeting was organized by Provincial President Jammu, Sanjeet Sharma, and District President Kishtwar, Imtiyaz ul Haq.

During the meeting, several key nominations were made: Ghulam Mohd Kripak was appointed as District General Secretary, Shamim Ahmed as District Spokesperson, Imtiyaz Ahmed Kichloo as Zonal President Inderwal, and Mudasser Husain as Zonal President Drabshalla. The meeting witnessed the participation of scores of teachers from different zones across District Kishtwar.

Teachers from the district expressed their full confidence in the leadership of UT President Mohammed Ashraf Sheikh, Provincial President Jammu Sanjeet Sharma, and District President Kishtwar Imtiyaz ul Haq. They unanimously acknowledged the JKTF, led by the renowned trade union leader and educationist M. Ashraf Sheikh, as the most vibrant and effective voice for teachers

all the members. He said in his statement that we will talk to all our workers and what to do next, a decision will be taken on joining a political party or not. Despite doing this, no change of any kind was seen in the youth, nor was the state leadership serious in this regard, they always exploited the youth. Anhangar said that I apologize to the Muslim Community if the nation is facing any embarrassment on my behalf, he said that we are with the united decision of the nation. Where the consent of the scholars is shown, we are committed to this decision and will not be a part of any such organization in the future.

MRM had to face a huge setback in District Kishtwar

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Sep 6: Muslim Rashtriya Manch (MRM) in Jammu and Kashmir suffered a major setback when District President Kishtwar Shahnawaz Ahangar announced his resignation from the organization.

Anhangar said that I have been resigning from the basic membership. Muslim Rashtriya Manch is running a nationwide campaign. Blaming the performance of the Muslim Rashtriya Manch, Anhangar has said that the organization always left him alone and weak.

He said that the further decision will be taken only after deciding with

Climate Smart Agriculture Project addresses climate change challenges in Haryana

Top News Report

KARNAL, Sep 6: "Climate Smart Agriculture Project in Haryana is addressing climate change challenges impacting rice production in Haryana and Punjab. Under the project, soil health analysis is being conducted to optimize fertilizer use, leading to a reduction of 100 kg of urea per acre."

Addressing farmers and supply chain partners at Karnal today, Jeff Rowe, CEO Syngenta Global said, "India has a well-defined policy on sustainable agriculture through its National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture, and we are committed to supporting it. The project is aligned to this Mission". The project was initiated in state by Syngenta with value chain partners and Ebro.

Graham Carter, MD Ebro said, "We stay committed to provide best support to farmers



in terms of introduction to new technologies in agriculture, field support, and towards the goal of sustainability in rice cultivation".

Meanwhile Punjab and Haryana remain critical to India's agricultural output, producing rice and wheat at volumes well above the national average—around 4.8 tonnes and 6.5 tonnes per hectare, respectively. However, this success has come at a cost. The intensive rice-wheat cropping system has led to significant

soil degradation, loss of biodiversity, and severe groundwater depletion. Since 2000, groundwater levels in Haryana's rice-growing regions have reportedly dropped by 13 meters, highlighting the urgent need for sustainable agricultural practices.

Rowe also emphasized that this initiative is also inspired by India's crucial role in the global food system and the need to support Indian farmers in mitigating the global food crisis.

Er Rashid's son leads road show campaign for AIP Candidate in Devsar Constituency

Top News Report

KULGAM, Sep 6: Enthused supporters of Awami Itihad Party Candidate for Devsar assembly seat held a road show from Kund to Frisal as part of their campaign trail for the Devsar assembly seat.

Led by Engineer's 25-year-old son Abrar Rashid, the rally traversed the 60-km stretch. The leaders addressed several public gatherings canvassing at different places in Devsar Constituency for AIP Candidate Devsar Dr. Suhail Ahmad Bhat.

The procession draws the gaze of countless bystanders, and as it proceeds towards Khudwani Qaimoh in Kulgam, it swells as more individuals join the throng.

Talking to reporters on the side-line of the road-



show, Abrar said "he will campaign for his candidates in south Kashmir, where he paid obeisance at the revered shrine of Syed Noor Shah Wali baghdadi.

"We are getting a good response and our candidates are working on the ground. I hope the voters of south and central Kashmir will support our candidates," Abrar added.

The young Abrar expressed his gratitude towards the enthusiastic supporters, stating that their love and respect are

evident. He urged them to fulfill their support by casting their votes and ensuring AIP's candidates success in the forthcoming elections.

After campaign, Abrar enroute to Walthengoo, where he paid obeisance at the revered shrine of Syed Noor Shah Wali baghdadi.

He was accompanied by party candidate Devsar Dr. Suhail Ahmad Bhat and supporters on the visit and prayed for lasting peace and prosperity in J&K.

Dr. Pankaj delivers talk on 'Role of Youth in Nation Building' at SMVDU



Top News Report

KATRA, Sep 6: In a significant session of the ongoing student induction program for first-year students at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Lieut. Dr. Pankaj Mehta, Associate NCC Officer, 4 J&K Battalion NCC, delivered an inspiring lecture on "Role of Youth in Nation Building." The talk underscored the vital contributions that young people can make towards the development and progress of the nation.

Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean of Academic Affairs at SMVDU, welcomed Lieut. Mehta and highlighted the impor-

tance of this lecture for the youth.

Prof. Singh noted that understanding their role in nation-building is crucial for the students as they begin their academic journey.

Dr. Mehta's talk focused on motivating students to become disciplined and responsible citizens. He emphasized the importance of values such as integrity, dedication, and commitment to the nation's welfare, inspiring the students to actively participate in societal development.

The expert talk was preceded by an introductory session on National Cadet Corps (NCC) by Dr. Varun Dutta, NCC

Coordinator at SMVDU.

Dr. Dutta provided an overview of the NCC's objectives and its role in instilling leadership and discipline among youth. The student induction program is being jointly coordinated by a dedicated team of faculty members: Dr. Pooja Sharma, Dr. Anil Bhardwaj, Dr. Madhu Mangal Chaturvedi, Dr. Varun Dutta, Dr. Bharat Bhushan Jindal, Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Dr. Amit Sinha, and Dr. Kamaldeep.

Their collective efforts are aimed at providing newly admitted students with valuable insights and guidance as they embark on their academic and personal journeys.