

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024 Daily Evening Newspaper



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Blinken wraps up Ukraine-focused Europe trip in Poland with arms requests on the table



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BRIEFLY

Man found dead in Srinagar's Barzullah

SRINAGAR, Sep 12 (Agencies): A body of a man was found in Barzullah Baghat area of Srinagar city on Thursday morning, officials said.

Quoting an official, news agency KNO reported that the police reached the spot shortly and took the body into possession.

The official said the medico-legal proceedings have been initiated, while the man's identity is being ascertained.

J&K Polls: Banned JeI leader files nomination for Bandipora seat

BANDIPORA, Sep 12 (Agencies): Former district president of the banned Jamat-e-Islami, Hafiz Mohammad Sikander Malik Thursday filed nomination papers for Bandipora constituency as independent candidate for the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir assembly election.

Malik, a resident of Gundpora, Bandipora has served as district president of JeI until organisation was banned.

He was arrested in 2019 after the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A, and was twice booked under PSA and UAPA.

Sikander was released on bail on December 2, 2023. In 2024, when Jammu and Kashmir introduced GPS tracker anklets to monitor terror accused individuals on bail, authorities in Bandipora also affixed one to Malik to track his movements.

Notably, several leaders of the banned JeI have fielded candidates as independents for assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir.

Three held with counterfeit gold biscuits in Kupwara: J&K Police

SRINAGAR, Sep 12 (Agencies): Police busted a counterfeit gold biscuit racket when they arrested three persons and recovered 153 fake biscuits from their possession in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district.

Acting on a tip-off Lalpora Police on Thursday said that in a major breakthrough, it

CCI Jammu President calls on Chief Secretary, discusses "Close Day" issue

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 12: Arun Gupta, President Chamber of Commerce & Industry on Thursday called on Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary UT of J&K and discussed with him the implications of the recent order issued by the Labour Department regarding Mandatory observance of "Close Day" by shops/business establishments.

While expressing concern over the mandatory close day practice, Arun Gupta apprised the Chief Secretary that this is not the right time to raise such issues especially when the election process has been started. This circu-



lar has created a sense of harassment among the business community. Arun Gupta also briefed the Chief Secretary that our Prime Minister has announced the working hours of business establishments 24x7 to give boost and fillip to the country's economy.

Moreover by allowing FDI in retail sector in our

country a new chapter has started where in the local malls are also allowed to open for all days of the week with no time limit.

He also pointed out that there is no check on the online trade which has already damaged the regular business in our UT and the working hours for online trade are 24x7.

During interaction, Arun Gupta also emphasized that UT of J&K is known for its pilgrims and tourist destination. The pilgrimage and tourism are the main source and backbone of our economy. By keeping the business establishments open on all days of the week, we serve the pilgrims and tourists visiting the city of temples. They buy prasad, eatables and goods of their choice/local importance to take with themselves as gift items.

Besides this by keeping the business establishments open, we also contribute in generating revenue for state exchequer.

He also apprised the

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'Legends League': Gayle, Bell, Harbajan set to play in Kashmir



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 12: Indian and international cricketing stars will be playing cricket in Kashmir after almost half a century during the final leg of the Legends League Cricket.

Legends League Cricket is back with another edition of the tournament starting on the 20th of September

at the Barkatullah Khan Stadium, Jodhpur.

"All of us at Legends League Cricket is extremely excited to be coming to Kashmir this season. It will be extremely special to play at this wonderful stadium and in front of our wonderful fans that are yet to watch us play live. I look forward to a packed stadium and we will do our

best to put on a show for the people of Kashmir," said, Mohammad Kaif, Gujarat Greats, Legends League Cricket.

"Legends League Cricket is back for another season and we are very excited to also be playing in Kashmir this season. This is a huge opportunity for the people of Kashmir to come to the stadium and watch live cricketing action for the first time in almost 40 years. It also presents a unique opportunity for the cricketers to experience the beauty of Kashmir and enjoy the hospitality and love of the wonderful people of Srinagar," said Raman Raheja, Co-Founder, Legends

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Tip Off from Election Observer LED to recovery of Arms in Kupwara

SRINAGAR, Sep 12 (Agencies): A tip off from a special election observer deployed for the Assembly polls led to the recovery of a large cache of arms ammunition along the Line of Control in Jammu and



Kashmir's Kupwara dis-

trict on Wednesday, officials said.

The security forces on Wednesday recovered a large quantity of ammunition and explosives in the Keran Sector of Kupwara based on input.

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BJP should stop making efforts to break alliances: Kharage in J&K

SRINAGAR, Sep 12 (Agencies): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharage on Wednesday said the BJP should stop making efforts to break alliances and political parties opposed to it as they have a minority government at the Centre which depends on TDP and JD-U for survival.

"The Congress and National Conference are contesting the (Jammu

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Farooq Abdullah accuses BJP of using those 'released from jail' as proxies

SRINAGAR, Sep 12 (Agencies): National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday said the people of Jammu and Kashmir should unite to defeat the BJP and those who are "being



released from jails" to take part in elections.

Addressing an election rally, he said the alliance with the Congress was not easy but was necessary to save J-K's identity, and raised the

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Vote en masse for NC-Cong alliance for J&K Statehood restoration: MP Hussain

SRINAGAR, Sep 12 (Agencies): The Congress on Thursday appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to vote en masse for its alliance with the National Conference (NC) in the assembly polls and give absolute majority to

the coalition to fight for the rights of the people.

"We want a strong government in J-K. We appeal to the people to do one-side voting (for the alliance). Not a single seat should go outside the alliance so that a government

with an absolute majority is formed that will seek the restoration of full statehood from the Centre," Congress MP in the Rajya Sabha Syed Naseer Hussain told reporters here.

He said the BJP can go to any extent to try

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Nobody can suppress our voice, truth is with us: Engineer Rashid in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Sep 12 (Agencies): Returning home after more than five years in prison, Member of Parliament Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, on Thursday said no one needs peace more than

the people of Kashmir but they want it on their conditions and not on terms set by the Centre.

The Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) chief, who was released on interim jail from Tihar Jail on Wednesday, went down on his knees and

touched his forehead on the road after exiting the airport.

"We want to tell (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi that no one needs peace more than we do. But that peace will come at our conditions, not

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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

J&K High Court declares holidays for general Assembly Elections

JAMMU, Sep 12 (Agencies): The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has announced holidays on account of the upcoming General Elections to the Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir, 2024.

According to an official notification, Wednesday, September 25, 2024, will be observed as a holiday in the Main Wing and the Srinagar Wing of the High Court. Additionally, Tuesday, October 1, 2024, will be a holiday for the Jammu Wing of the High Court unless the election is postponed.

Employees working in the Main Wing who are domiciles of other

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TENTH DAY/ KRIYA /UTHALA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SMT. CHANDER KANTA (RTD. ASSTT. MATRON, GMC)** W/O LT. SH SHIV KUMAR.



SMT. CHANDER KANTA (RTD. ASSTT. MATRON, GMC)

TENTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON 12.9.2024, 10 A.M AT OUR RESIDENCE H.NO 57 LANE NO.2 ROOPNAGAR ENCLAVE DR. CHOWDHARY LANE JAMMU.

KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 13.9.2024, 12.00 NOON AT OUR RESIDENCE H.NO 57 LANE NO.2 ROOPNAGAR ENCLAVE DR. CHOWDHARY LANE JAMMU.

UTHALA WILL TAKE PLACE ON 13.9.2024 AT AAP SHAMBHU MANDIR FROM 4 P.M TO 5 P.M

GRIEF STRICKEN

MAYANK BAKSHI (SON)
SUSHMITA SHARMA (DAUGHTER IN LAW)
MOB 7889590818, 9596991102, 9797611024

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad & untimely demise of our beloved **Sh Brij Bushan Zalpuri (Kaka Ji)** S/o Lt Sh D N Zalpuri on 5th of September 2024, at Jamshepur, 7.00 AM. Erstwhile resident of Rainawari, Srinagar (Kmr), at present Flat No. A-6, 1st floor, Parvaya Vihar apartment, Sector-9, Rohini Delhi.



Sh Brij Bushan Zalpuri (Kaka Ji)

Shanti Path will be performed on 14th of September 2024 at 1.00 PM onwards at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt Jyoti Zalpuri (Wife)
Bhabis & Brothers
Smt Kavita Ji & Sh Shravan K Zalpuri
Smt Kiran Ji & Sh Ashok Zalpuri- Mob 9810374473
Smt Usha Ji Kaul & Sh Shashi Ji Kaul (Sister & Brother in law)
Sh Raj Zalpuri (Brother) Mob 9820844085
Mr Abhishek Zalpuri (Son)
Miss Dipti Zalpuri (Daughter) Mob. 9711282247
SAMAST ZALPURI & ZUTSHI PARIVAR

FIFTH DAY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **JIA JI SH. VIJAY MAHAJAN** H/O SMT SUNEELA MAHAJAN OF PATHANKOT



SH. VIJAY MAHAJAN

FIFTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON 13/09/2024 (FRIDAY) FROM 10 AM TO 10:30 AM AT PANCH MANDIR, SEC 2, CHANNI HIMMAT JAMMU.
GRIEF STRICKEN:-
BROTHERS AND SISTERS-IN-LAW
SH. MADAN MOHAN GUPTA & SMT. RAJ RANI GUPTA
SMT. SUDESH GUPTA W/O LT. SH. SUBASH GUPTA
SH. HARISH GUPTA & LT. SMT. MEERA GUPTA
SISTERS AND BROTHERS-IN-LAW
SMT. SNEH MAHAJAN W/O LT. SH. M.L. MAHAJAN
SMT. PARVEEN MAHAJAN & SH. SATISH MAHAJAN
SMT. PINKY MAHAJAN & RAMAN MAHAJAN
NIS TARLOK NATH & SONS 30C WARE HOUSE
NIS VKAS TRADING CO. 61C WARE HOUSE
NIS TARLOK NATH & CO, KANAK MANDI
NIS SHIVAM MARBLES, MARBLE MARKET
MOBILE:- 9419140515, 9419140530, 9419191650, 9419140563, 9419195797

10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform that **Sh. Puran Lal Kaloo** S/o Late Sh. Janki Nath Kaloo, Originally R/o Badiyar, Srinagar and presently at Bangalore has left this mortal world and merged with supreme consciousness on 8th September 2024 at 3 am.



Sh. Puran Lal Kaloo

10TH DAY will be held at Yedyuru Vaidika Kendra, 22nd Cross Road, Sakamma Garden, Jayanagar, Bengaluru 560082 (Bangalore) on 16th September 2024 at 10 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Daughters-in-law & Sons
Sunita & Ramesh Kumar Dhar Mobile: 9425403824
Sunita & Dr Pawan Dhar
Mobile: 9953345001
Grand Daughters-in-law & Grand Sons
Vineeta & Akshay Dhar
Priyanka & Anuj Dhar
Grand Daughters :- Shreea, Riya
Great Grand Daughter :- Kiera

TENTH DAY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF **SMT DULARI SAPROO KAUL** W/O SH MOTI LAL KAUL R/O C-5 BHARAT NAGAR TALAB TILLO JAMMU ORIGINALLY R/O KARAN NAGAR, SRINAGAR.



SMT DULARI SAPROO KAUL

TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON MONDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 2024 AT AKHNOOR GHAT AND GATHERING/ ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD AT MUTHI GHAT FROM 11.00 AM.

FAMILY MEMBERS :-

SH MOTI LAL KAUL -HUSBAND
SANJEEV KUMAR KAUL -SON
ANITA KAUL -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
CHANDINI KAUL -GRAND DAUGHTER
SURAJ KAUL -GRANDSON
GRIEF STRICKEN
NAQUIB'S, SAPROO'S, GANJOO'S, MOZA'S, MALLA'S
CONTACT NO. 9419186136

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Raman Sethi** W/o Sh. Dinesh Sethi R/o 410/2 Suraksha Vihar Top Paloura who left for heavenly abode on 3rd of Sept. 2024.



Smt. Raman Sethi

Tenth Day will be performed at our residence from 10.00 am to 11.00 am on Thursday 12th Sept. 2024. **Kriya** will be held at our residence on 14th of Sept. 2024 at 12.00 Noon.

Rasam Pagni/Uthala will be performed on Saturday 14th of Sept. 2024 at Trimurti Mandir near Ram Lila Ground Janipur Colony Jammu from 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm.

Grief Stricken

Sh. Dinesh Sethi - Husband
Rhythm Sethi - Son
Amika - Daughter
Brothers & Bhabhis
Sh. Khem Raj Sethi & Late Smt. Bimla Sethi
Sh. Mahesh Sethi & Smt. Kanchan Sethi
Sh. Adarsh Sethi & Smt. Anu Sethi
Sh. Arun Sethi & Smt. Monika Sethi

SETHI FAMILY
Mob. 9682390128,
7298015910, 9596352244

OBITUARY & TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SMT. RATTAN RANI PANDITA** W/O SH. BABU ANTH WHO LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 09.09.2024. (ORIGINALLY RESIDENT OF MANDIR, MATIAN, A.P. MEEN SARKAR, SAROFA AUDA.)



SMT. RATTAN RANI PANDITA

TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 16.09.2024 (WEDNESDAY) AT MUTHI GHAT AT 9:00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
SONS & DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW
SH. RAJ KUMAR PANDITA & SMT. SANGEETA PANDITA
SH. SATISH PANDITA & SMT. PUSHP LATA
SH. SUNIL KUMAR PANDITA & SMT. ANJANA PANDITA
GRAND CHILDREN:- SANJ, ASHISH, AVUSH, ANANSH & RANISH
DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:-
SMT. VEENA JEE
SMT. BILAL JEE
SMT. PHOOLA JEE
SH. BHASKAR NATH SETHI & SMT. KRISHNA JEE
SH. ROHINI LALA & SMT. RENU JEE
SH. MANOHAR KRISHAN DHAR & SMT. INDU BALA
SH. ANIL KUMAR & SMT. PREM LATA
SH. ANIL KUMAR & SMT. ANITA JEE
SH. IDHVI SHARMA & SMT. BHARTI PANDITA
ALL NEARS AND DEARS
CONTACT: 766595393, 9796010484, 9419199537

10TH DAY/KIRYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Hari Krishan Sharma** R/o Kallar, Udhampur Near, BDO office.



Sh. Hari Krishan Sharma

10th Day will be performed at Doodadari Mandir, Udhampur on 12/09/2024, at 1:00 am (Thursday).

Kirya Karam will be performed at Devika Ghat Udhampur on 13/09/2024 (Friday).

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sudershana Sharma - Wife
Brothers & Bhabhis
Sh. Rattan Chand Sharma & Smt. Sudershana Devi
Sh. Yograj Sharma & Late Smt. Champa Sharma
Daughter & Son-in-Law
Smt. Neeraj Sharma & Sh. Rohit Sharma
Anvish Sharma - **Daughter**
Sons and Daughters-in-Law
Sh. Anim Sharma & Smt. Anjana Sharma
Sh. Aman Sharma & Smt. Pooja Sharma

Mobile:
9796221545,
7889723608,
9149726670

TENTH DAY KRIYA

The Tenth Day Kriya of **Sahasini Dhar** W/o Sunil Dhar (who left for heavenly abode on 05 September, 2024 at Delhi) will be performed at Munak Canal Ghat, Sector 18, Rohini, Delhi, near Badli Telephone Exchange on Saturday, 14th September 2024 at 9 AM.



SUHASINI DHAR
(23.02.1964 - 05.09.2024)

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
Sunil Dhar - Husband
Rachna Kar - Mami Ji
Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law
Upasone Bhan & Brig. Vikram Bhan
Brothers & Sisters-in-law
Dilip Pandita & Rohini Pandita
Virood Pandita & Indu Pandita
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Spash Dhar & Shrutika Dhar
Shwabrish Dhar & Roshni Dhar
Daughter & Son-in-law
Sardini Dhar, Dewadi & Anshuman Dewadi
Nieces & Nephew
Roopsee, Pandita, Ajita Bhan, Srijan Bhan, Diwaneji Pandita & Danish Pandita
In-laws
Indar Ahuja & Family
Nripj Mehi & Anil Mehi
Seema Dewedi & VP Dewedi

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Seema Koul - Wife
Sanjay Koul - Son
Sakshi Koul - Daughter
Smt. & Sh. Avtar Krishan Koul - Brother & Bhabhi
Smt. & Sh. Jawahar Lal Koul - Brother & Bhabhi
CONTACT NO'S : 6006175229, 9086471717

TENTH DAY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD AND UNTIMELY DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SMT. RINKU KUMARI** W/O SH SUNIL KHAROO, PRESENTLY RESIDING AT H. NO 411, SECTOR- 2, VINAYAK NAGAR, MUTHI JAMMU ON 08-09-2024.



SMT. RINKU KUMARI

TENTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON MONDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER, 2024 AT MUTHI GHAT (NEAR DIRECTORATE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION) JAMMU AT 9 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

SAMAST KHAROO FAMILY
SAMAST PANDITA FAMILY
SAMAST RAINA FAMILY
AND ALL EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS.
7006262130, 7006701628, 9596779378

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that our beloved **Anjana Sapru** W/o Subhash Sapru R/o Kolkata, Presently at Bharat City Tila pipeline Ghazibad Tower A4 /1002 Pin 201003 left for heavenly abode on 5th of September.



ANJANA SAPRU

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 14th of September at Muradnagar Ghat Uttar Pradesh.

PRAYER MEETING will be held at Bharat City Tila pipeline Ghazibad Tower A4 /1002 Pin 201003 at 13.00 hour.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Subash Sapru - Husband
Salvesh Sapru - Son
Kumar Dev Chatterjee - Brother
Sherya Sapru - Daughter
Shashwat, Pratistha
Nancy Sapru - Aunty
Sunil Sapru - Brother in law

Shweta Sapru - Sister in law
Brother and Sister in law
Amit and Khushboo Sapru
Brother and Sister in law
Sumit and Megha Sapru
KALPANA MONDAL
Contact No : 9999098818,
9821262259

TENTH DAY KRIYA

This is to inform that **10TH DAY KRIYA** of **Dr Sanjay Bhat** S/o Nand Lal Bhat H/o Dr Aarti Razdan 120 C Sector 2 Pocket 2 DDA Flats opposite Bhaskara Charya College Of Applied Sciences, New Delhi-110075 will be held on 13th September-2024 (Friday) at 7.00 AM at Venue Shri Gauri Shankar Mandir New Palam Vihar, Block T, Sector 109, Gurugram, Haryana .



DR SANJAY BHAT

After the **KRIYA**, a prayer assembly will be held at residence at 120 C Sector 2 Pocket 2 DDA Flats opposite BhaskaraCharya College Of Applied Sciences , New Delhi-110075.

N L Bhat (9622102156)
Ajay Bhat(9899361973)

TENTH DAY, KRIYA & UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow and with heavy heart, we regret to inform the sad demise of our father **Shri Nand Lal** (S/o Late Sh. Sunder Das) R/o F-692, Resham Ghar Colony, Jammu.



Shri Nand Lal

Tenth Day Kriya shall be performed at 10.30 AM on 12th Sep. 2024, at his residence F-692, Resham Ghar Colony, Jammu.

Uthala shall be performed between 4 pm to 5pm on 13th Sep. 2024, at Radha Krishan Mandir, Resham Ghar Colony, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Vijay & Vineeta Malhotra (Son & Daughter in Law)
Ritu & Munish Trilokia (Daughter & Son in Law)
Bindu & Ashok Verma (Daughter & Son in Law)
Seema & Kewal Krishan (Daughter & Son in Law)
And All Grand Children
Contact: 9906283880, 9560533880, 9797575783

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Shuban Krishan Koul** S/o Late Sh. Sarwanand Koul original resident of Hiller Arhama (Mohripora) at present TRT Purkhoo Camp Block D, Qtr No.27 Jammu currently staying at Community Hall Purkhoo Camp who left for heavenly abode on 07-09-2024.



SH SHUBAN KRISHAN KOUL

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education Jammu on 15th Sept 2024 at 9:30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Seema Koul - Wife
Sanjay Koul - Son
Sakshi Koul - Daughter
Smt. & Sh. Avtar Krishan Koul - Brother & Bhabhi
Smt. & Sh. Jawahar Lal Koul - Brother & Bhabhi
CONTACT NO'S : 6006175229, 9086471717

10TH DAY, KRIYA, UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our **Smt Sudesh Rani Kala** w/o Late Sh. Sat Parkash Kala of Kishwar on 3.09.2024 at Jammu.



Smt. Sudesh Rani Kala

10th day will be performed at 11:30AM on 12/9/2024 (Thursday) at our residence H.No: 149 Sec-2, JDA Housing Colony Roop Nagar Jammu .

Kriya will be performed at our residence at 12:00 Noon on 14/09/2024 (Saturday).

UTHALA will be performed 5PM to 6PM on 14/09/2024 (Saturday) at Hari Mandir Rehari Colony, Jammu .

GRIEF STRICKEN

Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Archana Gupta & Sh. Chander Shekhar
Devrani & Devar
Smt. Prabha Gupta & Sh. Vinod Gupta
Bhabhi & Brother
Smt. Sudesh Gupta & Bharat Bhushan Gupta
Smt. Usha Gupta & Dr. Satvir Gupta - **Sister & Brother-in-law**
Smt. Kanchan Gupta W/o Late Sh. Suresh Gupta
Smt. Sarla Dogra W/o Late Shri Swami Raj Dogra
Samast Kala Parivar
Mob. No: 9622385160, 9419109915

LAST RITES

Those we love don't go away
They walk beside us everyday
Unseen, unheard, but always near
Still loved, still missed and very near



Sh. Ashok Kumar Wali (1953-2024)

Tenth Day Kriya-11th Sep 2024 at Alandi Pune 9:00 AM

Eleventh Day Kriya- 12th Sept 2024 at J701 Park Titanium

Twelfth Day Kriya- 13th Sep 2024 at J701 Park Titanium

DEEPLY MOURNED BY:-
His loving **Wife**- Smt. Shyama Wali
His beloved **Daughter and Son-in-law** - Sheetal and Nitin Srivastava
His beloved **Son and Daughter-in-law**- Alok and Nidhima Wali
His lovely **Grand Children** : Nabhit Srivastava, Myra Wali, Kyra Srivastava
His caring **Brother and Sister-in-law** - Inder Krishan and Baby Wali
Pune Address : J701 Park Titanium, Park Street Wakad Pune
Phone: 8007072220

10TH DAY, KRIYA, UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our **Smt Sudesh Rani Kala** w/o Late Sh. Sat Parkash Kala of Kishwar on 3.09.2024 at Jammu.



Smt. Sudesh Rani Kala

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GRIEF STRICKEN

Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Archana Gupta & Sh. Chander Shekhar
Devrani & Devar
Smt. Prabha Gupta & Sh. Vinod Gupta
Bhabhi & Brother
Smt. Sudesh Gupta & Bharat Bhushan Gupta
Smt. Usha Gupta & Dr. Satvir Gupta - **Sister & Brother-in-law**
Smt. Kanchan Gupta W/o Late Sh. Suresh Gupta
Smt. Sarla Dogra W/o Late Shri Swami Raj Dogra
Samast Kala Parivar
Mob. No: 9622385160, 9419109915

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Zoology Deptt of GGM Science Colleges organizes guest lecture on 'Aquarium Fabrication and Setup under NEP 2020'

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 12: The Department of Zoology at GGM Science College, Jammu, successfully hosted a guest lecture on "Fabrication and Setting Up of Aquarium" as part of its ongoing skill development course, aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The initiative was aimed to equip students with hands-on vocational skills alongside academic knowledge. The event was held under the leadership of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta and witnessed active participation from faculty members and students.

The guest speaker, Dr. Gurpreet Kour, Associate Professor at Government Degree College (GDC), Udhampur who is highly regarded for her expertise in zoology and aquarium management, provided a thorough understanding of the technical aspects



involved in aquarium fabrication, including water quality management, species selection, and overall maintenance.

Combining both theoretical and practical insights, Dr. Kour captivated the audience with her in-depth knowledge and hands-on demonstrations.

Earlier, Prof. Lekh Raj, Head of the Department of Zoology, inaugurated the event and emphasized the importance of skill development in

zoology. He underscored that the NEP 2020's focus on integrating vocational training into the mainstream curriculum is critical for preparing students for practical, real-world challenges.

Several esteemed faculty members from the Departments of Zoology and Human Genetics, that include Dr. Narinder Kumar, Dr. Rahul Kait, Dr. Brinder Kumar, Prof. Bal Krishan, Dr. Sheetu Raina, Prof. Reetika Rani, Dr. Rohit Bhard-

waj, and Dr. Jyotdeep Kour contributed to the success of the event.

Their presence fostered a collaborative environment for learning and knowledge-sharing.

Students participated enthusiastically, expressing their appreciation for the lecture and its practical relevance. The hands-on demonstration and technical insights provided by Dr. Kour motivated many students to explore career opportunities in aquarium management

and related fields.

Principal Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, while concluding the event, commended the Zoology Department for organizing such a valuable session, highlighting the college's commitment to delivering quality education paired with essential practical skills.

He thanked Dr. Gurpreet Kour for her significant contribution and encouraged students to seize such learning opportunities for their overall growth and development.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Jyotdeep, who extended gratitude to the resource person, faculty members, and students for their active participation, making the event a resounding success.

Sawhney promises Statehood restoration as top priority



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 12: Congress-National Conference (NC) candidate for the Jammu East assembly constituency, Yogesh Sawhney, has announced that restoring Jammu and Kashmir's statehood will be Congress party's top priority once elected to power.

Sawhney, who has been actively touring the constituency and holding public meetings, emphasized that returning statehood is essential for safeguarding the region's democratic and constitutional rights.

The restoration of statehood directly implies restoration of Jammu's dignity and respect, the degradation to UT status shall be reversed, said Sawhney.

Sawhney's campaign in Jammu East is in full swing, with widespread support from the local population.

The Congress NC candidate has been engaging with residents across various areas, listening to their concerns, and outlining his vision for the future.

His message of restoring statehood has resonated with many, as he pledges to bring back democracy to Jammu and Kashmir.

Yesterday, Sawhney led a massive nomination rally, demonstrating the overwhelming backing he has received from the people of Jammu East. Large crowds gathered to show their support as he filed his nomination papers, marking a significant moment in his campaign.

paign.

"The people of Jammu East have shown unwavering trust, and I am committed to working for their betterment," Sawhney stated during the rally.

In his public addresses, Sawhney was critical of the ruling BJP, accusing the party of failing to deliver on its promises. He stated, "The BJP has failed miserably in restoring democracy in Jammu and Kashmir. They have stripped the people of their rights, and it is time for a change. Congress, in alliance with the NC, aims to restore what was unjustly taken away."

He concluded by stating that true development in Jammu and Kashmir is only possible when the people regain their democratic and constitutional rights.

"Development can only happen when people have a say in their governance. We are fighting to give the people of Jammu their voice back, and Congress is committed to achieving this goal," he said, promising to continue the momentum as the elections approach.

Politics shouldn't be based on religious lines: Tarigami

Top News Report

KULGAM, Sept 12: CPI(M) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami on Wednesday said that politics should not be based on religious lines, nor should religion interfere in political matters. He said that development should not be measured by religious rallies in various villages of the Kulgam constituency, Tarigami said, "Politics has nothing to do with religion, and it never did in the past, nor will it in the future. Some people who, until yesterday, called voting a sin, are today saying it is a virtuous Tarigami further said that, together, the people of Kulgam can build a new chapter of development in the region, addressing issues such as roads,



drinking water, better schools, and apple orchards. He also highlighted the electricity problem, where residents are charged high fees despite facing frequent power shortages. He assured that all these issues can be resolved with the support of the people.

"I have always raised my voice against injustice and reminded everyone that Kashmiris have been betrayed. These are our collective concerns, and we must keep them in mind and give our support wisely," he added.

Chairman J&K ICAI led delegates meets Vikram Sahay

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 12: Vikram Sahay, IRS, has officially assumed charge as the Principal Commissioner of Income Tax (PCIT) for the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

On this occasion, a delegation led by CA Vineet Kohli, Chairman of the J&K Branch of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), along with CA Nakul Saraf, Past Chairman, J&K ICAI, and several Chartered Accountants and members of the Bar Council extended their congratulations to Sahay.

During the meeting, the delegation discussed various issues and challenges faced

by professionals and taxpayers in the region, particularly concerning pending appeals, rectifications, and other income tax-related matters.

The professionals voiced their concerns and sought solutions to improve efficiency and reduce delays in the resolution of these matters.

In response, Sahay assured the group that he is committed to addressing their concerns and resolving the issues faced by taxpayers and professionals alike.

He emphasized the importance of collaboration between the Income Tax Department and stakeholders, stating, "We will work together to resolve

grievances and ensure the smooth functioning of tax administration in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh."

He also stated plans for outreach programs aimed at raising awareness among taxpayers across different regions of Jammu & Kashmir.

These programs will focus on educating taxpayers about their rights, obligations, and the services available to them, fostering a more informed and compliant taxpayer base.

Sahay reiterated his commitment to improving the tax administration system in the Union Territories, ensuring transparency, efficiency, and fairness for all stakeholders involved.

Advisor Ladakh launches Skill Development Survey portal of LPDD

Top News Report

LEH, Sep 12: Dr Pawan Kotwal, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, launched the Skill Development Survey portal, an initiative of the Ladakh Power Development Department (LPPD), aimed to skill and upskill the youth of Ladakh in anticipation of upcoming renewable energy projects in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

A comprehensive presentation was given by NIC, who developed the portal, on the functioning of the portal. The portal, a first of its kind in the region, is designed to gather data on the current skill levels and interests of the youth in Ladakh.

It is pertinent to mention that this information will be crucial in shaping tailored training programs that align with the needs

of the renewable energy sector, which is set to be a major contributor to Ladakh's economic development. The survey is expected to help identify gaps in skills and provide the necessary guidance for the youth to enhance their employability in this growing field.

Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor Dr Kotwal appreciated the initiative while suggesting some additions to the portal so that it can cover all aspects of the survey efficiently and effectively.

The event highlighted the potential of Ladakh to become a leading hub for renewable energy, particularly solar and wind energy and the need to equip the local youth with the relevant skills to participate actively in this transformation.

The survey will be open to all youth of Ladakh,

and the data collected will be used to design courses in collaboration with leading institutions of the country. Detailed information shall be available on lpddsurvey.in.

The event was attended by Administrative Secretary, PDD Vikram Singh Malik; State Coordinator/DDG NIC, Dr. Sushel Kumar, UT Ladakh; State Informatics Officer J.S Modi, UT Ladakh; Officer-In Charge/ Director NIC, Punchok Paldan, UT Ladakh; Assistant Director NIC Stanzin Sedol UT Ladakh; Chief Engineer, PDD UT Ladakh; Superintendent Engineer, PDD; Executive Engineer, PDD; OSD to Administrative Secretary, PDD; Along with other officers from NIC Ladakh; officers stationed outside joint virtually.

BJP only exploited people of Kishtwar in last 10 years: Kamlesh



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Sep 12: Kamlesh Kumari, the former Sarpanch of Halqa Panchayat Pochhal and General Secretary of the National Conference Women Wing in Kishtwar, expressed strong criticism of the BJP's role in the region over the past decade.

She accused BJP leaders, specifically Sunil Sharma, of exploiting the people of Kishtwar District without delivering any substantial public work.

Kumari alleged that Sunil Sharma, the local BJP leader, prioritized benefiting his associates involved in the Hydro Electric Power Projects rather than the common people.

According to her, Sharma used his influence to ensure that these companies

employed only those with his recommendation, leaving the general population without opportunities.

She further stated that while 25,000 people should have been employed in these projects, only 3,000 to 4,000 individuals have secured jobs.

Kumari emphasized that the companies in these projects were supposed to use 70% labour and only 30% machinery, but under Sharma's influence, the opposite occurred, with 70% machinery being used, allegedly owned by his associates.

She also claimed that contracts in the Hydro Electric Power Projects, as well as in the construction of NH 244 road by NHIDCL, were awarded only to BJP-affiliated individuals, leaving ordinary contractors and educated youth unemployed.

In her closing remarks, Kumari urged the voters of Kishtwar and Nagseni Paddar Constituency to vote wisely in the upcoming elections, implying that a change is necessary to address the issues facing the region.

AIJKBOO to hold General House Meeting on Sep 15

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 12: The All India Jammu and Kashmir Bank Officers Organization (AIJKBOO), in collaboration with the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), held a press conference today addressing key issues concerning the J&K Bank.

The speakers highlighted several important concerns affecting the bank and its employees.

Ashok Choudhary, Organizing Secretary of BMS, reiterated AIJKBOO's recent appeal to the Prime Minister, urging for the governance of J&K Bank to be shifted from the Home Ministry to the Finance Ministry.

He emphasized that J&K Bank is the only bank under the Home Ministry, leading to delays in implementing



reforms introduced by the RBI and Department of Financial Services (DFS).

Aligning J&K Bank with the rest of the Indian banking sector, he argued, would ensure timely implementation of these progressive changes.

Raghubir Jamwal, President of AIJKBOO, discussed the delay in implementing the settled wage revision under the 9th Joint Memorandum and 12th Bipartite Agreement signed in

March 2024. While this wage revision has been implemented across other banks, J&K Bank employees are still waiting for its enforcement.

He called for immediate action on the issue, including the disbursement of accrued arrears and revised salaries to all employees, stressing that this delay demoralizes the workforce.

Additionally, Mukesh Kumar, General Secretary of AIJKBOO, announced that the organization has been

celebrating the birthday of J&K Bank's founder, Maharaja Hari Singh, since 2021 as "Maharaja Hari Singh Day." This year, the event will again be celebrated across all branches on September 23, 2024.

To address staff grievances and other critical issues, AIJKBOO has scheduled a General House Meeting for Sunday, September 15, 2024, at 12:00 noon at Kashmir Hill Resorts, Patta Bohri Road, Paloura, Jammu.

The meeting is open to all employees, including officers, clerical and subordinate staff, as well as retired members of the bank.

The press conference was also attended by Vikas Khajuria, Subash Chander, Rakesh Sharma, Jasbir Singh, Vivek Jamwal, and Sanjeev Gupta.

Dimple predicts fractured and hung J&K Assembly



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 12: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, made several strong statements in a press conference about the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections and the political dynamics in the region.

Dimple predicted a fractured and hung assembly, claiming that no political party or alliance, including the BJP, would secure an absolute majority, even after forming alliances.

He criticized Engineer Rashid, alleging that Rashid is preparing to contest the assembly elections under Union Territory (UT) status, despite previously opposing it. Dimple accused Rashid of holding "beef parties" in MLA hostels during the BJP-PDP alliance government and of betraying the cause of restoring Jammu and Kashmir's statehood by contesting elections under UT status without Articles 370 and 35-A.

Dimple went further, alleging that Rashid's release from jail is part of a conspiracy by the BJP to form a government in collaboration with the National Conference (NC) after the elections. He claimed that

the BJP and NC have a secret agreement to share power, and that Rashid's participation in the elections would help secure more seats for this alliance by dividing Kashmiri political parties.

Dimple expressed disappointment that many local Kashmiri parties and leaders are willing to contest the elections under UT status, which he believes betrays the fight for statehood. He reaffirmed that his stance remains firm: no participation in assembly elections until Jammu and Kashmir's statehood is restored.

In addition, Dimple mentioned that various parties had offered him mandates and tickets, but he rejected them, standing by his commitment to contest elections only under the status of a restored Jammu and Kashmir state. He also highlighted his personal struggles and arrests in the fight for statehood, contrasting it with what he sees as the political opportunism of other leaders.

Dimple accused other political parties of copying Mission Statehood's manifesto but failing to genuinely fight for the interests of the people, particularly on issues like the restoration of statehood, the Instrument of Accession, and the return of power projects to provide free electricity and drinking water. He expressed concern that many parties seem willing to compromise their principles for the sake of political power under the current UT system.

Joginder Sangam stands down in favour of M L Kaith in Marh assembly seat election

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 12: Renowned JKUT Bhaichara Committee leader Joginder Sangam who was all set to contest election from Marh assembly seat as an independent candidate and was about to file nomination for this in the office of SDM Marh today, stood down in favour of independent candidate SSP retired Mohan Lal

Kaith at the request of some eminent Batwal leaders. Sangam publicly declared in a function held at Choana Chack today that he won't contest polls now but would wholeheartedly focus on supporting Kaith in the Marh assembly seat election slated to be held on October 1, 2024.

Sangam after joining Kaith launched his election campaign for him in Marh for the Assembly Polls.

EDITORIAL

GOOD INITIATIVES

Good initiatives can take various forms, from grassroots movements to governmental programs, and they play a vital role in fostering positive change within communities, regions, and even globally. These initiatives can address various challenges, such as environmental sustainability, poverty alleviation, education, public health, and community development, and they are often driven by individuals, organizations, and governments seeking to improve the quality of life. Here are some notable examples of good initiatives that have made a significant impact.

One of the most pressing global issues today is environmental degradation, and various initiatives have been launched worldwide to address it. The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in India is a government initiative aimed at ensuring safe and adequate drinking water to all rural households by 2024. This mission promotes sustainable water management practices, which include rainwater harvesting, groundwater replenishment, and greywater management. By focusing on sustainability, the JJM aims to improve access to safe water while preserving valuable resources for future generations.

Another key initiative is the global Rooftop Solar Yojana (RSY), which promotes the use of solar energy in urban and rural settings. Rooftop solar panels reduce reliance on non-renewable energy sources, minimize carbon emissions, and lower electricity costs for households and businesses. In addition to empowering communities with clean energy, this initiative contributes to global efforts to combat climate change.

Education and skill development are critical to empowering individuals and fostering economic growth. One of the most successful initiatives in this area is UNICEF's Global Education Program, which seeks to provide quality education for children, especially those in marginalized and conflict-affected areas. This initiative focuses on building better learning environments, providing teacher training, and promoting equity and inclusion in education. By ensuring that every child has access to quality education, the program helps break the cycle of poverty and opens up new opportunities for children around the world.

In India, the Skill India Mission is another successful initiative aimed at transforming the country into the "Skill Capital" of the world. Launched in 2015, this program focuses on providing vocational training to millions of young people, helping them secure jobs and build successful careers. The program's emphasis on industry-relevant skills ensures that individuals are well-prepared for the evolving job market.

Healthcare initiatives have always been crucial for improving the well-being of individuals and communities. One notable example is the Poshan Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) in India, which aims to reduce malnutrition in children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers. This initiative addresses the root causes of malnutrition by promoting better health and nutrition practices, providing essential supplements, and educating communities on the importance of a balanced diet. The Poshan Abhiyaan is a holistic approach to addressing the challenges of undernutrition and stunting, improving the overall health of future generations.

Globally, the World Health Organization's (WHO) Health Emergencies Programme plays a crucial role in responding to global health crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. This initiative works to strengthen health systems, improve disease surveillance, and provide critical resources to countries facing health emergencies. By promoting a coordinated global response to health threats, the WHO initiative helps mitigate the impact of pandemics and ensures that countries are better prepared for future crises.

Community-driven initiatives are essential for fostering social cohesion and empowering marginalized groups. Mission Shakti, an initiative by the Government of India, focuses on empowering women by providing them with access to economic opportunities, education, and social services. This program addresses gender disparities and works to improve the socio-economic conditions of women in rural and urban areas. Through skill development, financial inclusion, and social welfare schemes, Mission Shakti promotes gender equality and helps women become self-reliant.

In addition, community development projects, such as those run by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) like Habitat for Humanity, provide housing and infrastructure support to disadvantaged communities. These initiatives help create sustainable living conditions by building affordable housing, improving sanitation, and providing access to clean water. Habitat for Humanity engages volunteers and local communities in building projects, fostering a sense of ownership and empowerment among residents.

The rapid advancement of technology has opened up new opportunities for good initiatives in various sectors. Digital India, a flagship initiative by the Indian government, aims to transform the country into a digitally empowered society. The program focuses on improving digital infrastructure, increasing internet access, and promoting digital literacy. By leveraging technology, Digital India empowers citizens, enhances government transparency, and fosters innovation in industries such as healthcare, education, and agriculture.

Moreover, the Global Fintech Initiative, supported by international organizations, is working to improve financial inclusion by providing access to digital financial services for underserved populations. By utilizing mobile banking, digital wallets, and fintech solutions, this initiative enables individuals and small businesses to participate in the formal economy, leading to economic growth and financial stability.

Delhi, Dhaka need to mend fences: Could Hasina help?

By: Sunanda K. Datta-Ray

A plump 77-year-old widow's feud with a world-famous 83-year-old Nobel Prize-winning economist should not be allowed to distort India's complex relations with Bangladesh. On August 5, Sheikh Hasina Wajed was forced to flee her country after resigning as Prime Minister, a job she had held for nearly 20 years, and escaped in an Army plane to India as vengeful mobs stormed her mansion in Dhaka. Following her flight, Muhammad Yunus, hailed as "banker to the poor" and awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for transporting peasants from poverty to prosperity, was elevated to be the Bangladesh government's de facto head. Also Read - Kasturi M. | All that India's women really need is respect and equality Advertisement India is Bangladesh's biggest, closest, richest and most powerful neighbour. The world's fifth longest land border straggling for 4,096 km along five Indian states separates and unites the two countries that were once one. It's difficult to separate the personal from the political in the sequence of events that haunts troubled Bangladesh. But the acrimony that flared up on August 13 after some fairly innocuous comments on the social media by the exiled Ms Wajed suggest that although Dhaka may not have made a formal request for her extradition, it is waiting for a chance to turn the tables on the former Prime Minister. Mr Yunus wants her silenced and repatriated to Bangladesh to face a public trial for alleged "atrocities" committed on her watch. Unable to forget or forgive how the leaders of the August 1975 military coup slaughtered her father, mother, brothers and sundry other relatives, Ms Wajed is determined to resist the move. Also Read - Wasbir

Hussain | Manipur: Local ethnic 'war' turns into a national crisis No one is sure exactly why and when she and the benign-looking Mr Yunus fell out. But unimpressed by the praise lavished on him, she once called him a "bloodsucker" of the poor and accused his Grameen Bank of charging exorbitant interest rates while her courts sentenced the octogenarian economist and social worker to six months in jail for violating labour laws. One theory is that Ms Wajed has been determined to discredit him ever since he toyed with the notion of setting up a political party to rival the governing Awami League founded by her late father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, dubbed "Bangabandhu" or "Friend of Bengalis". Ms Wajed may also have suspected Mr Yunus of being close to her arch-rival, Begum Khaleda Zia, widow of the also assassinated dictator Gen. Zia-ur Rahman, and now leader of his Bangladesh Nationalist Party. Also Read - Aakar Patel | Modi's 3.0 govt to last for full 5 yrs, but can do only what allies permit Whatever the reason, Mr Yunus's trial provoked a wave of global interest. Irene Khan, Amnesty International's former head and now a UN special rapporteur, who was present, told AFP that it was "a travesty of justice". In August, more than 170 global celebrities, including former US secretary of state Hillary Clinton, Virgin Group founder Richard Branson and U2 lead singer Bono, asked Sheikh Hasina to stop Mr Yunus' "persecution" and "continuous judicial harassment". But no one responded to her invitation to international experts to assess the legal proceedings. Also Read - Shikha Mukerjee | Of bulldozers, bail & bad faith in Leviathan State Beyond the bickering while the fugitive former Prime Minister is holed up in an Indian safe house looms the bigger issue of justice for

170 million Bangladeshis, including nearly 14 million Hindus who feel insecure and persecuted in a Muslim-majority country. Bangladesh has yearned for economic progress and political stability ever since it was violently torn out of Pakistan's womb in the brief but bitter 1971 liberation war. India cannot be indifferent to this quest or ignore the plight of Hindus who are frequently targeted by attacks and expropriation by Muslims. Even Muhammad Yunus does not deny this although he finds Indian versions "exaggerated". His explanation is that Bangladeshi Muslims are not communal. But they see Bangladeshi Hindus as supporters of Sheikh Hasina's Awami League which they regard as India's catspaw. He admits, however, that some local Muslims might be tempted to seize Hindu property. In fact, the process began in 1947 when Bengal was divided on religious grounds between India and Pakistan. It has continued ever since. Bangladeshi Hindus often don't differentiate between Awami League and BNP supporters, seeing both at some socio-economic levels as opposed to the Hindu population, which has dwindled from 22 per cent of the total to only eight per cent. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had this beleaguered minority across a porous border in mind when he controversially amended immigration laws to make it easier for certain categories of Hindus (as well as Sikhs, Jains, Parsis and Christians) abroad to reclaim their Indian identity. To be fair, Ms Wajed has been discreet about events since her resignation as Prime Minister and panic-stricken August 5 flight. In her only public statement since then -- which her US-based businessman son, Sajeeb Ahmed Wajed Joy, posted on his X handle on social media, presumably with her consent -- she demanded "justice", saying that those involved

in recent "terror acts", killings and vandalism should be investigated, identified and punished. This outraged Mr Yunus, who immediately denounced the comment as an "unfriendly gesture", asserting that Ms Wajed would have to remain silent to prevent discomfort to both countries until Dhaka requested her extradition. "It is not good for us or for India" he added, explaining: "If India wants to keep her until the time Bangladesh wants her back, the condition would be that she has to keep quiet." Mr Yunus had clarified earlier that while Bangladesh values strong ties with India, New Delhi would have to move "beyond the narrative that portrays every other political party except the Awami League as Islamist and that the country will turn into Afghanistan without Sheikh Hasina". While treaties with India on transit through Bangladesh, sharing the Teesta waters, buying electricity from Gautam Adani and other issues can be reviewed, the public trial and punishment of Ms Wajed that he speaks of sounds like a witch-hunt that assumes guilt in advance. That is hardly India's style. Mr Yunus himself has unwittingly suggested a solution to such problems. "She is there in India and at times she is talking, which is problematic. Had she been quiet, we would have forgotten it; people would have also forgotten it as she would have been in her own world. But sitting in India, she is speaking and giving instructions. No one likes it," he said. Discretion is the better part of valour. Whatever her grievances, the fallen Bangladeshi leader's silence now might help to build a rewarding future for both countries. Her hosts must impress on Ms Wajed that it is in her interest, as well as in India's, to avoid any follow-up to the August 13 post. New Delhi and Dhaka urgently need the respite to rebuild fences.

Govt has the leeway to cut oil prices

By: SUSHMA RAMACHANDRAN

IT was just about a year ago that global investment bank Goldman Sachs predicted that world crude oil prices would touch \$100 per barrel by the end of 2024. The forecast rattled emerging economies like India that are large importers. Luckily for them, the prediction has gone way off the mark. Oil prices have fallen by about 20 per cent over the past year with the benchmark Brent crude currently ruling around \$70-72 per barrel. The turnaround has taken place despite a grim geopolitical environment, with the Russia-Ukraine war and the Israel-Hamas conflict showing little signs of ending.

Prices of oil products are usually raised when global prices go up but are rarely reduced commensurately when rates fall.

Oil markets have clearly factored in the fact that neither are likely to disrupt supplies even though Russia remains the third largest crude oil producer in the world. Its production is still flowing into major consumption areas despite sanctions imposed by Western countries. Many European countries, including Poland, Finland, Hungary and even Germany, continue to buy oil and petroleum products from Russia, though the amount has reduced considerably. In addition, the European Union makes sizeable purchases of products like gasoline and diesel from Indian refineries using Russian crude.

As for the West Asian conflict, it has disrupted international trade flowing through the Red

Sea and Suez Canal owing to the depredations of Yemen-based Houthis rebels. Traversing these inlets has been made dangerous for merchant vessels, many of which are now taking the long and expensive route via the Cape of Good Hope. But it has not affected availability of crude and natural gas supplies from the region, and they are continuing to reach consumers through both sea and land routes.

It is thus a variety of other factors that have led to the bearish trend in oil prices over the past year. One of the most significant is weakening global demand, especially from the world's biggest importer, China. Economic woes are continuing in that country as the manufacturing sector contracted for the fourth month in a row. Over the past year, there has been an expectation that the economy would revive and the real estate sector would come out of the doldrums. Such a scenario seems distant now and multinationals are slowly withdrawing from the second largest global economy which is now producing more than the rest of the world can absorb. China recorded a 5.2 per cent growth rate in 2023, but the World Bank has projected that it will touch only 4.8 per cent in 2024. The slowing economy has, in turn, led to a cut in oil imports.

Another factor contributing to softening prices has been rising output in the US, which has emerged as the world's largest crude producer. In fact, countries outside the Organisation of Oil Exporting Countries (OPEC) cartel are expected to lead output growth this year. This has largely offset the voluntary production

cuts of 2.2 million barrels per day imposed by OPEC Plus since last year. These were expected to be lifted last week but with markets remaining relentlessly bearish, the cartel decided to extend the cuts for some more time. Even this news failed to perk up prices which rose slightly and then fell again to reflect the surplus availability in the market.

The ebb in oil markets has come as a bonanza for India, which buys over 85 per cent of its fuel from abroad. Ever since the Ukraine-Russia war began in February 2022, prices have remained volatile. But India was able to get Russian crude at discounted rates which helped tide over the crisis of high prices during that year. The recent declining trend has meant that the Indian basket of crudes has fallen from \$89 per barrel in April to \$72 currently. The significance of this decline can be gauged from the rough estimate that every \$10 rise in oil prices leads to a 0.5 per cent increase in the current account deficit.

In this upbeat scenario, the government has the leeway to cut prices of petroleum products like petrol, diesel and LPG to bring some relief to the common man. With several states going to the polls later this year, it would also be a pragmatic political move. A similar measure was taken in March prior to the General Election. But the fact is that prices of oil products are usually raised by governments when global prices go up but are rarely reduced commensurately when prices fall.

The resistance to raising prices also comes from oil marketing companies (OMCs), which have to bear the brunt when

international prices go up and retail rates are kept static. The situation is different now as the OMCs are flush with funds, having ended the 2023-24 financial year with roughly Rs 81,000 crore of combined profits. These include the flagship Indian Oil Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited.

The oil companies would undoubtedly be worried that world markets may firm up yet again and they could end up struggling yet again with under-recoveries on product sales. For the time being, however, this does not look likely. The malaise in the Chinese economy, for instance, is not expected to show any significant improvement in the near future, indicating weakness in demand will continue for some time. The output, on the other hand, especially from non-OPEC producers, is rising consistently.

As a result, global investment banks are quickly revising their price forecasts. Morgan Stanley has brought its projection for the last quarter of 2024 to \$75 a barrel, while Goldman Sachs has kept to a safe range of \$70-85. Citigroup has gone further and predicted it to fall to \$60 in 2025. In other words, the moderation in oil markets is expected to continue in the medium term as well. The only scenario in which prices could conceivably shoot up would be a full-blown war in West Asia. In this backdrop, it seems conditions are as ideal as possible for domestic oil companies to go ahead with cuts in pump prices. The geopolitical scenario remains challenging, but it is a risk worth taking.

Pavneet Kour appeals to Sikh Community for support as Apni Party candidate

BJP, Congress exploit Sikh votes without delivering promises

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 12: Pavneet Kour, the Jammu South candidate from the Apni Party, has made a heartfelt appeal to the Sikh community, urging them to support her in the upcoming elections.

Kour, representing the election symbol 'Bat,' called upon voters to stand by her as their daughter, emphasizing the need for change and unity.

Sikh concerns ignored by Traditional Parties, said Kour.



She criticized both the BJP and Congress for using the Sikh community solely for votes without addressing their concerns.

"We will not be taken for granted. If elected, I promise to make the Punjabi language an official language and work tirelessly to uplift the Sikh community," she declared.

Kour also reaffirmed her commitment to the party's vision for a drug-free youth, empowerment of women, and better opportunities for the Sikh minority in Jammu South.

Sunny of Gahlian School secures third position in painting



Top News Report

JAMMU / KANGRA, Sep 12: Under the banner of Aapna Kangra Entertainment, a great

talent contest was held in which the participants displayed their skills in singing, dancing, painting, yoga and modelling. In the same series,

three children of Government Utkrishi Senior Secondary School Gahlian participated – Anya Sandhu, Riya and Sunny. Sunny, a student of class VIII, brought glory to the school by securing third position in painting.

Sunny's parents especially thanked Hindi teacher Rajiv Dogra, with whose help Sunny achieved this position. Principal Gulshan Awasthi and Vikas Chaudhary (Lecturer Physics) congratulated Sunny and his parents.

NSS SMVDU raises funds in support of the Indian Association for Blind

Top News Report

KATRA, Sep 12: The NSS unit of SMVDU, Katra organized a donation collection drive in support of the Indian Association for the Blind (IAB), located in Madurai, Tamil Nadu. The IAB is dedicated to empowering visually impaired individuals to become self-sufficient by offering comprehensive rehabilitation, education, and employment opportunities.

The organization particularly focuses on supporting visually challenged children and adults from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, especially those from rural areas.



To raise funds for this noble cause, NSS SMVDU volunteers sold badges and flags provided by IAB. The university's students, staff, and faculty showed tremendous enthusiasm and generosity, actively participating in the drive.

Over three days, the volunteers successfully raised Rs. 15,000, which was then donated

to the IAB.

NSS Coordinator Dr. Rajiv Kumar and Co-Coordinator Dr. Kamaldeep commended the volunteers for their dedication and efforts in organizing this drive.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar, also lauded the NSS team for their commendable initiative and contribution to this meaningful cause.

GGM Science College hosts live telecast of UGC's Chetna Lecture Series

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 12: The Eco-Environment committee of GGM Science College, in collaboration with the College UGC Committee, on Thursday organized the live telecast of the "Chetna Lecture Series" on Clean Campuses and Cities.

This initiative, telecasted online by the University Grants Commission (UGC), was aimed at educating students and faculty on the importance of cleanliness and environmental sustainability for a greener tomorrow.

The event, which falls under the Swachh Bharat Pakhwada initiative of the Government of India, was held under the guidance of Prof.



(Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal of GGM Science College and was coordinated by Prof. Harmeet Kour, Convener of the Eco-Environment Committee, and Prof. (Dr.) Sunil Dutt, Convener of the College UGC Committee.

The keynote speaker for the event was P. Narahari, Secretary of the Public Health Engineering Department,

Government of Madhya Pradesh, who in his online lecture emphasized the critical need for cleanliness in both educational institutions and urban areas.

In addition, Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar, Chairman of UGC, in his address urged the youth to take active roles in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan by maintaining clean campuses and promoting hygiene.

Later following the telecast, Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta during his interaction with students and faculty underscored the significance of maintaining cleanliness on the college campus.

He highlighted the necessity of organizing special cleanliness drives, ensuring proper segregation and disposal of waste, and using social media platforms to raise awareness

about the Swachh Bharat Pakhwada campaign.

Dr. Gupta encouraged collective participation from both students and staff in upholding cleanliness within the college and surrounding communities.

The event was attended by faculty members including Dr. Ashaq Hussain, Prof. Bal Krishna, Dr. Arti Sharma, Dr. Rohit Kumar, Dr. Sheeta Rani, Prof. Susheel Kumar, Dr. Ram Krishan and Prof. Reetika Rani, who actively supported the initiative.

This event marks a significant step forward in promoting the culture of cleanliness and sustainability within educational institutions, aligning with the broader national goals of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

World Suicide Prevention Day observed at ANMT Doda

Top News Report

DODA, Sep 12: On the occasion of the World Suicide Prevention Day, a programme with an interactive session was conducted in the conference hall of ANMT School Doda.

The event was organised by the District Health Society Doda and was graced by Chief Medical Officer Doda Dr Om Kumar and attended by Principal ANMT Doda Anusuya Bhan, Mohd Shafi Attu, Mohd Faheem Butt, Sanjeev Rana, staff of CMO/Dy CMO Office



besides students of ANMT Doda.

The programme was conducted in view of the fact that there has been a steady rise of mental health issues especially among youth and aimed to raise awareness and educate students on the

importance of mental health and suicide prevention.

In this context the program was conducted with the theme of "Changing the narrative, start the conversation."

CMO Doda Dr Om Kumar while interact-

ing with the students emphasizes stress management and had an interactive session on the subject.

The target audience was the students of the ANMT School Doda. The students discussed the issues troubling

them.

The interactive session encouraged students to share their thoughts and concerns, providing a safe space for discussion.

There was a unanimous opinion that the stakeholders should follow National Suicide Prevention Strategy in letter and spirit which is based on WHO recommended model.

The event marked a significant step towards promoting mental health awareness and encouraging youngsters to prioritize their well-being.

Sadhya of KCPS wins gold in UT Level Yoga Championship

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 12: Sadhya Sharma, a grade VIII student of KC Public School (KCPS), bagged gold medal in the 12 to 14 years age category in the recently held 5th J&K Yoga Championship held at Om Shanti Meditation Centre, Jammu.

The competition organized by the Yoga Association of Jammu and Kashmir was quite fierce in which participants from schools from the entire UT show-

cased their skills.

Sadhya as a dedicated and passionate student of KCPS has been practicing Yoga for years. Her commitment to the practice of Yoga and her exceptional talent enabled her to earn the top spot in this competition.

Principal Amarendra Kumar Mishra expressed his pride in Sadhya's accomplishment and stated that her dedication and hard work have truly paid off.

He added further

that the school is proud to have such a talented student representing it at the UT level. KC Public School is committed to nurturing and supporting talents and passions of its students and Sadhya's success is an example of it.

Chairman Raju Chowdhary, Vice Chairman Arjun Chowdhary, MD Arti Chowdhary, Principal Amarendra Kumar Mishra and Vice Principal Sanjay Pandey congratulated Sadhya on her achievement.

GCW Bhagwati Nagar organizes Reel Making Competition

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 12: The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Government College for Women (GCW), Bhagwati Nagar, organized an innovative Reel Making Competition with the theme "Loktantra ka Mahaparv."

Under the guidance of Principal Dr. Meeru Abrol, the event aimed to emphasize the importance of the electoral process and raise awareness about the pivotal role that voting plays in a democracy. Designed as part of a voter awareness campaign, the competition sought to encourage greater participation of young people in elections, ensuring that they recognize their responsibility in shaping the nation's governance.

The event saw the enthusiastic participation of around 15 students, who creatively expressed the significance of voting and the democratic system through their reels. These short videos varied in content, showcasing different aspects of voting behavior and emphasizing the need for informed and responsible participation in the electoral process. The students utilized this

platform to demonstrate their talent and convey meaningful messages on how to ensure smooth, fair, and effective elections.

Dr. Meeru Abrol, the principal of the college, commended the students for their dedication and creativity, appreciating their wholehearted participation in such a significant event.

She stressed the need for youth involvement in the election process, underscoring that their engagement is crucial for electing leaders who prioritize the well-being of the people.

She further elaborated on how the active participation of young voters can fulfill the core objectives of democracy and strengthen the electoral system.

The competition was judged by an esteemed panel comprising Prof. Gagan Jyoti, Dr. Pawan Bali, and Dr. Mosmi Raina. After careful evaluation, Mahima Thakur from B.A 3rd Semester was awarded the first position, followed by Palak Rajwal from B.A 3rd Semester and Amandeep Kour from B.A 5th Semester, who secured the second and third positions, respectively. The event highlighted the power of youth in shaping the democratic future of the nation.

Jain Irrigation inks pact with Sher-E-Kashmir Varsity to offer Agri-Tech Solutions in J&K

Top News Report

NEW DELHI, Sep 12 (Agencies): Jain Irrigation Systems on Thursday said it has tied up with the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST-Kashmir) to offer smart and technology-driven solutions to farmers in Jammu and Kashmir. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Jain Irrigation Joint Managing Director Ajit Jain and SKUAST-Kashmir Vice Chancel-

lor Nazeer Ahmad Ganai. The partnership aims to introduce state-of-the-art irrigation techniques and sustainable farming practices that are tailored to meet the unique challenges of the region, the company said in a statement. The collaboration will focus on improving water management, developing clean planting material, enhancing crop yields, promoting climate smart technologies, solutions and precision farming practices to ensure long-term sustainability. The Vice Chancellor said the collaboration

marks a crucial milestone in ongoing efforts to "uplift the farming community of Jammu and Kashmir." By adopting smart technologies and innovative practices, the aim is to empower farmers with the tools they need to increase productivity, conserve water, and ensure food security in the region, he added.

"Together, we will work to introduce climate smart and precision-farming techniques that will not only optimize resource utilization but also lead to sustainable agricultural growth in the region," Ajit Jain added.

Dr. Uppal participates in National Panel Discussion

Top News Report

JAMMU / NEW DELHI, Sep 12: On the eve of Teachers Day celebrations at New Delhi, Dr. Harshwardan Singh, founder Chairman of PAAI organization organized a panel discussion on the topic, "Insights on National Curriculum Framework, School Education".

A national panel discussed how school education can be more meaningful and useful for students. Dr. Uppal, principal of GGS college of Management and Technology, said students should begin research at an

early age. The importance of AI in research was emphasized by him. Also, he discussed how AI can be beneficial to school students when it comes to research. Ultimately, Dr. Uppal concluded that research can be very helpful to young students. Today, research infrastructure is readily available.

Rajinder Kumar Uppal is the Principal of Guru Gobind Singh College of Management and Technology, Gidderbaha. In addition to being Principal at the G.G.S. College of Management and Technology, he is also MTC Global Chair Professor in Banking and

Finance. Apart from his work at the Indian Institute of Finance, where he is a Research Professor in Finance, he shapes national and international discourses on banking and finance. Scholarly excellence, leadership skills, and a commitment to excellence have earned him accolades both in academia and in research. He inspires generations across disciplines and charts a course for a better future. There is no doubt that Dr. Uppal has had a profound impact on educational policy and practice as a towering figure in academia.

Masala man!

*In his latest avatar as an actor in Hansal Mehta's **The Buckingham Murders**, Ranveer Brar, a chef par excellence, is out to prove that with the right kind of spices, life itself becomes sumptuous*

Chef Ranveer Brar, a famous name among food-lovers, enjoys quite a fan-following of his own. A restaurateur, author and MasterChef judge, he has never been shy of the camera ever. Host of the popular shows — Thank God Its Fryday, The Great Indian Rasoi and Himalayas the Offbeat Adventure, Chef Brar is taking slow and sure steps in the acting arena as well.

After a positive response to his role in Baai, Modern Love Mumbai, Brar takes on a meaty role in Hansal Mehta-directorial **The Buckingham Murders**. A murder mystery, it has Kareena Kapoor Khan at the helm; she is a leading lady as well as the producer of the film. We ask Brar what made him say yes to the role. "It's very difficult to say no to Hansal sir. He is a director par excellence. Doing Modern Love Mumbai with him was a learning curve for me. It sure made me a better chef, a better person. This film was the privilege that I didn't want to let go off."

Brar plays a character named Daljeet Kohli, whose son is murdered in the film. He shares, "The story is set in England and my character comes from Punjab, so I have spoken more Punjabi than Hindi in the film." Not at the liberty to divulge much since it's a thriller, Brar speaks highly of his co-star



Kareena Kapoor Khan and the director. "One of the wonderful things about Hansal sir is that he understands you as a person and your character, and patient-ly takes one along the journey. He puts both the real and reel persona in sync in a way only he can."

Acting with Kareena Kapoor Khan came with its own set of riders. Brar was told to prepare well and not waste a star's time. "It's her 68th or 69th film. To come with that experience, she is a master class in acting herself. At the same time, she is so genuine. She has so much ease and grace about her, which is so amazing."

Acting aside, Brar is an author

too — Come into My Kitchen, Pickled and Modern Molecular Cuisine are some of his books. "We have established our own publishing house called Insktain Publishing Pvt Ltd. A Journey Through India is our third publication." Books, films and shows aside, Brar remains a core family person at heart. His videos with son Ishan on social media — cooking and dancing together — are fun to watch and heart-warming. Does Ishan share the same passion for cooking? "Right now, he is in that stage where his passion changes every day." As a father, all Brar wants is for his child to find his calling and pursue it. "It's all right if he doesn't follow cook-

ing, these are any which way big boots for him to fill."

Brar's wife Pallavi is a chef too, and in his words — 'way better chef than I am'. Who cooks at home, we wonder? "She does, I chip in as and when. And we have a fantastic household, which has learnt all the tricks of the trade."

Brar's Punjab connection stays strong; he is much at ease in Punjabi. "We grew up speaking Punjabi at home; even with Ishan we only speak in Punjabi. Punjab is where our roots are — we visit twice a year," says Brar, who loves to photograph and write poetry in his free time.

Back to the film, looking at Friday release, Brar admits that he is nervous. "I am uncomfortable but right sort of uncomfortable it is! In Modern Love, I played a chef so that was still relatable. This one is a complex character that I have tried and so, yes, I am looking forward to the response." He explores, "The Buckingham Murders is an intriguing watch, made with much love; give us as much love too." The film releases this Friday.

My favourites
Cook My beej, grandmother.
Book Modernist Cuisine.

Film **The Buckingham Murders**.

Dish Khichdi.
MasterChef judge Vikas Khanna.

Vir Das makes history as 1st Indian to host 2024 International Emmy Awards



Vir Das- Indian stand-up comedian and actor—has announced that he will host the 2024 International Emmys organised by the International Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

"Thanks to your support, an Indian Emmy Host I can't wait to host the @iemmys this year! Crazy. Thank you for having me. Tremendously honoured and excited!", Vir Das shared his excitement on Instagram.

Das was earlier nominated for an Emmy in 2021 for his special Vir

Das: For India and won in 2023 for his Netflix special Landing. The comedian is currently on his international Mind Fool tour. Das will be the first Indian to host this prestigious event.

Vir Das has also created, produced, and starred in several series, including ABC's Whiskey Cavalier, Netflix's Hasmukh, and Amazon's Jestination Unknown.

Das appeared in Judd Apatow's **The Bubble** and is developing a single-camera comedy with CBS Studios and Andy Samberg. He is

also the lead singer of India's comedy-rock band Alien Chutney.

Vir Das expressed his happiness at the opportunity of hosting the International Emmys "I am so happy to be hosting the International Emmys. It's a massive prestigious night to uphold makers from across a world that I believe is making its best content. I know first-hand how it can be life-changing," he said in a statement, as per The Hollywood Reporter.

Bruce L. Paisner, president and CEO of the International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, said they are delighted to welcome Vir Das.

"We're delighted to welcome back Vir Das to our stage and to add International Emmy Host to his impressive list of talents. With his unique humor and perspective on the world, he now joins a distinguished group of Gala hosts over the years who fit in perfectly with our global audience."

The International Emmy Awards will be held on November 25 in New York City.

Tune of discord: Jasleen Royal takes legal action against T-Series, Guru Randhawa over copyright infringement

Singer Jasleen Royal has filed a lawsuit against label T-Series, lyricist Raj Ranjodh and singer Guru Randhawa at the Bombay High Court. According to a statement, the lawsuit names T-Series, Raj Ranjodh, and Randhawa for unauthorised use of her musical works in the song named All Right from the album G Thing.

The statement read that Jasleen created the original music compositions in 2022 for a potential track in the promotional events of the Ajay Devgn-starrer **Runway 34**. These were shared with Raj over audio-video calls and messages, and subsequently incorporated into a scratch version of the song. Guru, who is known for songs such as Patola, High Rated Gabru, Soorma and Ishaare Tere, sang it. However, it did not please Jasleen, leading to a fallout.

In 2023, Jasleen realised that the song All Right, released by



T-Series and featuring vocals by Randhawa, embodied her original musical works without her consent, and without any credit being given to her. Jasleen, who is known for tracks such as Din Shagna Da, Heeriye, and Nachde Ne Saare, has now taken a decision to take action to protect her intellectual property rights.

According to the

issued statement, the lawsuit asserts copyright infringement and violation of moral rights. Jasleen's attorneys have secured an interim order from the court, requiring T-Series to remove the song from all streaming platforms. Raj Ranjodh and Guru Randhawa have been prohibited from exploiting the song in any manner.

Meena Kumari, Kamal Amrohi's timeless love story to be turned into film by Siddharth P Malhotra

Bollywood star Sanjay Dutt shared a glimpse of 'tragedy queen' Meena Kumari and filmmaker Kamal Amrohi's poignant love story that will be revisited soon in a feature film, which will be helmed by Siddharth P Malhotra.

The Hindi film will chronicle their 20-year journey, culminating with the 1972 masterpiece, 'Pakeezah', which also stars Raaj Kumar and Nadira.

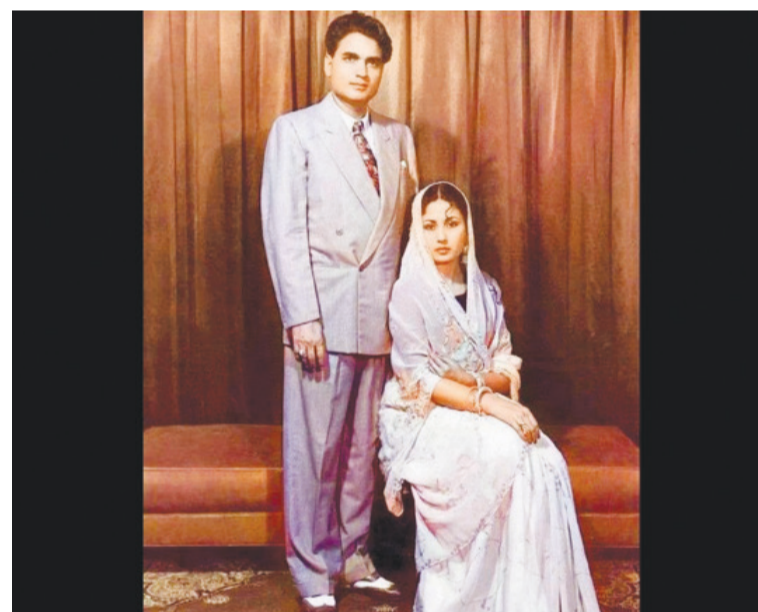
Sanjay took to Instagram, where he shared a teaser of the film, which begins with letters featuring their pictures and a voice over saying, "Mere aadeeb, mere mirsha, mere shehzaade, meri rubayi."

"A Filmmaker, a muse... their star crossed love story... A dream that refused to die... A love that went beyond the grave... Kamal Aur Meena."

The iconic number 'Chalte Chalte Yun Hi Koi' from the 1972 film 'Pakeezah' could be heard playing in the background.

Sanjay captioned, "Dear Saachi and Bilal, all the best for your new venture. May it be a successful one! Love always, from Sanjay Mamu. It's a must-watch. @saachikumaramrohi @bilalamrohi."

Director Siddharth P Malhotra said in a statement, "It's a profound privilege to direct this incredible true story, though the responsibility is immense. Their relationship was one of deep



love and artistic collaboration, spanning over 20 years—from their first meeting when she was just 18 and he was 34, from the creation to shoot and release, the legacy of 'Pakeezah'; their story gives me an opportunity to create a cinematic world where love, passion, emotion and music plays a huge part."

"I'm glad to be allowed to get a stellar team of Bhavani Iyer and Kausar Munir along with Irshad Kamil and the maestro himself AR Rahman sir to score the music of the film. Kamal sir and Meena ji have long been idols of mine, not only for their unmatched contributions to cinema but also for the indomitable spirit they brought to their

craft. I'm beyond excited to bring their story to life on the silver screen."

Bilal Amrohi, grandson of the two icons, said it was a great honour to bring the untold love story and struggle behind making of the film to screen.

"Their story is a beautiful yet tragic chapter in the legacy of Indian cinema. With access to over 500 handwritten letters exchanged between my grandparents Kamal Sahab and Meenaji as well as personal journals detailing their life together thanks to my 'Aphua', Rukhsaar Amrohi, who has selflessly preserved them and my father Tajdar Amrohi who has lived so closely with them both

and off film shoots. I would like to show the world audience the real heart wrenching story which no else knows."

He concluded by quoting, "Jo chup rahegi zabaan-e-khanjar, lahoon pukarega aasteen ka'."

However, no details were shared about the film, which was announced by Saregama and Lionheart Cinema.

Amrohi and Meena met during the filming of the 1952 film 'Tamasha' through veteran actor Ashok Kumar. The two fell in love and got married in the same year. According to reports, only Amrohi's friend Baaqar Ali and Meena Kumari's younger sister Madhu were aware of this.

The two then worked on films such as 'Daera' in 1953, which traced their love story. However, the movie tanked at the box office. They have also worked together in the iconic film 'Pakeezah', which hit the screens 14 years after it first began.

Weeks after the release of the film, Meena Kumari fell ill and slipped into coma. Two days later, she passed away in 1972 aged 38. It was reported that she died due to liver cirrhosis.

Amrohi died in 1993, 21 years after his wife Meena Kumari's death and 10 years after making his last film, 'Razia Sultan', in 1983. He was laid to rest next to Meena Kumari in Rehmatnagar Qabristan.

Stock trading scam: Assamese actress Sumi Bora, husband handed over to police by STF

The duo had been absconding for the last 11 days

Assamese actress and social media influencer Sumi Bora and her husband, who were detained in connection with the multi-crore online stock trading scam by the Special Task Force (STF) on Thursday, have been handed over to police in Dibrugarh, officials said. "STF has handed over both of them to the police over the case

registered in the Dibrugarh Sadar police station related to the trading scam," SP Rakesh Reddy told reporters here.

He said the police will conduct further investigation and record a detailed statement of Bora and her husband Tarkik. The duo had been absconding for the last 11 days. "After conducting the neces-

sary procedures, we will apprise the media about the latest developments," the SP said.

A senior officer had earlier said that STF detained them in Dibrugarh, and they will be handed over to police.

DGP GP Singh had also posted on X a photograph of the duo with their faces blackened. "The game is up for them. Compliments to



the Team STF," he said. He, however, did not name them.

Meanwhile, Tarkik's brother Amlan Bora, arrested in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district on Wednesday, will also be brought to Dibrugarh by Thursday evening, another officer said.

A 'look out' notice was issued against the duo and four others after they failed to appear

before the police, following the arrest of the prime accused, 22-year-old Bishal Phukan, in the case.

The actress and choreographer, in a video message to a few local television channels, had on Wednesday claimed that she will "surrender and fully cooperate with the police".

Phukan, who owned the company that duped

investors, was arrested along with his manager in Dibrugarh last week.

During the investigation, it was found that Phukan had allegedly spent lavishly on Bora, including her high-profile wedding in Rajasthan's Udaipur.

The probe was taken over by CID and a Special Investigation Team (SIT) set up to look into the allegations.

“India aims to...”: Rajnath Singh’s message amid Russia-Ukraine conflict

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh called upon friendly nations to elevate their partnership and collaboration to new heights in view of the evolving global challenges.

JODHPUR, Sep 12 (Agencies): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said India’s aim is to unite and move forward with other nations at a time when some countries are at war with each other.

Speaking at ‘Tarang Shakti’ -- the largest multilateral air exercise in India underway here -- Mr Singh also called upon friendly nations to elevate their partnership and collaboration to new heights in view of the evolving global challenges.

“While countries today are indulging in wars,



India aims to unite and move forward together,” he said.

Mr Singh’s remarks come in the backdrop of calls for India’s potential role in pushing peace talks between Russia and Ukraine as New

Delhi has good relations with both nations. The defence minister also noted that India is becoming largely self-reliant in areas like light combat aircraft, sensors, radars, and electronic warfare.

“Shameful”: Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka on attack of Army officers, rape of friend

NEW DELHI, Sep 12 (Agencies): Senior Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the ruling BJP on Thursday over the assault of two Army officers, and the gang-rape of their female friend, in Madhya Pradesh’s Indore this week.

Mr Gandhi said the horrific incident was “enough to shame the entire society” and lamented the “almost non-existent” law-and-order situation in BJP-ruled states. “... the negative attitude of the BJP government to crimes against women, which are increasing daily, is extremely worrying.”

“The audacity of the criminals is a result of the total failure of the administration and the



unsafe environment in the country... this is a restriction on the freedom and aspirations of the daughters of India,” Mr Gandhi said on X. “Both society and the government should be ashamed and think seriously - how long will they turn a blind eye to the responsibility of protecting half the population of the country!”

Ms Gandhi Vadra, his sister, called the gang-rape and the discovery of the junior officers’ friends’ body - naked on a highway - “heart-

wrenching”. “The Prime Minister talks big about women’s safety... but women across the country are waiting for a serious effort. When will this wait end?”

“Every day 86 women become victims of rape and brutality in the country. From home to outside, from road to office, women are not safe anywhere. Half of the country’s population is not only unsafe, but due to such brutality, the morale of crores of women is broken every day.”

The Congress’ state unit has also launched a broadside at Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, with Jitu Patwari accusing the government of failing to “create fear among criminals”. Mr Patwari also referred to the rape-murder of a junior doctor at the RG Kar Hospital in Bengal’s Kolkata.

“When your eyes well-up over the rape of a student at Kolkata’s RG Kar Medical College, why don’t you feel sad, Chief Minister, for this rape in Indore... the ‘cleanest’ city of our country? If this is not jungle raj then what is it?” the Congress leader asked.

The two Army officers, and two female friends, were assaulted late Tuesday by a gang of eight men, only two of whom have been arrested so far.

The officers and their

friends were near the Chhoti Jam firing range when surrounded by gun- and knives-wielding attackers, who held two - a man and a woman - as hostage, while sending the other two off with a ransom demand of 10 lakh.

The two who were released raised the alarm and police were quickly deployed. When they reached the spot, however, only the two hostages were found. A medical examination since confirmed rape.

The Indore attack comes as fierce protests continue to roil the country over the rape-murder at the RG Kar Hospital last month. The RG Kar killing, which is being investigated by the CBI, has also snowballed into a major political row between the ruling Trinamool and the opposition BJP.

Mamata Banerjee will attend, come for talks: Bengal government to doctors

KOLKATA, Sep 12 (Agencies): The Bengal government on Thursday afternoon invited junior doctors - on strike for 34 consecutive days to protest the rape-murder of a colleague at Kolkata’s RG Kar Hospital - to another round of talks, which will be attended by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Chief Secretary Manoj Pant said.

The protesting doctors had refused two earlier invitations because she was not to be present.

Mr Pant, however, said the state would not accept a demand to live-stream the meeting but offered a compromise, saying it could be recorded “to maintain transparency”. “This will serve the purpose intended from your end while also ensuring all discussions are accurately documented,” he wrote.

“The state is always willing to engage in a dialogue with concerned stakeholders...” Mr Pant’s letter said and called on a delegation of no more than 15

to meet Ms Banerjee at her home at 5 pm.

Ms Banerjee has “waited for your positive response (for the past) two days”, the state said.

Junior doctors have been holding a sit-in protest outside the state’s Health Department HQ for several days now, even though their senior colleagues have returned to work following a plea by the Supreme Court. They have criticised the state for not meeting to hear their concerns.

An invitation to talks was issued Tuesday by the state’s Health Secretary, Narayan Swaroop, but that was summarily rejected since one of the protesting doctors’ demands is that Mr Swaroop be removed from his post. Mr Pant wrote to the on Wednesday, but that invitation was refused because the state then refused to both live-stream the meet and have Ms Banerjee present.

Now, with Ms Banerjee under heavy fire, the ruling Trinamool has relented on those



two demands, although it appears to hold firm on allowing no more than 15 doctors to meet her.

In their response to Mr Pant’s first invitation the doctors said they would send a delegation of at least 30 representatives, and stressed the meet would revolve around their five core demands.

The demands include holding to account all those responsible for the rape and murder of their colleague, as well as destruction of evidence, and to take strict disciplinary action against Dr Sandip Ghosh, the former RG Kar Hospital head who has been arrested by the CBI.

The doctors have also demanded the sacking of Kolkata Police chief

Vineet Goyal, whose leadership of the force has been heavily criticised, and Health Secretary Narayan Swaroop.

The protesting doctors have also asked for adequate security for healthcare workers, particularly the elimination of a ‘threat culture’ they say is rampant in state-run facilities.

The doctors’ protests have, the state has argued, affected healthcare service in Bengal, but the government is wary of blaming the striking medicos, with Health Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya blaming “political forces” for orchestrating the agitation. This led to a quick rebuttal from the medics, who dis-

missed the “baseless” claims and said the protests would continue till demands are met.

In his first letter to the doctors Mr Pant also pointed out they had overrun the deadline set by the Supreme Court - to return to work by 5 pm Tuesday. “You will, no doubt, appreciate and agree that, as a law-abiding citizen, it is everyone’s duty to adhere to (the court’s) directions...” he said.

The Supreme Court, which took suo moto cognisance of the RG Kar horror, had left it to the Bengal government to deal with the striking junior doctors. So far, however, Ms Banerjee has not taken any action, undoubtedly aware of the political firestorm to be unleashed if she does.

Both the Chief Minister and the state government are aware that negotiating a peaceful end to this protest will go a long way to neutralising public anger over the woman’s rape and killing.

2 Children among 7 killed as wall collapses due to heavy rain in Madhya Pradesh

DATIA, Sep 12 (Agencies): Seven people, including two children, lost their lives after an old wall collapsed in the Khalkapura locality of Datia early Thursday morning. The incident occurred when the wall of a ‘kutcha’ house gave way due to continuous rainfall. Nine members of a Vanshkar family were buried under the debris, and only two survivors were rescued early on.

Datia Collector Sandeep Makin confirmed the incident. He said, “On September 12, around 4 am, the fort wall collapsed. The wall consisted of very large blocks. Due to continuous rain for about 36 hours, the wall gave way.” He added that the wall’s collapse was caused by heavy rainfall over two days, which weakened its structure.

According to officials, local residents quickly jumped into action, rescuing the first two victims, who were alive and were taken to a hospital for treatment. However, access to the site was challenging due to the narrow 3-foot-wide pathway, which made it impossible for heavy machinery to reach the area.

“The remaining seven people were trapped, but access was difficult due to the narrow path, making it impossible for a JCB or a Poclain Excavator Machine to reach the site,” Makin said.

The Collector added that the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) was immediately called in to assist with the rescue efforts. Subsequently, the Superintendent of Police, along with

the Collector and the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, reached the spot with other officials.

SDRF teams, along with the local police and administration, managed to recover three bodies initially. Later in the day, a poclain machine was brought in to help clear the debris. By 11:45 am, all seven bodies were recovered from the site.

“Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav expressed his condolences and announced compensation for the families of the those dead, as per government regulations”, Makin said.

The MP CM also announced financial assistance of 4 lakh each to the families of the those killed in the mishap.

“The news of the loss of many precious lives due to the collapse of the old wall of Rajgarh Fort in Datia is extremely painful. We all are with the bereaved families in this hour of grief. As soon as the incident was reported, the rescue operation was started immediately by the SDRF and the district administration team, but due to the narrow road, despite tireless efforts, these precious lives could not be saved. Instructions have been given to provide financial assistance of 4 lakh each to the families of the deceased. I pray to Almighty God to grant a place in his feet to the holy souls of the departed souls and to give strength to the bereaved family to bear this lightning strike, the MP CM said in a post on X.

5, including child, killed after lorry collides with car in Tamil Nadu

CHENNAI, Sep 12 (Agencies): Five people, including two women and a child, were killed when a lorry collided with a car in Tamil Nadu’s Chidambaram, police said on Thursday.

As per the information, the accident happened when 56-year-old Muhammad Anwar, a resident of Mayiladuthurai, was returning with his family from Chennai after meeting one of their relatives who was ill. The car was driven by another one of their relatives named Yasser Arafat.

As the vehicle was travelling over the P Mutlur bridge in Chidambaram, a lorry coming from the opposite side collided with the vehicle after losing control, killing Mohammed Anwar, Yasser Arafat, two women, Hajira Begum and Harafatnisha, and



three-year-old boy Abnan (Harafatnisha’s son) on the spot.

The local police team reached the spot along with the rescue team, who had to pull out parts of the mangled vehicle to remove the bodies, which were then taken to the District Hospi-

tal for autopsy, police added.

Meanwhile, a case has been registered and a hunt for the lorry driver, who escaped from the spot, has been launched.

Further investigation is underway in the matter, police said.

Delhi High Court asks Puja Khedkar to respond to UPSC’s petition against her

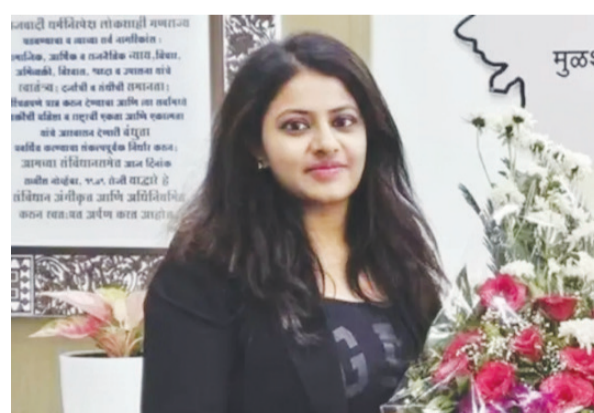
Justice Jyoti Singh issued notice to Khedkar on the UPSC’s application and granted her three weeks to file reply to it

NEW DELHI, Sep 12 (Agencies): The Delhi High Court on Thursday sought former probationary Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Puja Khedkar’s response on a plea by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) seeking initiation of perjury proceedings against her for allegedly giving false statement and affidavit in the court.

Justice Jyoti Singh issued notice to Khedkar on the UPSC’s application and granted her three weeks to file reply to it.

The court listed the matter for further hearing on November 26.

The UPSC contended that the July 31 communication by which Khedkar’s candidature was cancelled was communicated to her on her



registered email id the same day. It said it was the same email id, which was registered in her online application for the Civil Service Program (CSP) 2022.

However, she made a false statement in the court that she has not been served with the order and she came to know of it only through the press release issued by the UPSC, it claimed.

Senior advocate

Naresh Kaushik, representing the UPSC, submitted that the former officer even gave false information to her lawyers and she very well knew that she was making a false statement on oath yet she deliberately swore to the correctness of the false statement.

“Making false averments on oath with the view to obtain favourable orders from the

court, being a very serious offence, undermines the very foundation of the legal system,” said the application filed by advocate Vardhman Kaushik.

It claimed that Khedkar’s affidavit was of July 28, 2024 when the July 31 speaking order issued by the UPSC was not even in existence.

The UPSC urged the court to initiate appropriate proceedings and direct an inquiry against Khedkar in accordance with law for committing the offence of perjury.

Khedkar had earlier approached the high court challenging the UPSC’s press release stating that her candidature has been cancelled.

She had claimed that the cancellation order was never communicated to her and she came to know about it

only through the press release.

The court had disposed of the petition after noting the UPSC’s submission that it will communicate within two days its order cancelling her candidature.

On July 31, the UPSC cancelled Khedkar’s candidature and debarred her from future exams.

She was accused of ‘misrepresenting information’ in her application for the UPSC Civil Services Examination, 2022. Khedkar was also accused of cheating and wrongly availing of OBC and disability quota benefits.

On August 1, a trial court here had denied her anticipatory bail, saying these are serious allegations that “require a thorough investigation”.

Thailand's slumping economy is new leader Paetongtarn's focus in her first parliamentary speech

Thailand's new Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra, the daughter of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, vowed Thursday in her inaugural speech to Parliament to continue many of her predecessor's plans to solve the country's economic woes

BANGKOK, Sep 12 (Agencies): Thailand's new Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra vowed Thursday in her inaugural speech to Parliament to continue many of her predecessor's plans to solve the country's economic woes.

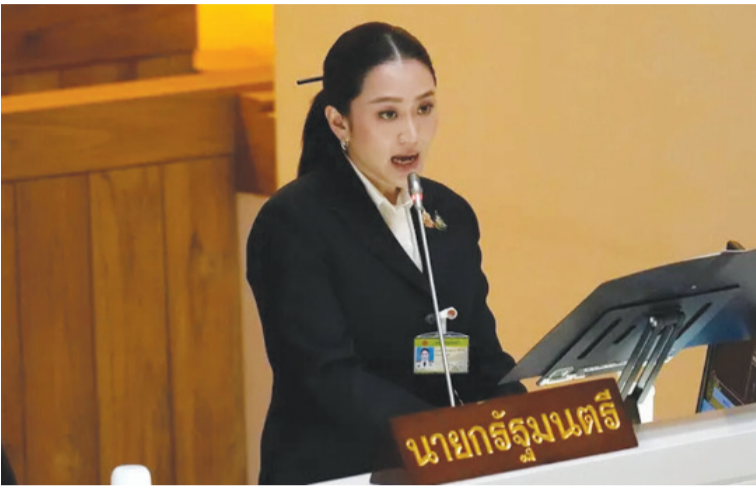
Paetongtarn, the leader of the ruling Pheu Thai Party and daughter of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, took office last month after a court ousted Srettha Thavasin from his post over an accusation that he had violated an ethics law by appointing a Cabinet member who had served time in prison in connection with a bribery case.

Pheu Thai formed a government headed by Srettha after members of the conservative Senate refused to endorse the prime minister nominated by the progressive Move Forward Party, which won the most seats in last year's general election.

Thailand is facing several economic challenges and Paetongtarn said Thursday her government will urgently address the issues of high household debt, the rising cost of living and lagging incomes "to bring the hope of Thai people back as soon as possible."

Among the government's more immediate plans are measures to relieve household debt and reduce the rising cost of electricity, petrol and transport, as well as to boost tourism and bring new technologies to the agricultural sector, she said.

Paetongtarn said the government will generate new income by legalizing and taxing the "informal economy" and the "underground economy." Although she provided no details, it was an apparent reference to plans to legalize casinos, which are being promoted



as "entertainment complexes" that can attract revenue wind-falls.

The draft of the law, sponsored by the Finance Ministry, says a casino would be allowed to operate within a complex that also houses other businesses such as a hotel, a convention hall, a mall or a theme park. Access to casinos will be restricted to those younger than 20 years old. They will be open for foreigners, while Thai citizens must pay 5,000 baht (\$148) for an entrance fee, according to the draft.

She said the government will protect small businesses from unfair competition from foreign operators, especially on online platforms. Industry groups in Thailand have expressed increasing concern about an influx of cheap products from China that they say have hurt sales by domestic producers.

Paetongtarn said she will carry out Srettha's 10,000-baht (\$296) digital cash handout program, although details in her speech were sparse. Officials from her administration have said the "Digital Wallet" program, initially promised during last year's election campaign to give cash handouts to all Thais aged 16 and older, will now prioritize vulnerable low-income groups. They are set to

be paid a lump sum this month or by October, while others who are eligible may be paid in installments starting later this year.

In a shift from Srettha, who had vowed to make cannabis illegal again, Paetongtarn said her administration will support medical cannabis as a way to boost the economy, with regulations added to mitigate its social impact. Cannabis was decriminalized in Thailand in 2022, intended only for medicinal use, but in practice the market is virtually unregulated and there was a proliferation of retail shops catering to recreational users.

Fears of drug abuse, especially among young people, as well as concerns about health, prompted a public backlash, and during last year's election campaign Paetongtarn's Pheu Thai, along with other parties, pledged to restore measures to ban the drug.

However, the government in July suddenly signaled it was backtracking from that pledge.

Paetongtarn said her government in the longer term will also address climate change, improve the quality of education and the universal health-care system, and tackle political instability by drafting a more democratic constitution

and reforming the bureaucratic system and the military.

The results of Thailand's elections last year revealed a strong mandate for change after nearly a decade under military control. Reforms to the military — a powerful political player that has staged two coups since 2006 — were part of Pheu Thai's campaign platform, although it hedged the pledge significantly after it took power and formed a government with pro-military parties.

Paetongtarn's rise to power, which made her the country's youngest leader and second female prime minister, represents the revival of the embattled political dynasty that began with her father Thaksin, a billionaire telecoms tycoon, who was elected prime minister in 2001 but ousted by a military coup in 2006.

She is the third close member of the Shinawatra clan to take the prime minister's job. Thaksin's sister, Yingluck Shinawatra, was Thailand's first female prime minister from 2011 to 2014. An in-law, Somchai Wongsawat, also served briefly as prime minister in 2008.

Thaksin remains a highly influential political figure and is seen as a de facto leader of Pheu Thai. His apparent dominance over the party has triggered controversy, including a petition to the Election Commission accusing Pheu Thai of allowing an outsider to control it, which could result in the party's dissolution.

After Thaksin was ousted in 2006, the military joined hands with other conservative forces in Thai society to try to thwart a comeback of his political machine. Thaksin's ouster triggered years of struggle between his supporters and his opponents, in the streets, in the courts and at the ballot box.

Blinken wraps up Ukraine-focused Europe trip in Poland with arms requests on the table



WARSAW, Sep 12 (Agencies): U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is wrapping up a three-nation, Ukraine-focused European tour in Poland after hearing repeated appeals from Ukrainian officials to use Western-supplied weaponry for long-range strikes inside Russia.

Blinken traveled to Warsaw on Thursday after spending a day in Kyiv with British Foreign Secretary David Lammy during which they pledged to bring the Ukrainian requests to their leaders.

President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer are to meet in the United States on Friday amid signs both Washington and London are growing more receptive to allowing the Ukrainians to use their arms to hit targets farther inside Russia than previously okayed.

NATO member Poland, which shares a border with Ukraine, has been supportive of the Ukrainians and Blinken is likely to hear further requests for easing weapons-use restrictions from Polish President Andrzej Duda, Prime Minister Donald Tusk and Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski.

Blinken and Lammy

announced that the United States and Britain had pledged nearly \$1.5 billion in additional aid to Ukraine during their visit to Kyiv. Blinken announced more than \$700 million in humanitarian aid, while Lammy confirmed that his country would provide another \$782 million in assistance and loan guarantees.

Much of the effort was aimed at bolstering the energy grid that Russia has repeatedly pounded ahead of an expected difficult winter.

Ukraine's wish list is long and non-military assistance is certainly on it, but Ukrainian officials made clear their most important ask is for easing restrictions on where Western weapons can be used. Air-raid sirens sounded repeatedly during the visit, causing delays in their schedule and forcing them to cancel a wreath-laying ceremony.

Blinken said he would bring the discussion with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy about the missiles "back to Washington to brief the president" and that Biden and Starmer will "no doubt" talk about the issue when they meet in Washington.

"Speaking for the United States, we have

adjusted and adapted as needs have changed, as the battlefield has changed. And I have no doubt that we'll continue to do that as this evolves," Blinken told a news conference. His language was very similar to that which he used in May, shortly before the U.S. green lit Ukrainian use of U.S. weapons just inside Russian territory.

The diplomatic visit unfolded as Russia's bigger and better-equipped army bears down on Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region and conducts aerial attacks on cities across the country using missiles, glide bombs and drones that claim many civilian casualties.

But relations between Ukraine and its Western partners have been increasingly strained by Kyiv's repeated appeals for the West's authorization to use long-range weapons from the United States and other allies to strike targets deeper inside Russia.

That issue took on added urgency after Russia's latest reported acquisition of ballistic missiles from Iran, but Western leaders have so far balked at Ukraine's request, fearing that, if granted, it could escalate the war.

Biden has allowed Ukraine to fire U.S.-provided missiles across the border into Russia in self-defense, but has largely limited the distance they can be fired. Zelenskyy said he hoped for changes to those limitations.

"Let's count on some strong decisions, at least," he said. "For us, it's very important."

Death count rises to 197 in Vietnam after Typhoon Yagi

HANOI, Sep 12 (Agencies): The number of people killed after Typhoon Yagi swept through northern Vietnam bringing flash floods and landslides has risen to 197, the government said Thursday.

About 128 people are still missing and more than 250,000 hectares of crops have also been destroyed, disaster officials under the Ministry of Agriculture said in an official report.

Yagi is the most powerful typhoon to hit northern Vietnam in 30 years, according to meteorologists.

The storm downed bridges, tore roofs off buildings and damaged factories after making landfall on Saturday carrying winds in excess of 149 kilometres (92 miles) per hour.

The north of the country has since



been battling severe flooding, with several communities partially underwater. Thousands have been forced to evacuate their homes, while others are struggling with power cuts.

In one badly hit district on the outskirts of Hanoi, more than 15,000 people have been affected by the floods.

Farmers have also suffered. About 1.5 million chickens and ducks have been killed, as well as 2,500 pigs, buffalo and cows, officials said.

Former Bangladesh PM Khaleda Zia admitted to hospital

DHAKA, Sep 12 (Agencies): Former Bangladesh prime minister Khaleda Zia was admitted to a private hospital in the early hours of Thursday, according to a media report.

The 79-year-old Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson arrived at Evercare Hospital from her Gulshan residence around 1.40 am, BNP media cell member Sayrul Kabir Khan was quoted as saying by the Dhaka Tribune newspaper.

Her physician, Profes-



sor AZM Zahid Hossain, said the medical board has recommended several tests and she has been placed in a private cabin following her admission to the hospital.

"The next course of her treatment will be deter-

mined after reviewing the test results," he said.

On August 21, Zia had returned home after 45-day treatment at the same hospital.

The former prime minister, who was under house arrest for the past five years, was freed by an order of Bangladesh President Mohammed Shahabuddin on August 6.

tors.

Her doctors have been recommending sending her abroad since she was diagnosed with liver cirrhosis in November 2021.

Earlier this month, Zia was acquitted in five separate cases, including one filed over allegations of celebrating a "fake birthday" and another for supporting war criminals.

Zia served as the prime minister of Bangladesh from March 1991 to March 1996, and again from June 2001 to October 2006.

A Pakistani policeman shoots and kills a blasphemy suspect held at a police station

QUETTA, Sep 12 (Agencies): A policeman opened fire inside a police station in the southwestern Pakistani city of Quetta on Thursday, killing a suspect held on accusations of blasphemy, a local official said.

The slain man was identified as Syed Khan. Police said he had been arrested the day before, after officers snatched him from an enraged mob that claimed he had insulted Islam's Prophet Muhammad.

According to police official Mohammad Khurram, the officer involved in the fatal shooting has been arrested. Khurram did not provide further details.

Killings of suspects while in police custody are rare in Pakistan, where accusations of blasphemy — sometimes even just rumors — are common and often spark rioting and rampage by mobs that can escalate into

lynching and killings.

Under Pakistan's controversial blasphemy laws, anyone found guilty of insulting Islam or Islamic religious figures can be sentenced to death — though authorities have yet to carry out a death sentence for blasphemy.

In the case of Khan, the man killed on Thursday, local residents claimed he had used derogatory remarks against the prophet and went after him. After he was arrested, the mob surrounded the station, demanding police hand Khan back to them so they could kill him.

At one point, a man hurled a grenade at the station on Wednesday while a group of Islamists briefly blocked a key road in the city, demanding punishment for Khan. The crowd dispersed later in the day after

officials managed to calm them down.

Pakistan has witnessed a surge in attacks on blasphemy suspects in recent years.

In June, a mob broke into a police station in the northwestern town of Madyan, snatched a man who was held there and then lynched him over allegations that he had desecrated Islam's holy book, the Quran. The attackers also torched the station and burned police vehicles parked there. The slain man was a tourist staying at a hotel in town when the locals turned on him and accused him of blasphemy.

Last year, a mob in the eastern Punjab province attacked churches and homes of Christians after claiming they saw a local Christian and his friend desecrating pages from a Quran.

The attack in the district of Jaranwala drew nationwide condemnation, but Christians say the men linked to the violence are yet to be put on trial.

A policeman in 2011 killed a former governor of Punjab province after accusing him of blasphemy. That officer, Mumtaz Qadri, was later sentenced to death and hanged. However, support for him grew after his hanging, with tens of thousands attending his funeral in the garrison city of Rawalpindi. Many in Punjab still today considered him a martyr.

Quetta, a conservative city in southwestern Pakistan is also the capital of the restive Balochistan province, where militant groups stage near daily attacks and where separatists have waged a decades-long insurgency against the government in Islamabad.

Gunmen kill a policeman guarding polio workers in northwestern Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Sep 12 (Agencies): A pair of gunmen on a motorcycle opened fire on Thursday and killed a policeman guarding a group of polio workers going door-to-door in a vaccination campaign in northwestern Pakistan, police said, the second attack on the country's anti-polio campaign in as many days.

The latest attack took place in Bannu, a district in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, according to police officer Nasrullah Khan. The policeman who was gunned down was standing on a street corner and the attackers fled the scene, Khan said.

In a similar attack Wednesday in Bajaur, also in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, a group of gunmen on motorcycles killed two people, a polio worker and a police escort. No one has so far claimed responsibility for the two attacks, which have spread fears among the polio workers. Authorities on Monday launched a new, nationwide polio vaccination campaign amid

stepped-up security to protect the polio workers. On Monday, a roadside bomb exploded near a vehicle carrying officers assigned to protect polio workers in the district of South Waziristan, also in the same province, wounding six officers and three civilians. The militant Islamic State group later claimed responsibility for Monday's attack.

Anti-polio campaigns in Pakistan are regularly marred by violence. Militants target vaccination teams and police assigned to protect them, falsely claiming that the campaigns are a Western conspiracy to sterilize children. Since January, Pakistan has reported 17 new cases of polio, jeopardizing decades of efforts to eliminate polio in the country.

The potentially fatal, paralyzing disease mostly strikes children under age 5 and typically spreads through contaminated water. Pakistan and Afghanistan are the only countries in which the spread of polio has never been stopped.

Vi raises security standards with PCI DSS 4.0 certification, ensuring safer customer transactions

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 12: Leading telecom operator Vi on Thursday announced a significant achievement by attaining the Payment Card Industry-Data Security Standard version 4.0 (PCI DSS 4.0) certification for its retail stores & payment channels. This positions Vi as the first telecom operator in India to secure this prestigious certification, further highlighting its commitment to safeguard customer payment information through adherence to the highest global security standards.

PCI DSS 4.0, established by the Payment Card Industry Security Standards Council (PCI SSC), represents the most rigorous and up-to-date security protocols designed to protect organisations handling credit and debit card transactions from data breaches and fraud.

The PCI DSS 4.0 cer-

tification is already mandated by RBI Guidelines for banking and financial institutions in India. Vi's achievement of being the first telecom player to be granted this certification marks a significant turning point for the telecom sector. This certification will not only boost customer confidence but also play a crucial role in building trust and maintaining customer loyalty.

Commenting on this development, Jagbir Singh, CTO, Vi, said, "At Vi, the security of our customers' data is not just a priority, it is our commitment. Achieving PCI DSS 4.0 demonstrates our commitment to having the best security measures in place. We are immensely happy to be the first telecom operator in India to be granted this certification, and we remain steadfast in our commitment to setting industry benchmarks and investing in cutting-edge security technology.

gies."

Vi worked with Vista InfoSec, a renowned security consulting firm, to achieve this certification. Narendra Sahoo, Founder & Director of VISTA InfoSec, said, "Working with Vi on their PCI DSS 4.0 certification was a remarkable experience. Their commitment to achieving this industry-first milestone, supported by strong management and a dedicated team, highlights their focus on securing customer payments."

Vi's commitment to data security is further underlined by its earlier distinction this year, as the first telecom operator in India to achieve SOC2 Type II attestation. With the addition of the PCI DSS 4.0 certification, Vi continues to solidify its leadership in the telecom industry, consistently focusing on protecting its customers' data and setting new standards for best security practices in the industry.

Airtel expands its Home Wi-Fi service across all 22 districts in Jammu-Kashmir & Ladakh

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 12: Bharti Airtel ("Airtel"), one of India's leading telecommunications services providers, today, announced that it has expanded its Home Wi-Fi service across all the 22 districts of Jammu-Kashmir & Leh-Ladakh.

This expansion will enable to cover 1.1 Mn new households in both the Union Territories.

With Airtel Wi-Fi, a customer not only gets high-speed reliable internet wireless service but a whole host of other benefits including access to unlimited streaming, 22+ OTTs services and over 350+ TV channels. Customers can book Airtel Wi-Fi by placing an order using the Airtel Thanks App or by calling 8130181301.

Adarsh Verma - COO, Bharti Airtel, Jammu and Kashmir, said, "I am happy to announce that Airtel Wi-Fi has now reached every nook and corner of both the Union Territories. With Airtel Wi-Fi, customers can unlock a wide range of entertainment options including access to 22+ OTTs, 350+ television

channels and a reliable high-speed wireless Wi-Fi service at an affordable tariff starting at Rs. 699 a month. We hope customers make the most of this and enjoy endless entertainment."

Bharti Airtel plans include speeds up to 40 Mbps, 350+ TV channels (HD included) at tariff Rs 699 with Disney+ Hotstar, 22+ OTTs and more, speeds up to 100 Mbps at tariff Rs 899, 350+ TV channels (HD included) with Disney+ Hotstar, 22+ OTTs and more, Tariff Rs 1599 includes 350+ TV channels (HD included) with speeds up to 300Mbps) and has Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney+ Hotstar, 22+ OTTs and more.

Customers in both the Union Territories can enjoy unlimited access to some of the leading OTT platforms including Amazon prime, Disney+ Hotstar and top channels like DD Kashir, DD Jammu, DD Leh, etc. among others.

Modi's vision for "New Kashmir" focused on shaping future of youth, bringing development to region: Chandel asks Er Rashid

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 12: Senior Hindutva BJP leader Raju Chandel reacted sharply to a statement made by Baramulla MP Abdul Rashid Sheikh, also known as Engineer Rashid.

Engineer Rashid had vowed to oppose Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for Jammu and Kashmir, stating that he would fight against the idea of "Naya Kashmir."

Responding to these remarks, Raju Chandel criticized Engineer Rashid, asserting that despite any support Rashid might gather, including from his family, they could not derail the successful transformation of Jammu

and Kashmir under PM Modi's leadership. Chandel emphasized that Modi's vision for "New Kashmir" was focused on shaping the future of the youth and bringing development to the region.

Chandel accused Engineer Rashid of having a terrorist-like mentality and described him as part of a broader group of leaders who, for decades, have contributed to the stagnation of Jammu and Kashmir. He also referred to Rashid's past, noting that Rashid had spent five years in Delhi's Tihar Jail under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for alleged involvement in separatist and anti-India activities, including terror funding. Though Rashid has been

released on interim bail, Chandel stated that his place remains in Tihar Jail.

Chandel further argued that since the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A in August 2019, Jammu and Kashmir has seen significant development, unlike the previous 75 years under various political regimes. He accused Rashid and similar leaders of supporting Pakistan and China, and prioritizing their own power over the welfare of the region.

Chandel dismissed Engineer Rashid's claims of fighting for the people, contrasting it with his own belief in Prime Minister Modi's vision of progress and unity for Jammu and Kashmir.

Major jolt to BJP as former MLA Kamal Arora joins National Conference

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Sep 12: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) received a major setback today as former BJP MLA Kamal Arora, along with prominent leader Rinku Arora and their supporters joined the Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (JKNC). The formal induction took place in Srinagar under the leadership of Dr. Farooq Abdullah, President of the Jammu & Kashmir National Conference.

The event was also attended by key leaders of the National Conference, including Naresh Bittu, District President of Jammu Rural B, Block President of Arnia Ashwani Choudhary and Amit Choudhary, District Youth President Jammu Rural B.

The senior NC leaders welcomed Kamal Arora and his supporters into the party fold, hailing their decision as a bold step towards securing the future of Jammu & Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Farooq Abdullah emphasized the growing trust and confidence that people from various political backgrounds are placing in the National Conference. He stated,

"The National Conference stands for secularism, unity, development, and the rights of the people of Jammu & Kashmir. We welcome Kamal Arora and his supporters with open arms, and we are confident that together we will work for the betterment of the region." Dr. Farooq Abdullah directed the dedicated and devoted strong rank and file of National Conference to work hard for the victory of National Conference and Congress alliance candidates contesting in upcoming J&K Assembly elections.

Kamal Arora, in his address, highlighted his disillusionment with the BJP's policies and expressed confidence in the leadership of Dr. Farooq Abdullah and the vision of the National Conference. He said, "The National Conference has always been the true voice of the people of Jammu & Kashmir. Under Dr. Farooq Abdullah's leadership, I am confident that we will bring real change and development to the region."

The joining of Kamal Arora and his supporters is being seen as a significant move in Jammu's political landscape, further consolidating the National Conference's presence in the region.

Poshan Maah organized by MIER College

Top News Report

JAMMU Sep 12: The NSS unit of MIER College of Education, under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, observed a 'Poshan Maah,' by organizing an awareness program at the Anganwadi Centre in Purkhoo village. The event aimed to educate pregnant and lactating mothers on vital health and nutrition practices, emphasizing the importance of proper care during this critical period for both mother and child.

The awareness program provided an interactive platform for the mothers, encouraging their active participation. Their enthusiasm and gratitude for the practical and easy-to-understand information highlighted the event's impact on the community.

Several mothers attended the event with their infants, and the session was supported by 10 committed NSS volunteers from School of Education and School of Social Sciences and Humanities.

The students from B.Ed. Semester II

discussed key topics related to health and nutrition: Hitakshi Bakshi discussed the essential nutritional components, Abhinav highlighted the importance of calorie intake and exercise, Ashiya emphasized precautions for maternal health, Avneet Kaur provided guidance on optimal nutrition, Almita Kathoch outlined critical don'ts during pregnancy, and Riya Anand shared important do's for maintaining a healthy pregnancy.

Additionally, Ayushi and Anushka from BA (Hons) English Semester II presented an overview of nutrition. The event was smoothly conducted by Damneek from B.Ed. Semester II, while Ms. Shivarti captured the event's proceedings.

Prof Adit Gupta, Director and Principal MIER College, praised the students for their dedication and the impactful awareness program, which were well-received by the local community. The event was organized under the guidance of NSS Program Officer Dr. Komal Sharma and member Ayushi Grover.

Disrespect towards any religion will not be tolerated: Tarun Sharma

Top News Report

JAMMU Sep 12: President of Nat Manch, Tarun Sharma on Thursday said that continued disrespect towards any religion will not be tolerated.

Sharma emphasized the necessity of uphold-

ing respect and understanding among diverse religious communities.

He called for vigilance against actions or rhetoric that could incite religious intolerance and urged everyone to contribute to a harmonious society by honouring all faiths.

FROM PAGE 1

CCI Jammu President calls on Chief Secretary, discusses "Close Day" issue

Chief Secretary that the wholesale markets are already observing the "Close Day" practice.

The Chief Secretary gave a positive response and said that he will talk to the Labour Commissioner to ensure that the business community would not face any difficulty in this regard.

'Legends League': Gayle, Bell, Harbajan set to play in Kashmir

League Cricket.

Cricketers like Mohammad Kaif, Shikhar Dhawan, Dinesh Karthik, Harbajan Singh, Suresh Raina, Chris Gayle, Ross Taylor, Ian Bell amongst many others will be live in action in Kashmir for the first time ever.

Seven matches including the finals will be played between the October 9 and 16, 2024 at the Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar. Tickets for fans will go live soon on Insider.in and Paytm starting from Rs.499 only.

The league, known for its thrilling matches and high viewership, attracted a massive audience of 180 million across India during the previous season's 19 matches. With an extended schedule and an even more star-studded lineup including the recently retired Shikhar Dhawan, the upcoming season is poised to surpass previous records.

Final Fixtures for Srinagar:

9th October 2024: Hyderabad Team vs Southern Superstars

10th October 2024: India Capitals vs Manipal Tigers

11th October 2024: Konark Surya Odisha vs Gujarat Team

12th October 2024: Qualifier (Position 1 vs Position 2)

13th October 2024: Eliminator (Position 3 vs Position 4)

14th October 2024: Semi Final (Loser Qualifier vs Eliminator Winner)

15th October 2024: REST DAY

16th October 2024: FINAL (Winner Qualifier vs Winner Semis)

Tip Off from Election Observer LED to recovery of Arms in Kupwara

Srinagar based defence spokesman said the recovery was significant considering the current security situation and upcoming important events in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The intelligence tip off was from a special election observer deployed in J&K and has possibly helped avert a major incident in North Kashmir," he said.

The spokesman said based on specific intelligence inputs, a joint operation by the Army and Jammu & Kashmir Police was launched in the Keran Sector.

"Searches in the indicated area led to the recovery of a very large cache of arms, ammunition, and explosives, including AK 47 rounds, hand grenades, RPG rounds, material for improvised explosive devices, and other warlike stores," the spokesman said.

The spokesman said the security forces are committed to keeping the environment stable and peaceful in the region.

Jammu and Kashmir is gearing up for the three phased assembly polls beginning next week. These polls are being held in J&K after a gap of 10 years.

The Election Commission has deployed nearly 200 observers for the Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Vote en masse for NC-Cong alliance for J&K Statehood restoration: MP Hussain

to form the government as it has been doing in other states where it does not get a majority.

BJP should stop making efforts to break alliances: Kharge in J&K

and Kashmir) elections together, which has made the BJP nervous. Now they are trying to break the alliance," Kharge told reporters here.

They (BJP) are even fielding private players and supporting them indirectly as inde-

pendents in an attempt to defeat Congress-NC candidates, he said and indicated that these independents are getting the money from the BJP.

Farooq Abdullah accuses BJP of using those 'released from jail' as proxies

issue of "outsiders" being appointed in the administration.

"This is not the time to sleep. I know the (agricultural) crops are ready (for harvest) but you will have to put it off for one day and come out to vote. We have to defeat the flower (Lotus) and others who have been released from jail. For God's sake tell me, why have they been released? "Till yesterday, they were behind bars. They (BJP) want to use the people in jail to oppress the Muslims. Unfortunately, they do not realise that there is a special place for them in hell," Abdullah said at the rally in support of Congress-NC alliance candidates in Anantnag town, 52 kilometres from here.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge also addressed the rally.

Abdullah hit out at the BJP-led government at the Centre, alleging that the prime minister was playing divisive politics.

"I have never heard a prime minister making such a speech. He spreads hatred when he says the Mangalsutra of Hindu women will be taken away. Then he says Muslims produce more children.

"What is it that keeps India together? It is equality and brotherhood. As long as this flower (BJP symbol) is in India, the country will not be strengthened. The country will suffer due to the fissures created by them," he added.

On the alliance with Congress for assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir, the NC president said, "This alliance was not easy, it was difficult".

"However, to save this state and to protect its identity, it was necessary. Today the question is whether people of Jammu and Kashmir can live with honour and dignity," he said.

Abdullah said the current election was not about government formation or development only, but a matter of survival for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"There are a lot of proxies of the BJP

here and they want us to remain slaves. Today, the question is not who will form the government or about development. The question is whether we will survive or not. Our youngsters are not getting jobs, all are coming from outside. All DCs and SPs are from outside.

"The Secretariat is also full of outsiders. What do they know about this place and our needs," he said.

Nobody can suppress our voice, truth is with us: Engineer Rashid in Srinagar

yours. We do not want the peace of a graveyard but peace with dignity," he said.

Expressing gratitude to his supporters who had assembled outside the airport to welcome him, the Baramulla MP said he wants to convey to the people of Kashmir that they are not weak at all.

"The people of Kashmir will win as the people of Jammu and Kashmir are on the path of truth. The decisions taken by Narendra Modi on August 5, 2019, are totally unacceptable to us. Whether you send Engineer Rashid to Tihar or anywhere else, we will emerge victorious," he said, referring to the revocation of Article 370 by the Centre.

Flanked by his son and party leaders, Rashid asked his supporters not to lose courage as "the truth is with us".

"Nobody on earth, be it Narendra Modi, be it Amit Shah, can suppress our voice. The truth is with us and truth will be victorious. We are not begging. We want to be treated like humans.

"We want the Jammu and Kashmir issue, which has been pending since 1947 and has claimed 4-5 lakh lives, to be resolved so that peace returns to the whole sub-continent, no mother loses her children and nobody is imprisoned," the MP added.

Rashid, who was released from Tihar jail on Wednesday, said that for him, the power of being an MP or an MLA did not matter as "everything comes later on".

"First, the self-respect, rights and liberty of Kashmiris have to be protected, preserved and honoured," he said.

Asked about the NC and PDP targeting him, Rashid, a two-time legislator in the erstwhile assembly of J-K, said he has high

regard for the leadership of both the parties "but I am fighting a fight for those people for whom they do not have the courage to fight".

"They were invisible for the last five years. That is why they lost in the parliamentary election. My fight is much bigger than what the PDP and NC are trying today," Rashid said.

He said he was not happy over Omar Abdullah's loss in the Lok Sabha polls, "but (I am satisfied) that the people of north Kashmir burst the bubble of Modi's 'naya' Kashmir".

"I salute the people of north Kashmir, the people of whole Kashmir," Rashid added.

The AIP supremo later left for Baramulla. He was scheduled to address a public gathering at Delina.

J&K High Court declares holidays for general Assembly Elections

districts have been permitted to avail of a paid holiday on the polling date in their respective districts.

The Registrar Judicial in Jammu and Srinagar have also been directed to grant paid holidays to employees from other districts working in their respective wings on the designated polling dates.

Three held with counterfeit gold biscuits in Kupwara: J&K Police

successfully launched a swift operation on September 12, leading to the arrest of three individuals suspected of being involved in the illicit trade of counterfeit gold biscuits.

The three accused have been identified as Bashir Ahmad Khan, Rayaz Ahmad War, and Noor Mohammad Lohar, all residents of Dever Lolab, Kupwara.

Upon interrogation, the suspects confessed to their involvement in the counterfeit gold trade.

The police successfully recovered 153 counterfeit gold biscuits from their possession.

Further arrests are expected as the investigation progresses, police said.

GCET Jammu organises Voter awareness campaign under SVEEP

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 12: The NSS unit of Govt. College of Engineering & Technology (GCET), Jammu, in collaboration with the college's Electoral Literacy Club, organized a series of events under the Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program on Thursday.

These activities were designed to educate and encourage voter participation ahead of the upcoming assembly elections.

The events took place under the patronage of the college Principal, Prof. (Dr) Samer Sharma, who highlighted that SVEEP is a flagship initiative by the Election Commission



of India aimed at voter education and promoting voter literacy across the country.

During her address, Prof. Sharma emphasized the importance of SVEEP as a comprehensive program that employs various methods and media to increase awareness about the electoral process, thereby encouraging informed participation.

The event was started with an awareness campaign that was specifically targeted at first-time voters with the theme "Nothing like voting, I vote for sure and Nation first voting must."

The enthusiasm of these new voters was palpable, as they shared their personal feelings and aspirations about

participating in the electoral process through their votes.

In addition to this, a signature campaign was held in campus under the theme "My vote my right," where students from various branches pledged to vote on Election Day by signing a campaign board.

Dr. Raman Gupta, NSS Program Officer, explained that

the primary aim of these events was to foster electoral awareness among students and motivate them to engage actively in the voting process.

The events were successfully organized by senior NSS volunteers including Rakshant Balotra, Divyansh Verma, Sunidhi Sharma, Vagisha Khajuria, Aniket, Shiv Dev, Arav Gutkar, and Nishkaam Bhardwaj, with staff support from Dr. Heera Saini, Dr. Rajinder Singh, and Er. Atit Sharma.

Principal Prof. Sharma extended her congratulations and praised the NSS team for their commendable efforts in organizing such impactful events.

Sculptor Ganesh Sharma conferred "Diamond Honorary Doctorate" at Hungary



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 12: Ganesh Kumar Sharma eminent senior contemporary Internationally acclaimed Sculptor of Jammu and Kashmir (UT) has been conferred "Diamond Honorary Doctorate" by GOLD Master International Academy of Arts and Literature, Hungary, Europe.

The prestigious International "DIA-

MOND Honorary Doctorate" titled "Unique in Art" presented virtually to Ganesh Kumar Sharma by President of the Academy Maria Lipták, for his great artistic experience and regular participation on the International platforms of the Academy.

Gold Master International Academy of Arts and Literature, Hungary Europe is very prestigious Institution working and providing international platforms to eminent senior contemporary internationally acclaimed artists and writers not only of Europe but across the globe.

It is to mention here that Ganesh Kumar Sharma is working in the field of art and culture from more than forty five years at State, National and International levels platforms. His creative Sculptures are in permanent collections of different art galleries in India and abroad.

Ganesh Kumar Sharma is recipient of so many States, National and International awards and honors. He works in different mediums mostly in marble stone, Kashmir stone, and Sheesham Wood.

IAP Jammu hosts "EPILEPTOCON 2024 - An Update on Pediatric Epilepsy"

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 12: The Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) Jammu, in collaboration with the departments of Pediatrics at ASCOMS and GMC Jammu, organized a significant event titled "EPILEPTOCON 2024 - An Update on Pediatric Epilepsy." The conference, which took place recently, saw participation from approximately 250 delegates, including Pediatricians, Intensivists, Neurologists, Physicians, Residents, and MBBS students from various medical colleges across North India.

The event was inaugurated by Chief Guest Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Principal and Dean of GMC Jammu, alongside Guests of Honor Dr. A.S. Bhatia (Principal GMC Rajouri), Dr. Pavan Malhotra (Director Principal ASCOMS), Dr. S.K. Gupta (Eminent Neurologist), Dr. Sudheer Dhar (Senior Physician), Dr. Ashok Gupta (Ex-HOD Pediatrics, SMGS Jammu), and Dr. Rekha Harish (Ex-HOD Pediatrics, SMGS Jammu). Dr. Ashutosh Gupta praised the organizing team for their efforts and encouraged the continuation of such academic events for the benefit of young doctors.

The event featured a ceremonial lamp lighting with Saraswati Vandana and an engaging skit performed by MBBS students



from ASCOMS, which effectively debunked common myths about epilepsy. Dr. S.K. Gupta provided insights into the latest management strategies for Pediatric Epilepsy and commended the organizing team led by Dr. Ravinder K Gupta. The program commenced with an informative lecture on neonatal seizures by renowned neonatologist Dr. Anuj Bhatti.

A series of updates on pediatric epilepsy followed, delivered by experts including Dr. Pawan Kumar (Consultant Pediatric Neurologist, Nahan Medical College, Himachal Pradesh) and Dr. Surjeet Kumar (Pediatric Intensivist, GMC Jammu). The conference also featured interactive sessions with distinguished pediatric neurologists such as Dr. J.S. Goraya (DMC Ludhiana), Dr. Gurpreet S Kochar (Ludhiana), and Dr. Ashna Kumar (Amritsar). A quiz session led by Dr. Vivek Pandita (Assistant Professor, Pediatrics, ASCOMS Jammu)

added a dynamic element to the proceedings.

A highlight of the event was the Dr. Ritu Gupta Oration, delivered by Dr. Suresh K Angurana (Pediatric Intensivist & Associate Professor, PGIMER Chandigarh), who discussed 'Status Epilepticus.' The session was complemented by a documentary showcasing the achievements and contributions of the late Dr. Ritu Gupta (Professor of Physiology) in the field of medicine.

The event was successfully organized under the supervision of Dr. G.S. Saini (Professor & HOD Pediatrics, SMGS Jammu) and Dr. Ravinder K Gupta (Professor & HOD Pediatrics, ASCOMS Jammu), with Dr. Vikas Mahajan and Dr. Sushil Sharma serving as the organizing secretaries. Faculty members, residents, and staff from the Pediatrics department at ASCOMS contributed significantly to the success of the conference, with Mihika and Aradita managing the stage.

SVEEP voter awareness program held at GDC Bishnah in collaboration with GS Sports Club

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 12: In a bid to promote voter awareness and participation, an impactful SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) program was organized at Government Degree College (GDC) Bishnah in collaboration with GS Sports Club. The event was graced by the presence of prominent dignitaries and featured a range of activities aimed at inspiring civic responsibility and enthusiasm for voting among students and the local community.



The chief guest of the event was Ranjeet Kalra, UT Level Icon for Assembly Elections, whose words encouraged the audience to embrace the power of their vote.

The event was hosted by Dr. Shalu Samyal, Principal GDC Bishnah,

who expressed her gratitude to all participants and collaborators for their contribution to the cause of voter awareness.

A series of engaging activities were conducted to make the event interactive and memorable. These

included a signature campaign where participants pledged to vote, a "Selfie as a Proud Voter" initiative to capture the enthusiasm of new voters, a skit focused on voting awareness, a voting pledge, and a thrilling volleyball match that highlighted the spirit

of teamwork and unity.

Key members of the GDC faculty and GS Sports Club who were present and contributed to the success of the event included Prof Shrutu Rajput, Bunny Sadotra, Romesh and Gourav.

The event concluded with a medal distribution ceremony, where all participants were honored for their active involvement and contribution to the program. This initiative reaffirmed the commitment of GDC Bishnah and GS Sports Club to fostering a responsible, aware, and empowered electorate.

SVEEP drives high voter engagement across Kishtwar



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Sep 12: In the lead-up to the Assembly Elections, the District Administration Kishtwar, under the leadership of District Election Officer Sh. Rajesh Kumar Shavan (JKAS), has intensified efforts through the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign.

Aimed at ensuring maximum voter turnout across all Assembly constituencies, the SVEEP campaign is building momentum, engaging diverse sections of society in a wide range of awareness activities.

The District Administration's key objective is to achieve maximum voter participation,

especially targeting absentee voters, who may have been unable to vote in previous elections.

To this end, the District SVEEP Office is coordinating closely with Assembly Constituency (AC) level SVEEP Nodal Officers and a variety of local stakeholders to mobilize, educate, and engage voters across the district.

Across all Assembly constituencies, the SVEEP campaign is organizing a variety of activities, including rallies, debates, speeches, signature campaigns, painting competitions, and slogan writing events. These initiatives are taking place in schools, public spaces, and polling booths under the supervision of AC Nodal Officers.

Students, teachers, lecturers, Booth Level Officers (BLOs), Bharat Scouts & Guides (BAGs), voters, and prominent citizens are being involved in these programs to create widespread awareness about the importance of voting.

In AC 48-Inderwal, the remote area of Marwah has become a focal point for electoral awareness efforts. A range of events was held, where teachers, students, and community leaders, including the Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Marwah and the Zonal Information Communication Coordinator (ZICC) Marwah, delivered speeches highlighting the significance of exercising the right to vote as a foundation of democracy. A unique

feature of these activities was the erection of a "Democracy Signature Wall" at Marwah, where local voters left their signatures as a symbol of their commitment to participating in the upcoming elections.

The outreach extended to even the most remote areas, such as the Unique 01-Sukhnai, Polling Station in AC 48-Inderwal, one of the farthest polling stations in the district, where a similar program took place to ensure that no voter is left behind.

In AC 49-Kishtwar, several educational institutions hosted debates and symposiums, including a well-attended event at HS Galigarh.

A mega rally at HSS Sarthal was another highlight, where partici-

pants marched through various localities, accompanied by drumbeats and band masters, to encourage voter turnout. Poster-making competitions, slogan writing activities, and speeches added to the vibrancy of the event, which saw participation from locals and prominent community figures alike.

While, AC 50-Nagseni Paddar also witnessed an energetic SVEEP campaign, with a mega rally organized in Padyarna village of Nagseni by the SVEEP Nodal Officer and his team. An enthusiastic participation of locals /Voters/ Youth marked the great success of the rally in the area.

The rally aimed to inform and motivate voters about the importance of participating in the upcoming elections, further contributing to the district-wide goal of maximum electoral participation.

With less than a week remaining before the Assembly Elections, the District Administration's SVEEP campaign continues to gain traction. By engaging every section of society, the administration is determined to ensure that every eligible voter in Kishtwar exercises their right to vote, strengthening democracy in the district.

Wing Commander MM Joshi (Retd) and GOC Tiger Division collaborate to empower youth through Scouts & Guides



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 12: In a significant move to bolster youth engagement and national spirit, Wing Commander MM Joshi (Retd), National Commissioner of Scouts & Guides, recently engaged in a productive dialogue with the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Tiger Division. The meeting underscored the vital role that the Scouts and Guides movement plays in fostering qualities such as discipline, patriotism, responsibility, and service among young individuals.

During the interaction, Wing Commander Joshi highlighted the critical need for instilling these core values in today's youth. He emphasized how the Scouts and Guides framework provides a robust platform for nurturing these attributes, which are essential for the personal and professional growth of young people.

The GOC Tiger Division, recognizing the importance of this mission, expressed strong support for the initiative. He commended Wing Commander Joshi's dedication to invigorating and enhancing youth engagement in Jammu through the Scouts and Guides programs.

The support from the Tiger Division marks a promising step forward in uniting efforts to foster a sense of civic duty and engagement among the youth. The joint initiative aims to strengthen the foundation of national pride and responsibility through the Scouts and Guides movement.

Citing CAG audit, IOA chief Usha issues show cause notice to treasurer

IWLF owes IOA Rs 1.75 crore, which Yadav allegedly tried to get written off

NEW DELHI, Sep 12 (Agencies): In a move that has sent shockwaves amongst the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) powerbrokers, president PT Usha has sent a show cause notice to treasurer Sahdev Yadav.

The show cause is for trying to write off a sum of Rs 1.75 crore, paid by the 2010 Commonwealth Games Organising Committee for the fine imposed on the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF) by the International Weightlifting Federation for a succession of doping offences by Indian lifters.

While the money paid by the organisers ensured that weightlifting stayed on the 2010 CWG programme, the said amount was to be paid back to the IOA by the IWLF as it was deducted by the organisers from the IOA's kitty.

Despite several reminders from the previous treasurer, Anandeshwar Panday, the money was not repaid by the IWLF. "...It is requested that the payment of Rs 1.75 crore deducted by the OC CWG 2010 from the dues of IOA may be returned to IOA immediately along with simple interest," Panday had written to the IWLF on January 19, 2021.

Citing a recent Comptroller



and Auditor General (CAG) audit, Usha in her letter said Yadav failed in his fiduciary duty despite being a sitting member of the IWLF since 2009 and a member of the IOA's finance committee since 2017.

"These amounts are legitimate dues owed to the IOA and cannot be written off by any stretch of imagination by committees or commissions. These will have to be thoroughly investigated by the appropriate authorities," Usha wrote in the show cause letter.

"Further you have misused your dual capacity in the IOA and IWLF, under article 15.1 of the constitution of the IOA as the president having superintendence over the office bearers of the IOA and members of the commissions, I am serving you

a show cause notice as to why you should not be recommended for any disciplinary action before the appropriate IOC & IOA body for clear breach of its rules and financial mismanagement," the letter adds.

The letter has also been marked to Sports Minister Manukh Mandaviya and Jerome Poivey, who is the associate director in the NOC Relations Department of the IOC.

Yadav denied receiving any such letter. "Does the president have the authority to issue such notice? Anyway, I have not received any such letter and I will respond to it when I see one," Yadav told agency.

As per the notice, Yadav has been given till September 24 to send his explanation.

Five EC members on notice. Additionally, Yadav is amongst

five executive committee members who have also been sent a notice over a complaint regarding their ineligibility to hold positions within the IOA as they are in violation of the sports code and the Delhi High Court directions.

The complainant, whose identity has been concealed, has claimed that senior vice-president Ajay Patel (shooting federation), treasurer Yadav (IWLF), vice-president Rajlaxmi Singh Deo (rowing federation) and EC member Bhupinder Singh Bajwa (wushu body) cannot stand for elections as they have completed their full terms while being a member of the executive of their national federations.

Patel has been with the NRAI since 2006, Yadav has completed 15 years with the IWLF, Bajwa has been with the WAI for 17 years, while Deo the rowing body chief for 12 years.

Alaknanda Ashok is the fifth member of the EC who has been sent the notice. Alaknanda, as per the complainant, cannot hold office because she failed to furnish a No Objection Certificate (NOC), a prerequisite for government employees to continue in office. They have been asked to respond by September 24.

1st in 147 years: Virat Kohli 58 runs away from achieving sensational feat



NEW DELHI, Sep 12 (Agencies): All eyes will be on Virat Kohli when Indian cricket team gets down to action against Bangladesh in a Test series, starting September 19. Kohli has already retired from T20s and it means that fans will get to see the 35-year-old star in only two formats - Tests and ODIs. Comparisons have often been drawn between Virat Kohli and Sachin Tendulkar, though the former has always maintained that the latter is unmatched. Kohli has 80 international tons and is second to Tendulkar (100) in terms of number of centuries.

While surpassing that feat may take some

time, Kohli can surpass Tendulkar for a world record in international cricket in the Bangladesh Test series. Virat Kohli needs 58 runs to complete 27,000 runs in international cricket. Tendulkar is the fastest to reach 27,000 runs international cricket - 623 innings (226 Test innings, 396 ODI innings, 1 T20I innings). Kohli so far has played 591 innings across formats scoring 26942 runs. If Kohli can score 58 more runs in his next eight innings - which looks highly likely - he will become the first cricketer in the 147-year history of international cricket to reach 27,000 runs in less than 600

innings. So far, apart from Tendulkar, Australia's Ricky Ponting and Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara have over 27000 runs in international cricket.

Meanwhile, there is a chance that the Afro-Asia Cup may be revived again. If the tournament indeed see light of the day, it might open up a possibility of Virat Kohli partnering Babar Azam in the middle or Shaheen Afridi bowling in tandem with Jasprit Bumrah.

According to a report in Forbes, the possibility of Afro-Asia Cup revival "is being looked at again".

"Personally, I am very hurt that it (Afro-Asia Cup) didn't happen," Damodar told me. "There was not adequate momentum through the ACA, but it is being looked at again. I think it was basically a lack of understanding and not buying into the concept," ex-African Cricket Association chair Sumod Damodar told Forbes. "Our members are regretting it. It needed to be pushed by Africa."

Bangladesh announce squad for India Tests, show faith in Pakistan-beating unit

DHAKA, Sep 12 (Agencies): The Bangladesh Cricket Board announced a 16-member squad for the much-anticipated Test series against India. Najmul Hossain Shanto will lead the Bangla Tigers as they take on India in a 2-match Test series, starting September 19. The squad was more or less similar to the one that registered a historic series triumph over Pakistan a week ago. Their opening batter Mahmudul Hasan Joy made a return to the Test team after missing out on the Pakistan series. He had suffered a groin injury, which took around two weeks to recover and heal.

Left-arm seamer Shoriful Islam's struggles with injuries continued as he was ruled out of the series against India due to an issue with his groin. Shoriful played the opening Test against Pakistan in

Lahore and picked up three wickets, including one of Babar Azam. However, he ended up missing the second Test due to a groin injury. Khaled Amed, the most experienced of Bangladesh's fast bowlers in Pakistan, missed out on the last series.

However, he made a return to the Test side as a replacement for the injured Shoriful Islam. Meanwhile, Jaker Ali Anik earned his maiden Test call-up for Bangladesh. The 26-year-old wicketkeeper-batter is the only uncapped player in the Test team, who has played 17 T20Is for the nation.

Can Bangladesh pose threat to India?

The BCB showcased trust in the winning squad for the Pakistan series to take on India. A resurgent Bangladesh created history with a 2-0 clean-sweep over Pakistan.

The two defeats in the series extend Paki-

stan's barren run in red-ball cricket at home to six losses and four draws since their victory against South Africa at Rawalpindi in 2021.

Bangladesh would aim to gain confidence from their victory on Pakistan soil for the India series. However, the experience and star-power which the Indian line-up possessed could pose a challenge to the Bangla Tigers.

The 1st Test match will take place at the M Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai, starting September 19.

Bangladesh's squad: Najmul Hossain Shanto (Captain), Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Zakir Hasan, Shadman Islam, Mominul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan, Litton Kumar Das, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Taijul Islam, Nayeem Hasan, Nahid Rana, Hasan Mahmud, Taskin Ahmed, Syed Khaled Ahmed, Jaker Ali Anik.

AFG vs NZ: Greater Noida Test set to join rare list after rain washes out 4th day

GREATER NOIDA, Sep 12 (Agencies): The one-off Test between Afghanistan and New Zealand was headed towards a rare abandonment after rain washed out the fourth day's play on Thursday, September 12. The Test match had not yet begun as a wet outfield led to the abandonment of the first two days before rain played spoilsport on Days 3 and 4.

The Afghanistan Cricket Board announced early on Tuesday morning that the fourth was called off. The outfield at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex was far from ready even when there was no rain during the day on the first two days. There was plenty of overnight rain on Wednesday, and it continued to rain the Uttar Pradesh city on Thursday morning, making it impossible for the teams to even head out of their hotel rooms and reach the ground.

The ACB said that a call on the chances of play on the fifth day would be taken at 8 am local time on Friday, but it looks increasingly likely that all five days of the Test match would be washed out due to wet weather.

"The fourth day of the only Test match between Afghanistan and New Zealand teams is also not going to be played due to contin-



ued rainfall. The decision about the start of the game tomorrow morning at 8:00 will be made after the stadium assessment," the ACB said in a statement.

The one-off match is all set to become only the eighth Test in the history of the sport to be abandoned without a ball bowled and the first in 26 years. The last such Test was in Dunedin between India and New Zealand in 1998.

England vs Australia at Old Trafford in 1890.

England vs Australia at Old Trafford in 1938.

Australia vs England at Melbourne Cricket Ground in 1970.

New Zealand vs Pakistan at Carisbrook in 1989.

West Indies vs England at

with these efforts, the outfield remained far from suitable for Test match conditions.

The absence of a robust drainage system also irked the two teams and the fans, who turned up to watch some Test cricket action in Greater Noida. Ground staff, numbering around 20-25, including 15 outsourced workers, were seen battling the conditions with inadequate resources on Tuesday.

Despite the availability of five super soppers (two automatic and three manual), the drying process was slow and inefficient. Cover -- three 30-yard and five larger 80x60 sheets -- were in place, but reports suggested that some of these had been rented from a local tent house, reflecting the lack of readiness and proper planning.

It was meant to be a historic Test as Afghanistan, who received Test status in 2017, were taking on the former world Test champions for the first time since 2017. On the other hand, New Zealand were beginning their subcontinent trip in Greater Noida. The BlackCaps will head to Sri Lanka for a two-Test series later in the month before returning to India to take on Rohit Sharma's men in three Tests in October-November.

Chess Olympiad 2024: Praggnanandhaa, Vaishali star as Indian teams start strong

BUDAPEST, Sep 12 (Agencies): R Praggnanandhaa set the tone on the top board as the Indian men's team blanked Morocco 4-0, while the women romped home against Jamaica, conceding just a draw in the process, in the first round of the 45th Chess Olympiad here.

With world championship challenger D Gukesh taking a break in the opening round, Praggnanandhaa delivered the goods against Tissir Mohamed out of a Sicilian defence game, while Vidit Gujrathi, Arjun Erigaisi and P

Harikrishna also pulled off comfortable wins to start confidently.

In the women's section, R Vaishali and Tania Sachdev scored fine victories in the first time-control itself. However, on the other two boards there was stiff resistance as Divya Deshmukh had to sweat hard for a much-needed victory while Vantika Agarwal was forced to concede a draw in the endgame against her rival.

It was business as usual for the top guns despite the occasional hiccups. The top-seeded United States also won

3.5-0.5 against Panama. Wesley So was the lone American who was unable to force matters and had to be content with a draw.

Armenian-American Levon Aronian came out of an early mishap to turn the tables and ensure smooth sailing for the American team into round two.

As many as 99 teams in the open section started with wins giving them all two points each. A total of 182 teams were paired while 15 teams were still grappling to reach Budapest.

PRAGGNANANDHA AND VAISHALI STAR



Praggnanandhaa was up against a Sicilian by the top Moroccan Mohamed who had only himself to blame after the opening got over. The Indian teen had a stronghold on the king's side that he utilised to

the fullest to take the first point home for the team.

Not very far behind was Gujrathi who was clearly in his element. He also got an opening advantage out of a King pawn game against Jacques Elbilbia as he

knocked down a pawn and never looked back.

Erigaisi may have had to work harder but the Indian youngster, who is currently ranked number four in the world, was never far from winning his game.

Harikrishna faced some initial resistance from Anas Mosyad in a closed Sicilian but his superior understanding of the structure gave him the vital point. The second round will see the Indian men clash with a spirited Iceland.

In the women's competition, Vaishali had no trouble in converting her position with black

pieces even as Harika was rested on the top board.

Tania Sachdev was in command right through and despite a little mess-up, she did not let the advantage slip through her hands playing on board four.

On the second board, there were some serious issues for Divya Deshmukh but the recently-crowned world junior girls' champion proved her mettle out of an equal position.

The same, however, was not the case with Vantika as she was forced in a drawn queen and pawns endgame.

The women's event features 178 teams as of now with 19 still awaited to join the extravaganza from round two onward.

INDIAN RESULTS ROUND 1

Open: R Praggnanandhaa beat Tissir Mohamed; Jacques Elbilbia lost to Arjun Erigaisi; Vidit Gujrathi beat Ouakhir Mehdi Pierre; Anas Moayad lost to P Harikrishna

Women: R Vaishali beat Adani Clarke; Divya Deshmukh beat Rachel Miller; Raehanna Brown drew with Vantika Agrawal; Tania Sachdev beat Gabriella Watson.

Varinderjeet lauds BJP's pro-Sikh initiatives, appeals for community support in J&K Assembly Elections

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 12: Varinderjeet Singh, Chairman National Sikh Front and Vice President of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Jammu and Kashmir, today issued a robust endorsement of the Modi government's efforts to uplift the Sikh community through a series of landmark initiatives aimed at preserving Sikh heritage, promoting religious freedom, and ensuring the welfare of Sikhs globally.

Singh called upon the Sikh community and the wider public to support the BJP in the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, underscoring the party's continued commitment to inclusive governance and cultural respect.

Singh highlighted the successful opening of the Kartarpur Corridor, a historic initiative that reconnects the Sikh diaspora with the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan.

This corridor, which allows Indian Sikh pilgrims to visit the revered site without a visa, symbolizes the Modi government's dedication to peace, religious freedom, and honoring the cultural heritage of Sikhs.

The corridor's operational status was maintained even during the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, reflecting the government's prioritization of Sikh religious sentiments.

Additionally, Singh praised the government's facilitation of direct



train services to key Sikh pilgrimage sites such as Hazur Sahib in Nanded and Hemkund, significantly improving accessibility for devotees and easing their spiritual journeys.

The government's commitment extends to the restoration of other important gurdwaras, including the Lakhpur Sahib in Gujarat, ensuring that these heritage sites are preserved for future generations.

The Modi administration's response to the crisis in Afghanistan, where it orchestrated the dignified return of the sacred Saroops of Sri Guru Granth Sahib amid Taliban rule, was also commended by Singh.

This act of respect and care for Sikh scriptures underscored the government's proactive stance in safeguarding religious artifacts during times of international conflict, affirming its respect for Sikh religious and cultural values.

Singh also recognized the government's efforts to honor Sikh

history through initiatives such as the declaration of Veer Baal Diwas on December 26, a tribute to the martyrdom of the Sahibzadas of Guru Gobind Singh.

This recognition, along with the Modi government's broader educational and welfare programs aimed at empowering the Sikh community, exemplifies the administration's holistic approach to fostering an inclusive society that respects and celebrates the contributions of all communities.

In light of these accomplishments, Singh appealed to the Sikh community and all voters in Jammu and Kashmir to support the BJP in the upcoming assembly elections.

He asserted that the BJP's track record of addressing the concerns of the Sikh community with dedication and respect is unmatched, and that continued support for the party would ensure further progress and empowerment for the Sikh community.

"We have seen unprecedented initiatives under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has demonstrated time and again his respect for Sikh traditions and values," said Singh.

"I urge the Sikh community to stand with the BJP and vote for a government that has consistently worked for the upliftment and dignity of Sikhs. Your support in the upcoming elections will be crucial in continuing this journey of growth, respect, and national unity," he added.

Only NC can promise upliftment of weaker sections of society: Babu Rampaul

Voters urged not to fall in trap of BJP



Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 12: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) is committed to upliftment of marginalized and weaker sections of society and our election promises are testimony to that wherein the party has laid special focus on welfare of women folk, said former Minister and President, JKNC Central Zone (Jammu, Samba and Kathua), Babu Rampaul while addressing a meeting at Old City. The meeting was organized by Zonal Secretary and Coordinator Jammu District Dr Vikas Sharma.

While speaking on the occasion, Babu Rampaul said, "Core pillars of our manifesto, focuses on Social Progress, Women's Welfare, and Empowerment. Our vision for Jammu and Kashmir revolves around creating a society that prioritizes inclusivity, equal opportunity, and social justice for all, particularly the marginalized sections and women."

He further said, "We understand the immense contribution of women, especially those heading households, in the socio-economic fabric of our society. Therefore, we are making a solemn promise to take concrete steps for the welfare of women and families."

Elaborating on election promises for women and other marginalized sec-

tions, he said that they were pledged to provide financial security by offering Rs 5000 per month to female heads of economically weaker sections (EWS) households which he said would ensure stability for families who rely on women for leadership and support.

He further said that they would empower women entrepreneurs by implementing schemes that provide financial assistance and resources to help them thrive in the business world.

"Moreover, we are committed to ensuring equal representation of women in governance and decision-making processes, furthering their role as leaders in our society," he added.

In order to alleviate the burden of household expenses, our party will provide 12 free LPG cylinders annually to families in the EWS category, ensuring that no family struggles to meet their basic needs, he added.

To support families from the EWS category, we will enhance the marriage assistance amount from Rs 50,000 to Rs 75,000, ensuring that families receive meaningful support during important life events.

Main guarantees include 200 units of free electricity per month, one time waiver of pending electricity charges, free drinking water supply to all households, he said.

Also speaking, Dr Vikas Sharma said, "We recognize the importance of providing for our elderly and widows, who have contributed significantly to society. We will increase the pension for these vulnerable groups to Rs 3000, providing them with the dignity and financial security they deserve."

He also said that women across Jammu and Kashmir would be entitled to free travel on all public transport. This initiative is designed to promote ease of movement and increase access to education, employment, and healthcare.

Our commitment to pensioners extends to healthcare. We will increase the medical allowance for pensioners and their families from the existing Rs 300 to Rs 1000 per month, ensuring they have adequate access to medical services.

Dr Sharma added that their manifesto was a comprehensive vision for a better future—one that empowers women, secures our elderly, and uplifts the underprivileged. Jammu and Kashmir National Conference stands with the people and for the people. Our promises are grounded in the belief that every citizen deserves to live with dignity, security, and opportunity.

Babu Rampaul urged the voters not to get swayed by the fake narratives being spread by BJP and vote for their peace and prosperity that can be guaranteed only by JKNC.

Among others included, Adv. Rajinder Chanyal, Sham Lal Mehra, Bharat Bhushan, Sureet Singh Sassan, B.D Dalotra, Adv. Aslam Choudhary, Sat Pal Shabotra, Arvind Singh Jamwal, Rahul Mahajan, T.R Maandi, Dr. Y.P Singh, Shakeel Ahmed, Som Raj Taroch, Hem Raj, Manohar Lal, Mool Raj, MK Rana, Dwarka Nath, Bahadur Lal, Parveen kumar, Kartar, Talik Raj, Prem Kumar Verma, Charan Dass, Manohar Lal, Rajinder Kumar, Master Balvir Singh and others.

Seminar on "Rejuvenation of the Spine through Yoga" organized

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 12: A seminar on "Rejuvenation of the Spine through Yoga" was organized by Vichar Kranti Manch International (VKMI) and Sarv Uthan Trust at Chhanni Himmat Yoga Centre, which has been operational for the past 10 years.

The session was led by Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, President of VKMI and Chief Advisor Trustee of Sarv Uthan Trust. Dr. Jain provided comprehensive knowledge on how yoga and naturopathy can help rejuvenate and maintain spinal health. He emphasized the need for a holistic approach that addresses both physical and lifestyle factors, as modern sedentary lifestyles often contribute to spinal issues.

He highlighted the role of yoga postures (asanas) and naturopathic treatments in improving spinal flexibility, strength, and alignment.

Dr. Jain discussed several key yoga asanas that



benefit the spine, such as Bhujangasana (Cobra Pose), which strengthens the lower back, and Marjariasana (Cat-Cow Pose), which enhances spinal flexibility. Other poses like Uttanasana (Standing Forward Bend), Adho Mukha Svanasana (Downward-Facing Dog Pose), and Shalabhasana (Locust Pose) were also demonstrated for their role in strengthening and relaxing different parts of the spine.

Additionally, Balasana (Child's Pose) was recommended for gently stretching and relaxing the spine. Dr. Jain also

emphasized the importance of pranayama (breathing exercises), such as Nadi Shodhana (Alternate Nostril Breathing) and Bhramari (Humming Bee Breath), in reducing stress and maintaining spinal elasticity.

In the realm of naturopathy, Dr. Jain recommended hydrotherapy, involving alternating hot and cold compresses on the spine to improve blood circulation and reduce inflammation. He also stressed the importance of an anti-inflammatory diet, rich in fruits, vegetables, and omega-3 fatty acids, to support spinal

health.

He suggested including calcium and vitamin D-rich foods to strengthen bones and prevent spinal degeneration. Herbal teas like ginger and turmeric were also highlighted for their anti-inflammatory properties.

Furthermore, Dr. Jain advocated for massage therapy using herbal oils such as Mahanarayan Oil or Eucalyptus Oil to relieve back pain and support spinal integrity.

The seminar also featured a session on Hasya Yoga (Laughter Yoga), led by Ashok Gupta, Vice President of VKMI and

Founder Managing Trustee of Sarv Uthan Trust. Laughter yoga was demonstrated to help relax the nervous system, which in turn benefits spinal health, as the spine is closely connected to the central nervous system.

The practical demonstrations by Dr. Jain and Mr. Gupta were followed by a lively question-and-answer session, where participants engaged with dignitaries such as Sh. K.S. Samyial, Yesh Paul Sharma, and Suresh Gupta, among others, to further discuss spinal health and wellness techniques.

The event concluded with Yash Sharma delivering a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the participants and organizers. The seminar was a success in raising awareness about the significance of spinal health and how a combination of yoga and naturopathy can be effectively used to rejuvenate and maintain the spine.

BJP leader Jai Bharat joins Shiv Sena, files nomination from Bishnah

Shiv Sena victory guarantees restoration of rights: Sahni

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 12: Former BJP leader Jai Bharti from Bishnah assembly constituency of Jammu division today joined Shiv Sena (UBT) along with hundreds of his supporters and filed his nomination papers from 72-Bishnah assembly constituency in the presence of senior state unit leaders including party state chief Manish Sahni.

Meanwhile, another candidate of the party Rajesh Kumar, filed his nomination from Kathua Assembly constituency.

On this occasion, party state chief Manish Sahni said that after 10 years, the public has got a chance to choose their representative and government in the assembly elections. Which should



be used properly and those who attack the identity of Jammu and Kashmir and the rights of the local people should be taught a lesson.

Sahni said that every candidate of ours is in the election fray with the resolution of restoration of the rights of the local people of Jammu and Kashmir, first right to jobs and admission in educational institutions, free electricity-water, allowance to

unemployed youth, full stop to drug addiction, corruption, black marketing including women empowerment etc. He said that the victory of Shiv Sena candidates is a guarantee of the rights of the local people. On this occasion Vice president Sanjeev Kohli, President Kamghar wing Raj Singh, Secretary Rajesh Jandial, Geena Lakhotra, Dimple and many others were present.

Jodhamal School students shine at Model G20 Summit at Mayo College

Top News Report

JAMMU, Sep 12: Mayo College, Ajmer recently hosted a Model G20 Summit centred on the themes "Let There Be Light" and "Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet." The Summit brought together young minds from across the country to engage in discussions and debates on critical global issues, fostering leadership and diplomatic skills among students.

Six students from Jodhamal School participated in the Model G20 Summit, showcasing their talents and insights across various tracks.

Anandika Menia represented Jodhamal School in the Sherpas Meeting. Soumya Gupta participated in the Finance Track, addressing

the topic: "Global Financial Architecture: Replacing the Outdated and Creating the New."

Vintika Gupta contributed to the Health Working Group, focusing on "Building a Stronger and More Reliable Healthcare Infrastructure to Aid Recovery and Prevention Against Pandemics."

Swarit Dev Singh was a delegate in the Digital Economy Working Group, discussing "Bridging the Digital Divide: Strategies for Universal Connectivity, Inclusive Digital Skills, and How Digital Nomads Can Spearhead Change."

Alysha Gupta took part in the Energy Transition Working Group, with a focus on "Ensuring a Just and Inclusive Energy Transition with Emphasis on Social Impacts



and Equitable Access for All." Aryan Bakshi represented the school in the Environment and Climate/Disaster-Resistant Econo-

my Working Group, debating "Global Climate Combat and Sustainability: Promoting Sustainable Resource Management and Climate/Disaster-Resistant Econo-

mies Through the ESG Framework.

"The Model G20 Summit witnessed participation from several prestigious schools,

including Shiv Nadar School, Noida, Lawrence School, Sanawar, Welham Boys' School, Dehradun, Lawrence School, Lovedale, The Dally College, Indore, Mayo College Girls' School, Ajmer, The Scindia School, Gwalior, Welham Girls' School, Dehradun, Pathways World School, Gurugram, Jayshree Periwai International School, Jaipur, The Punjab Public School, Nabha, MGD Girls' School, Jaipur, Mayor School, Ajmer and the host school: Mayo College, Ajmer.

This event served as an invaluable platform for young leaders to engage in high-level dialogue and collaborate on pressing global challenges, reflecting a strong commitment to fostering the next generation of global

thinkers. Participation in such activities always gives students an edge, and Jodhamal School has consistently nurtured such qualities in its students, empowering them to excel on both national and international stages.

This is noteworthy that Jodhamal Public School is the only School from J&K to be invited to such glorious gathering of students from across various parts of the country to brainstorm on the relevant global issues at a platform provided by the renowned boarding school of the country, Mayo College Ajmer.

The school management and the Principal of Jodhamal School complimented the students for their active participation, applauding their dedication, passion, and ability to represent their school on such a prestigious platform.